



# SDG16

## INNOVATION CHALLENGE

NIGERIA

PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



An estimated **5 billion people** have **unmet justice needs** globally, including people who cannot obtain justice for everyday problems, **people who are excluded** from the **opportunity the law provides**, and people who live in **extreme conditions of injustice**.



STRONG AND  
INDEPENDENT  
INSTITUTIONS



PRESS FREEDOM



RIGHT TO  
PROTEST



ACCESS TO A  
FAIR TRIAL

SUPPORTED BY

NED

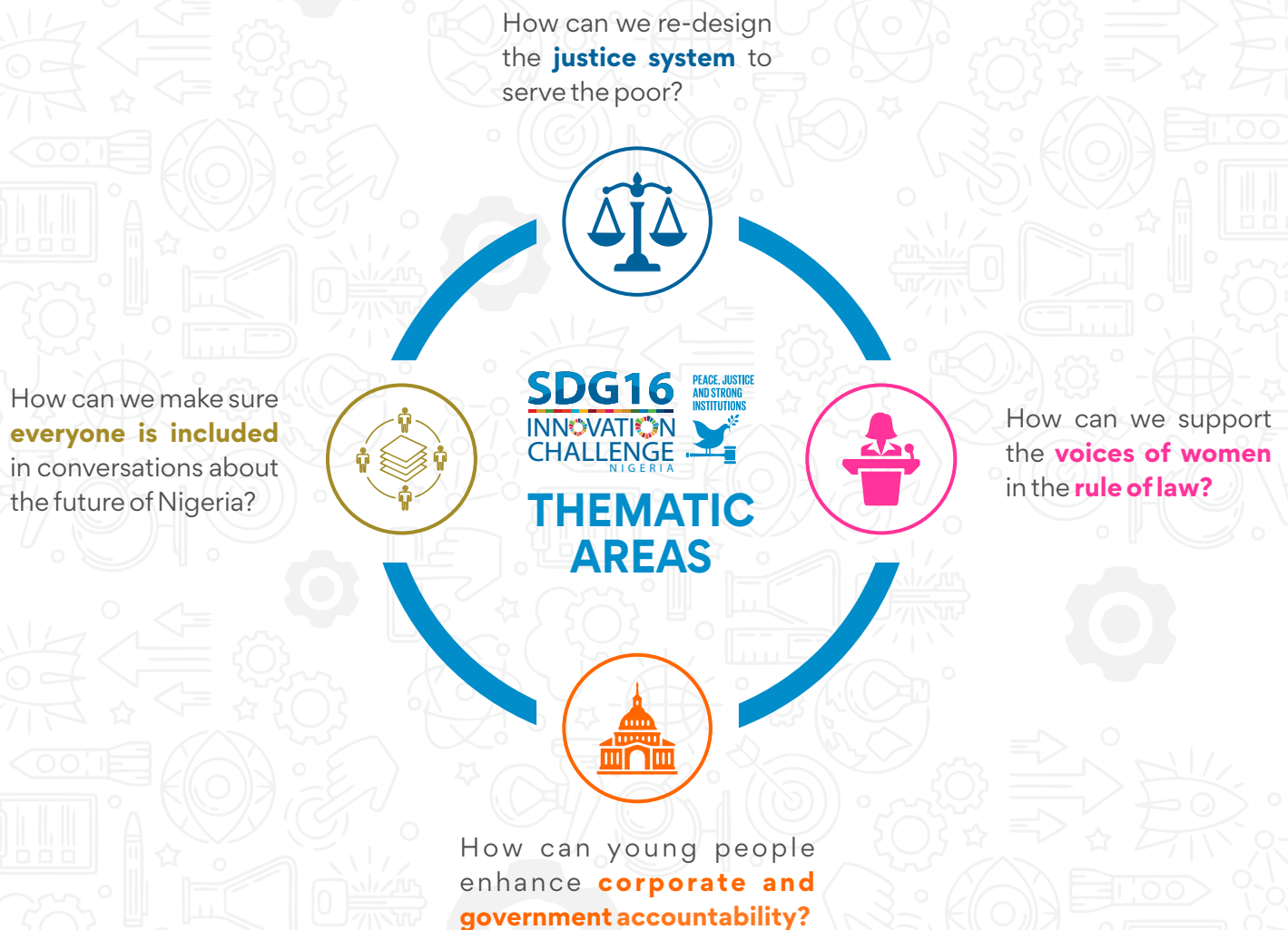
POWERED BY

 **accountabilitylab**  
NIGERIA

## Overview of the SDG 16 Innovation Challenge

The SDG 16 innovation challenge is an initiative to find creative solutions for SDG 16. The competition supports young men and women ages 15 – 35 years to develop ideas, build skills and connect with others working towards a shared goal of strengthening accountability, the rule of law and access to justice for Nigerians.

The SDG 16 innovation competition focuses on four thematic areas (or research questions). The program design is focused on human-centered activities which will focus on engaging participants actively to foster a more holistic understanding of issues around accountability, rule of law and access to justice. Each focus group will focus on a specific thematic area:



## Process

Applicants can submit as individuals or teams, but Accountability Lab (AL) Nigeria will encourage young people to work in small groups to identify key challenges and to brainstorm solutions. From the pool of applicants, the AL team will then identify the best 90 concepts, before inviting them to one of three, 3-day workshops either in Abuja, Kano, and Lagos to refine their concepts (at least 70% of selected ideas will be led by women). If a team concept is identified, AL will ask the team to send one lead representative to attend. During these workshops, participants will discuss their proposed solutions to SDG 16 challenges. On the final day of the workshop, participants will present their refined interventions to a panel of judges and a live audience who will vote for their favorite interventions. Judges will then identify at least one winning concept for each of the problem statements.



Accountability Lab Nigeria will offer at least three competition winners a place within its Accountability Incubator programme to help them grow their ideas over a period of one year, with laptops to support their project idea and engagements with external stakeholders. The Lab will link the winners to other organizations and institutions working to address similar justice issues through friend-raiser events and networking events held on a quarterly basis. To engage a broader audience in discussions on advancing SDG 16, Accountability Lab will also host a series of one-day debates in each of the three cities. AL will encourage these participants to collaborate with the innovation challenge winners.

## Measuring the Justice Gap

The justice gap underscores the urgency of realizing justice for all and demonstrates unacceptable levels of exclusion from justice. In **Measuring the Justice Gap: A People-Centered Assessment of Unmet Justice Needs Around the World**, a report produced by the World Justice Project (WJP) with expert input from the Task Force on Justice, the development process, measures approach, and progress being made to estimate the scale and impact of the justice gap were identified, and measured.

### Key Judicial Metrics



Open  
Government



Fundamental  
Rights



Order and  
Security



Regulatory  
Enforcement



Civil  
Justice



Criminal  
Justice

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals lay out ambitious targets to guide global and national development policies to 2030, including Target 16.3's promise to “ensure equal access to justice for all.” However, as the availability of data on people’s experience of justice grows, it is becoming increasingly clear that the world is not on track to meet this target. The data presented in this report demonstrates that many people face justice problems, and too few get the justice they need. This “justice gap” undermines human development, reinforces the poverty trap, and imposes high societal costs. Closing the justice gap is therefore vital to realizing the broader development agenda and its vision of a “just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.” The WJP estimates that there are:

**1.5 billion people**  
who cannot obtain  
justice for civil,  
administrative, or  
criminal justice problems.



These are victims of crime and people with civil and administrative justice needs who may live in contexts with functioning institutions and justice systems, but who face obstacles to resolving their everyday justice issues.

**4.5 billion people**  
who are excluded from the  
opportunities the law  
provides.



These are people who lack legal tools – including identity documents, land or housing tenure, and formal work arrangements – that allow them to protect their assets and access economic opportunities or public services to which they have a right.

**253 million people**  
who live in extreme  
conditions of injustice.



This includes people who are stateless, victims of modern slavery, and people who live in fragile states with high levels of insecurity.

# Global Insights on Access to Justice 2019

"This new data reveals the scope and depth of legal problems ordinary people face all over the world, including problems related to employment, housing, education, health, and family life," said Elizabeth Andersen, executive director of the World Justice Project. "This should concern us all. These issues and how they're addressed, or not, go to the heart of people's social, economic, and physical well-being."

Key findings from the study include:



## Justice problems are ubiquitous and frequent.

Approximately half (49%) of people surveyed experienced at least one legal problem in the last two years. While the prevalence and severity of problems varies by country, the most common problems relate to consumer issues, housing, and money and debt.



## Justice problems negatively impact people's lives.

43% of those surveyed reported that their legal problem adversely impacted their lives. More than 1 in 4 people (29%) reported that they experienced physical or stress-related ill health as a result of their legal problem, and more than 1 in 5 people (23%) reported that they lost their job or had to relocate.



## Most people do not turn to lawyers and courts.

Less than a third (29%) of people who experience a legal problem sought any form of advice to help them better understand or resolve their problem, and those who did seek assistance preferred to turn to family members or friends. Even fewer (17%) took their problem to an authority or third party to mediate or adjudicate their problem, with most preferring to negotiate directly with the other party.



## People face a variety of obstacles to meeting their justice needs,

beginning with their ability to recognize their problems as having a legal remedy. Indeed, fewer than 1 in 3 people (29%) understood their problem to be legal in nature as opposed to "bad luck" or a community matter. As mentioned above, less than a third of those surveyed obtained advice from a person or organization that could help them better understand or resolve their problem, and 1 in 6 (16%) reported that it was difficult or nearly impossible to find the money required to resolve their problem.

Source: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/global-insights-access-justice-2019>

## Innovation Challenge in line with the UN SDG 16 Targets

16.3

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.6

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16 B

Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

### About National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world.

Since its founding in 1983, the Endowment has remained on the leading edge of democratic struggles everywhere, while evolving into a multifaceted institution that is a hub of activity, resources and intellectual exchange for activists, practitioners and scholars of democracy the world over.

### About Accountability Lab

Accountability Lab Nigeria works with young people to find creative ways in building a new generation of active citizens and responsible leaders around the world. Our vision is a world where people with power are accountable. For more information visit: ([www.accountabilitylab.org](http://www.accountabilitylab.org))



@accountlab

#SIC2020 #GlobalGoals #SDG16

| [www.accountabilitylab.org](http://www.accountabilitylab.org)