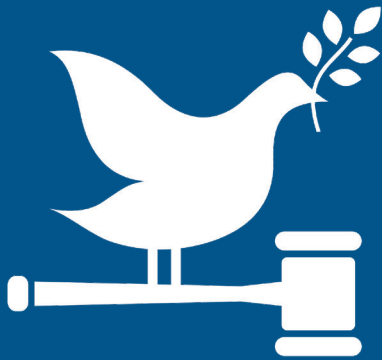


16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

I. SUMMARY

SDG 16 provides the framework for peace, justice for all, and strong institutions – which are fundamental for accelerating progress of other SDGs, and for achieving the overall objective of leaving no one behind. In addition, the 2030 Agenda includes 24 targets from seven other SDGs that are linked to the aspiration of peace, justice and strong institutions. Together these targets are referred to as SDG16+ and illustrate the interlinkages between SDG 16 and other SDGs. Without peace, justice, inclusion and strong institutions, achieving other goals can be difficult to impossible, and vice-versa various SDGs (such as poverty, climate change) can help or hinder the achievement of SDG 16.¹

The Asia-Pacific region has a long way to go to achieve Goal 16 targets. Though the region has seen a reduction in the number of internal and external conflicts, there is an increase in violent crime, terrorism, insurgency, and political instability in the region.² This is also closely linked to limited improvement in rule of law and protection of human rights, leading to an increase in the number of countries adopting policies to restrict civic space.³ The region has the highest number of journalists murdered,⁴ as well as unsentenced detainees.⁵ Data shows

- 1 See SDG16hub <https://www.sdg16hub.org/interlinkages>.
- 2 Institute for Economics & Peace, *Global Peace Index 2018: Measuring Peace in a Complex World* (Sydney, June 2018). p. 12.
- 3 International Center for Not-for Profit Law, "Survey of Trends Affecting Civic Space: 2015-16", vol. 7, No. 4 (September 2016). See also Firmin, Andrew (CIVICUS), "Contested and under pressure: a snapshot of the enabling environment of civil society in 22 countries", Ine Van Severen, eds. (2017).
- 4 UNESCO observatory of killed journalists <https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists/observatory>
- 5 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.3.2 on Unsensentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

This goal profile has been coordinated by:



increased perception of public sector corruption,⁶ and that about 23.8 percent of businesses in the region have engaged in bribery.⁷ Children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to violence in the region. Over third of the women in the region have faced sexual violence. Available data from 21 countries shows that on average 70.7 percent of children aged between 1-14 have experienced physical discipline or psychological aggression by caregivers in the last month.⁸ Improving governance statistics is vital for identifying people or groups that are most affected by poor governance systems and take remedy measures.

II. CURRENT STATUS

SDG 16 is also one of the most challenging goals to implement and measure. SDG 16 targets are composite and require compound indicators to fully measure progress. In addition, 17 of the 23 indicators are classified as Tier II and III. Data for these indicators does not exist or is not widely collected to adequately measure progress or accurately analyse regional and/or subregional trends.⁹ Further, disaggregated data by sex, age, and other categories is also not widely available.

But at the same time, there are other surveys that can provide insights into the state of governance in the region, and thus serve as proxy for the progress measuring of SDG 16 as a whole. The MY World Survey led by the United Nations and partners is a global citizen survey to bring people's voices into official debates about the SDGs. It is a tool to hold governments and institutions accountable and ensure that every person has their say on SDG achievement.¹⁰

The results of the MY World Survey indicate that, for example in the ASEAN region, while people may not have immediate concerns about big governance issues such as political instability or large-scale incidences of violation of rights, their concerns about the quality of basic services and issues such as poverty, job creation, and inequalities reveal that institutions may not be effective or responsive to peoples' needs.¹¹

Data from the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)¹² provides insights on trends in governance over a period of time. WGI measures six dimensions of governance: voice and accountability, political stability and no violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption. Data from 2006 to 2016 shows subregional variance in the performance of the countries on the governance indicators as well as between individual countries within the subregion. Overall, the performance of countries in South Asia and the Pacific has stagnated. Countries in East and North-East Asia, South-East Asia, and Central and North Asia show some improvement. However, when compared to other regions, Central and North Asia countries scores the lowest on all six dimensions. Pacific countries, on the other hand, score the highest among all subregions in voice and accountability, political stability, rule of law and control of corruption.

Overall, data shows that average scores fall between 18 and 59 out of a maximum score of 100 in all six dimensions and across subregions (except in the Pacific). Countries need to do more to improve the overall quality of governance – without which achieving the SDGs would remain aspirational.

A. AREAS WHERE GOOD PROGRESS IS MADE

As mentioned above, measuring Goal 16 is challenging. Lack of reliable governance statistics limits the ability of governments and other actors to develop specific measures to reach those that are most affected by weak governance systems.

6 Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer 2017. One in Four people said they paid a bribe when accessing public services in the last 12 months.

7 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.5.2. bribery incidence (per cent of firms experiencing at least one bribe payment request)

8 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.2.1. proportion of children aged 1-14 years who experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in last month (per cent of children aged 1-14 years)

9 Pulling together data from different sources (including academia, civil society organizations etc..) can provide a useful picture of the state of governance and peace in the region.

10 MY World Survey <http://about.myworld2030.org/>

11 ASEAN MY World Survey <http://asean-data.myworld2030.org>

12 See worldwide governance indicators <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/#home>



Despite the above limitations, there is indication of progress on specific indicators. These include:

- **Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (target 16.1).**

Data is only available for one indicator, number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population (indicator 16.1.1). Across the region, the number of victims of intentional homicide has fallen. Kyrgyzstan shows the strongest improvement in the reduction of homicide rates, followed by Kazakhstan, Thailand, Samoa, Mongolia, Bhutan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.¹³ A few countries showed an increase in homicide rates, such as Afghanistan, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

It is also vital to note data limitations for this indicator. Though classified as Tier I, disaggregated data by sex and age is not available. Some countries have data for a few years in a row, but others have data for only one year.

- **Legal identity for all, including birth registration (target 16.9).**

Civil registration provides legal identity and ensures basic human rights and participation in formal economy. Often poor and marginalized sections of the population are the ones whose births and deaths are not registered and/or certified, thus adding to the vicious cycle of marginalization.

Data for indicator 16.9.1. on the proportion of children under five whose births have been registered with a civil authority is available for only 40 countries out of the 56 countries and 2 territories of the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, each country only has data for one particular year (from 2008 to 2017). Based on this limited data, Bhutan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam have achieved a near 100 per cent rate for the registration of children under the age of 5. The countries that are falling behind with a rate between 50 and 75 per cent include Cambodia, Lao PDR, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste. Out of the countries for which data is available, five are poor performers (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) with less than 50 per cent of children being registered.¹⁴

The proportion of children being registered in rural areas is slightly less than the proportion of children being registered across the country, with an average of 79 per cent being registered in rural areas whilst 83 per cent have been registered overall. There is no major discrepancy between the proportion of boys and girls who have been registered, with an average of 81 per cent in both cases.

But at the same time there is a discrepancy between birth registration and birth certification. While birth registration is the permanent legal record maintained by the governments, birth certification is a government issued copy of the birth registration that can be used for identification and for obtaining other services. In the Asia-Pacific region there is a high discrepancy between birth registration and birth certification. For instance, in Tuvalu, out of the 50 per cent registered, only 5 per cent have a birth certification.

Despite some countries falling behind, available data could be used to inform specific policies for improving birth registration and certification. UN ESCAP is working with governments and development partners to improve civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in the region as part of the 'Get Every One in the Picture' initiative launched in 2014 in Asia and the Pacific.

- **Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (target 16.6).**

Effective, accountable, transparent institutions at all levels is one of the cornerstones for achieving Agenda 2030. One key aspect of effectiveness includes the ability of the governments to implement the budgeted expenditure without much deviation. This is vital for governments to be able to deliver public services in line with policy statements, output commitments and work plans. The indicator 16.6.1 looks at actual total expenditure compared to the originally budgeted total expenditure (as defined in government budget documentation and fiscal reports). The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability database analyses and ranks countries based on the percentage variation in total expenditure from original budgeted expenditure. Data is publicly available for only 14 Asia-Pacific countries for the period 2013-2018. Eight out of the 14 countries have only 0-5 per cent deviation from the original budgeted expenditure.

13 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.1.1. number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population.

14 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.9.1 on proportion of children whose birth has been registered.



B. AREAS REQUIRING SPECIFIC ATTENTION AND ASSOCIATED KEY CHALLENGES

While improving disaggregated data availability for all the indicators should be a priority, there are some areas that require specific attention based on the availability of data.

- **Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (target 16.10).**

Thirty out of 56 countries and two territories in the region have adopted freedom of information (Fol) laws or policies. Cambodia and Myanmar are in the process of adopting relevant policies. Despite the growing endorsement of Fol by governments, challenge of accessing public information persists. Successful implementation of the law is hindered by numerous limitations such as prioritization of national security law or other political restrictions.¹⁵ Proactive disclosure of information by public institutions is also limited. In addition, lack of public awareness means that Fol laws are not being fully utilized to seek public information and hold governments to account. Access to information is a vital tool in the fight against corruption and bribery (target 16.5) and to reduce illicit financial flows (target 16.4), as well as critical for promoting transparency and accountability (target 16.6) and supporting participatory decision-making processes (target 16.7). To promote the spirit of Fol, measures need to be put in place to ensure that institutions are capable of providing information and enable ease of access to information. Multilateral initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership provide the platform for collaborative engagement between different actors, including governments and civil society organizations.

Restrictive measures are put in place to curtail freedom of associations and civic engagement, and freedom of press in some parts of the region. Without a free press to ensure accountability of the state, and a public free to associate and engage in public discourse, the overall ambition of Goal 16 to promote inclusive and just societies cannot be fully achieved.

An assessment of civic space based on the Civil Society Index of 22 countries in Asia shows that a staggering 94 per cent of people in Asia live in countries with closed, repressed or obstructed civic space.¹⁶ Many countries in the region have passed laws to restrict civil society organizations operations and funding, regulate protests, free speech and the internet.¹⁷

In addition, violent attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (indicator 16.10.1) are also increasing. United Nations-verified global monitoring data shows that since 2015, at least one person is killed every day while working to inform the public, and build a world free from fear and want (indicator 16.10.1).¹⁸ Twenty-seven journalists were killed across Asia and the Pacific in 2017, representing the biggest proportion of journalists killed between regions.¹⁹ Measures need to be put in place to ensure protection of journalists and human rights defenders in the region.

- **End of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (target 16.2).**

All three indicators of this target are currently classified as Tier II indicators. Data by country for the number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation (indicator 16.2.2) is limited. However, available data for the Asia-Pacific region shows that 53 per cent of victims are, on average, females over the age of 15 whereas males over the age of 15 occupy 17 per cent of the average population of human trafficking victims.²⁰

For indicator 16.2.3. on the proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18, available data from 10 Asia-Pacific countries suggests that an average of 0.95 per cent of

15 UNESCO, *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development 2017-2018*, p. 34.

16 Based on the analysis of the 203 civic space reports and updates published since 24 October 2016 from 38 countries in Asia and the Pacific in the CIVICUS Monitor (CIVICUS, 2018b, accessed December 2018), an interactive online tool which provides live updates on the extent to which civil society rights are being respected and upheld, and the degree to which states are protecting civil society. It is based on the previous research, tools and methodologies developed by CIVICUS and UNDP on the Civil Society Index (2008–2011). See United Nations Development Programme, 2010b, 2010c; Anheier and others, 2011.

17 CIVICUS, *People Power Under Attack: A Global Analysis of Threats to Fundamental Freedoms* (Johannesburg, 2018a). Available from www.civicus.org/documents/PeoplePowerUnderAttack.Report.27November.pdf. About 27.5 per cent of the laws passed world wide to restrict civic space are in Asia-Pacific region.

18 Secretary General's Progress Report on the SDGs, 2018, (E/2018/64), para. 131; *The SDG Report 2018*, p. 12; *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*, (A/73/215), para. 6.

19 UNESCO, *Director General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity* (2018). Regional disaggregated data on killings of human rights defenders are in process by OHCHR.

20 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository



young women have experienced sexual violence. In the Philippines and Nepal available data shows that sexual violence against young women is as high as 2.8 per cent, and 3 per cent respectively.²¹ However, data from other sources indicates that figures could be much higher. A joint study supported by UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV in 2013 showed that 35 per cent of all women in the region have experienced intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. In some countries, prevalence rates are as high as 70 per cent.²² While these number are for women of all age groups, the patterns of violence for young women is similar if not higher (given their vulnerability to trafficking). A higher number of young women are potentially subjugated to sexual violence than official data indicates.

The average percentage of children (ages 1-14) experiencing physical discipline or psychological aggression from a caregiver (indicator 16.2.1) is 70.7 per cent. Data is available for 21 Asia-Pacific countries. The only countries with a percentage that is below 50 per cent (within the available data) are Mongolia (49.3 per cent) and Turkmenistan (37 per cent).²³

Priority action should be taken to raise awareness of violence against children, and young men and women, including the impact not only for children but also for society, and to put in place specific measures to reduce the vulnerability to violence in all settings, break the intergenerational cycle of violence and ensure an effective response for children, and young men and women who have experienced violence.

- **Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms (target 16.5).**

Corruption in all its forms hinders sustainable development and promotes inequality. While official data for corruption in the public sector (indicator 16.5.1) is not available, the corruption perception index (CPI) by Transparency International provides a good picture of public sector corruption. There is high variance in the performance of Asia-Pacific countries on the CPI. On average, the region is failing, and has a score of just 44 on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 means very clean and 0 reflects a deep-rooted, systemic corruption problem.²⁴ Widespread corruption is undermining rule of law in the region.

On the proportion of engaged in bribery or were asked for a bribe by public officials (indicator 16.5.2). Each country has data for one non-overlapping year between 2009 and 2016. Given this limited data, the countries with a proportion of businesses that engaged in bribery as defined by indicator 16.5.2 over 40 per cent are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. The countries with the smallest percentage of businesses engaging in bribery are Bhutan (0.9 per cent) and Georgia (2.2 per cent). Overall, the Asia-Pacific region has an average proportion of 23.8 per cent of businesses that have engaged in bribery.²⁵

Reducing corruption requires a holistic approach – from strong legal frameworks to capable oversight institutions, to a range of measures (including access to information, and grievance mechanisms). Countries, multilateral organizations, local organizations and private sector need to jointly develop and implement anti-corruption measures to fully tackle corruption. Without such sustained efforts, provision of quality services, and promoting equality cannot be realized.

- **Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime (means of implementation 16.a).**

Goal 16 as well as the SDGs more generally “seek to realize the human rights of all”.²⁶ The Agenda is explicitly “grounded in international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties and the Declaration on the Right to Development”.²⁷ Also, the Agenda “is to be implemented in a manner consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law”.²⁸ In

21 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.2.3. Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18.

22 UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV, *Why do some men use violence against women and how can we prevent it* (2013). Partners for Prevention was a regional joint programme of UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV for gender based violence prevention in Asia and the Pacific.

23 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository, Data for indicator 16.2.1. proportion of children aged 1-14 years who experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in last month (per cent of children aged 1-14 years).

24 Transparency International, “Slow, imperfect progress across Asia Pacific”, (2018). Available at https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/slow_imperfect_progress_across_asia_pacific.

25 UN Statistics Division, SDG Metadata Repository

26 Preamble, A/RES/70/1

27 Paragraph 10, A/RES/70/1

28 Paragraph 18, A/RES/70/1



support of these commitments, and consistent with targets of Goal 16 aiming to improve governance, access to justice, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, it is relevant to look at indicators seeking to capture States' human rights commitments, acceptance and cooperation with the international human rights system.

In terms of committing and assuming legal obligations to realizing universal human rights, Central and South Asia has ratified on average 61 per cent of the core international human rights instruments adopted by the UN General Assembly (62 per cent is currently the world average).²⁹ In East and South-East Asia, however, ratification amounts to 50 per cent only.³⁰ In terms of allowing citizens to appeal to international human rights organs if they believe their rights were violated, only 11 per cent of available mechanisms have been accepted in East and South-East Asia, whereas slightly more perspectives (22 per cent) are offered to citizen in Central and South Asia (29 per cent is currently the world average).³¹ In the same vein, national human rights institutions (NHRI) play a catalytic role in implementing and monitoring SDG targets and are a recognized yardstick of State accountability to human rights obligations (indicator 16.a.1). NHRIs compliant with the international benchmarks are more effectively able to provide protection and redress for victims of human rights violations or abuses. In 2017, the proportion of Asia-Pacific countries with NHRI compliant with international standards (28 per cent) continues to lag behind the rest of the world (38 per cent). On the other hand, the number of countries in the region with NHRIs that are partially or fully compliant has increased from 25 to 27 since 2015.

III. PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES

Countries in the region have also been in the forefront of developing innovative ways to achieve SDG16/SDG 16+.

- **Incorporation of the SDG 16 into national development plans.**

To tackle the challenges arising from lack of governance data and the discrepancy between the national indicators and the international indicators, a number of countries have conducted mapping of national and international indicators and have integrated SDG 16 into their national development plans led by the national governments. For example, Indonesia mapped SDG indicators with its local indicators, and incorporated SDG 16 targets, along with other SDG targets, into the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2015-2019. Similar efforts to incorporate SDG 16 targets in national planning framework, and mapping of administrative indicators was undertaken in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.

- **Data innovation.**

The data mapping exercises undertaken by countries have identified existing gaps, and have acknowledged the need for data innovation to resolve existing gaps. The use of big data can help to develop proxy indicators – for instance, social media analysis can reveal public opinion of effective governance, satisfaction with the quality of services, or patterns of discrimination or potential threat of violence. Using big data to track progress requires collaboration not only between different levels of government, but also with other actors to pool all the data.

Countries like the Philippines have taken active steps to complement national statistical data. The Philippines recently passed an ordinance to use data generated at the lowest administrative level through the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) along with the national statistical data. Improving complementarity between the two sets of data enables availability of disaggregated data at all levels of government and shapes public policy at all levels.

- **Effective and accountable institutions and participatory governance (target 16.6 and target 16.7).**

Some countries in the region set a few good examples of how integration and institutionalization of public opinion in the planning and delivering public services enhance its effectiveness. For instance, the Philippines' Citizen Participatory Audit program serves as a good illustration on promoting public engagement in the audit process on flood control, solid waste management health centers and projects. In Indonesia, the government initiated an innovative programme, 'Guiding Light of the Archipelago' (Pencerah Nusantara) in which youngsters are selected and trained by medical professionals to reach out to the remote villages on the archipelago to educate the local communities on healthcare. Also, the data on health issues are collected on the ground and accordingly, delivery

29 <http://indicators.ohchr.org/>

30 It is 67 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, 78 per cent in Europe and Northern America, Australia and New Zealand regions.

31 It is 22 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa, 33 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 56 per cent in Europe and Northern America, Australia and New Zealand regions.



of health services and allocation of resources are prioritized. In the Philippines, all the cabinet clusters are restructured and a 'participatory governance' cluster, responsible for strengthening public consultation channels, was introduced. In Viet Nam the Public Administration Perception Index (PAPI) provides an opportunity to gain insights on the performance of provinces based on randomly selected and who are a representative sample of different demographic groups across the country. The 2018 results were informed by experiences of over 14,000 citizens. Findings from PAPI help with the development of provincial plans and inform initiatives to improve the performance of local authorities in meeting their citizens' expectations.

IV. PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

1. **SDG localization.**

Localizing the SDGs or translating the SDGs into priorities that are relevant, applicable and attainable at the local level allows for subnational and local governments to take on greater role in the achievement of SDGs. It will require effective and responsive institutions at the local level to shape policies and programmes to achieve defined priorities. Localizing the SDGs can also improve engagement between various stakeholders. At the same time, effective localization requires policy coherence, cohesion and coordination between different levels of government. Thus, localizing SDGs is not only essential for achieving SDGs but is also vital for strengthening effectiveness of institutions and reinforcing participatory governance at all levels.

2. **Multi-stakeholder engagement for SDG 16+.**

In addition to localizing SDGs, multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement for SDG 16+ at all levels can be very useful. Such partnerships can help in developing tools (including new technologies) and methods, facilitate access to information, and analysis public information to improving service delivery for all sections of the population. This can facilitate inclusive public service delivery by engaging stakeholders into the design, implementation and monitoring of government. Civil society actors and private sector actors can help with tracking incidences of violence, and prevalence of corruption, and assist in shaping local measures to tackle governance issues, and promote transparency and accountability. In addition, engagement of different actors is critical for changing behavioural patterns—specifically related to violence against children and young men and women.

3. **Improving public sector financing.**

The share of subnational governments relative to nation expenditure varies greatly. On average, the reliability and timeliness of fiscal transfer (how much is allocated and when the money is transferred) is poor in the region. In addition, local governments have very little leeway to manage resources based on local context. These challenges undermine subnational and local governments' ability to engage with local stakeholders and make decisions around local spending (target 16.6). Improve fiscal transfer systems and adapt practices that would focus on building local fiscal capacities to use public resources to promote efficiency, effectiveness and equity, and achieve SDGs.

4. **Data and reporting.**

As indicated above, there is very limited data to assess progress on SDG 16. Several efforts are underway at the global level to clarify methodologies – such as the SDG 16 data initiative, and the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. Asia-Pacific countries are also supporting global efforts around SDG 16+ (including Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste). Once the methodologies are clarified, the issue then becomes uptake of these methodologies at national and subnational level by relevant agencies. Support to data excellence centres (consisting of multi-stakeholders generating relevant data), and capacity development support to key institutions at all levels can ensure quality assurance, data coherence, and adherence to data standards.

5. **Strengthening access to information and civic engagement.**

Access to public information is a key enabler/accelerator for achieving SDGs. Public awareness on how to use freedom of information laws and policies is vital for realizing the full potential of FoI in strengthening transparency and accountability, limiting misuse of public resources, reduce inequalities, and protecting the rights, including of marginalized and vulnerable sections of the population. Capacity development and advocacy efforts should be supported for converting available data into usable information, and for proactive disclosure of information. Third party/independent institutions should be supported to make information widely available and accessible.



6. Oversight and accountability.

Oversight institutions have a critical role to play. State audit institutions not only conduct fiscal audits but also performance audit to assess the quality of performance of institutions against approved plans. Anti-corruption agencies and public procurement agencies help to identify and reduce corruption risks in the public sector, and (mandate permitting) take punitive measures as well. Strengthening the role of oversight institutions at all levels of the government in monitoring progress on SDGs can increase transparency and accountability within the governance systems. Further, oversight institutions can also work with non-state actors to assess compliance of different actors in delivering on SDG plans and programmes.

ANNEX

The official indicator framework for SDG 16 proposes 10 targets and 23 indicators. Of these, 11 indicators are classified as Tier II and 6 indicators are classified as Tier III, as of October 2018. Data for Tier I indicators is also scarce – often data exists for only a single year making it difficult to measure progress. As SDG16 targets are composite targets and require compound indicators to measure progress, data from different sources are used to track progress. Currently, the main sources for data for assessing progress towards this goal are data collected by agencies such as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank, and made available through the ESCAP database. Efforts, such as the Praia Group on Governance Statistics, are currently underway at the global level to improve definition and harmonization of governance indicators, through the development of manuals and methodological guidelines.

| | | |
|----------|---------|--|
| Proxy | 16.5.P1 | Corruption perceptions index, Scores |
| Official | 16.1.1 | Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age |
| Official | 16.3.2 | Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population |
| Official | 16.5.2 | Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during ... |
| Official | 16.8.1 | Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations |
| Official | 16.9.1 | Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age |
| Official | 16.a.1 | Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles |

Table 1. Official and proxy indicators for SDG 16 for which there is at least one data point for more than half of ESCAP countries

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