



# JUSTICIA EFECTIVA

## AN OVERVIEW

*Justicia Efectiva* is strengthening the criminal justice system in Honduras to combat the criminality, impunity, and corruption that drive many Hondurans to migrate irregularly each year. *Justicia Efectiva* supports Honduran institutions in their efforts to improve access to justice, bolsters civil society oversight and advocacy, and fosters judicial independence and people-centered services.

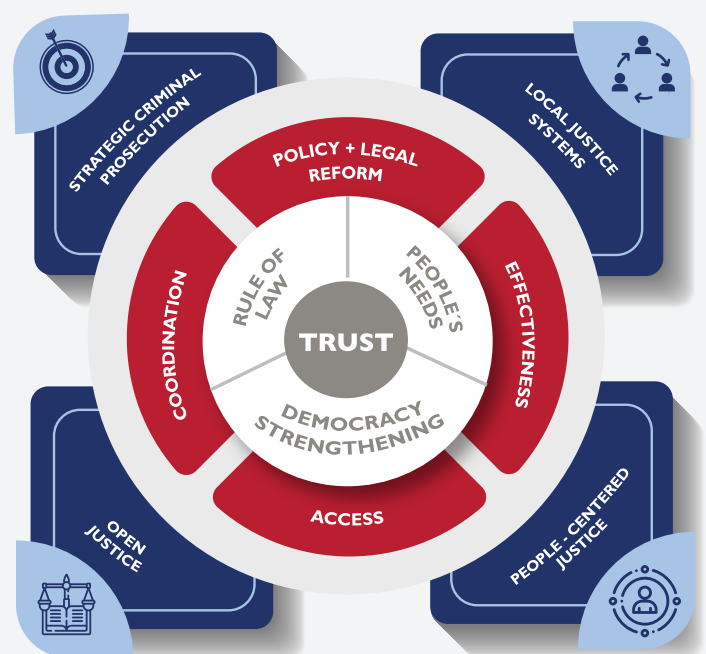
**THE CHALLENGE.** Impunity in Honduras remains high, which is exacerbated by corruption that reduces public trust and weakens the independence of judicial institutions. This results in an erosion of security that drives vulnerable Hondurans to flee in search of safety.

**THE OPPORTUNITY.** Within this challenging context, *Justicia Efectiva* has identified ‘bright spots’ such as a vibrant civil society, opportunities for building solid partnerships with multi-sectoral actors, and local-level political will among justice operators, all of which present strategic entry points.

**THE SOLUTION.** *Justicia Efectiva* employs a comprehensive, people-centered approach to improve access to justice, enhance the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and build trust in public institutions. This is achieved through innovative solutions across *Justicia Efectiva*’s four strategic themes that enhance interinstitutional and multi-sectoral coordination and promote judicial independence. *Justicia Efectiva* strengthens democracy and the rule of law in Honduras by supporting civil society oversight and addresses the needs of vulnerable groups by improving judicial services, in order to rebuild the social contract between the government and its people. In doing so, the activity tackles the root governance issues that underlie drivers of irregular migration, such as violence, impunity, and insecurity.

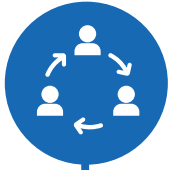
### STRATEGIC THEMES

- Local Justice Systems:** Supporting local operators to provide effective legal responses to priority crimes and enabling agile multi-sectoral and interinstitutional coordination to reduce barriers and costs to accessing justice.
- Strategic Criminal Prosecution:** Facilitating efficient government resource allocation and mobilizing actors to optimize the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of priority crimes that drive irregular migration.
- People-Centered Justice:** Transforming institutions to respond to citizens’ demands and improve vulnerable people’s justice journeys through data driven, participatory, inclusive, and locally led practices.
- Open Justice:** Strengthening the transparency of the criminal justice system, enabling greater oversight of government institutions, and promoting increased citizen trust.



## TARGETED ACTIONS

Select ongoing and upcoming activities that *Justicia Efectiva* supports include:



### LOCAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

- Setting up and strengthening the functioning of local interinstitutional coordination bodies in target municipalities to reduce impunity and improve access to justice.
- Providing grants and technical assistance to civil society to strengthen local and non-state, complementary prevention, response, and recovery services and referral networks for victims of crime.
- Partnering with the private sector to address local priority crimes, such as by creating and implementing response protocols for extortion cases.

### STRATEGIC CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

- Developing strategic criminal prosecution policies and training justice operators to resolve priority crimes, including homicides, gender-related crimes, extortion, petty crimes, corruption, and environmental crimes.
- Enhancing the investigation of environmental and cultural heritage crimes.
- Supporting civil society actors to advocate for transparency and anti-corruption.



### PEOPLE-CENTERED JUSTICE

- Launching a People-Centered Justice Innovation Hub that will periodically bring together civil society, government, and private sector stakeholders to incubate and accelerate the co-creation, piloting, and scaling of creative solutions to enhance access to justice.
- Establishing self-service avatar kiosks in courts to increase awareness of legal procedures and services.
- Promoting respect for due process and human rights by training public defenders on litigation techniques and trial strategies, reducing case backlogs, and enhancing judicial services for vulnerable groups.
- Collaborating with training schools and the *Escuela de Buen Gobierno*, to develop sustainable and practical trainings on gender-based violence, survivor-centered investigations, and open justice, among others.



### OPEN JUSTICE

- Providing technical and financial assistance and trainings to civil society organizations (CSOs) advocating for government accountability.
- Enhancing investigative journalism to bolster citizen oversight of the criminal justice system.
- Delivering trainings on strategic litigation and organizing a Moot Court competition focused on priority crimes to support CSOs to promote respect for rule of law and due process.
- Integrating technology and innovations across judicial institutions, such as through the *Sistema de Expediente Judicial Electrónico (SEJE)* to optimize case management and improve court administration and transparency.
- Working with diverse public sector, congressional, and civil society stakeholders to advance policy and legal reforms to combat crime and corruption and promote the adoption of merit-based procedures and professional standards for judicial careers.

