The third annual Global Legal Empowerment Network survey was carried out between January and March 2018. Over 250 respondents from 64 countries took part.
With each passing year, the Global Legal Empowerment Network grows and thrives.
Our latest annual survey captured the voices of members from all over the world.
We learned a lot from the results.

Here are our most compelling findings.
We are more than a Network. We are a community.

As a member of the Global Legal Empowerment Network, do you feel like you are part of a community?

- very much, 43%
- quite a bit, 17%
- somewhat, 24%
- a little bit, 14%
- not at all, 2%
We are united by a commitment to help people do three things:

How often do you help people to know, use, or shape the law?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All the time</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KNOW the law</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USE the law</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAPE the law</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We particularly value the chances we get to learn from one another...

Did you find any of the following learning resources useful?

Yes, this resource was useful:

- Grassroots Justice Prize: 58%
- Regional meetings or conferences: 60%
- Webinars: 60%
- In-person Learning opportunities: 65%
- Online discussion platform: 74%
- Resource Library: 75%
- Connections with other practitioners through the network: 76%
- Advocacy on access to justice and the SDGs: 78%
... Because these opportunities help us to get better at what we do.

“The signing of petitions and pledges of support has helped to redefine my Human Rights and social Justice Advocacy.”

“The Land Rights category in the discussion forum helped me solve land issues in my own country, Tanzania.”

“The Grassroots Justice Prize is an important vehicle for raising the profile and disseminating information about paralegals and the work they do.”

“We adopted the “know law, use law, change law” framework after attending the Legal Empowerment Leadership Course in Budapest.”

“The information about Nubians in the Paralegal Guidebook has proven so useful in leading us towards fighting for the rights of slum-dwellers in danger of eviction due to gentrification.”

April 2018

2017 Annual Network Survey Results

8
Members now demand more ways to develop skills in technical areas (e.g. monitoring & evaluation), as well as in adapting legal empowerment methods for specific issues areas (e.g. women’s rights).

“More resources available in French please! Build capacity on specific competencies like monitoring, evaluation, data collection, processing, and impact measuring.”

“The formal recognition of paralegals is one of the most important challenges. The Network could use advocacy campaigns to put this on the agenda.”

“We would like to see more of a focus on ways to intercede on corruption.”

“We need sustainability and advocacy skills training. We need to build our capacity on fundraising, engaging with donors, and connecting with relevant funders.”

“The rights of women and environmental justice needs to be a priority in our region. We face many violations.”
We are eager to start focusing on a few key areas of research.

- Host webinars and other training materials
- Conduct comparative research
- Create guide to best practices
- Gather empirical evidence
- Conduct action-research projects
- Violations of human rights, particularly of justice defenders
- Economic argument for legal aid spending
- Inner workings of traditional court systems
- Rates of gender based violence and inequality
- Legal needs & literacy rates
- Map persons at risk and other related issues
- Research effective models of justice delivery
- Involve elders and community leaders in dialogue
- Form expert groups within the Network

Identified research gaps

Proposed solutions

April 2018
We also acknowledge that, to reach our full potential, we must address two fundamental challenges.
Our field faces a funding crisis.

- **22%** of respondents reported that their funding situation has improved since last year.
- **29%** stated that their funding situation is worse than last year.
- **49%** said that their funding situation stayed the same since last year.
67% of us either had to make cuts or may not be able to operate in the coming year due to funding sustainability concerns.
This is not new. It’s a consistent message since we began our annual surveys in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enough support to expand our operations</th>
<th>We can comfortably sustain work through the next year</th>
<th>We have to make cuts but we will survive</th>
<th>We may not be able to operate next year due to lack of funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Our work puts us at risk. Grassroots legal advocates around the world are under threat.

- **32%** said no, they have not been threatened for carrying out their work.
- **68%** said yes, either themselves or their organization was threatened for carrying out legal empowerment work.
The social and political contexts in which we work are challenging. This doesn’t help our safety.

How difficult is it to do legal empowerment work in our country, considering the political and social environment?

- Very easy, 7%
- Easy, 24%
- Difficult, 52%
- Very difficult, 17%
This phenomenon doesn’t seem to be improving in recent years. If anything, it’s getting worse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Very Easy</th>
<th>Easy</th>
<th>Difficult</th>
<th>Very Difficult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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Because of this, network members’ leading priority is to advocate for greater financing and protection for legal empowerment globally.
This is why we are launching our new campaign.

https://justiceforall2030.org
Our network is fired up for the JUSTICE FOR ALL campaign.

96% of us said we wanted to be involved.
Together, we ranked our **top 3 priorities** for the campaign.

1. **Stand up to those who oppress justice defenders by documenting, exposing, and speaking out against oppression**
2. **Achieve public funding for access to justice and legal empowerment at all levels**
3. **Improve partnership and coordination among governments, donors, and civil society to better utilize existing financing, fill gaps, and utilize learning**
We identified a number of advocacy processes that will help us to achieve our goals.
We brainstormed ways in which the JUSTICE FOR ALL campaign can help our work.

- Tell the stories of justice defenders, especially those that are under threat to give them legitimacy and protection
- Bring more funding to the legal empowerment field
- Uplift local grassroots agendas to the national and international level
- Raise awareness around the concept of legal empowerment
- Influence decisive moments of political opportunity, i.e. ahead and right after elections
- Work with major development actors to amend their strategies to include legal empowerment
Join us as we take these ideas forward.

https://justiceforall2030.org

https://namati.org/network