Sustainable Development
Goal 16
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Rise of Violence and Inclusive Societies

• The world has become increasingly less peaceful in the last decade
• Terrorism is at an all time high
• Battle deaths from conflict at a 25 year high
• Refugees highest in 60 years
Global Conflicts, Terrorism, Gun Violence, etc

- Iraq: The rise of ISIS and civilian deaths
  “At least 18,802 civilians have been killed in Iraq in ISIS-linked violence in under two years, a United Nations report said Tuesday — with millions of others forced from their homes…” -NBC

- America: Gun violence in the US
  “Some 13,286 people were killed in the US by firearms in 2015, according to the Gun Violence Archive, and 26,819 people were injured.” - BBC
**MDGs vs SDGs**

The MDGs did not include a goal that addressed conflict and violence.
What is SDG 16?

- SDG 16 is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the UN; to promote peace, justice and inclusive societies.
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
Insecurity and conflict must be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.

- 7 countries that did not meet any of the MDGs all have been affected by high levels of conflict and violence within the past few years. Countries such as Syria, South Sudan and Somalia are some examples of these countries.
- An important factor in achieving this goal is having a stable government. An unstable government has corruption, no rule of law and no access to justice, which leads to conflict, violence, poverty and insecurity.
The Crisis in Yemen Explained
Case Study- Yemen

- In January 2015, Yemen’s President Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down from power, and Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi took over.

- His step down was caused by protests starting in 2011 with the Arab Spring.

- A group called the Houthis, unhappy with President Hadi’s rule, and took control of Yemen’s capital, Sanaa as well as more territory in northern Yemen.

- In response Saudi Arabian forces (who back Hadi) attacked the Houthis with airstrikes.
The Houthis, Saudi Arabia, AQAP and ISIS

In the midst of conflict between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia, AQAP (Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula) being a common enemy of both the Houthis and Saudi Arabia to increase more unrest by releasing prisoners.

Meanwhile ISIS has claimed responsibility for bombings of Mosques frequented by Houthis in Sanaa.

The violence and death caused by the warfare between all of these groups have costed thousands of civilian lives. Neither the Saudi based coalitions nor the Houthis have investigated claims to alleged violations.
Yemeni civilians caught in the crossfire

“Dozens of coalition airstrikes were indiscriminate, violating the laws of war and killing and wounding thousands of civilians. The coalition also used cluster munitions, banned by international treaty. Houthi forces also committed serious laws-of-war violations by firing indiscriminate rockets into southern cities and Saudi Arabia, killing dozens of civilians.”- Human Rights Watch
Target 1- reduce all forms of violence everywhere

- Airstrikes, cluster munitions, landmines, indiscriminate attacks, attacks on health and humanitarian workers. This violence has caused thousands of deaths.
- Over 3,000 civilians (700 children) have been killed and 2.5 million displaced
SDG 16 Targets at Individual Level: Yemen

Target 2- End abuse/violence/trafficking of children

“According to UNICEF, by August 2015, armed groups had recruited 377 children, more than double those they recruited in 2014. At least 398 children were killed and 605 wounded between late March and August as a result of the fighting in the country.”
Child Trafficking- What is it?

• Child trafficking: the illegal movement of children, often for forced labor or sexual exploitation

• “Yemeni children are trafficked to Saudi Arabia for commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, forced begging, and smuggling.”- US International Labor Affairs

• Children are most often kidnapped from Yemen and sent to Saudi Arabia (specifically Makkah & Madinah). “Saudi authorities returned to Yemen more than 4,000 children, both boys and girls, who were caught in Saudi cities.”- Gulf News: Yemen
SDG 16 Targets: Individual Level

• **Target 4**- Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flow

• “The irresponsible and unlawful flow of arms to the warring parties in Yemen has directly contributed to civilian suffering on a mass scale. It’s time for world leaders to stop putting their economic interests first, and for the UN Security Council to impose a full, comprehensive embargo on transfers of arms for use in Yemen.”- James Lynch

  Amnesty International

• “Throughout the past year the US and UK- by far the largest arms suppliers to Saudi Arabia, which is leading the coalition- have continued to allow transfers of the type of arms that have been used to commit serious abuses, generating a humanitarian crisis on an unprecedented scale.”- Amnesty International
SDG 16 Targets: National and International Level

**Target 3-** Promote Rule of Law at National and International level (equal access to justice for all).

**Rule of Law-** All people are subject and accountable to law that is fairly applied and enforced

- In Yemen rule of law is scarce because people are not often held accountable to the law, there is no due process. “When we talk about the gap between the constitution and the reality of regulation, one of the reasons for the 2011 uprising was the gap between the law, what it said, and what happened on the ground.”- Abdubari Dogaish, head of Committee of Justice

**Tribal Law-** Certain groups unaffiliated with the government that have ability to govern themselves. In Yemen’s case, “tribal law is mainly focused on process of reparations.”
SDG 16 Targets: National & International Level

- **Target 5** - Substantially reduce corruption & bribery in all forms
- Corruption - Dishonest conduct by those in power, can include crimes against the national economy and civil service jobs
- Bribery - A person is considered to have committed the crime of bribery if he uses his influence to assist in carrying out a task in return for a payment or a promise to be paid.
- “There are five main elite groups that benefit from the structure of corruption in Yemen. The two most important are also the two with the most overlap: tribes and military security establishment.” – US Embassy Yemen Corruption Assessment
SDG 16 Targets: National and International Level

**Target 7**- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

- Both participatory and representative decision making in government includes the vote and the say of citizens.
- The political tension and unrest in Yemen caused by disagreements in policies and a difference in priorities.
- Yemenis were able to vote for a president
SDG 16 Targets: National and International Level

• **Target 11** - Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
SDG 16 Targets: National and International Level

• **Target 10**- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Declaration of Human Rights- “A document (created in 1948 by the UN General Assembly) known as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.”-The UN
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

WE ALL ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL. EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THESE RIGHTS NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY.

YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

NO ONE CAN TAKE FROM ANYONE THEIR RIGHTS.

No one has the right to hold you in slavery.
You can travel wherever you want.
You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government.

No one has the right to torture you.
You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own country.

Worker’s right.
Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage, and to join a trade union.

You have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.
We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.
Everyone has the right to a nationality.

You have the right to legal help if your rights are violated.
All adults have the right to marry and to raise a family.

You have the right to work.
Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.

No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.
You have the right to own property.
Everyone has the right to leisure and rest from work.

You have a right to a fair and public trial.
Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.
Everyone has the right to education.

Everyone is innocent until PROVEN guilty.
You have the right to freedom of expression.
Your intellectual property as artist or scientist should be protected.

You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home or correspondence.
Everyone has the right to the free thought and to voice your opinions to others.
We are all entitled to social order so we can enjoy these rights.

You have the right to help choose and to take part in governing your country, directly or through chosen representatives.
NGOs and IGOs help

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- UNICEF #EndViolence
- UN Counter Terrorism Committee
Past Initiatives

• Geneva Declaration- a series of treaties regarding the treatment of civilians, prisoners of war and the sick and wounded.
• Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Discussion

• What do you think?
• How can we solve this problem?
• Which groups should be involved?
• Where do we start?
SDG 16 Data Initiative

• “The new SDG16 Data Initiative unveiled at UN headquarters in New York during this week’s High-Level Political Forum, showcases currently available data on all SDG16 targets from a variety of official and nongovernmental sources.”

• “National governments and specialized intergovernmental agencies will be responsible for UN monitoring of the SDGs after official indicators for the goals are adopted by the General Assembly in September 2016.”

• “Sound data and clear metrics are indispensable in helping countries tackle development challenges. This is the first time this data has been available in one place, and it shows clearly that progress on Goal 16 not only can be measured, it is already being measured in many significant ways.”
Solution

There is no one solution or quick fix to these diverse and multi sided set of issues. It will require combined efforts and cooperation from all sides, as well as cooperation between NGOs, IGOs, and Nation-States.