RATIONAL

Justice practitioners argue that efficient, fair, and accessible justice systems promote peace and security, encourage investment and growth, and provide fundamental protections to citizens. As a result, governments and international donors have invested substantially in justice systems, aiming to lower barriers to access, reduce delays, tackle corruption, and improve the quality of judicial decisions. Yet we know little about whether these investments are delivering on their promise – in part because judicial data is hard to access, and because few agree on the metrics by which to measure success in the justice sector.

DATA AND EVIDENCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM (DE JURE)

The Data and Evidence for Justice Reform (DE JURE) program is a collaboration between the World Bank's Governance Global Practice and the Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) team. By leveraging the World Bank's relationship with governments, the DE JURE program aims to harness the potential of recent changes in data availability to expand - through rigorous analysis and experimentation - the evidence base on the economics of justice reform.

BRINGING SCIENCE TO THE JUDICIARY

The DE JURE program bridges the gap between rigorous evidence and policymaking in judiciaries around the world. The main aims of the program are:

I. DATA: Work with World Bank operations and client governments to exploit case management systems where they exist and build them where they don’t exist. We bring together key elements from these systems in the form of ‘Doing Justice’ indicators;

II. DIAGNOSTICS: Identify core issues in justice system functioning and judicial performance. We use data alongside economic theory and literature to develop an empirically validated measurement framework that lays the foundation for research on the economics of justice reform;

III. EXPERIMENTATION: Work with client governments to tackle priority policy questions and measure the causal impacts of reforms by embedding experimental research into the rollout and scale-up of justice sector interventions.

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What are the downstream impacts of judicial productivity?
- Croatia: Impact of judicial productivity on firm outcomes

How to improve judicial productivity?
- India: Impact of “zero courts” establishments
- Chile: Impact evaluation of a technological platform as well as a telework system
- Kenya: Impact of low-cost informational nudge on judicial productivity

What is the impact of case management platforms on judicial productivity?
- Chile: Impact of Electronic Law Processing
- Philippines: Impact Evaluations of e-Courts system, Continuous Trial Guidelines and Small Claims Procedures

How can data science improve conciliation?
- Peru: Development of a platform that incentivizes legal aid counselors to improve the quality of their service

Are judges biased and corrupt?
- India: Impact evaluations of judicial response to criminal politicians and gender bias in dowry cases
- Croatia: Impact evaluation of end-of-month deadlines on the quality of judicial decisions

What is the impact of ADR mechanisms?
- Kenya: Impact evaluation of court-annexed mediation
- Peru: Impact evaluation of legal aid centers