Access to Justice Victimization Survey Module

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Module on Access to Justice

- Need to improve understanding of justice functioning, beyond traditional administrative data

- What do we need to review?
  - How people solve their disputes?
  - To whom do they turn if they have a dispute?
  - Do they have access to justice?

- UNODC has been testing various formulations in the past
  - Pilot survey in Iraq
  - Pilot survey in Nigeria
Access to Justice module outline

1) Opinion questions regarding the accessibility of the Justice System, ex:
   - Are courts within reasonable distance from where you live;
   - Is it hard to understand how the formal justice system works

2) Experience of civil disputes (interpersonal, commercial or administrative)

3) Reporting, handling and satisfaction of how the civil dispute was handled by the system

4) Experience of involvement in any criminal cases
Access to Justice module outline

5) **Reporting**, authority that handled the criminal case (courts, community leaders, mediation, etc.)
   - Reasons of choosing certain authority

6) **Access of information** about legal rights, financial and legal assistance. Satisfaction of how the case was handled, length and costs of procedure.

7) **Perception and preferences** of future use of the justice system
Nigeria Module on Access to Justice

- Survey currently in process
- N=5584 out of 33,000
- Results are preliminary and not representative

Experience of Civil disputes
Reporting and handling: Civil disputes

- Reporting to the police
- How was the dispute handled?

Pie chart:
- Yes: 24%
- No: 74%
- Don't know: 2%

Bar chart:
- The dispute was handled by community or religious leaders: 30%
- The dispute was never taken up by anyone: 10%
- The dispute was solved informally by the parties (or is still under discussion): 15%
- The dispute was handled through a lawyer, or through third-party mediation: 20%
- The dispute was handled by formal justice (courts): 25%
- The dispute was handled both by formal justice and community/religious leaders: 30%
- Don't know: 5%
Experience of criminal cases
Reporting and handling: Criminal cases

- Reporting to the police
- How was the dispute handled?

- Yes: 36%
- No: 61%
- Don't know: 3%
Satisfaction with the handling: Criminal cases

- Courts
  - Very satisfied: 12%
  - Satisfied: 19%
  - Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied: 15%
  - Unsatisfied: 46%
  - Very unsatisfied: 8%

- Community or religious leaders
  - Very satisfied: 35%
  - Satisfied: 51%
  - Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied: 11%
  - Unsatisfied: 3%
Legal aid in Courts

- No legal assistance was given
- Other
- From paralegal
- From another non-governmental organization (NGO)
- From a lawyer or a lawyers association
- From a government office (i.e., Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON))
Challenges

Few criminal cases, and fewer of them being handled by courts

Large sample size required to pick them up

Differences on legal rights across countries
Thank you for your attention

UNODC Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics:


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