



Strengthening and Improving Access to Justice Systems: Why it Matters?

Access to a robust justice system is crucial for an effective, human rights-respecting security strategy. The surge in crime and spread of transnational criminal networks call for renewed attention to regional justice systems. Crime victims require comprehensive responses, while strengthening judicial capacity is key to efficient crime investigation and prosecution. At the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security we believe that by improving access to justice, we can create safer, more equitable societies that effectively combat crime while respecting human rights.

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OAS | More rights
for more people

1 Protecting and Assisting Victims and Witnesses

Addressing violence from crime requires strengthening institutions that assist and protect victims, witnesses, and other individuals involved in criminal proceedings. This enhances the state's ability to provide comprehensive, timely, and specialized support.

OUR MISSION

Improve protection and assistance for victims and witnesses by bolstering specialized institutions.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Strengthen and expand victim and witness protection services throughout criminal proceedings.
- Enhance institutional capacities to provide comprehensive support services, including free legal assistance, psychological, medical, and other specialized aid to crime victims, with emphasis on vulnerable populations.
- Develop and implement country-specific protocols to improve access to justice, victim assistance, and witness protection.
- Engage communities, organizations, and academia to raise awareness about victims' rights, available services, and mechanisms to access justice.
- Create online platforms for victim orientation and support.
- Train officials in applying victim protection protocols, with a focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Facilitate international knowledge exchange through working visits and collaborative initiatives.

2 Advancing Legal Systems: Comprehensive Frameworks and Model Legislation

To create safer communities and uphold the rule of law, the Department of Public Security of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security is committed to improving institutional capacities by providing targeted technical assistance to enhance legal frameworks, regulations, and protocols, ensuring effective governance and justice.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen legal systems and promote public safety by developing comprehensive frameworks, model legislation, and enhanced protocols that support effective governance and justice across the Americas.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Enhance legal frameworks: Identify gaps in existing legal frameworks and provide support for drafting or revising laws and regulations to align with regional and international standards.
- Develop model laws based on regional needs, providing a framework for national legislation to address specific challenges and promote consistency across jurisdictions.
- Develop comprehensive protocols: Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create standardized operating procedures that ensure a coordinated response to various types of crime.

3 Training and Equipping Judicial Professionals

To strengthen justice systems across the Americas, judges and prosecutors require cutting-edge training and access to advanced technology. The OAS offers comprehensive programs to enhance their capabilities in investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of crimes.

OUR MISSION

To equip judicial professionals with tailored training, resources, and technology, enabling more effective criminal justice administration.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Strengthen the capacities of judicial institutions to increase their efficiency in investigating, prosecuting, and managing threats to public safety.
- Offer specialized curricula for judges and prosecutors, providing tools and knowledge tailored to evolving crime dynamics.
- Conduct integrated and multisectoral moot courts to enhance the investigation and prosecution of specific crimes.
- Facilitate international cooperation and best practice exchange.
- Regional workshops to build capacity and share knowledge.
- Procure and install technology for legal professionals in high-crime areas and specialized units focused on crime.

4 Enhancing Infrastructure for Improved Justice

Strong justice systems require secure environments for all participants in judicial proceedings. Infrastructure enhancement is crucial to safeguard rights and ensure efficient operations. We lead initiatives to improve courtrooms and other key areas, making them more functional and secure.

OUR MISSION

To enhance judicial infrastructure, ensuring the system can effectively meet the population's security demands.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Manage projects to upgrade existing judicial facilities, including courtrooms.
- Design security and human rights-focused improvements for judicial spaces.
- Implement modern technologies to enhance courtroom functionality.
- Consult on best practices for creating safe and efficient judicial environments.



OUR IMPACT

Empowered **130,000+** individuals through victim support centers, transforming lives across the region.

Enhanced access to justice with **digital portals** in Guatemala and El Salvador, bringing legal assistance to fingertips.

Trained **600+ professionals** in victim assistance and legal aid across **4 countries**, creating a network of skilled advocates.

Conducted **8 national mappings**, providing a comprehensive overview of victim protection systems in Central America.

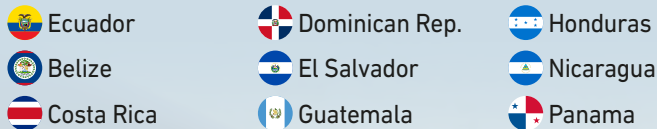
Established a **52-member legal promotion network** in the Dominican Republic, extending support to 5 communities.

Installed **2 virtual hearing rooms** in Guatemala, breaking barriers for vulnerable victims of violence.

Developed **2 groundbreaking guides** for organized crime victim assistance and witness protection in Central America.

Renovated specialized facilities for human trafficking victims and created child-friendly spaces, prioritizing victim comfort and dignity.

COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE WORKED



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