

Three Things Surveys Can Do for Justice and Safety

Panel Discussion from Annual Indicators Conference of the Justice Systems Workshop 2012

Each year, with support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management convenes a workshop at Harvard on 'the design and use of indicators of justice and safety in developing countries.'

The workshop is part of a larger program on indicators supported by DFID and the Australian Government's Overseas Aid Program. It brings together government officials and civil society leaders from countries around the world along with experts and officials in international development agencies to discuss the role of indicators in the service of justice sector reform locally, nationally, and globally.

Overview of 2012 Workshop

Which effects of development are most important to count, and what are the effects of trying to count them? How can you promote 'ownership' of indicators by national governments without privileging the opinions of a small group of individuals? Can the indicators that count these effects capture the true "voices of the poor" or do they only record a faint echo? What might a MDG for justice and safety look like, and how would it affect the field of indicator development?

These questions and other important challenges of indicator development were the focus of five panel discussions that shaped this year's Conference on Indicators of Safety and Justice at Harvard University.

History

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functions of the formal justice system. The kinds of experiences worth surveying, says Nick Menzies, extend beyond people's evaluation of government performance. For example, a survey question about whether participants in a court proceeding experienced the process as "fair" or "biased" should not treat respondents as mere customers and

