

Box 21: Case Study: The US' White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (LAIR)

The U.S.'s LAIR has proven that a well executed, interagency approach to access to justice can reduce costs and increase the effectiveness of legal aid implementation. In the three years LAIR operated before becoming officially established, it significantly improved the U.S.'s A2J's legal aid efforts and launched more than two dozen federal grant programs related to healthcare, citizenship, housing and federal priorities that incorporate legal aid funding to further program goals.

This same approach can and should be used to reduce the cost of increasing access to justice throughout your country by spreading the cost of implementing Goal 16 to various government and non-government partners.

Box 22: Case Study: Sustainable financing for basic legal services

In June 2016, over 80 experts and senior justice sector officials from 19 countries gathered in Ottawa to discuss scaling access to justice to leave no one behind. The conference scrutinised findings of a report entitled *Developing a Portfolio of Financially Sustainable, Scalable Basic Legal Service Models*.*

This report seeks to set out a path for thinking about how the justice sector could go to scale, by proposing a five-step approach to quantifying the costs and benefits of basic legal services, benchmarking costs against other sectors and considering the extent to which these services are affordable in a particular country. It further breaks down the different ways basic legal services could be financed, before examining the political conditions that enable justice models to be taken to scale.

A number of global working groups were established to "divide and conquer" the areas of need that justice sectors around the world face. These include financing innovations, the role of technology, the political economy of legal services, research methods for measuring justice, and working with customary law systems.

* This report was prepared by Law and Development Partnership, commissioned by OSF and the International Development Research Centre, available at <https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/sp/Documents%20EN/resources/bls-briefing-paper-en.pdf>

DRAFTING YOUR NATIONAL JUSTICE PLAN

How your national justice plan is drafted will depend on your country's legislative process and the process agreed to by your working group. Regardless of what drafting process your national justice plan will go through, every plan should incorporate some overarching characteristics. The plan should be:

- based on human rights standards,
- comprehensive in scope,
- likely to lead to significant improvements in access to justice,
- a national undertaking,
- grounded in interagency collaboration and coordination,
- action orientated,
- a public document,
- a continuing process,
- international in dimension,
- time bound.

The following Goal Worksheet will help you develop your plan:

Goal Worksheet

Goal	Goal 1	Goal 2
Objectives	Objective 1 related to the goal 1 Objective 2 related to the goal 1	Objective 1 related to the goal 2 Objective 2 related to the goal 2
Action/Activity	all activities related to the goal 1	all activities related to the goal 2
Responsible Agency/Actors	names of relevant agencies actors for each activity	names of relevant agencies and actors for each activity
Target Date	target dates for completion of each activity and any midpoint progression	target dates for completion of each activity and any midpoint progression
Performance Indicators	Performance indicators related to the goal	Performance indicators related to the goal
Mechanisms to measure Progress	Mechanisms for monitoring and track progress; reporting mechanisms and plans (annual reports, quarterly working group meeting etc.)	Mechanisms for monitoring and track progress; reporting mechanisms and plans (annual reports, quarterly working group meeting etc.)

TIP

The performance indicators and mechanisms in your national justice plan can influence, or be supported by, the national indicators your country chooses to use in monitoring the SDGs.

ADOPTING YOUR NATIONAL JUSTICE PLAN

Once your national justice plan has been drafted, it will need to go through all of the necessary political deliberations and redrafts as required by the government before it is officially adopted. At this stage you need to work hard to sustain pressure on your government to adopt your plan in a timely manner and to ensure that the plan's ambitions are not reduced. To keep up the momentum for your national justice plan, consider using outside global processes. These processes will be discussed further in the next section.

TIP

If you are unable to be in the room when the plan is being redrafted, try to use innovative solutions to feed in your responses. In Kenya, MPs set up a WhatsApp Group between all of the members of their justice working group. The MPs used this group to send questions to civil society during closed deliberations and fed in the information provided by civil society in real time.

TRACKING PROGRESS: ENSURING BETTER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR JUSTICE

Once your plan is adopted, good monitoring and review will be critical to ensure that your government delivers its commitment to increase access to justice for all. Your national justice plan will have outlined performance indicators for measuring success. All justice stakeholders will have a critical role to play in ensuring that your government collects data to measure these indicators in a timely and participatory way.

The SDGs can help ensure better accountability in a number of different ways. The SDGs have opened global and national discussions on how to achieve better monitoring and accountability of access to justice. The SDGs have made a commitment to producing better quality data, using new data sources from civil society and the private sector and making this data publicly available. The SDGs have also recognised that to fulfil these commitments, many governments will require support and capacity building and additional funding will be required. A number of new initiatives have been established to support better data gathering on access to justice.⁴²

⁴² The Praia City Group on Governance Statistics and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data are examples of new initiatives that have been established to support better data gathering on access to justice.