



Legal Empowerment and its Importance for Sustainable Development

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Direction

- What is legal empowerment?
- How does it work?
- What kind of impacts?
- How is it being used around the world?

What is Legal Empowerment?

Legal empowerment is about strengthening the capacity of all people to exercise their rights, either as individuals or as members of a community, to find practical solutions to their justice problems, and hold government to account.

Levels of Legal Empowerment

First-Order Interventions:

- legal literacy

Second-Order Interventions:

- resolving specific legal problems

Third-Order Interventions:

- public interest litigation;
- policy and law reform advocacy;
- justice system reform;
- corruption monitoring.



**Client seeks advice at a paralegal office,
Lunsar, Sierra Leone**



Legal education, Brac, Bangladesh

Key tools of community-based paralegals

- Community legal education
- Individual advice
- Mediation
- Help organise communities
- Assistance in navigating authorities
- Advocacy with institutions
- Litigation



Women at mobile clinic in Khmelnytsky, Ukraine, discussing their social welfare problems

Potential impacts

- Increasing income and assets.
- Development as freedom.
- Gender equity.
- Fostering accountability and combating impunity.
- Improving services
- Improving the functioning of justice institutions
- Improving private sector responsiveness.
- Making criminal justice more just.
- Promoting public security.
- Injecting rights into development.



Thank you!