

# Global



# Study

on

# Legal



# Aid



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# GLOBAL STUDY ON LEGAL AID

*The provision of legal aid and assistance is a concrete way in which the rule of law can improve access to justice and contribute to more equitable development, by enabling poor and marginalized groups to better access their rights and entitlements, resolve their disputes peacefully, and seek remedies for grievances.*

## Approach

UNDP and UNODC are launching a global study on legal aid to provide an overview of the current situation of legal aid which strengthens the knowledge and evidence base on legal aid.

This study will gather information on the 'state of legal aid' worldwide to inform priorities and programmes on legal aid reform.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- Identify priorities for technical assistance in legal aid, including countries or regions in which capacity building needs are most critical
- Promote collaboration, knowledge-sharing and more efficient use of resources among stakeholders.
- Map the current state of legal aid worldwide
- Provide an analysis of good practices and lessons learned on provision of legal aid including illustrative case studies

## Methodology

- **Desk research** Review of primary and secondary sources on the provision of legal aid.
- **Surveys** Member State and Expert surveys on the availability and accessibility of legal aid.
- **Case Studies** In-depth case studies in five countries on the state of legal aid to highlight reform efforts, to showcase innovative approaches, and to share good practices.

## Research Questions

### Legal Framework

What is the framework for the provision of legal aid by the state in view of different legal systems around the world?

What are the different models of legal aid service delivery?

Who are the other key actors in the provision of legal aid and what role do they play?

### Demand

What is the current demand for legal aid? How is the demand for legal aid met in practice?

How available and accessible are legal aid services?

What is the level of awareness among people on their rights and where they can seek legal aid?

### The Justice System

What is the interaction of legal aid service providers with informal justice mechanisms (traditional/ customary and alternative dispute resolution)?

### Recommendations

What are key recommendations to strengthen legal aid services?

### Strengths & Weaknesses

What are the strengths and weaknesses of current systems and the key challenges facing the provision of legal aid services?

## LEARN MORE

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