SDG 16 - Tackling Challenges Through Good Governance and Partnerships

Regional Perspective and Practices from the United Nations Development Programme
Global Overview

Progress Report on SDG 16

• Trust in institutions is waning as government systems are buckling under the weight of expectations from their citizens.

• Waves of unconstitutional transitions of power are undermining the rule of law and human rights.

• Violence is rising and the nature of conflict is evolving.

• The gap in people’s ability to access justice continues to be significant.

• Women are underrepresented at senior levels of decision-making.
Where are we today in the Pacific?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall HDI</th>
<th>SDG16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term progress</td>
<td>Progress on reduction of violence and effective institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persistent disparity</td>
<td>Necessity to accelerate on access to justice, corruption and inclusive decision making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widespread disruption</td>
<td>Lack or absence of data for SDG 16 indicators</td>
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The Need for New Directions

Three factors create an urgent need for change around SDG 16...

• Unmet aspirations.
• Heightened human insecurity.
• A (potentially) more turbulent future.
A turbulent future for SDG 16 and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Erosion of democracy and institutions

Limiting public and civic spaces to a degree last seen in 1978.

- Rising inequality.
- Eroding trust in institutions.
- Populist solutions.

Public opinion polarized by social media

- Spreading disinformation, discord and division.
- Algorithms designed to accentuate extreme views.

Inequality has been a persistent challenge and has in Asia Pacific.
Regression with the Rule of Law

Rule of Law Index 2023 – World Justice Project

• **Overall rule of law has declined** in a majority of countries across the world, the Pacific being no exception.

• **Civic participation** has fallen in more countries than any other Index subfactor (83%), followed by **freedom of assembly and association** (81%), **freedom of opinion and expression** (78%), and **freedom of religion** (76%).

• More countries struggling to provide people with **timely**, **affordable**, and **accessible justice**.
How do we make our future?

While the region can find inspiration in its own proven models, setting new directions requires a revamp of old practices

- Mainstreaming human development
- Executing course corrections
- Future-fit governance for all
Governance Fit for the Future

Executing course corrections

Adaptability:
Adjusting plans and actions to changing conditions

Agility:
Mobilizing action with speed and efficiency

Fostering the spirit of change

Anticipation
From exploring future scenarios to planning contingencies

Governance for the Future

Collaborative Leadership

Political Will

Civic Engagement
Future-fit Governance

• Political will and collaborative leadership

• Raising motivated and innovative civil servants who can serve as ‘changemakers’ capable of designing policies differently by:
  • Building new staff capabilities.
  • Designing a future-proof policy infrastructure, based on a flow of relevant data and on digital services and platforms.
  • Architecture should be participatory by design and meaningfully engage civil society.

• Blending of new approaches applying the lens of systems thinking, with new abilities to anticipate, to adapt and build agility.
Going Forward – Realization of SDG 16

• If collective action, political commitment and courageous choices are combined, achieving the targets towards peace, justice and inclusion is still possible.

• How do we get there?
  • Setting expectations right – changes to governance systems do not typically produce immediate results.
  • Governance system capability for:
    • Anticipation – foreseeing potential challenges.
    • Adaptability – shifting priorities and adapting to new information.
    • Agility - the speed and efficiency with which systems or institutions can respond to new information.
  • Digital transformation, e-governance and civic engagement to break cross-ministerial silos and enable all stakeholders to contribute to policies and reform.
  • Greater investment in high-quality, timely and disaggregated data on SDG 16 is essential if evidence-informed choices are to be made and if the focus is to remain on those most at risk of being left behind.
Asia-Pacific region has had a sequence of transformations helping to boost human development, living standards, pulling over 1.5 billion people out of extreme income poverty. Significant strides in education and health also underpin these achievements.
A deceleration in human development momentum, with serious setbacks in certain areas, particularly gender equality.
Integrated Effective Governance Programme Synergies

- Health and Development
- Strengthening Accountability
- Support to Core Government Function and Local Governance
- Enhancing Access to Justice and Human Rights
- Inclusive Political Processes
- Access to Justice
- Restore Blue
- Nauru Justice Initiative

Global Fund Multi-Country Western Pacific Integrated HIV/TB Programme
NCD Finance and Governance

Parliamentary Development
Electoral Support and Civic Education
Social Cohesion and Women's Participation

Pacific Anti-Corruption
Vaka Pasifika
Digital Democracy

Governance 4 Resilient Development
Health System Strengthening
Regional Integrated Border Management