



WHAT IS THE LOCUST EFFECT?

The world has made encouraging strides in the fight against global poverty. But a hidden crisis silently threatens to undermine the world's best efforts to help the poor.



Beneath the surface of the world's poorest communities, "everyday" violence – like rape, forced labor, illegal detention, land theft, police abuse and other brutality – has become routine and relentless. And like a horde of locusts devouring everything in their path, the unchecked plague of violence ruins lives, blocks the road out of poverty and undercuts development.

The Locust Effect is the devastating impact violence has on everything it touches – from development to economic growth to everyday life.



UNCOVERING THE LOCUST EFFECT

THE PLAGUE IS HIDDEN.

Violence is as much a part of what it means to be poor as being hungry, sick, homeless or jobless – but it is harder to see.

THE PLAGUE IS RELENTLESS.

Developing-world criminal justice systems are so dysfunctional that virtually nothing shields the poor from violent people – fear of violence is an everyday reality.

THE PLAGUE IS DEVASTATING.

The medical clinic can't help the slave who isn't allowed out of the rock quarry to go see a doctor. The new school can't benefit the girl who cannot walk there because she fears being raped on the way.

Violence not only undermines the help the world is trying to provide, but it also erodes economic development – lower levels of violence are correlated with higher levels of economic growth.

THE PLAGUE CAN END.

Donors and development institutions can help overcome the Locust Effect by supporting the work of building professional and accountable police, and modern, functioning prosecutors, courts and child welfare agencies.



4 billion people live outside the protection of the law.

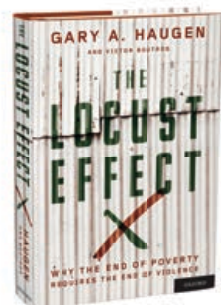
U.N. COMMISSION ON LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR

For women ages 15-44, gender-based violence creates a greater risk of death and physical harm than cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria combined.

ACCORDING TO WORLD BANK DATA

After 4 years of partnership between IJM and local authorities in Metro Cebu, the Philippines, the availability of children for commercial sex plummeted 79%. When the justice system works, the plague ends.

GET THE FULL PICTURE



"The Locust Effect is a compelling reminder that if we are to create a 21st Century of shared prosperity, we cannot turn a blind eye to the violence that threatens our common humanity."

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

Visit THELOCUSTEFFECT.COM to learn more. | Learn how to get involved with IJM's work at IJM.ORG.

