

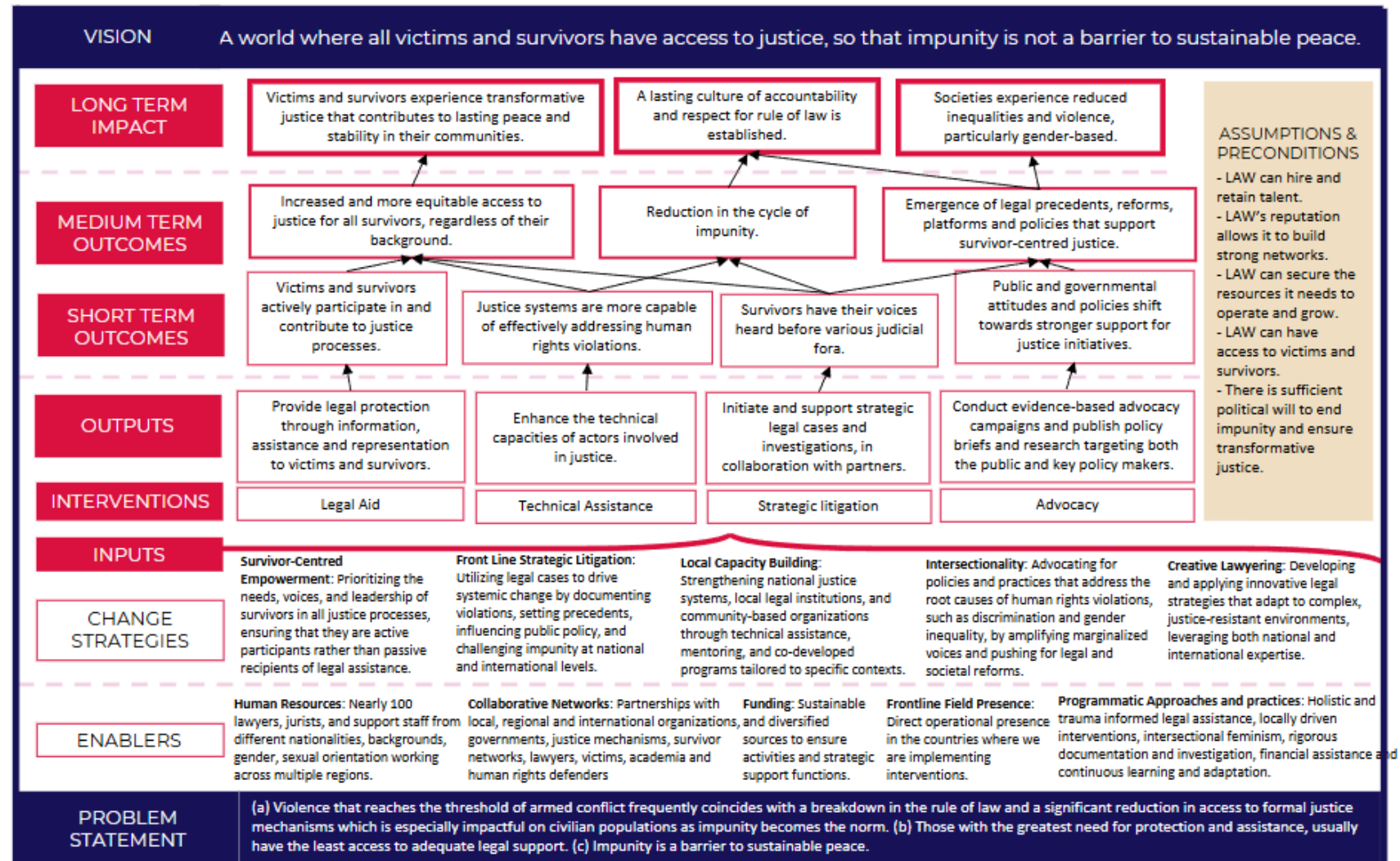


Theory of Change

The following document outlines LAW's theory of change understood as a structured framework that outlines how LAW's activities lead to specific, measurable changes in the lives of people. It maps the logical connections between inputs, interventions, outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate impact, demonstrating the cause-and-effect relationships that drive the desired change. LAW's Theory of Change represents the organization's impact model and it helps track progress, assess effectiveness, and communicate our value. This model is essential for strategic planning and evaluation. We use it meaningfully and proactively to ensuring our efforts in different country projects are aligned with our overarching vision and that resources are being used effectively to achieve meaningful impact.

December 2024

LAW THEORY OF CHANGE



LAW's Theory of Change envisions a world where the most vulnerable, particularly victims and survivors of violence and conflict, have access to robust legal support, ensuring that impunity no longer stands as a barrier to sustainable peace. At the heart of this vision is the belief that when victims and survivors are empowered and actively engaged in justice processes, transformative change is possible. LAW, as a feminist frontline organization, seeks to dismantle the structures that allow impunity to persist, advocating for a future in which justice is accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstances.

The foundation of this change begins with a survivor-centered approach, prioritizing the leadership and active participation of those most affected by violence and human rights violations. Victims and survivors are not seen as passive recipients of legal aid but as central figures in their pursuit of justice. To support this, LAW draws on a wide array of resources, including nearly 100 lawyers, jurists, and support staff from diverse regions, backgrounds, and genders. This collective expertise is bolstered by collaborative networks that span local and international organizations, governments, justice mechanisms, and human rights defenders, all working together to address the systemic causes of injustice.

At the core of LAW's strategy is the use of creative lawyering and innovative legal tactics tailored to navigate complex and resistant justice environments. The organization is also committed to maintaining a direct presence in the countries where its interventions are implemented, ensuring that its efforts are grounded in the realities of those most affected by conflict and human rights violations.

LAW's strategic interventions focus on driving systemic change through frontline strategic litigation. By documenting violations, setting legal precedents, and influencing public policy, LAW seeks to challenge impunity on both national and international levels. In tandem with these efforts, LAW works to strengthen local justice systems by providing technical assistance, mentoring, and co-developing programs tailored to specific contexts. This capacity-building ensures that local actors are equipped to handle human rights violations effectively and sustainably. Additionally, LAW's advocacy efforts are rooted in intersectionality, addressing the root causes of discrimination, gender inequality, and marginalization, and amplifying the voices of those often excluded from justice processes.

Legal aid is provided to victims and survivors, offering them information, assistance, and representation in their pursuit of justice. Justice actors, equipped with enhanced technical capacities, become more adept at addressing human rights violations. Strategic litigation cases and investigations are initiated, highlighting systemic issues and shifting public and governmental attitudes toward stronger support for justice-related reforms. Through evidence-based advocacy, LAW works to influence public awareness and policy, creating a broader environment supportive of justice initiatives.

As a result of these efforts, victims and survivors are not only able to participate in justice processes but do so actively and meaningfully. Justice systems become more capable of addressing violations, victims and survivors have their voices heard in judicial forums, and public and governmental support for justice grows stronger. These short-term outcomes lead to more equitable access to justice for all victims and survivors, regardless of their background. As the cycle of impunity is disrupted, the foundations for long-term change begin to take shape.

Ultimately, LAW's Theory of Change envisions a transformative impact. Victims and survivors experience justice that contributes to lasting peace and stability in their communities. A culture of accountability takes root, where respect for the rule of law becomes the norm. Over time, societies experience reduced inequalities and violence, particularly gender-based violence, leading to more peaceful and just communities.

For this vision to be realized, several key assumptions must hold true. LAW must be able to retain the talent and expertise it needs, while also building strong networks and partnerships. The organization must have access to victims and survivors and the necessary resources to carry out its work. Perhaps most importantly, there must be sufficient political will to end impunity and ensure that transformative justice becomes a reality for all.

In this way, LAW's Theory of Change outlines a comprehensive path toward a world where justice is accessible, impunity is no longer tolerated, and peace is both sustainable and inclusive.