



Justice for the Poor Kenya Program

Promoting equity and managing conflict in development

J4P Operational Areas

Access to Justice

Land and Natural Resources

Service Delivery

J4P Thematic Areas

Gender

Development Effectiveness

Legal Pluralism

J4P Principles

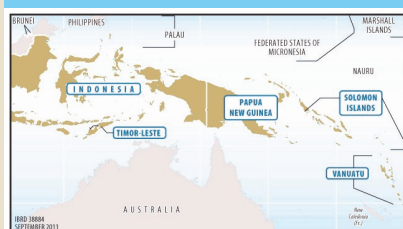
Justice from the user perspective

*Evidence-based approaches
grounded in context*

*Importance of demand in building
equitable justice systems*

Justice as a cross-sectoral issue

J4P in East Asia and Pacific



J4P in Africa



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J4P is active in Indonesia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.

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Justice for the Poor Overview

Justice for the Poor (J4P) is a World Bank program that engages with justice reform as a cross-cutting issue in the practice of development. Grounded in evidence-based approaches focused on the perspective of the poor and marginalized, the program aims to improve the delivery of justice services and to support sustainable and equitable development processes which manage grievance and conflict stresses effectively.

Kenya Background

Between 2006 and 2009 the Justice for the Poor program conducted operations and research in Kenya on issues of access to justice and women's access to land. Many Kenyans pursue their grievances outside the state justice sector, including through community systems, peace or reconciliation forums, Islamic courts and local chiefs. The latter are part of the Provincial Administration and they are mandated to maintain law and order in their communities. The interface of these different forums can be challenging for those seeking justice, as people are forced to navigate multiple, and often conflicting, justice and rule systems. Different socio-political aspects or values impact their choices of forum and the project worked to increase understanding of how to promote equitable and legitimate outcomes across justice forums.

Kenya Program Areas

Assessment of Access to Justice in Pastoralist Communities

In 2007, the J4P program launched a qualitative research project in the arid and semi arid lands focusing on grievances over natural or biological resources and grievances triggered by development projects and funds. Disputes in the pastoralist areas are often connected to natural resources and multiple ideas of ownership and use. Disagreements over who has access to community funds also constitute a more modern cause of conflict within communities. Following in-depth research, the J4P team worked with the World Bank's Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) to analyze ongoing mechanisms of conflict resolution, their role in the provision of justice to the poor and marginalized, as well as the potential of the community development institutions to act as a broker in supporting access to justice.

Women's Access to Land and Labor Rights in Kenya

Under the World Bank's Gender Action Plan, the J4P program partnered with the Legal Resources Foundation Trust (LRF) in Kenya to conduct an exploratory study on women's access to land in Kenyan agricultural communities. The goal of this research was to better understand how formal and customary justice systems govern women's access to land in agricultural communities and how women navigate such systems in search of their rights. Results of this study suggested that access to land for women should not be framed as a 'formal versus informal law' issue. Instead, the same local power dynamics underpin, control and ultimately undermine access for women in both arenas. These findings will inform future initiatives on women's access to land and are contributing to the ongoing design and implementation of the World Bank's Judicial Performance Improvement Project (JPIP) in Kenya. JPIP strives to improve mechanisms to protect women's right and increase their access to such mechanisms and thereby enhancing their ability to access and protect economic resources.