



State of justice financing 2026 annual review

Marcus Manuel and Juliet Uraz

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Financing scaled-up investments in people-centred justice

Key messages

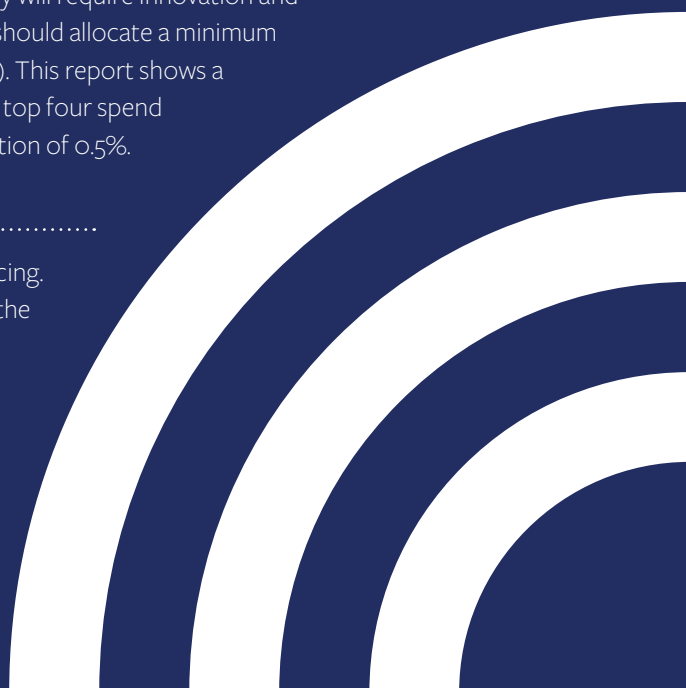
Domestic spending on justice in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries increased from 3.8% of all government spending in last year's review to 3.9% now. But justice's share of spending remains below the pre-Covid-19 levels of 4.2%. Despite the slight increase in the last year, the long-term trend is one of gradual decline.

Spending on justice in low- and middle-income countries is much higher than OECD countries, averaging 6.3%, a slight increase in the last year. A recent ODI Global survey of ministry of finance officials confirms perceptions that justice is not a high priority in the budget. It also suggests ministries of justice should do more to highlight the role of justice in addressing social needs and improving equity (while also improving evidence on rates of return). And it notes that development partners and civil society organisations are the most important non-governmental influences on the budget.

The Justice Action Coalition's Justice Financing Framework (JFF) provides international benchmarks and guidance to help countries adopt 'smarter' justice financing approaches, which deliver 'more justice for the money'. The JFF proposes that countries should allocate a minimum of 2.5% of their justice spending to front-line services to deal with people's everyday justice problems: information, advice, assistance and informal dispute resolution. This report shows wide variation in spending levels on such services. Only four OECD countries allocate 2% or more of their justice budgets to these services. Most spend far less.

If budgets remain flat, improved front-line justice service delivery will require innovation and performance improvements. The JFF proposes that countries should allocate a minimum of 0.5% of justice spending to research and development (R&D). This report shows a wide range of shares of spending on R&D across countries. The top four spend more than 1% of justice spending, above the JFF financing ambition of 0.5%. But the OECD average (median) is five times lower at just 0.1%.

Better data on justice finance would assist smarter justice financing. As noted in earlier annual reviews, including justice spending in the World Bank's World Development Indicators would increase attention on justice and facilitate cross-country (and cross-sectoral) analysis. Better analysis would also be possible if the official Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) definition of justice spending were more disaggregated (as is the case for health and education).



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About this publication

This policy brief is part of a wider research programme on justice finance that also covers global trends in domestic financing of justice and guidance on budgeting for people-centred justice (<https://odi.org/en/about/our-work/justice-finance/>).

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government
CSO	civil society organisation
EU	European Union
GDP	gross domestic product
ILAG	International Legal Aid Group
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JAC	Justice Action Coalition
JFF	Justice Financing Framework
LIC	low-income country
LMIC	lower middle-income country
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
R&D	research and development
UMIC	upper middle-income country
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1 Introduction

1.1 Paper purpose

This policy brief presents the latest global data on justice finance. This is the latest in a series of ODI Global’s annual updates of government spending on justice. It aims to provide context for justice policy-makers, concerned with the allocation of public funds to the justice sector. Practical guidance on financing and budgeting for improved justice outcomes and scaled-up front-line justice services can be found in the Justice Action Coalition’s¹ (JAC)’s Justice Financing Framework (JFF).² The JFF looks at ‘more money for justice’ – including assessing the scope for increasing justice’s share of the national budget and identifying new funding sources – as well as ‘more justice for the money’ – how to deliver more justice outcomes from available resources.

This policy brief supports the JFF’s consideration of ‘more money for justice’ with detailed and up-to-date data on the global funding situation for the justice sector, providing international comparisons of domestic allocations to justice. It also presents data on levels of spending for two specific areas: (1) legal aid (as the best proxy for spending on front-line legal information, advice, assistance and informal dispute resolution services); and (2) research and development. These two issues are the subject of JFF ‘financing ambitions’, which are designed to set the direction of travel towards aligning funding with the objective of the resolution of people’s justice problems.

The data presented is the latest available for international data sources (which is 2024 for Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries).

This information on government spending is ODI Global’s fourth update. Previous analyses are presented in Manea et al., 2023; Manuel et al., 2023; Manuel et al., 2024; and Manuel and Manea, 2025.

1.2 Data sources

The analysis uses the standard, internationally agreed definition for justice sector spending. This definition is part of the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) that was developed by the OECD and published by the United Nations Statistical Division in 1999. It is the framework used when countries report government spending to international institutions such as the European Union, the OECD and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Reporting is undertaken by countries’ national statistics agencies or ministries of finance.

1 See: www.sdg16.plus/justice-action-coalition/

2 See: www.sdg16.plus/justice-financing-framework/

The COFOG definition refers to the justice sector as ‘public order, law and safety’. The agreed international definition (COFOG 703) encompasses all major aspects of justice including spending on the judiciary, police, prisons and oversight bodies such as ombudsmen (see Annex A for full details). The sector categories ensure that there is no double-counting of government expenditures. Where countries have not reported to the EU/OECD/IMF,³ we have obtained data from individual country budget websites. Details of the source and date for each country are set out in Annex B.

The focus of this year’s review has been updating data for those 119 already-covered countries that report figures to the IMF or to another international statistical body and extending coverage to an additional 8 countries: 6 using national budget sources (Brunei, Fiji, Kuwait, Maldives, Taiwan and Vietnam), 1 (Greenland) using its national statistical office’s COFOG return, and 1 (the Russian Federation) recovered from the IMF’s own historical COFOG series. There has only been time to update 4 of the 46 already previously included countries that were derived from ODI analysis of national budget sources.

Coverage has therefore increased from 165 in last year’s survey (Manuel and Manea, 2025) to 173 countries. This is much improved compared to 135 countries in the first survey in 2023 (Manuel et al., 2023). The dataset now covers over 80% of low-income countries (LICs) and lower middle-income countries (LMICs); over 70% of upper middle-income countries (UMICs); and 100% of OECD countries.

Coverage is still not yet as good as that for other sectors. The World Bank’s World Development Indicators⁴ now provides data on health for 193 countries and on education for 192 countries. One reason for the better coverage in these sectors is that the data is gathered by large international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, and by specialist United Nations (UN) agencies (the World Health Organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

The review also includes data on spending on legal aid and on research and development. This is restricted due to the current limited degree of disaggregation of reported spending on justice. COFOG definitions only provide for 6 divisions of justice functions; this compares to 14 functional divisions for health and 12 for education.⁵ For example, one of the justice sector’s six functional divisions is ‘law courts’. There is no distinction between different tiers of court, while the definition also rolls in spending on ombudsmen and legal aid. Providing disaggregated international data would enable countries to benchmark their levels of spending on these two issues.

3 As explained in Manuel et al. (2023), only a few lower-income countries report their budget data to the IMF.

4 World Bank, World Development Indicators (<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>).

5 See: www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf.

Data for legal aid is taken from the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ);⁶ national reports prepared for the International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) 2025 conference;⁷ and ODI analysis of national budget data. The review now covers 75 countries – 41 from CEPEJ 2022, 19 from ILAG reports (14 of them from the 2025 round), 8 from a 2016 UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) series,⁸ and the rest from national budgets. Data on research is mainly from IMF Government Finance Statistics.⁹

Data on total levels of government spending, gross domestic product (GDP) and exchange rates are taken from IMF World Economic Outlook April 2026 and Eurostat.¹⁰

1.3 Paper structure

Section 2 of this brief sets out updated trends in domestic financing of justice and discusses what they mean. Section 3 reviews the evidence from a recent survey of finance ministry officials about their priorities, preferences and perceptions of influence that shape budget decision-making in general and the justice sector in particular. Section 4 provides some short concluding remarks.

6 Council of Europe, European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), CEPEJ-STAT (www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/cepej-stat). This is due to be updated later in 2026.

7 International Legal Aid Group, 2025 National Reports (www.internationallegalaidgroup.org/index.php/papers-publications/conference-papers-reports/category/67-national-reports).

8 See: www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/LegalAid/GSLA_-_Country_Profiles.pdf.

9 IMF Data (<https://data.imf.org/>).

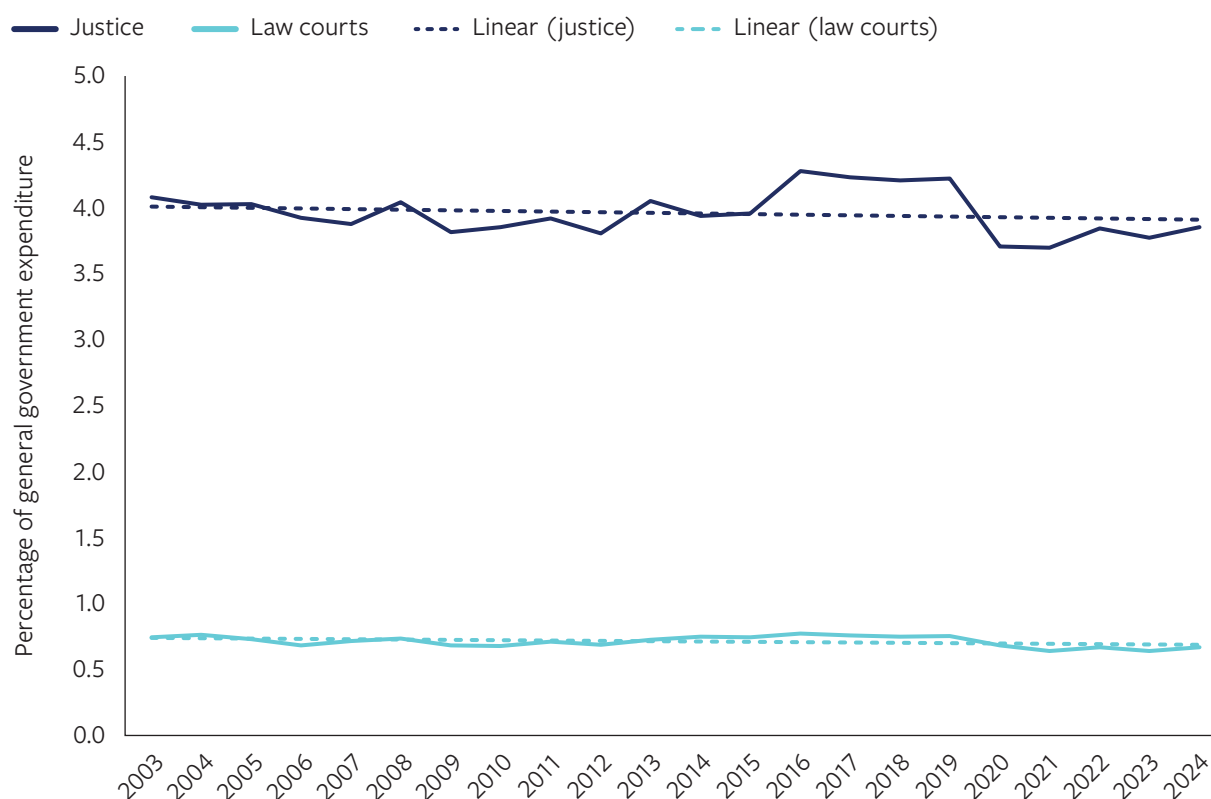
10 See: <https://data.imf.org/en/datasets/IMF.RES:WEO> and https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/gov_10a_exp/default/table.

2 Domestic financing for justice

2.1 Long-term trend in OECD justice share of spending remains one of a gradual decline

There is currently insufficient data to assess how justice spending in non-OECD countries has varied over time. There is much better data coverage for OECD countries. IMF COFOG data shows there was a small increase in the average (median) level of justice spending from 3.77% of total government expenditure in 2023 to 3.86% in 2024. However, spending is essentially back to 2022 levels (3.85%) and remains below pre-Covid-19 levels of 4.2% in 2017–18. Meanwhile, the 20-year trend remains one of gradual decline.

Figure 1 OECD countries: spending on justice and law courts as a percentage share of total government expenditure over time



Note: This figure only includes 35 OECD member states for which data is available for most of the 2003–24 period. So, data for Mexico, Costa Rica and Chile is not included. The law courts series covers 32 countries: Korea, Colombia and New Zealand are additionally excluded, because no comparable law courts breakdown is published for them. Korea and Colombia are drawn from the OECD Data Explorer; every other country is from IMF COFOG. The broken lines are the 20-year average.

Sources: IMF and OECD

Within OECD countries, there is a wide range of spending. The Nordics are consistently low spenders – for example, Denmark (2.1%), Norway (2.1%) and Finland (2.3%). At the other end, four countries spend 5% or more: Colombia, Latvia, Turkey and the United States (US).

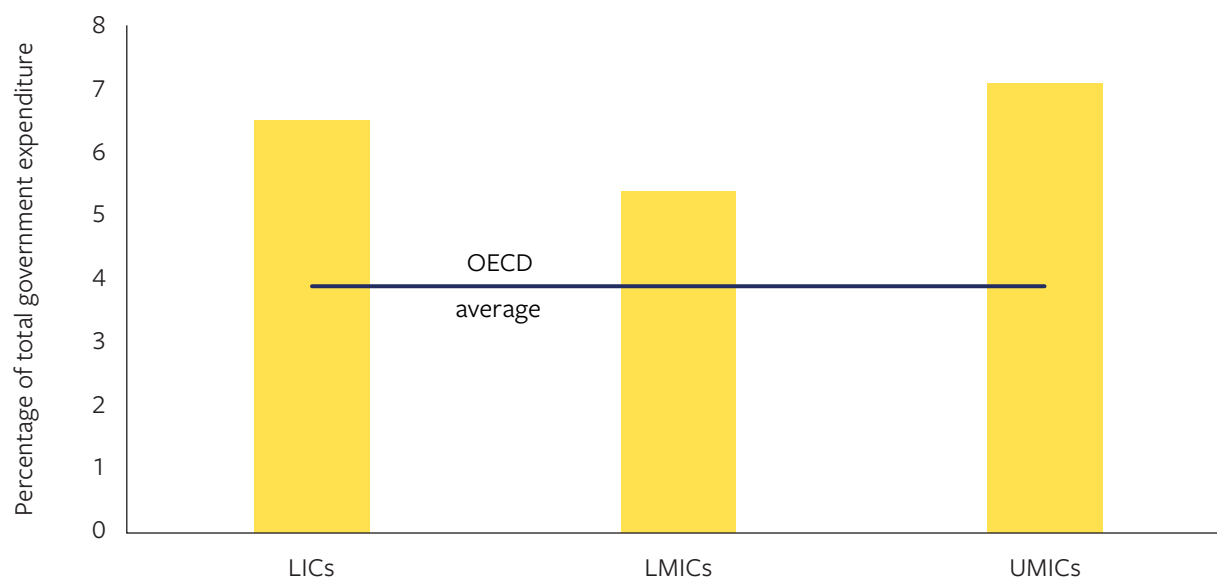
While OECD countries' spending on law courts (one part of the total justice spend) showed a small increase in 2024, from 0.65% to 0.67%, this too was a return to 2022 levels and remains below pre-Covid-19 level of 0.78% in 2016–17.

The United Kingdom is an interesting example as it both shows a clear pattern of decline but also some recovery since Covid-19. From a peak of 5.9% in 2004, justice spending declined almost every year to the pre-Covid-19 level of 4.4% in 2016–17. However, in 2024, it rose to 4.7%. Spending on law courts showed a similar slow decline from a peak of 1.4% in 2004, but while spending has recovered its Covid-19 fall, it is now just at pre-Covid-19 levels.

2.2 Low- and middle-income countries continue to invest proportionately more in justice than OECD countries, but the current, relatively high, spending on justice is unlikely to be sustained

While OECD countries are spending an average of 3.9% of total spending on justice, in LICs, LMICs and UMICs the average figure is 6.3%. This is 63% higher than that for OECD countries (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 Non-OECD countries: spending on justice as a percentage share of total government expenditure



Sources: Latest data from IMF COFOG, supplemented by ODI research

This relatively high share of spending on justice in low- and middle-income countries is unlikely to be sustained over the long term. As countries' income levels rise, spending on other sectors such as health tends to account for a greater share of their budgets (Fan and Savedoff, 2014). The current higher proportional spend on justice in non-OECD countries reflects relatively lower proportional spend on health, pensions and social protection. The populations of OECD countries tend to be older, and OECD countries have a longer tradition of providing other types of social protection such as child, maternity and disability benefits. While nationwide social protection schemes are becoming increasingly common in upper middle-income countries, they remain rare in low-income countries.

Rising spending pressures from health, social protection and education in lower-income countries mean that current levels of allocations to justice are likely to come under pressure. In particular, lower-income countries are 'overspending' on justice relative to health. As Table 1 shows, in low-income countries justice spending is 89% of the level of health spending. In OECD countries, justice is just 25% of health spend.

Table 1 Spending on justice and health as a percentage of all government expenditure

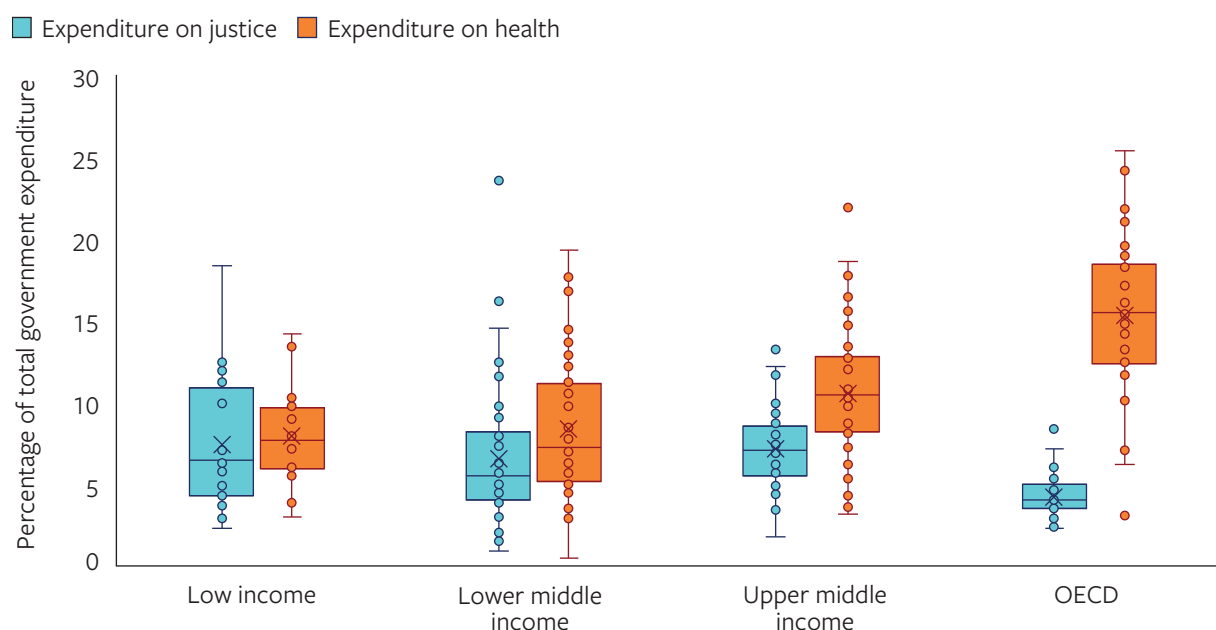
	LIC	LMIC	UMIC	OECD
Justice	6.48	5.33	6.89	3.86
Health	7.26	7.10	10.41	15.47
Justice as percentage of health	89%	75%	66%	25%

Note: Justice and health figures are the median percentage expenditure.

Sources: IMF COFOG, World Bank and World Health Organization, supplemented by ODI research

The box and whisker chart in Figure 3 also illustrates this point using the latest information on the proportion of spending on justice (blue) and health (orange) in different country income groups.¹¹ As well as showing the widening disparity between justice and health spending with increased income, the chart also highlights the narrow range of spending on justice in OECD countries (with a small blue box and very short whiskers). This compares with the much wider range of spending on justice in lower-income countries (with longer boxes with longer whiskers). It would be interesting to interrogate the reasons for these differences in future research.

¹¹ The boxes capture the middle half of all observations (the interquartile range). The line in the middle of the box is the median point. Half the observations will be above and half below this point. The 'whiskers' extend to where all but a few outliers would be expected to lie. (An 'outlier' is defined as being more than two interquartile ranges from the median).

Figure 3 Spending on justice and health as a percentage share of total government expenditure

Sources: IMF COFOG, World Bank and World Health Organization, supplemented by ODI research

2.3 OECD countries' share of justice spending spent on legal aid is much higher than in lower income countries

The legal aid review covers 75 countries; for 71 of them, a share of justice spending can be computed. Half of these (34) are OECD countries and the rest are mainly UMICs. Not all countries provide a split between criminal and non-criminal legal aid. Where the split was not available, we estimated this using the median ratio for the peer country income group. Table 2 shows the median level of spend as a percentage of total spending on justice for different country income groups. The LIC category has been omitted as there were too few observations (3) to make a valid comparison. The table shows that OECD countries' share of spending on legal aid is four times that of middle-income countries.

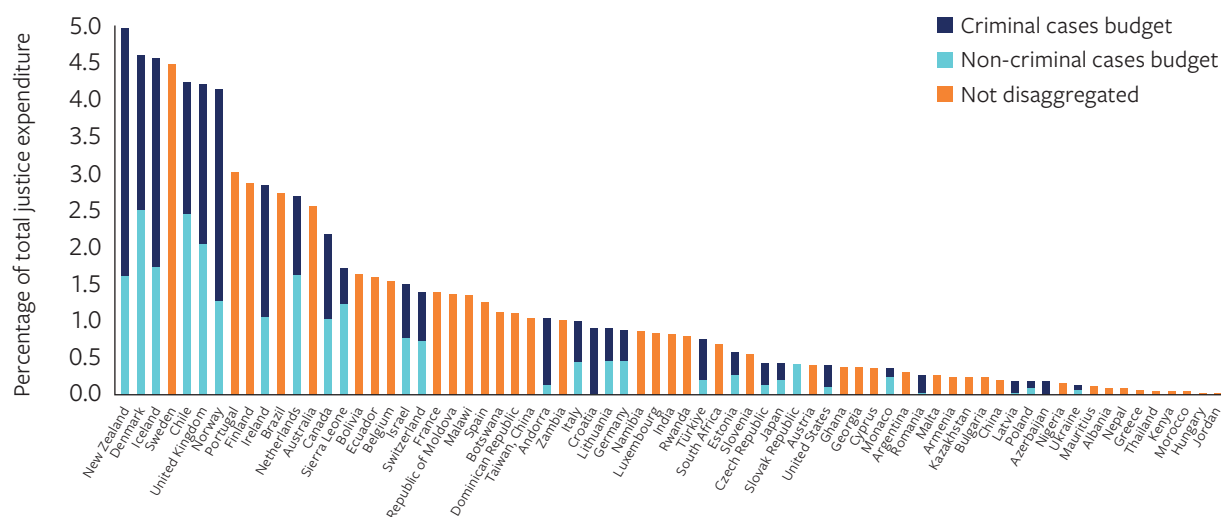
Table 2 Legal aid spending data

Country income group	Median spending on legal aid as % of total justice spend	Number of countries
LMIC	0.2	9
UMIC	0.3	18
OECD	1.3	34

Sources: CEPEJ, national reports prepared for the International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) 2025 conference and ODI analysis of national budget data

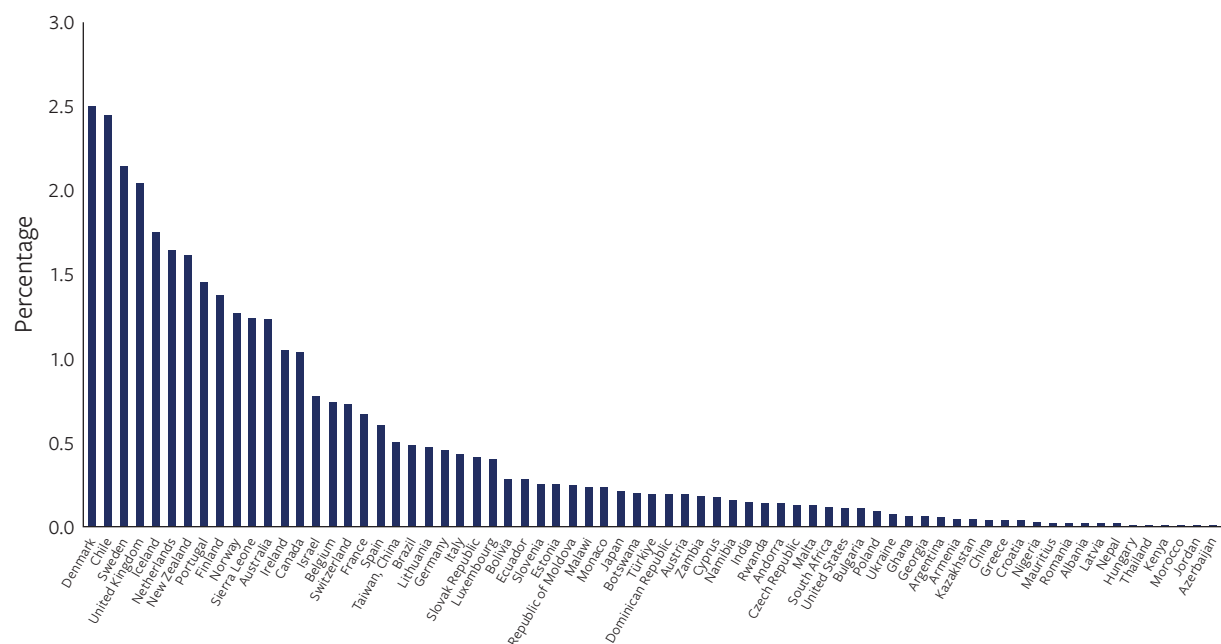
Figure 4 shows the level of spending on legal aid in each country and Figure 5 shows the actual/estimated spend on non-criminal legal aid in each country.

Figure 4 Legal aid as a percentage share of total justice expenditure



Sources: IMF COFOG, CEPEJ, UNODC, national reports prepared for the International Legal Aid Group 2025 conference and ODI analysis of national budget data

Figure 5 Non-criminal legal aid as a percentage share of total justice expenditure



Sources: IMF COFOG, CEPEJ, national reports prepared for the International Legal Aid Group 2025 conference and ODI analysis of national budget data

The JFF's financing ambition is for countries to aim to spend a minimum of 2.5% of their justice spending on legal information, advice, assistance and informal dispute resolution. Spending on non-criminal legal aid is a very broad approximation for this and is likely to be an underestimation. For example, in England and Wales, spending on Citizens Advice – a key front-line service providing legal information, advice and assistance – is funded not by the Ministry of Justice, but by the Department for Business and Trade (which does not report any justice spending for COFOG purposes).¹²

Figure 5 shows only one country meets the JFF ambition of a 2.5% share of spending (Denmark), although three others (Chile, Sweden and the United Kingdom) are above 2%. But most countries fall far short of this ambition, especially in non-OECD countries (with the one notable exception of Sierra Leone).

The JFF's ambition would not meet the full cost of providing such services (estimated in the JFF background brief to be two or three times higher). However, in most countries, such an allocation would result in at least a five-fold increase in funding for these services.

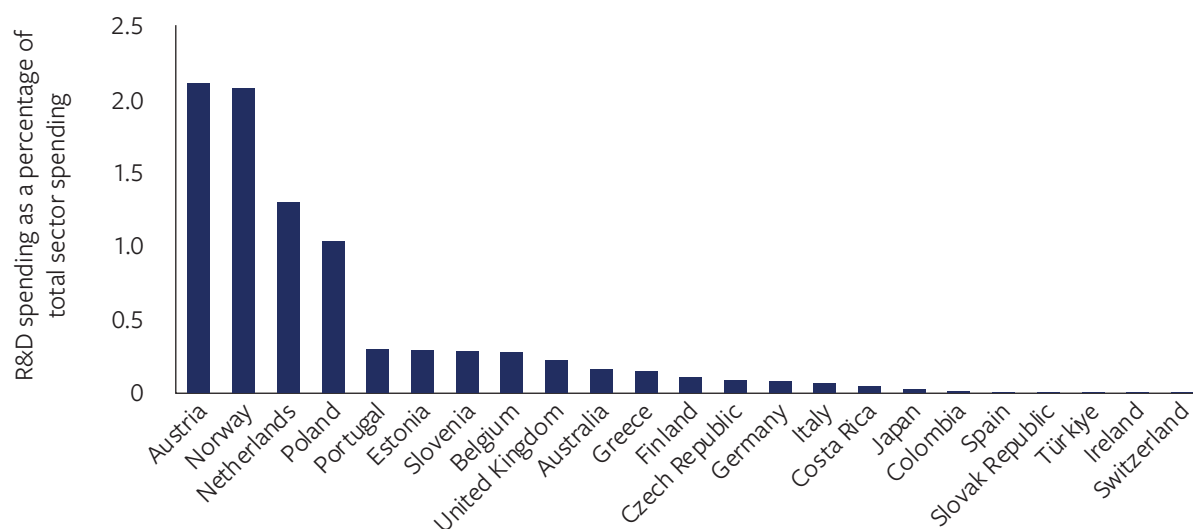
2.4 There is a wide range of levels of domestic spending on justice research, but spending remains low relative to education and health

Improved front-line justice service delivery will require innovation and performance improvements, and careful consideration of cost-effectiveness. Therefore, the JFF proposes that countries should allocate a minimum of 0.5% of justice spending to research and development (R&D).

Figure 6 shows the level of spending on justice R&D as a percentage of total government justice expenditure in the 23 OECD countries that publish a justice R&D line. This figure highlights the wide range of spending levels. The other key points from the latest data are as follows:

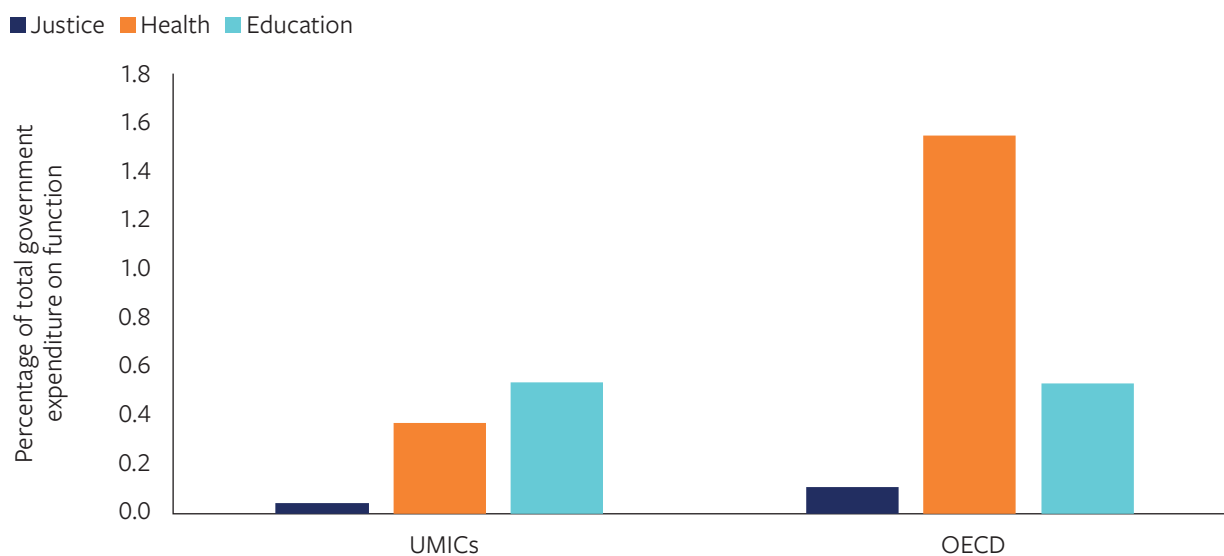
- The median level of justice R&D spend in OECD countries (as a percentage of total government justice expenditure) is 0.11%.
- While this is a welcome increase over last year's figure of 0.09%, this is still only 20% of the JFF financing ambition of 0.5%.
- However, some countries spend much more, with four countries (Austria, Norway, Netherlands and Poland) spending over 1%, 10 times more than the median. All these four countries are above the JFF financing ambition of 0.5%.

12 See: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-spending-statistics-release-july-2026.

Figure 6 Spending on justice R&D as a percentage of total government justice expenditure

Source: IMF COFOG

The other key point from this analysis is that countries continue to invest much less in R&D for justice than they do in health and education (as shown in Figure 7). While the median level of education R&D spend (as a percentage of total government education expenditure) fell from 0.6% in last year's report to 0.5% in OECD countries, this is still five times higher than the R&D proportion for justice. At the same time, the median level of health R&D spending rose from 1.4% to 1.5%, remaining 15 times the proportion for justice. Meanwhile, some countries spend even more (for example, Austria invests 5.7% and the Netherlands 5.5%).

Figure 7 Spending on R&D as a percentage of total expenditure in each sector

Source: IMF COFOG

Unfortunately, there is currently no further disaggregation of R&D spending – for example, to distinguish between criminal and civil justice research or to assess the amount focused on research into reducing violence against women and girls.

The generally low level of spending on research is likely to be a contributing factor to the low level of reporting against Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 16.3.3, which measures people's ability to access civil justice.¹³

13 See: www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2023/09/improving-the-monitoring-of-sdg-16-3-3_ba6098ca/c5fbed7e-en.pdf

3 Survey of Ministry of Finance officials' views

3.1 Overview of the survey

This section reviews the evidence from a recent ODI Global survey of finance ministry officials in low- and middle-income countries, about their priorities, preferences and perceptions of influence that shape budget decision-making (Löffler et al., 2026).

As the survey noted:

‘Ministries of finance are central to how governments set policy priorities and allocate public resources. They define the fiscal framework within which sector ministries operate, negotiate with creditors and development partners and ultimately determine which public spending commitments can be sustained.’

The survey asked 142 finance ministry officials across 32 low- and middle-income countries how they understood their role in the budget process, what priorities and preferences guided their decision-making, and which actors they considered most influential.

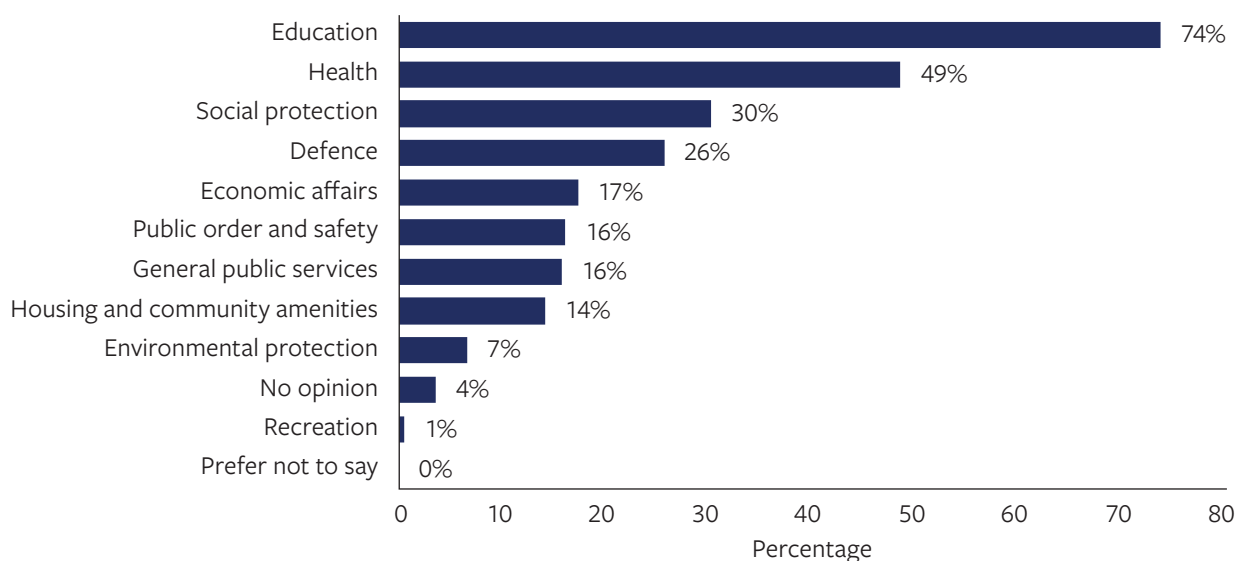
The survey also noted that the findings are:

‘best understood as a window into the culture of finance ministries. The sample is not random, and countries with stronger networks for reform are likely over-represented’.

Of relevance to this review, the survey includes officials' prioritisation of spending across COFOG categories, including public order and safety, providing evidence on how finance ministry officials think about and prioritise justice-related expenditure. The survey used the COFOG definitions for public spending so ‘public order and safety’ in the figures is what the rest of this report equates to justice spending. This chapter highlights three findings from the survey relevant for spending on the justice sector.

3.2 Justice is not a high priority

Question 9 in the survey asked officials, *Which sectors were prioritised in the last budget?* Officials were invited to select up to three sectors. Figure 8 reveals that justice (public order and safety in the figure) was a lower priority than education, health, social protection and defence. However, the survey also revealed significant variations with justice the third highest priority in Latin America countries, while officials in Africa did not consider it a priority.

Figure 8 Which sectors were prioritised in the last budget?

Source: Löffler et al., 2026

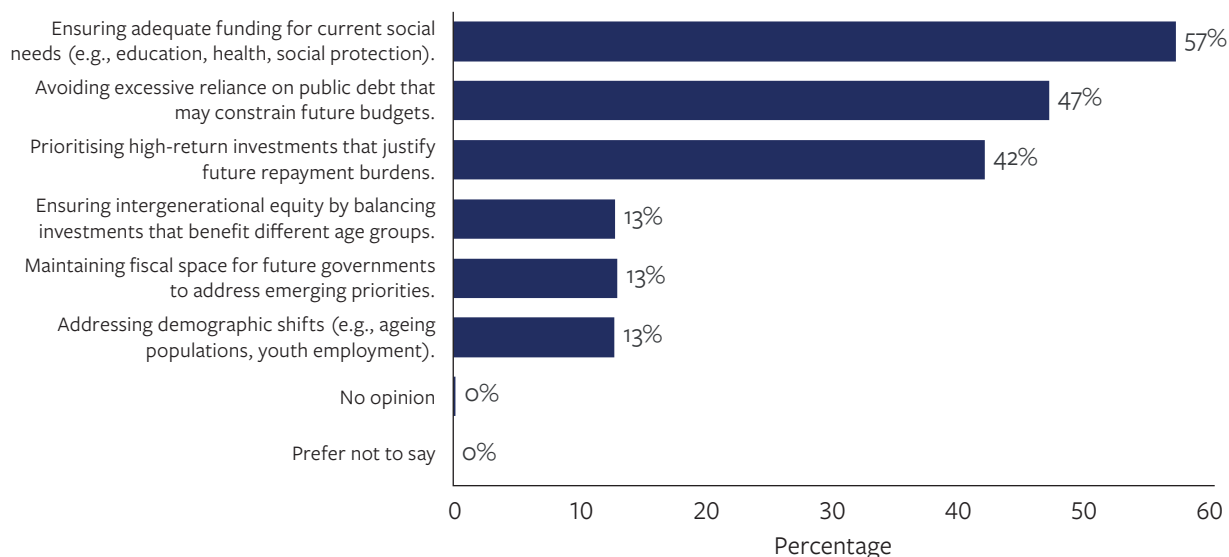
3.3 Justice should highlight its impact on addressing social needs and improving equity (while also improving evidence on rates of return)

The survey also explored underlying reasons determining priorities during a period of austerity. Question 18 asked, *When allocating resources under fiscal constraints, which of the following concerns influences your decision-making the most?*

As Figure 9 shows, the highest priority was attached to ensuring adequate funding for current social needs (for example, education, health, social protection). This underlines the need for ministries of justice to make the case for treating unmet legal needs as a social need and these being placed on the same footing as education and health needs.

The third highest priority was on prioritising high-return investments that justify future repayment burdens. Here, ministries of justice are at a disadvantage because the current evidence base on the rates of return on investment is more limited than for education and health, and what results there are suggest relatively lower rates of return than for education and health (Manuel and Manuel, 2021). This survey therefore underscores the value of the current research being conducted by the OECD on making a better case for investment in justice.

Figure 9 When allocating resources under fiscal constraints, which of the following concerns influences your decision-making the most?



Source Löffler et al., 2026

Given the current limited evidence on rates of return in the justice sector, one encouraging overall finding from the survey (the second key finding) is that officials show a preference for equity and social spending:

‘Contrary to common assumptions, ministry of finance officials tend to favour equity-enhancing and social sector investments over efficiency-enhancing and economic sector investments.’

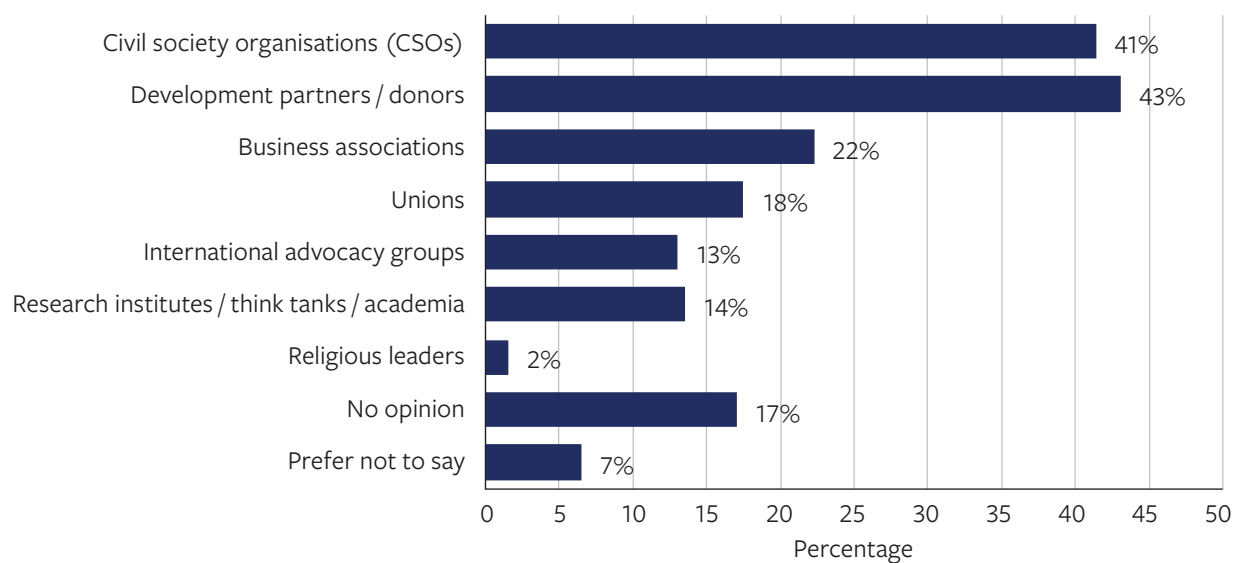
3.4 Outside of government, international development partners and civil society organisations are the most important external influence on the budget

Finally, the survey also explored the influence of external organisations. Question 24 asked, *In your opinion, which, if any, of the following non-governmental actors have the most influence over the budget as a whole?* As Figure 10 shows, international development partners and civil society organisations (CSOs) are the most important external influences.

This finding underlines the value of justice CSOs engaging in the budget not only to make the case for investing in justice in general, but also to advocate for the justice budget to prioritise front-line services that matter the most for addressing the everyday legal needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. This would be in line with the Justice Action Coalition’s Justice Financing Framework (JFF) call for both ‘more money for justice’ and ‘more justice for the money’. The JFF also provides international benchmarks that could be used – such as the financing ambition for all

countries to allocate at least 2.5% of the justice budget on front-line justice services. CSOs may also want to consider engaging with the World Bank, as the survey also reveals (Question 23.1) that it has the greatest influence on the budget of all the international development partners.

Figure 10 Which, if any, of the following non-governmental actors have the most influence over the budget as a whole?



Source Löffler et al 2026

4 Conclusions

4.1 ‘More money for justice’ is unlikely

In the light of the trends discussed in this policy brief, it remains difficult to see any immediate scope for significantly increased funding from domestic resources to address the justice gap – that is, the 1.5 billion people who are unable to solve their justice problems today (Task Force on Justice, 2019). There is a consistent downward trend in spending in OECD countries. And although low- and middle-income countries allocate a larger share of the budget to justice than OECD countries do (6.3% versus 3.9%), this share is likely to fall as the countries become richer.

The survey results do suggest there is scope for the justice sector (including civil society organisations) to make a better case for justice spending to ministry of finance officials. This could help slow the current decline. However, the long-term decline, and the scale of the fiscal crisis in many countries, suggest that there is little or no scope in most countries for the justice sector to obtain a higher share of the domestic budget.

4.2 ‘More justice for the money’ needs to be the focus

With increases in overall funding unlikely, addressing the justice gap will require a strong focus on ‘smart’ financing – making better use of existing resources. This makes sense, as higher spending on justice at the country level by itself is not associated with better rule of law outcomes.

As noted in previous annual reviews, improved data on domestic resourcing of justice would assist with smarter financing. If the World Bank were to include justice spending in the World Development Indicators, alongside spending on other services such as health and education, this could help to institutionalise the gathering of data on justice and encourage countries to report on their justice spending.¹⁴ Better disaggregated COFOG data on where justice funds are allocated within the sector (on a similar basis to data on health and education) would also enable better analysis of how to spend money well. This would ideally include spending on primary front-line justice, as the JAC’s Justice Financing Framework calls for. Coverage on spending on legal aid and assistance would also be most useful, as this is routinely only gathered for European countries.

Smarter financing of justice aimed at reducing the justice gap and funding services to address people’s everyday justice problems would require a re-imagining of current justice financing in several respects:

- Governments would need to commit to prioritising the financing of scaled-up front-line justice services and to providing a regulatory environment for such services to flourish.

14 See: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>

- Funds would need to be focused on the most cost-effective services – that is, smart financing for ‘best buys.’ ODI Global’s recent analysis (Manuel et al., 2025) shows there are more than 50 examples from 18 countries and 6 continents of innovative cost-effective front-line services that are making a direct impact on the justice gap. These are currently being provided at affordable benchmark unit costs and there is scope to scale them up. Scaling up these kinds of services across all LICs would be relatively cheap – costing an estimated \$249 million a year (Manuel and Manuel, 2023).

4.3 Justice Action Coalition’s Justice Financing Framework provides helpful international benchmarks

‘Smart financing’ is a key focus of the JFF. It presents current data on justice financing, particularly on ‘best buys’ – the most cost-effective interventions providing the best value for money. Key recommendations include focusing on people-centred outcomes (such as resolving everyday justice problems) and prioritising scaled-up front-line justice services, focusing on the most cost-effective ‘best buys’ (such as community-based legal aid and assistance, provided by paralegals), and investing in research and innovation.

In addition, the JFF’s financing ambitions encourage countries to re-balance their justice budgets, providing more money for front-line services and for R&D to drive innovation and service improvements. While the financing ambitions are modest (2.5% of justice spending on front-line services and 0.5% on R&D), their aim is to focus attention and increased funding on the key activities needed to drive improved service delivery and to address the justice gap.

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Annex A Definitions of justice spending

IMF/OECD/UN definition of justice spending (COFOG Public Order and Safety sector)¹⁵

7031 POLICE SERVICES

70310 Police services (CS)

- Administration of police affairs and services, including alien registration, issuing work and travel documents to immigrants, maintenance of arrest records and statistics related to police work, road traffic regulation and control, prevention of smuggling and control of offshore and ocean fishing.
- Operation of regular and auxiliary police forces, of port, border and coast guards, and of other special police forces maintained by public authorities; operation of police laboratories; operation or support of police training programs.
 - Includes: traffic wardens.
 - Excludes: police colleges offering general education in addition to police training (7091), (7092), (7093) or (7094).

7032 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

70320 Fire protection services (CS)

- Administration of fire prevention and firefighting affairs and services.
- Operation of regular and auxiliary fire brigades and of other fire prevention and firefighting services maintained by public authorities; operation or support of fire prevention and firefighting training programs.
 - Includes: civil protection services such as mountain rescue, beach surveillance, evacuation of flooded areas, etc.
 - Excludes: civil defense (70220); forces especially trained and equipped for fighting or preventing forest fires (70422).

15 See: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/Econ/Download/In%20Text/CPCprov_english.pdf.

7033 LAW COURTS

70330 Law courts (CS)

- Administration, operation or support of civil and criminal law courts and the judicial system, including enforcement of fines and legal settlements imposed by the courts and operation of parole and probation systems.
- Legal representation and advice on behalf of government or on behalf of others provided by government in cash or in services.
 - Includes: administrative tribunals, ombudsmen and the like.
 - Excludes: prison administration (70340).

7034 PRISONS

70340 Prisons (CS)

- Administration, operation or support of prisons and other places for the detention or rehabilitation of criminals such as prison farms, workhouses, reformatories, borstals, asylums for the criminally insane, etc.

7035 R&D PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

- Definitions of basic research applied research and experimental development are given under (7014) and (7015).

70350 R&D Public order and safety (CS)

- Administration and operation of government agencies engaged in applied research and experimental development related to public order and safety.
- Grants, loans or subsidies to support applied research and experimental development related to public order and safety undertaken by non-government bodies such as research institutes and universities.
 - Excludes: basic research (70140).

7036 PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED (N.E.C.)

70360 Public order and safety n.e.c.

- Administration, operation or support of activities such as formulation, administration, coordination and monitoring of overall policies, plans, programs and budgets relating to public order and safety; preparation and enforcement of legislation and standards for the provision of public order and safety; production and dissemination of general information, technical documentation and statistics on public order and safety.
 - Includes: public order and safety affairs and services that cannot be assigned to (7031), (7032), (7033), (7034) or (7035).

Source: Note operation of legislative bodies (Parliaments etc.) is covered separately under General Public Services (701). This group also includes ‘permanent or ad hoc commissions and committees created by or acting on behalf of the chief executive or legislature’. In some countries, this may include human rights commissions, but these are not separately identified in the COFOG system. Consumer and labour protection bodies are included within Economic Affairs (704), while environment oversight bodies are included within Environmental Protection (705).

Annex B Individual country data

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
Afghanistan	8.8	37.1	44.7	89.9	0.6	6.9	2.4	0.0	0.2	3.1		IMF COFOG	2017
Albania	1.9	155.0	6.7	54.9	6.2	16.3	17.7	5.0		1.1	0.1	IMF COFOG	2023
Algeria	0.6	29.5	1.5	38.2		35.2	25.9			0.5		National budget documents	2023
Andorra	1.9	844.5	6.1	54.5	13.3	24.3	7.4		0.5	1.5	1.0	IMF COFOG	2024
Angola	1.4	30.2	7.2	84.5	0.2		0.3	14.7	0.2			IMF COFOG	2021
Antigua and Barbuda	2.9	420.3	8.0	63.1	14.0	16.0	7.0			1.3		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Argentina	0.8	108.6	5.0	45.2		41.6	7.3	0.0	5.9	2.1	0.3	IMF COFOG	2024
Armenia	2.2	191.1	7.6	37.1	5.7	10.2	6.0		41.0	0.8	0.2	IMF COFOG	2024
Australia	1.9	1279.2	5.0	32.5	12.7	17.6	18.2	0.2	18.6	0.9	2.6	OECD	2024
Austria	1.5	904.9	2.7	49.9	13.5	19.7	10.2	2.1	4.6	0.5	0.4	IMF COFOG	2024
Azerbaijan	2.6	198.8	7.4	75.8		10.7			13.4	0.8	0.2	IMF COFOG	2024
Bahamas, The	1.7	598.5	8.3	69.3		18.5	12.2			1.5		IMF COFOG	2024
Bahrain	3.5	823.1	11.9									IMF COFOG	2020
Bangladesh	0.8	20.3	6.4	86.1	3.1	5.3	25.9			0.3		National budget documents	2023/24
Barbados	2.3	387.2	7.5						100.0			ECLAC COFOG	2020
Belarus	2.6	197.3	6.1	43.2	13.2	6.5	7.1	0.0	30.0	0.4		IMF COFOG	2024
Belgium	1.7	963.1	3.2	58.5	11.6	13.7	8.5	0.3	7.4	0.4	1.5	IMF COFOG	2024
Belize	3.4	165.1	8.6	80.2	5.4	14.5				1.2		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Benin	0.7	9.5	4.0			31.8				1.3		National budget documents	2022
Bhutan	1.9	65.9	5.6									IMF COFOG	2020
Bolivia	0.7	27.8	2.3	27.7		71.6				1.6	1.6	National budget documents	2023
Botswana	2.6	195.6	7.9	55.1		31.5	13.4			2.5	1.1	IMF COFOG	2023
Brazil	3.0	335.4	6.5	36.4	2.8	52.3	7.9	0.0	0.6	3.4	2.7	IMF COFOG	2024
Brunei Darussalam	1.4	485.5	4.7									National budget documents	2023/24
Bulgaria	2.8	471.3	7.1	50.4	9.5	26.2	6.1	0.3	7.5	1.9	0.2	Eurostat	2024
Burkina Faso	1.8	16.5	6.5	50.6	28.9	12.4	7.6		0.5	0.8		IMF COFOG	2024
Burundi	2.5	7.7	11.2			12.5				1.4		National budget documents	2022/23

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
Cabo Verde	3.6	118.3	9.7									IMF COFOG	2020
Cambodia	0.9	20.7	5.5			4.5				0.2		National budget documents	2022
Cameroon	0.6	10.6	4.3	50.6	1.1	40.1	8.2			1.7		IMF COFOG	2021
Canada	1.8	979.7	4.5	47.7	11.3	15.2	11.4		14.3	0.7	2.2	IMF COFOG	2024
Central African Republic	1.4	7.2	6.7			29.6				2.0		National budget documents	2023
Chad	0.6	6.0	3.5			38.2				1.3		National budget documents	2021
Chile	1.4	238.4	5.8	44.0	1.3	31.9	20.3		2.5	1.9	4.2	IMF COFOG	2024
China	1.1	144.0	3.5								0.2	IMF COFOG	2024
Colombia	1.7	127.4	5.2	31.2	0.9	46.2	10.4	0.0	11.4	2.4		OECD	2024
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.7	5.0	4.7	46.8		34.4	0.1	14.0	4.7	1.6		National budget documents	2023
Congo, Rep.	0.8	19.7	3.9	59.8		37.7				1.5		National budget documents	2022
Costa Rica	1.5	251.1	8.2	29.9		53.8	13.3	0.0	3.0	4.4		National budget documents	2023
Croatia	2.4	560.3	5.1	61.0	7.6	19.0	5.6	0.6	6.2	1.0	0.9	Eurostat	2024
Cyprus	1.7	626.5	4.4	76.8	8.9	8.6	5.2		0.4	0.4	0.4	Eurostat	2024
Czech Republic	1.6	490.8	3.9	49.8	15.7	17.5	9.2	0.1	7.8	0.7	0.4	IMF COFOG	2024
Côte d'Ivoire	0.9	23.4	4.3	62.1	4.7	6.2	3.0		24.0	0.3		National budget documents	2024
Denmark	1.0	672.5	2.1	54.6	6.1	17.3	19.6		2.5	0.4	4.6	IMF COFOG	2024
Dominican Republic	0.9	108.4	4.7	49.3	1.6	34.3	2.9	6.6	5.3	1.6	1.1	IMF COFOG	2024
Ecuador	1.8	119.5	7.1	63.1	16.2	9.1	4.3		7.4	0.6	1.6	IMF COFOG	2022
Egypt, Arab Rep.	1.0	32.9	4.4									National budget documents	2019/20
El Salvador	4.2	232.1	13.2	36.9	2.4	39.7	10.7	1.2	9.1	5.2		IMF COFOG	2024
Estonia	1.8	585.8	4.2	52.9	16.2	16.1	7.2	0.3	7.3	0.7	0.6	Eurostat	2024
Eswatini	2.8	115.8	8.3									National budget documents	2022/23
Ethiopia	0.2	3.4	2.7	41.3		16.0	12.1	0.2	30.4	0.4		IMF COFOG	2024
Fiji	2.5	157.5	8.1	61.8		22.8	15.3			1.9		National budget documents	2024/25
Finland	1.3	727.2	2.3	48.4	21.1	18.1	7.9	0.1	4.4	0.4	2.9	Eurostat	2024
France	1.8	840.8	3.1	55.4	15.2	15.9	9.8		3.6	0.5	1.4	Eurostat	2024

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
Gabon	1.5	141.2	6.1	65.2		11.5	23.3			0.7		National budget documents	2024
Gambia, The	1.5	11.1	6.2	10.5	10.7	21.2	7.2		50.4	1.3		National budget documents	2020
Georgia	2.8	247.0	8.4	51.9	4.7	9.6	10.2		23.6	0.8	0.4	IMF COFOG	2024
Germany	1.6	886.1	3.3	46.1	19.4	22.9	6.0	0.1	5.4	0.8	0.9	IMF COFOG	2024
Ghana	1.1	24.7	4.8	35.4		14.4	5.6			0.7	0.4	National budget documents	2023
Greece	2.0	490.4	4.2	57.1	21.4	16.5	3.7	0.1	1.2	0.7	0.1	Eurostat	2024
Greenland	4.8		7.8	71.7	7.9	9.2	11.2			0.7		Statistics Greenland (COFOG)	2023
Grenada	2.5	228.3	9.7	70.4	3.9	13.1	12.7			1.3		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Guatemala	1.9	107.4	11.6	40.1	0.8	29.9	4.0	0.5	24.7	3.5		IMF COFOG	2024
Guinea	0.6	8.9	3.7	59.2	0.1	23.2	1.2	0.2	16.1	0.9		IMF COFOG	2023
Guinea-Bissau	1.4	15.3	6.9	69.6		30.4				2.1		World Bank report	2017
Guyana	2.4	165.8	8.1	59.1	5.5	14.1	16.6		4.7	1.1		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Haiti	0.8	14.0	16.2			10.2				1.7		National budget documents	2022/23
Honduras	2.7	64.7	11.5	44.4		37.0	7.4		7.4	4.3		IMF COFOG	2020
Hong Kong SAR, China	3.0	1515.2	11.8	39.9	14.2	8.6	8.3		29.0	1.0		IMF COFOG	2023
Hungary	1.8	410.3	3.7	59.0	9.4	16.5	14.2		0.9	0.6	0.0	Eurostat	2024
Iceland	1.8	1502.2	3.8	53.6	6.6	12.4	4.6		22.8	0.5	4.6	Eurostat	2024
India	0.9	21.1	3.0	91.4		5.3	0.0			0.2	0.8	National budget documents	2022/23
Indonesia	1.1	54.7	6.6									IMF COFOG	2023
Ireland	0.7	789.6	3.3	59.1	10.6	18.3	5.4	0.0	6.6	0.6	2.8	Eurostat	2024
Israel	1.5	804.5	3.4	58.4	6.0	19.9	14.8		0.9	0.7	1.5	IMF COFOG	2024
Italy	1.8	705.8	3.5	57.5	11.9	19.9	10.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	1.0	IMF COFOG	2024
Jamaica	3.4	170.0	10.2	73.7		13.3	12.9			1.4		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Japan	1.2	401.5	3.0	51.6	29.5	8.1	3.6	0.0	7.2	0.2	0.4	IMF COFOG	2024
Jordan	4.4	198.7	14.5	89.0	0.0	6.6	2.3	0.1	2.0	1.0	0.0	IMF COFOG	2023
Kazakhstan	1.0	129.3	4.2	74.4	2.4	8.9	6.7		7.6	0.4	0.2	IMF COFOG	2023
Kenya	1.2	25.5	5.8	71.2		15.6	13.2			0.9	0.0	IMF COFOG	2023
Kiribati	4.3	95.8	4.5									IMF COFOG	2023
Korea, Rep.	0.8	284.8	3.7			27.2				1.0		National budget documents	2025
Kosovo	2.8	163.3	9.3	58.3	3.1	23.1	7.5		8.0	2.1		IMF COFOG	2023

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
Kuwait	3.6	1168.1	7.5	82.9		17.1				1.3		National budget documents	2023/24
Lao PDR	0.2	4.9	1.2			65.8				0.8		National budget documents	2021
Latvia	3.2	764.4	7.0	54.1	10.3	16.2	11.6		7.8	1.1	0.2	Eurostat	2024
Lebanon	0.7	23.1	6.2	58.3	8.7	8.6	0.5		23.9	0.5		IMF COFOG	2024
Lesotho	3.2	37.2	6.1	58.7		39.5				2.4		National budget documents	2021/22
Liberia	2.7	20.3	12.1	34.0	4.2	35.1	0.8			4.2		National budget documents	2022
Lithuania	1.6	446.4	4.0	42.8	14.6	15.3	10.0		17.2	0.6	0.9	IMF COFOG	2024
Luxembourg	1.4	1873.3	2.9	49.9	16.5	18.5	12.4		2.7	0.5	0.8	Eurostat	2025
Macao SAR, China	3.0	2391.7	12.4									IMF COFOG	2024
Madagascar	0.6	3.1	3.5	43.0	10.1	44.9	2.0			1.6		IMF COFOG	2024
Malawi	1.3	7.5	4.2	66.5		19.9	12.3			0.8	1.3	National budget documents	2021/22
Malaysia	0.7	99.5	3.2	76.4		8.9	7.9		6.8	0.3		National budget documents	2025
Maldives	3.3	592.3	9.1	68.0	1.9	18.1	9.6		2.5	1.6		National budget documents	2024
Mali	2.5	22.0	11.8	37.8		8.0	2.7		51.5	0.9		National budget documents	2023
Malta	1.5	608.5	3.9	47.2	7.0	30.3	15.3	0.1		1.2	0.3	Eurostat	2024
Marshall Islands	3.5	234.9	5.5			80.0			20.0	4.4		IMF COFOG	2019
Mauritania	0.7	16.8	3.0	6.9	6.8	23.3	1.7		61.3	0.7		National budget documents	2022
Mauritius	2.1	266.1	6.3	74.8	5.6	7.9	7.5		4.2	0.5	0.1	IMF COFOG	2024
Mexico	0.7	60.3	3.4	18.8	0.1	57.3	15.4		8.4	1.9		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	2.6	99.6	5.0					3.8	96.2			IMF COFOG	2020
Moldova	2.2	165.0	5.8	56.4	8.4	19.6	12.1	0.0	3.5	1.1	1.4	IMF COFOG	2024
Monaco	0.8		3.3	58.8	16.5	18.6	6.1			0.6	0.3	National budget documents	2024
Mongolia	2.2	137.4	5.8	29.5				2.4	68.0			IMF COFOG	2024
Morocco	3.8	137.0	12.4								0.0	National budget documents	2022
Mozambique	3.9	25.8	12.4	0.1		11.6	5.6		82.7	1.4		IMF COFOG	2024
Myanmar	0.6	7.5	2.9	66.7	16.7		16.7					IMF COFOG	2019
Namibia	3.4	163.7	8.4	65.8	0.0	12.6	13.5	0.6	7.5	1.1	0.9	IMF COFOG	2024

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
Nauru	16.6	2049.2	18.1	10.6	0.0	18.6	2.3	0.0	68.4	3.4		IMF COFOG	2018
Nepal	1.5	17.9	5.0	65.9	0.3	13.7	3.5	6.8	9.9	0.7	0.1	IMF COFOG	2021
Netherlands	1.9	1234.6	4.3	42.6	10.2	15.0	17.7	1.3	13.1	0.7	2.7	Eurostat	2024
New Zealand	1.6	792.0	3.9	39.0		11.8	28.3		18.0	0.5	5.0	National budget documents	2024
Nicaragua	1.5	42.1	7.8									IMF COFOG	2024
Nigeria	0.4	4.0	3.0	20.4	3.3	27.9	16.8		31.6	0.8	0.2	National budget documents	2024
Norway	1.1	1003.4	2.1	51.2	21.0	12.9	11.1	2.1	1.8	0.3	4.2	IMF COFOG	2024
Oman	0.8	165.6	2.8			69.7				1.9		National budget documents	2025
Pakistan	0.3	5.1	1.8	92.7	0.2	4.5	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.1		National budget documents	2023/24
Palau	5.0	872.1	11.5	32.0		58.0			12.0	6.7		IMF COFOG	2019
Panama	1.9	365.2	11.0	54.0		46.0				5.1		IMF COFOG	2025
Papua New Guinea	1.3	32.2	6.1	37.1	2.8	45.5	12.9		1.6	2.8		IMF COFOG	2024
Paraguay	1.2	69.2	6.5	87.1			8.6		4.3			IMF COFOG	2024
Peru	2.5	157.2	9.8	64.6		35.4				3.5		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Philippines	1.2	48.5	5.2	60.1	8.7	16.5	8.6	0.0	6.0	0.9		IMF COFOG	2024
Poland	2.4	549.5	4.8	50.6	10.5	22.3	9.7	1.0	5.8	1.1	0.2	Eurostat	2024
Portugal	1.7	483.0	3.9	57.1	11.6	17.4	7.6	0.3	6.0	0.7	3.0	IMF COFOG	2024
Romania	2.8	550.5	6.5	62.0	9.6	14.5	5.1	0.0	8.8	0.9	0.3	Eurostat	2024
Russian Federation	2.3	235.5	5.6	43.6	8.6	12.7	8.5	0.9	25.7	0.7		IMF COFOG	2020
Rwanda	1.7	16.7	6.1	41.9		14.5	13.0		30.6	0.9	0.8	National budget documents	2022/23
Samoa	2.6	116.7	8.1	26.1	19.4	27.3	10.0		17.2	2.2		IMF COFOG	2023
San Marino	0.9	514.3	2.1	65.5	4.6	29.9	0.0			0.6		IMF COFOG	2024
Saudi Arabia	0.2	49.8	0.5			100.0				0.5		National budget documents	2024
Senegal	1.8	30.9	5.3			37.2				2.0		National budget documents	2023
Seychelles	3.1	441.3	4.1	61.3	9.7	12.9	12.9			0.5		IMF COFOG	2020
Sierra Leone	1.7	8.5	9.8	61.9	1.5	21.9	12.1		2.6	2.1	1.7	National budget documents	2022
Singapore	0.9	839.5	3.8	60.3	11.3	3.6	11.0		13.7	0.1		IMF COFOG	2024
Slovak Republic	2.3	605.0	4.9	40.1	7.6	13.9	9.2	0.0	29.0	0.7	0.4	Eurostat	2024
Slovenia	1.5	522.1	3.3	45.1	11.3	29.0	8.0	0.3	6.4	1.0	0.5	IMF COFOG	2024

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
Solomon Islands	3.6	80.5	8.9	44.4		16.7	30.6		8.3	1.5		IMF COFOG	2020
Somalia	1.7	13.3	18.4	70.9		3.3	6.5		19.4	0.6		IMF COFOG	2024
South Africa	3.0	176.6	7.3	65.8	3.9	14.5	12.4	0.1	3.3	1.1	0.7	IMF COFOG	2024
South Sudan	1.1	4.4	5.6	40.0	5.7	12.0	21.8			0.7		National budget documents	2021/22
Spain	1.8	610.4	4.0	61.3	10.5	18.9	8.2	0.0	1.1	0.8	1.3	IMF COFOG	2024
Sri Lanka	0.5	17.3	2.8									IMF COFOG	2022
St. Lucia	3.3	279.3	10.2	36.5	12.2	16.8	7.0		27.4	1.7		ECLAC COFOG	2020
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3.8	299.9	7.1	60.4	5.8	17.7	7.7		8.4	1.3		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Sudan	0.6	4.9	6.6	73.6		25.7			0.7	1.7		National budget documents	2021
Suriname	1.8	86.9	7.1						100.0			ECLAC COFOG	2020
Sweden	1.6	929.6	3.1	50.9	12.8	16.4	19.1		0.9	0.5	4.5	IMF COFOG	2024
Switzerland	1.6	1643.2	4.8	40.9	6.7	19.0	12.8	0.0	20.6	0.9	1.4	IMF COFOG	2024
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.2	4.8	0.7						100.0			IMF COFOG	2022
Taiwan, China	0.6	206.0	3.4	27.7							1.0	National budget documents	2024
Tanzania	0.7	9.1	3.8	75.7		24.3				0.9		National budget documents	2023/24
Thailand	1.1	85.1	4.8	61.8	0.9	22.2	7.5	0.0	7.6	1.1	0.0	IMF COFOG	2024
Timor-Leste	8.0	220.6	8.1									National budget documents	2021
Togo	0.6	5.5	2.1	0.5	16.4	7.6	0.0	0.0	75.5	0.2		IMF COFOG	2023
Tonga	2.9	141.7	7.5	44.8	10.3	20.7	13.8	0.0	10.3	1.6		IMF COFOG	2020
Trinidad and Tobago	3.2	635.6	9.2	46.9	9.4	12.5	15.6		12.5	1.2		IMF COFOG	2019
Tunisia	2.5	111.2	7.4	68.4	5.8	6.7	8.9		10.3	0.5		National budget documents	2024
Türkiye	1.9	236.7	5.1	62.0	2.3	14.6	11.9	0.0	9.1	0.8	0.7	IMF COFOG	2024
Uganda	0.8	8.6	4.1	47.4		31.4	17.8		3.5	1.3		National budget data – for justice expenditures, approved 2024/25 budget. IMF COFOG – for health and education expenditures from 2023 at budgetary central government level	2024/25; 2023
Ukraine	8.9	476.4	12.1	61.8	10.1	3.5	1.5	0.0	23.1	0.4	0.1	IMF COFOG	2023
United Arab Emirates	2.4	1320.5	11.4			11.8				1.4		National budget documents	2025

Country	Justice spending			Share of justice spending						Law courts % of total govt spending	Legal aid % of justice spending	Source	Year
	% of GDP	US\$ per person	% of total govt spending	Police	Fire	Law courts	Prisons	R&D	Other				
United Kingdom	2.2	1114.9	4.7	58.8	6.8	18.9	10.7	0.2	4.6	0.9	4.2	IMF COFOG	2024
United States	1.8	1520.2	5.2	47.2	15.8	15.5	23.8			0.8	0.4	BEA	2024
Uruguay	1.8	278.0	8.1	56.9	4.3	21.9	16.9			1.8		ECLAC COFOG	2020
Vanuatu	3.0	95.7	9.0	51.9		30.7	8.9			2.8		National budget documents	2022
Vietnam	1.2	53.3	6.4	90.0		7.9			2.1	0.5		National budget documents	2023
West Bank and Gaza	2.0	68.3	23.7			5.4			94.6	1.3		IMF COFOG	2021
Zambia	1.1	15.8	5.0	37.5		27.3	11.3	0.2	23.8	1.4	1.0	IMF COFOG	2024
Zimbabwe	1.5	29.6	9.7			27.0				2.6		National budget documents	2022

Notes

- Justice spending is COFOG division 03, public order and safety: police, fire protection, law courts, prisons, R&D and other. The six shares are of justice spending and sum to 100.
- COFOG group 03.3 Law courts covers 'the legal representation and advice on behalf of government or on behalf of others provided by government in cash or in services'. The legal aid column is therefore a subset of the law courts column and the two must not be added together.
- US\$ per person is justice spending as a share of GDP multiplied by GDP per capita in current US dollars at market exchange rates, both taken for the country's own data year, so the two sit on one year. Blank where the economy is outside the IMF World Economic Outlook.
- Source: 'COFOG' denotes an international statistical return – IMF Government Finance Statistics, Eurostat or OECD – measuring general government, all tiers and all categories. 'National' denotes a national budget or audit document. Basis: 'Act' = actual or outturn, 'Est' = estimate, 'Rev' = revised.
- Where a country is sourced from a national budget document, justice spending as a share of GDP is the share recorded in that document applied to the IMF's general government expenditure, so that it is on a comparable basis with the countries measured by an international return.
- Justice R&D is a very small number everywhere and should be read as indicative. Three countries publish a figure of exactly zero: Togo, Nauru and Tonga. Tonga files its whole COFOG return at one decimal place of GDP, so its zero means only that R&D is below 0.05% of GDP, not that nothing was spent. Togo and Nauru file at full precision, so their zeros are as reported. Across the rest of the column, the published values run as low as 0.00002% of GDP, so a zero here is not a general rounding artefact.
- Where a source publishes a justice total but no breakdown, the six share columns are left blank rather than shown as zero. For two countries the published components do not reconcile exactly to the published total – Trinidad and Tobago sums to 96.9% of it and the United States to 102.2% – and the shares are shown as the source reports them rather than forced to add up.



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