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Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), the present report provides a global overview of progress made since 2015 towards the Sustainable Development Goals using inputs from more than 50 international and regional organizations. The data contained herein is based on the global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 (see Assembly resolution [71/313](#)).

* [A/79/50](#).

**The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.

I. Introduction

1. Ten years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, this 2025 report provides a global overview of progress made since 2015 and highlights areas requiring decisive action to reach the 2030 goalpost. The world is on track or making moderate progress on 35% of the 137 SDG targets with available data. Progress on 47% of the targets is insufficient, and 18% of the targets show regression from the 2015 baseline. With only five years until the 2030 deadline, this report reaffirms the imperative to intensify efforts to reverse these trends.
2. While progress has been uneven and limited on several goals, notable achievements across regions and countries demonstrate that change is possible. Since 2015, global extreme poverty has declined despite the profound impact of the global pandemic. Since 2015, the working poor has been reduced by 20 million people. For the first time, over half of the world's population—52.4%—was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2023, up from 42.8% in 2015. Despite the improvement, there are still over 700 million people living in extreme poverty, and the risk of falling into, or back into, poverty remains high, driven by compounded shocks and crises._
3. Since 2015, progress toward ending hunger, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture has been mixed, primarily due to ongoing conflict, global food crises and climate-related challenges. Notable improvements include a decline in child stunting and wasting, and a modest rise in dietary diversity among young children. However, hunger and food insecurity have escalated, with over 750 million people hungry and more than 2.3 billion facing food insecurity. Small-scale producers continue to earn substantially less than larger farms. Despite record-high public spending on agriculture reaching \$701 billion in 2023, it still accounts for less than 2% of total government expenditure, reflecting the need for greater investment and urgent action to bolster food systems.
4. Between 2015 and 2023, progress in healthcare meant that more mothers survived childbirth, and more children lived past their fifth birthday—maternal mortality fell from 228 to 197 per 100,000 live births, and under-five mortality dropped from 43 to 37 per 1,000 live births. New HIV infections decreased by 39% since 2010, while 2.2 billion malaria cases were prevented along with 12.7 million deaths from communicable diseases since 2000. The percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 53% in 2015 to 60% in 2024, and literacy skills are improving, with gender gaps in education narrowing steadily. However, education systems remain severely underfunded and learning outcomes are in decline. One in five young people (ages 15-24) worldwide is not in employment, education, or training (NEET), leading to missed opportunities to gain skills and enter the labour force. Young women are more than twice as likely to be NEET as young men.
5. Progress on gender equality is uneven and insufficient. While child marriage has declined globally, driven by progress in Southern Asia, it remains widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. Women still perform 2.5 times more unpaid care work than men and face persistent gaps in land rights, digital access, and political voice. Women now hold 27% of parliamentary seats, up from 22% in 2015, and 35% of local government positions. However, these global averages conceal alarmingly low female political participation rates in many countries.
6. Persons with disabilities remain at high risk of being left behind. Key gaps remain in education, healthcare, and access to technology and decent work. Achieving the SDGs for persons with disabilities by 2030 requires accelerating action by up to 65 times, especially in accessibility, social protection, and anti-discrimination, with better data tracking.

7. Access to safe drinking water, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene has improved. Between 2015 and 2023, electricity access rose from 87% to 92% and access to clean cooking fuels has increased by 16%. Local-level disaster risk reduction governance has improved, with 110 countries reporting local disaster risk reduction strategies. Average protection of Key Biodiversity Areas increased from approximately 25% in 2000 to approximately 44% in 2024 across marine, terrestrial, freshwater, and mountain biomes.
8. Over the past decade, economic growth and decent work for all have been uneven. Global real GDP per capita, after a sharp 3.8% drop in 2020, rebounded to 5.5% growth in 2021 but slowed to 1.9% in 2023, with a modest 2.0% estimated for 2024 and 1.5% projected for 2025. Despite a record-low unemployment rate of 5.0% in 2024, informal employment remains high. Moreover, youth remained three times more likely to be unemployed than adults, with young women disproportionately affected. Internet usage reached 68% of the global population in 2024 compared to 40% in 2015, but 2.6 billion people remain offline. Mobile broadband has reached 92% of the population.
9. Climate action remains well below the level required to meet the commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Global temperatures crossed the 1.5°C threshold in 2024, marking the hottest year on record. Carbon dioxide levels stand at 151% above pre-industrial levels—the highest in over 2 million years—while ocean acidification and species extinction risks continue to rise.
10. Peace and security—the foundations of sustainable development—have deteriorated sharply. Conflicts have grown in frequency, intensity, and duration, devastating lives and livelihoods. By April 2024, forced displacement surpassed 120 million, more than double the figure from 2015. Overall, progress on SDG 16 is too slow, with persistent gaps in access to justice, accountable institutions, and inclusive decision-making.
11. Since 2015, the number of countries with fully compliant National Human Rights Institutions rose from 70 to 89, now covering 55% of the global population. Yet, the number of documented killings of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists remained alarmingly high, with at least 426 cases reported across 38 countries in 2024. Despite high satisfaction with public services—67% for administrative services, 58–79% for education, and 57% for healthcare—only 45% of people believe their political systems are responsive, revealing ongoing deficits in trust and representation. Pre-trial detention rates remain unchanged since 2015, underscoring stagnant progress in justice. However, budget reliability has improved post-pandemic, with expenditure deviations dropping from 12.6% in 2020 to 9.6% in 2023.
12. Financial flows to developing countries have increased, driven by both official and private sources. In 2024, foreign direct investment rose to \$1.4 trillion, up 11% from 2023, while global remittance flows reached \$861 billion in 2023, a 3% increase from 2022. In 2023, debt servicing costs for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) hit a record \$1.4 trillion, driven by a decade of rising external debt, surging interest rates, and weaker local currencies. Principal repayments rose to \$950.9 billion, while interest payments jumped 37.1% to \$405.3 billion — both all-time highs. As a result, the debt service-to-exports ratio climbed to 14.7% for LMICs. This burden, alongside a \$4 trillion annual SDG investment gap, reduces national budget allocations for social services and hampers progress toward the SDGs.
13. A key achievement of the 2030 Agenda has been the marked improvement in data availability, strengthening the evidence base for policymaking. Yet, more needs to be done, given the existing disaggregation gaps. The 2024 UN World Data Forum endorsed the Medellín Framework for Action to strengthen global data systems for

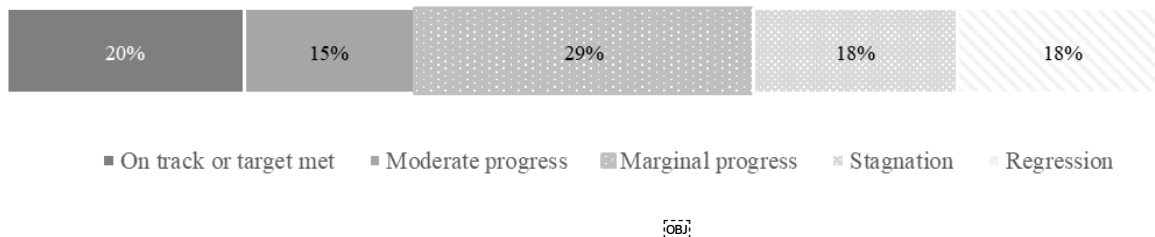
sustainable development. The framework calls for modernizing data ecosystems, fostering inclusive governance, and utilizing diverse, credible data sources to support decision-making. It emphasizes the need for greater partnerships, innovation, and capacity building to ensure data is accessible, usable, and reliable. Financing remains a key challenge, particularly for LMICs facing difficulties in producing timely, high-quality data, and scaled-up, long-term investments from both domestic and international sources, stressing that political will and sustained funding are essential for effective, data-driven action.

14. Amid intensifying climate change, geopolitical tensions, economic shocks, and increasing fragility, progress on the SDGs falls far short of the scale or speed needed. Urgent action is critical to reverse alarming trends and consolidate hard-won gains. With 47% of SDG targets moving at an insufficient pace, and 18% showing regression, two-thirds of the goals are at risk. The six collectively agreed-upon transitions, identified for their catalytic, ripple effects across the SDGs, are key to driving transformative change at the country level, namely on (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
15. The 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the 2024 Pact for the Future both reaffirm sustainable development as a core pillar of multilateral cooperation. They are vital in framing future efforts to deliver on the 2030 Agenda commitments and accelerate progress on the SDGs.
16. Sustained multilateral engagement is essential to keep the SDGs within reach. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake, the Second World Summit for Social Development, the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, The G20 Summit and the UNFCCC COP30 will provide timely and strategic platforms to advance our collective efforts on the 2030 Agenda.

II. SDG Progress in 2025

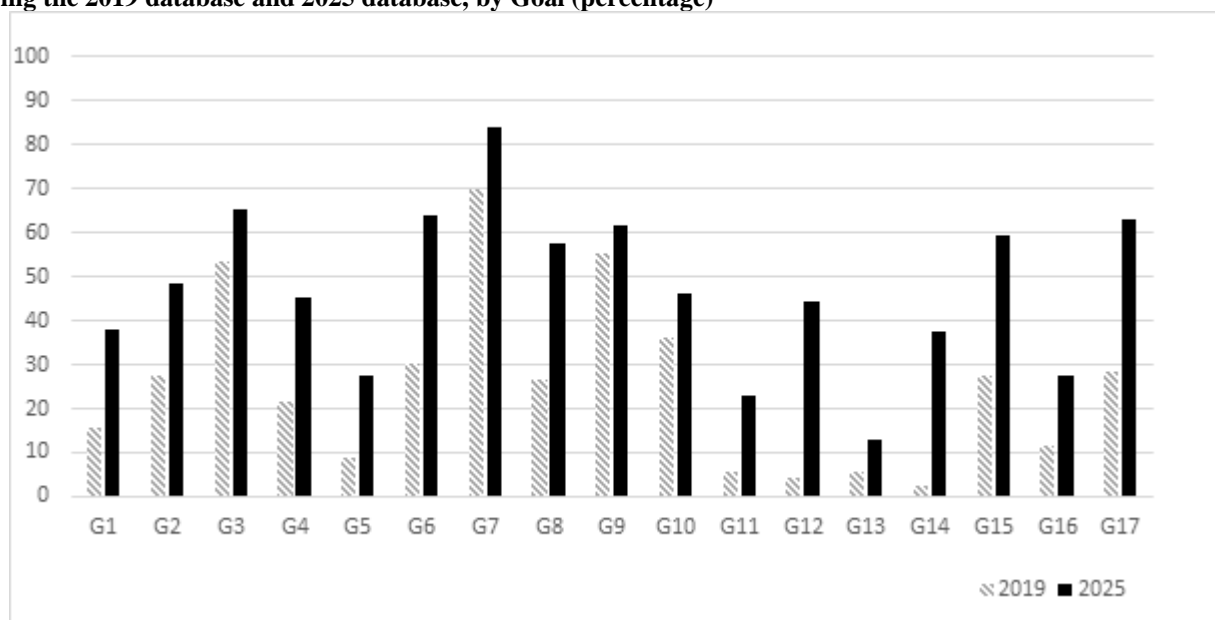
17. As shown in Figure 1, out of 137 targets with trend data and additional inputs from custodian agencies, 35% demonstrate on-track (20%) or moderate (15%) progress. By contrast, 47% of the targets show only marginal progress (29%) or no progress (18%). Alarming, 18% SDG targets have regressed below 2015 baseline levels

Figure 1. Overall progress assessment across targets with trend data, 2025 or the latest data



18. Over the past decade, progress has been made in strengthening data systems to support SDG monitoring, as illustrated in Figure 2. The 2025 Comprehensive Review of the Global Indicator Framework—endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission—introduced key changes to better reflect today’s challenges, including climate change, inequality, and digital transformation. These updates have enhanced countries’ capacity to track progress and inform evidence-based policies and investments.

Figure 2. Proportion of countries or areas with available data (at least two data points since 2015), comparing the 2019 database and 2025 database, by Goal (percentage)



19. Based on the data that are available, the remainder of this section provides an overview of each goal with a focus on selected targets where progress remains insufficient, or trajectories are off track. Global and regional data, along with progress assessments for all targets and indicators for which information is available, can be found in the statistical annex.¹

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

20. Global poverty reduction is virtually at a standstill. Around 9% of people worldwide lived in extreme poverty in 2022. Working poverty affected 244 million workers in 2024. While social protection coverage has reached a milestone of covering half the world's population, low-income countries have shown almost no improvement since 2015. Inequality within and between countries continues to hinder poverty reduction, with the poorest often left behind in periods of recovery. Inclusive and sustained economic growth, particularly in low-income and fragile settings, remains critical to reversing current trends. Accelerating progress towards a poverty-free world will require strengthening social protection systems and mobilizing greater international resources to help countries recover from the stalled progress of recent years. The UN, in collaboration with the World Bank and other partners, works to address structural inequalities, reduce poverty and increase social protection coverage. The UN hosts and supports the G20 Alliance on Hunger and Poverty, launched in 2024 under Brazil's G20 presidency, to mobilize coordinated global action and investment in support of poverty reduction in the most vulnerable countries.
- **Target 1.1:** Latest data showed that 9% of the global population lived in extreme poverty in 2022 – a small decrease from 10.5% in 2015. At current trajectories, 7.3% of

¹ The SDG indicator framework, the statistical annex to the present report and the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.

the world's population will still live in extreme poverty in 2030. In 2024, 6.9% of the employed population—244 million workers—lived below the international poverty line of \$2.15 PPP a day.

- **Target 1.3:** For the first time, in 2023, more than half of the world's population (52.4%) are covered by at least one social protection benefit, up from 42.8% in 2015. 3.8 billion people remain unprotected. High-income countries are edging closer to universal coverage (85.9%). However, low-income countries' coverage rates of 9.7% have hardly increased since 2015.
- **Target 1.4:** As of 2022, two-thirds of the global population believe they have secure land tenure, yet only 43% of adults and just 15% in sub-Saharan Africa—possess official land tenure documents. As a result, nearly 1.4 billion adults in developing regions remain excluded from formal land markets, mortgage-based finance, and legal protections for their land rights. While women account for 51% of those who feel secure in their tenure, only 24% hold legal land documents.
- **Target 1.a:** In 2022, across approximately 100 reporting countries, government spending on essential services averages 50% of total expenditures. Advanced economies allocate 61%, while emerging market and developing economies spend 43%.
- **Target 1.b:** Of 133 countries with data from 2009-2022, the proportion of social spending (health, education, and direct transfers) that benefits the poorest 20% of the population, ranges from 10% to 39%, with an average spending of 26%.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

21. Global hunger has risen sharply since 2019 and remains persistently high. Nearly one in eleven people worldwide faced hunger in 2023, while more than two billion experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. Millions of children and women are affected by malnutrition. Many countries still experience moderately to abnormally high food prices at rates far exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Getting SDG 2 on track requires urgent action to strengthen food systems, support small-scale producers, improve services, and ensure access to affordable, healthy diets. The transition of food systems to become more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient is a driver of progress on the SDGs. The UN Food Systems Summit, with its biennial stocktakes—next scheduled for July 2025—helps to align global efforts to nationally defined priorities.

- **Target 2.1:** Hunger affected 9.1% of the global population in 2023, up from 7.5% in 2019—713 to 757 million people globally and one in five in Africa. Nearly 2.33 billion people—almost three in ten—faced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2023, 383 million more than in 2019.
- **Target 2.2:**
 - The global prevalence of stunting in children under the age of five declined from 26.4% in 2012 to 23.2% in 2024, but recent data indicate a potential reverse. More than 150 million children were stunted in 2024. The prevalence of overweight in children rose from 5.3% to 5.5% between 2012 and 2024, though the number of overweight children declined from 36.3 to 35.5 million. The prevalence of wasting in children declined from 7.4% in 2012 to 6.6% in 2024, and the number of children affected declined from 50.9 million to 42.8 million.
 - 34% of children aged 6-23 months met the minimum dietary diversity between 2015 and 2022, a slight improvement from 28% in the 2009-2016 period. Only 65% of women of childbearing age achieved minimum dietary diversity between 2019 and 2023.

- In 2023, anaemia affected one in three women aged 15 to 49 years and has shown little improvement since 2012.
- **Target 2.3:** In most countries with data, the annual income of small-scale producers from agriculture is \$1,500 (constant 2017 PPP), often less than half of what larger producers earn.
- **Target 2.a:** In 2023, global public expenditures reached \$38 trillion, or 36% of global GDP, of which a record high \$701 billion went to agriculture. Nonetheless, agriculture represented only 1.85% of total government expenditure.
- **Target 2.c:** In 2023, the proportion of countries experiencing moderately to abnormally high food prices declined to about 50—down from 61% in 2022 but still three times the 2015–2019 average of 16%.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

22. Latest data show mixed results across health indicators. While maternal mortality has declined, the pace falls far short of what is needed to meet 2030 targets. Under-five and neonatal mortality rates have improved significantly since 2000, offering the potential to save millions more lives if progress accelerates. HIV-related deaths have halved since 2010, but millions still lack treatment, and the global positive trends hide regional data showing that new infections are rising in several regions. Neglected tropical diseases affect nearly 1.5 billion people globally. Achieving universal health coverage requires intensified commitment to reach those most left behind. The UN is advancing Universal Health Coverage to promote equitable, people-centred health systems, focusing on fragile, conflict-affected regions, and areas with significant health inequalities. Through initiatives like UNAIDS and the WHO Roadmap for Neglected Tropical Diseases, the UN targets the most underserved populations. It has also led efforts in pandemic preparedness and is intensifying action on mental health as a core component of overall well-being.
- **Target 3.1:** The global maternal mortality ratio decreased from 228 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 197 in 2023. To reach the global target of 70 per 100,000 live births, nearly 700,000 deaths need to be prevented between 2024 and 2030. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 80% in 2015 to 87% in 2024.
 - **Target 3.2:** In 2023, global under-five deaths fell to 4.8 million, down from 10.1 million in 2000 and 6.2 million in 2015. The under-five mortality rate dropped to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births—a 52% decline since 2000 and 16% since 2015. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate fell to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023, down 44% since 2000 and 12% since 2015. Meeting SDG targets could save 8 million lives by 2030.
 - **Target 3.3:**
 - In 2023, 39.9 million people were living with HIV, but 9.3 million lacked life-saving treatment. As a result, one person died from AIDS-related causes every minute. AIDS-related deaths fell by half between 2010 and 2023, from 1.3 million to 630,000. During this period, new HIV infections dropped 39% globally. However, infections are rising in the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America.
 - Globally, 8.2 million people were reported as newly diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2023. This was the highest number for a single year since data became available in the mid-1990s, up from the previous record of 7.5 million in 2022 and 15% higher than in 2019.

- Since 2000, an estimated 2.2 billion malaria cases and 12.7 million deaths have been averted worldwide. By the end of 2024, 44 countries and one territory had been certified malaria-free.
- In 2023, 1.495 billion people required interventions against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including 493 million in LDCs—122 million fewer than in 2022. By December 2024, 54 countries and territories had eliminated at least one NTD.
- **Target 3.4:** Globally in 2021, it is estimated that 18 million people under age 70 died from a non-communicable disease (NCD), representing more than half of deaths under age 70. The risk of premature death from any of the four main noncommunicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes) has decreased since 2015, but despite increased awareness, the world is not on track to meet the NCD reduction target by 2030.
- **Target 3.7:** The global adolescent birth rate among girls aged 15–19 fell from 66.3 per 1,000 in 2000 to 38.3 in 2024, with a projected decline to 34.8 by 2030. Among girls aged 10–14, the rate dropped from 3.5 to 1.0 per 1,000 over the same period. Despite progress, sub-Saharan Africa reported the highest rates—92.9 per 1,000 (ages 15–19) and 3.1 per 1,000 (ages 10–14).
- **Target 3.b:** All four childhood vaccines under target 3.b.1 saw some stagnation or dip between 2020 - 2022. For the third dose diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus containing vaccine (DTP3), which is a useful marker of vaccination system functioning, performance by 2023 was still not fully restored to 2019 pre-pandemic level. The other 3 vaccines increased but this is partially due to new introductions. However, the 90% global target set by the Immunization Agenda is unlikely to be met for any of these vaccinations if current trends continue.
- **Target 3.c:** The global health workforce surpassed 70 million in 2023, with 52 million in key professions, such as dentists, medical doctors, midwifery personnel, nursing personnel, and pharmacists. The key professions had a 26% increase in density since 2013. Health worker density ranges from one per 64 people in high-income countries to one per 621 in low-income ones. Globally, a shortage of 11.1 million health workers is projected in 2030, with countries in Northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa accounting for over half of the shortage.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

23. SDG4 remains a critical enabler for sustainable development, yet progress falls short of targets. Improvement in upper secondary completion rates has slowed while learning outcomes in many countries are declining. Troubling regional disparities exist in early childhood development, particularly disadvantaging sub-Saharan Africa. Despite modest literacy improvements, hundreds of millions of people remain illiterate, with women disproportionately affected. Teacher qualification challenges persist with minimal improvement since 2015. The rise of digital societies necessitates the integration of technology into education, ensuring young people and future generations have access to relevant, high-quality content that prepares them for the demands of a rapidly evolving labour market.. Using the impetus of the Secretary-General's Transforming Education Summit the UN drives global action towards SDG 4, advocating for inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, while supporting efforts to improve education outcomes and address regional disparities.
- **Target 4.1:** The percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 53% in 2015 to 60% in 2024, a slowdown compared to progress in the

preceding nine-year period. A large share of countries is moving backwards in learning outcomes at the end of lower secondary school, but large data gaps, especially in early grades, prevent an assessment of broader trends on learning outcomes.

- **Target 4.2:** Between 2015 and 2024, data from 84 countries indicate that around two-thirds of young children are developmentally on track, with no significant differences by sex.
- **Target 4.2:** In 2023, nearly 75% of children worldwide participated in organized learning one year before reaching the official primary entry age, **unchanged since pre-pandemic**. Currently, only 103 countries guarantee free pre-primary education, and 66 countries mandate at least one year of pre-primary education.
- **Target 4.3:** Globally, one-sixth of individuals aged 15-64 recently participated in formal and non-formal education and training. Participation rates were over half for youth aged 15-24, but were much lower for older adults, averaging 3% for those aged 25-54.
- **Target 4.5:** Socioeconomic disparities are evident in many education indicators. Disparities based on location and household wealth are even more pronounced, with rural and poorer families experiencing greater disadvantages. These gaps tend to widen at higher education levels.
- **Target 4.6:** 754 million adults worldwide remained illiterate in 2024, with women accounting for 63%. Between 2014 and 2024, the global adult literacy rate (ages 15 and older) increased from 85% to 88%, while the youth literacy rate (ages 15–24) rose from 91% to 93%.
- **Target 4.a:** Over a fifth of primary schools globally do not have access to basic services such as electricity, drinking water, and basic sanitation facilities. The availability of other facilities, such as computers and the Internet for pedagogical purposes and disability-adapted infrastructure, is lower, with half of primary schools lacking access.
- **Target 4.c:** In 2023, 15% of teachers worldwide still did not meet their country's national minimum qualification standards, or no improvement since 2015. The situation varied significantly across regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, around 2 in 5 teachers did not meet national qualification requirements.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

24. Thirty years since the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Gender equality remains elusive. Legal barriers persist, restricting women's employment opportunities and failing to adequately address child marriage and gender-based violence. The unequal burden of unpaid domestic and care work continues to limit women's opportunities, with significant regional variations. Women's political representation shows slow growth, while decision-making autonomy over sexual and reproductive health remains limited in many regions. Gender gaps in land ownership, legal protections, and access to mobile phones further demonstrate the substantial work needed to achieve gender equality by 2030. The Secretary-General's System-wide Acceleration Plan is a course-correcting push to fast-track collective UN action for gender equality and the rights of all women and girls.
- **Target 5.1:** In 61 of 131 countries with data, there was at least one restriction preventing women from doing the same jobs as men in 2024. Only 38 countries made 18 the minimum age for marriage with no exceptions and only 63 countries had laws on rape that are based on lack of consent.
 - **Target 5.3:** Today, one in five young women aged 20 to 24 years were first married or in union before age 18. Child marriage has become less common worldwide, a trend largely driven by progress in Southern Asia. Levels remain highest in sub-Saharan Africa

at 31%. Around the world, over 230 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation.

- **Target 5.4:** By 2023, women and girls spent on average, 2.5 times more hours per day on domestic and care work than men.
- **Target 5.5:** In 2024, women's share of parliamentary seats was 27.2%, up from 22.3% in 2015. In local governments, the participation rate was higher at 35.5%. Since 2015, women's representation in management has increased by only 2.4 percentage points, reaching 30% in 2023. Given this sluggish progress, it will take almost 100 years to reach gender parity in managerial roles.
- **Target 5.6:** Only 56.3% of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union have full decision-making power over their sexual and reproductive health and rights, according to data from 78 countries. Sub-Saharan Africa reported the lowest autonomy at 36.8%, compared to 87.2% in Europe.
- **Target 5.a:** In 80% of countries with data, less than half of women have ownership or secure rights to agricultural land. In half of these countries, less than half of men hold such rights. Men own land at least twice as often as women in almost half of the countries. A global assessment of legal frameworks protecting women's land rights across 84 countries reveals that 58% have inadequate measures in family, inheritance, and land laws and policies.
- **Target 5.b:** Globally, 77% of females and 82% of males owned a mobile phone in 2024. Women were about 7% less likely to own a mobile phone than men – down from 9.4% in 2021. Among those not owning mobile phones, women outnumbered men by 31%.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

25. Despite some progress, billions of people still lack access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. Water use efficiency, though increasing globally, remains low in most countries and water stress continues to be severe in several regions of the world. The implementation of integrated water resources management is advancing slowly, with transboundary water cooperation remaining limited despite the large number of countries sharing water resources.. The UN Special Envoy on Water, appointed in 2024, advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources for accelerated SDG implementation. The UN System-wide Strategy on water and sanitation is focused on governance frameworks, financial resources, data, technology and innovative tools for SDG 6 and supporting preparations for the 2nd UN Water Conference in 2026.
- **Targets 6.1 and 6.2:** Between 2015 and 2024, the population using safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation, and basic hygiene services increased from 68% to 74%, from 48% to 58%, and from 66% to 80%, respectively. However, in 2024, 2.1 billion people were without safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion without safely managed sanitation, and 1.7 billion without basic hygiene services. In schools around the world in 2023, 447 million children lacked a basic drinking water service, 427 million lacked a basic sanitation service, and 646 million lacked a basic hygiene service.
 - **Target 6.3:** Estimates based on data for 129 countries covering 89% of the world's population suggest that the proportion of domestic wastewater that is safely treated was 56% in 2022, no change since 2020.
 - **Target 6.4:** Between 2015 and 2022, global water use efficiency improved from \$17.5/m³ to \$21.5/m³, a 23% increase. However, 57% of countries still face challenges with low efficiency of below \$20/m³. Globally, water stress showed little change between 2015

and 2022. Water stress varies significantly across regions, with Northern Africa and Western Asia as well as Southern and Central Asia facing extreme scarcity.

- **Target 6.5:** Global progress in implementing integrated water resources management remains slow—the level of implementation was 49% in 2017, 54% in 2020, and 57% in 2023. While 153 countries share transboundary waters, only 43 countries have operational arrangements in place for 90% or more of these waters, and over 20 countries lack any such arrangements.
- **Target 6.a:** ODA disbursements to the water sector declined slightly from \$8.9 billion in 2022 to \$8.7 billion in 2023, but remained higher than disbursements in 2020 and 2021, which were the lowest levels since 2015. ODA commitments to the water sector decreased more substantially from \$11.4 billion in 2022 to \$10.2 billion in 2023.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

26. Progress toward SDG 7 has been notable: between 2015 and 2023, global electricity access rose from 87% to 92%, access to clean cooking fuels increased by 16%, and renewable electricity continued to grow. However, progress is slowing—renewables lag in the transport and heating sectors, and energy efficiency gains have stalled. Moreover, only a small portion of global energy investment reaches the areas most in need. Achieving SDG 7 will require a significant boost in investment in emerging and developing economies, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, to expand access to electricity and clean cooking, scale up renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks. The United Nations Energy Compact works to enable the clean energy transition, developing technical, policy and governance solutions for SDG 7 acceleration, including through the work of the Secretary-General's Council on Engineers for the Clean Energy Transition. Where available, the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) also provides support to countries.

- **Target 7.1:**
 - In 2023, global electricity access reached 92%, reducing the number without access to 666 million—18.8 million fewer than in 2022. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 85% of those without electricity, mostly in rural areas. Despite 73 million new connections annually, population growth outpaces progress, and 645 million may remain unserved by 2030. Achieving universal access requires increasing the annual access rate to 1.2%. Off-grid solar solutions could serve 41% of the unserved. Between 2010 and 2023, 45 countries achieved universal access, but only two were in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - Access to clean cooking reached 74% in 2023—a 16% rise since 2015—but 2.1 billion still rely on polluting fuels. At current rates, 1.8 billion or 22% of the population will remain without clean cooking by 2030.
- **Target 7.2:** In 2022, renewable energy accounted for 17.9% of total final energy consumption. Excluding traditional biomass, modern renewables grew from 10% in 2015 to 13% in 2022. The electricity sector leads with renewables at 30% total final electricity consumption in 2022. While biofuels dominate renewable transport energy, making up for almost 90% of the total, overall progress in heat and transport sectors remains limited.
- **Target 7.3:** Global primary energy intensity improved by 2.1% in 2022, quadruple the 0.5% rate in 2021 and was slightly above the post-2015 average. However, this improvement was partly due to the global energy crisis. Progress falls below the original 2.6% annual target. Meeting the goal would require an annual improvement of 4% in 2022-2030.

- **Target 7.a:** In 2023, international public financial flows supporting clean energy in developing countries rose to \$21.6 billion, a 27% increase from 2022. Despite three years of growth, this remains below the 2016 peak of \$28.4 billion and primarily benefits major developing economies. Support falls far short of actual needs, especially for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.
- **Target 7.b:** Global renewable energy capacity per capita hit a record 478 watts in 2023, up 13% from 2022, with developed countries reaching 1,162 watts and developing countries reaching 341 watts. While developing countries showed stronger growth at 17% compared to 8.1% in developed countries, significant expansion of modern energy infrastructure and technology remains necessary in developing countries.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

27. Over the past decade, SDG 8 progress has been mixed. While there have been important gains—particularly in reducing unemployment and expanding financial access, setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing structural challenges have slowed or reversed gains in productivity, employment, and worker protections—particularly for vulnerable groups and in LDCs and SIDS. Just transitions to the formal sector- especially for women and youth- supported by stronger links to social protection systems, are essential to ensure sustainable livelihoods and reduce inequalities. Accelerated action is needed to build inclusive, productive, and resilient labour markets, strengthen protections for informal and migrant workers, and advance green and digital economy initiatives that promote decent work. To accelerate progress, the Secretary-General's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions supports the expansion and consolidation of social protection systems and the creation of decent work opportunities, including through the UN key transition on jobs and social protection.
- **Target 8.1:** Global real GDP per capita grew modestly over the decade, rebounding after a sharp 3.8% drop in 2020 due to COVID-19. Growth peaked at 5.5% in 2021 but slowed to 1.9% in 2023, with a modest 2.0% estimated for 2024 and 1.5% projected for 2025. LDCs experienced more volatility, with the real GDP growth falling to just 0.5% in 2020 and recovering to 4.7% in 2022 before slowing again to 3.5% in 2023 and an estimated 3.1% in 2024.
 - **Target 8.2:** Labor productivity, measured as GDP per worker, rebounded to 1.5% growth in 2024 after near stagnation in 2022-2023. The pandemic severely impacted productivity in 2020 when output fell faster than employment rates. Despite a rebound in 2021, growth has struggled to return to pre-pandemic levels.
 - **Target 8.3:** In 2024, 57.8% of the global workforce was in informal employment, lacking social security or legal protection. This marks a 0.2 percentage point increase from the previous year, adding 34 million informal workers.
 - **Target 8.5:** The global unemployment rate reached a record low of 5.0% in 2024, down from 6.0% in 2015. However, despite improvements since 2015, women and youth continue to face higher unemployment rates, with youth still three times more likely to be unemployed than adults.
 - **Target 8.6:** In 2024, one in five young people (ages 15-24) worldwide was not in employment, education, or training (NEET), missing opportunities to gain skills or work experience. Young women are more than twice as likely to be NEET as young men.
 - **Target 8.8:** The global average compliance with labour rights deteriorated by 7% between 2015 and 2023, with the steepest erosion occurred in LDCs (a 45.4% decline), developed economies also observed a 16.5% decline. Ongoing violations undermine free and independent employers' and workers' organizations and increasingly shrink civic space.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

28. Since 2015, notable progress has been made in expanding infrastructure, fostering industrial growth, and boosting innovation. However, stark regional disparities persist, and many developing countries continue to face systemic barriers to inclusive and sustainable industrialization. To advance SDG 9, countries must boost investment in resilient infrastructure and R&D, expand access to finance for small manufacturers, and bridge the digital divide by prioritizing affordable broadband and innovation systems in the world's most underserved regions. The UN is advancing digital inclusion through initiatives such as the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries and the Global Digital Compact, which seeks to close connectivity gaps, expand access to innovation, and ensure digital transformation benefits

- **Target 9.1:** From 2015 to 2023, global maritime freight volumes in terms of goods loaded grew from 10.3 to 11.6 billion tons, with developing countries' share increasing from 49% to 54%. Asia, led by China, drove this expansion, while SIDS and LLDCs remained marginalized due to infrastructure and cost barriers.

- **Target 9.2:**

- Global manufacturing annual growth rebounded sharply by 9.2% in 2021, then stabilized at 2.2% in 2022, then lowed to 1.7% in 2023 due to geopolitical and economic volatility. In 2024, growth rose to 2.7%, Global manufacturing value added per capita increasing by 17.3%, from \$1,649 in 2015 to \$1,934 in 2024.

- The global manufacturing employment share held steady at 14.3% from 2015 until 2020, dipping to 14.1% in 2023 due to pandemic disruptions, geopolitical tensions and sanctions.

- **Target 9.3:** Worldwide, 31% of small manufacturing enterprises have a loan or credit line based on available data, but only 18% in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Target 9.4:** In 2024, global CO2 emissions from fuel combustion and industrial processes reached a record 37.6 gigatonnes, a 0.8% increase from 2023. Rising natural gas and coal consumption drove emissions, while record temperatures increased electricity demand for cooling. However, the expansion of clean energy technologies like solar, wind, and nuclear power mitigated what could have been a threefold larger emissions increase.

- **Target 9.5:** Global research and development (R&D) spending grew at 5.1% annually from 2015 to 2022. R&D's share of global GDP rose from 1.72% to 1.95% in 2022. However, many developing economies saw declines in R&D investment as a proportion of GDP.

- **Target 9.5:** From 2015 to 2022, the global number of researchers grew by 4.3% annually, driven by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. This is reflected in an increase of researchers per million inhabitants from 1,137 to 1,420 globally over this period. Women made up 31.1% of the research workforce. **Target 9.b:** Since 2015, the share of medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added has risen modestly, to 44.47% in 2022. Regional disparities persist, with high-tech manufacturing accounting for 48.57% in Europe and North America, but only 16.40% in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Target 9.c:** In 2024, 5G covered 51% of the global population, with high-income countries at 84% and low-income at 4%. 4G reached 92% worldwide. However, 15% of people in LDCs and 14% in LLDCs lack mobile broadband.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

29. The global economy shows contrasting dynamics, with a resilient banking sector and declining labour income worsening inequality. While most countries have seen pro-poor growth, 12% still live below 50% of median income, with Latin America and the Caribbean most affected. Meanwhile, the refugee population has surged to 37.8 million, mainly from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, and Venezuela, worsening the humanitarian crisis. Rising remittance costs further strain migrant workers, highlighting the need for policies to boost labour income, support refugees, and enhance financial resilience for inclusive growth. The UN is tackling inequality through initiatives like the Social Protection Floors Recommendation for universal social protection and the Global Fund for Equal Rights to reduce disparities in income, education, and healthcare. The UN Disability Inclusion Strategy ensures that the UN is fully equipped to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities across all its work.
- **Target 10.1:** More than half of the 108 countries with available data have managed to achieve higher income growth amongst the bottom 40% of the population than the national average. Significant regional differences exist, however, with countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Europe and Northern America managing to ensure the most pro-poor growth on average.
 - **Target 10.2:** Two-thirds of the 128 countries with available data have reduced the proportion of people living below 50% of median income since 2000. Still, on average 12 percent of the population lives below this threshold. Following COVID-19, this proportion decreased further in most regions. Regional differences are substantial, with inequality highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, where on average almost 1 in 5 people live below 50% of the median income of their country.
 - **Target 10.4:** In 2024, the global labour income share in GDP decreased to 52.3%, down from 52.9% in 2015, representing a loss of \$255 (PPP) per worker on average. This decline, which impacts lower-income workers the most, contributes to rising inequality.
 - **Target 10.7:** As of mid-2024, the global refugee population under UNHCR's mandate, including persons in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection, reached 37.8 million. Two-thirds originate from just four countries - Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Refugee density stood at 460 per 100,000 people worldwide, more than double the 2015 figure and triple the 2005 ratio.
 - **Target 10.c:** In the second quarter of 2024, the cost of sending \$200 globally increased. Contributing factors of remittance cost increasing included major remittance-source economies showing above-average increases and higher foreign-exchange margins in certain corridors.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

30. Urbanization continues to accelerate, with over half the global population now living in cities and nearly 70% projected by 2050. However, cities face mounting challenges, including rising urban poverty, growing slum populations, inadequate public transport, and threats to infrastructure from disasters. To advance SDG 11, cities need integrated strategies focusing on affordable and inclusive housing, participatory urban planning, heritage preservation, and stronger local governance, all supported by robust, disaggregated data. Initiatives aimed to accelerate progress on SDG 11 include the Local 2030 Coalition which drives SDG action at the local level by bringing together UN entities, local governments and other partners.
- **Target 11.1:** Housing affordability is a pressing issue affecting 1.6 to 3 billion people globally, encompassing challenges from homelessness to overcrowding and lack of basic services. Recent data from 124 countries reveals that the global average housing cost burden

is 31%, with sub-Saharan Africa at 43.5%, compared with 21.4% in Europe and Northern America.

- **Target 11.4:** During 2019-2023, public funding for world heritage protection rose slightly but remains inadequate at \$21.22 per capita (2017 PPP), with stark disparities between developing (\$3.86) and developed countries (\$83.30).
- **Target 11.5:** On average, 92,199 critical infrastructure units and facilities were destroyed or damaged by disasters annually from 2015 to 2023. Furthermore, disasters disrupted over 1.6 million basic services, including educational and health services, each year.
- **Target 11.b:** In 2024, local-level disaster risk reduction governance improved, with 110 countries reporting local disaster risk reduction strategies and approximately 73% of local governments having such strategies in place.
- **Target 11.a:** In 2023, the National Urban Policies of 68 countries addressed key development issues: respond to population dynamics (59 countries, up from 54 in 2021), ensure balanced territorial development (55 countries, unchanged since 2021), and increasing local fiscal space (33 countries, up from 26 in 2021). Progress in fiscal decentralization remains limited, .

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

31. Globally, sustainability efforts are advancing, with increasing policies supporting sustainable consumption and production. Environmental agreement compliance remains strong. However, challenges persist, including low sustainable e-waste management and high fossil fuel subsidies. Corporate sustainability reporting has expanded dramatically, with most large companies now disclosing environmental performance through standardized mechanisms. These trends highlight progress while underscoring the need for continued focus on waste management, energy conservation, and emissions reduction. The UN is advancing SDG 12 through initiatives like the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which helps countries implement sustainable consumption policies and improve waste management.
- **Target 12.1:** As of 2025, 530 policy instruments related to sustainable consumption and production have been recorded, with 71 countries participating, a 6% increase from the previous reporting cycle.
 - **Target 8.4/12.2:** From 2015 to 2022, global Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) grew by 23.3%, with per capita DMC rising to 14.2 tonnes. Non-metallic minerals led the increase, up 39%, while biomass, metal ores, and fossil fuels grew by 11.8%, 7.4%, and 6.2%, respectively. Latin America and the Caribbean saw the highest rise at 132%. Material Footprint grew by 21.3%, with persistent regional inequalities.
 - **Target 12.3:** There were 1.05 billion tonnes of food wasted in 2022, with 60% of waste from households, equating to over 1 billion meals discarded daily. There are growing global efforts to reduce food waste, with countries like Japan and the UK cutting waste by 31% and 18%, respectively, showing that large-scale action is possible.
 - **Target 12.5:** In 2022, global e-waste reached a record 7.8 kg per capita, with only 22.3% properly managed, a figure declining since 2010. Significant uncontrolled transboundary movement continues.
 - **Target 12.6:** Sustainability reporting has become standard for large companies, with 96% of the world's 250 largest companies by revenue and 79% of the top 100 companies in each surveyed country now report on sustainability, up from 64% in 2015. Driven by

mandatory reporting and international standards, the number of sustainability reports grew fourfold between 2016 and 2023, led by companies in Asia, Europe, and North America.

- **Target 12.c:** In 2023, fossil fuel subsidies fell 34.47% to \$1.10 trillion, down from a record \$1.68 trillion in 2022, mainly due to lower energy prices and the end of COVID-19 support measures. However, subsidies are still about three times higher than pre-COVID levels, showing no sustained reversal of recent trends.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

32. Human-induced climate change reached alarming new levels in 2024, with some impacts already irreversible for centuries. Global temperatures broke records and temporarily exceeded the 1.5°C threshold, highlighting the urgent need to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Extreme weather events—including tropical cyclones, floods, and droughts—led to the highest number of new displacements in 16 years, worsening food crises and bringing massive economic losses and social instability. Yet, with bold action, limiting long-term global warming to 1.5°C is still possible. Every fraction of a degree matters in reducing risks, lowering costs, and preventing catastrophic and irreversible damage to people and the planet. COP 29 delivered a New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance and completed guidance to fully operationalize Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on carbon markets, along with additional commitments on mitigation, adaptation, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

- **Target 13.1:**
 - Disaster-related deaths and missing persons dropped from 1.61 to 0.79 per 100,000 between 2005–2014 and 2014–2023. Still, disasters claimed 41,647 lives annually over the past decade. The number of people affected by disasters surged by more than two-thirds, from 1,158 per 100,000 population in 2005–2014 to 2,028 in 2014–2023, with an average of 124 million people affected every year over the last decade.
 - By 2024, 131 countries reported the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies, up from 57 in 2015.
- **Target 13.2:** 2024 likely marked the first year when global temperatures surpassed 1.5°C, reaching 1.55°C—making it the hottest year in 175 years. This was driven by rising greenhouse gas emissions, El Niño, and other factors. In 2023, atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ levels remained at their highest in over 2 million years and were 151% above pre-industrial levels.
- **Target 13.a:** According to the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance, global climate finance flows reached an annual average of \$1.3 trillion in 2021–2022, a 63% increase from 2019–2020, driven by higher investment in key mitigation sectors. Sustainable transport saw the largest rise (96%), followed by clean energy (53%) and buildings and infrastructure (41%). Tracked adaptation finance also rose by 28% to \$63 billion annually, mainly through commitments from development finance institutions.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

33. The ocean economy supports millions globally but faces intensifying threats from overfishing, pollution, and climate change. Despite a decade of conservation efforts, rising CO₂ emissions continue to drive ocean acidification and damage marine ecosystems. Strengthened enforcement has not sufficiently curbed overfishing and illegal practices that deplete fish stocks. Small-scale fisheries have gained support but

require additional protection. Safeguarding oceans for future generations demands urgent scaling of investment in sustainable fishing practices, comprehensive marine conservation, and enhanced international cooperation. The UN Ocean conferences have galvanized global action to protect the ocean, in line with SDG 14.

- **Target 14.2:** In 2024, 126 countries and territories were engaged in Marine Spatial Planning initiatives, a tool for implementing ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas—up 20% from 2023. However, only 45 have formally approved marine spatial plans.
- **Target 14.3:** Ocean acidification is worsening as global average surface pH declines, driven by rising CO₂ emissions. Continued acidification threatens marine life and climate stability. The expansion of monitoring stations (from 178 in 2021 to 765 in 2025) underscores the need to expand high-frequency and long-term tracking to develop effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- **Target 14.4:** In 2021, 37.7% of global fishery stocks were estimated to be overfished, up from 35.4% in 2019. While the pace of decline had previously shown signs of slowing, the latest data confirm a continued deterioration.
- **Target 14.6:** Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to threaten the sustainability of global fisheries. As of January 2025, 78 Parties (65% of coastal States) joined the Agreement on Port State Measures, the first binding international instrument developed to combat IUU fishing. Globally, countries' average degree of implementation has remained steady with a score of 4 out of 5, from 3 out of 5 in 2018.
- **Target 14.b:** In 2024, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries marked their 10th anniversary, with growing adoption worldwide. However, the global average score, which tracks the implementation of instruments that recognize and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries, dropped from 5 (very high implementation) in 2022 to 4 (high implementation) in 2024, based on reports from 112 countries. However, the overall trend since 2018 has been positive, and more countries have been reporting since 2020.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

34. Global forest cover is shrinking, conservation of key biodiversity areas has stalled, and species extinction is accelerating. Desertification, land and soil degradation, drought, and deforestation are further threatening ecosystems and development prospects. While more countries are adopting legal frameworks for biodiversity and environmental protection, overall progress on SDG 15 remains slow, with significant gaps in safeguarding healthy land and ecosystems vital to humanity. Conferences of the parties under UNCCD and CBD have helped to mobilize resources and advance global objectives to support conservation and restoration, sustainable forest management, and nature-based solutions that promote resilience, livelihoods, and inclusion. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022 has renewed momentum for implementation.
- **Targets 15.1/15.2:** Global forest area continues to decline, though at a slower rate than in previous decades. The proportion of forest cover to total land area decreased from 31.9% in 2000 to 31.2% in 2020. However, sustainable forest management is improving, with an increase in the proportion of forests under management plans and within protected areas.
 - **Target 14.5, 15.1 and 15.4:** Globally, average protection of Key Biodiversity Areas increased from approximately 25% in 2000 to approximately 44% in 2024 across marine,

terrestrial, freshwater, and mountain biomes. However, progress has largely stagnated since 2015.

- **Target 15.5:** Changes in aggregate species' extinction risk, measured using the IUCN Red List Index, show a greater than 12% deterioration from 1993–2024 (and 4% since 2015). The most severe deterioration is seen in Central and Southern Asia and Eastern and South-eastern Asia.
- **Target 15.6:** As of 2024, 76 countries (5 countries in 2015) and 97 countries (up from 12 countries in 2015) reported about their legislative, administrative or policy measures under the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, respectively.
- **Target 15.9:** Country implementation of the international statistical standard to measure the environment and ecosystems and their connection to the economy increased by 36% between 2017 and 2024. Though growth has slowed in recent years, adoption is expected to rise, as the standard supports key indicators in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

35. More frequent, intense and prolonged conflicts around the world are shattering people's lives, communities and futures.. Violence against women, children, and marginalized groups remains widespread. Casualties among children and women in armed conflicts quadrupled in 2023-2024 compared to the previous biennium. While there was progress in accreditations of human rights institutions, many political systems fail to represent their populations fully, leading to declining trust. High pre-trial detention rates and limited access to justice highlight the need for inclusive governance and rule of law. Achieving lasting peace requires urgent global commitment to good governance, human rights, equal justice access, and accountable institutions, emphasizing diplomacy and dialogue. The UN Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice, and Security supports integrated initiatives to strengthen national institutions, promote accountability, and ensure compliance with human rights obligations. It enhances justice and security mechanisms by providing legal services and advice, building the capacity of prosecutors, police, and legal aid providers, and facilitating access to justice for internally displaced persons and survivors of gender-based violence. Additionally, the Programme assists governments in developing national action plans on business and human rights and advances people-centered policing approaches.

- **Target 16.1:**
 - The global homicide rate declined from 5.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.2 in 2023. If the decline continues, the global homicide rate will drop 25% between 2015 and 2030, however, falling short of the target 50% reduction.
 - In 2024, conflict-related deaths rose 40% from 2023 to at least 48,384—the third consecutive year of sharp increases. While most victims are civilians, intense hostilities often obscure their status. Compared to 2021-2022 biennium, about 337% more children and 258% more women were killed in 2023-2024, with 8 in 10 children and 7 in 10 women fatalities occurring in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- **Target 16.2:**

- Globally, 1.6 billion children—two-thirds—regularly endure violent punishment by caregivers at home. Levels exceed 50% in most of the 84 countries (mostly low- and middle-income) with data from 2016 to 2024.
- Globally, 38% of all victims of trafficking detected in 2022 were children, up from 13% in 2004. Exploitation patterns differ by gender: 60% of trafficked girls are victims of sexual exploitation, while 45% of trafficked boys face forced labour and 47% are exploited for other purposes like forced criminality and begging.
- Sexual violence against children is pervasive. Globally, over 370 million girls and women (1 in 8) and 240 to 310 million boys and men (1 in 11) are estimated to have experienced contact sexual violence (i.e. rape or sexual assault) in childhood. In fragile settings, the risk is even higher, with slightly more than 1 in 4 girls affected.
- **Target 16.3:**
 - Data from 92 countries (2010-2024) show that the median proportion of victims of physical assault and robbery in the previous 12 months reporting to competent authorities was 36% and 45%, respectively. For sexual assault, the median reporting rate was 15%.
 - In 2023, 11.7 million people were in detention, a rate of 145 per 100,000 population. A third (3.7 million) were held in pre-trial detention, a share that has remained constant between 2015 and 2023.
- **Target 16.4:** Tracing is vital for investigating illicit firearms, yet global implementation remains challenging. From 2016 to 2023, Member States with data traced on average around 42% of potentially traceable seized weapons. Destroying weapons also curbs illicit arms flows; in 2022–2023, 717,712 weapons were eliminated.
- **Target 16.6:**
 - Countries are improving budget reliability post-pandemic, with expenditure deviations peaking at 12.6% in 2020 and improving to 9.6% in 2023.
 - Globally, latest survey data (2015-2024) indicate that the majority of people are satisfied with public services. Administrative services receive the highest satisfaction (67%), followed by education (58 – 79%) and healthcare (57%).
- **Target 16.7:**
 - In 2024, over 12,000 parliamentary seats changed in 59 countries, affecting nearly half the world's population, but brought little change in representation. Women's parliamentary seats rose just 0.3 points, with modest gains in committee leadership of 1.6 points since 2020. Women remain underrepresented in public service and the judiciary, and their share among parliamentary Speakers slightly declined. Younger MPs show more balanced gender ratios, suggesting potential future shifts. MPs aged 45 and under now make up 32.6% of parliaments, but this has yet to translate into more leadership roles.
 - Data from 83 countries show less than 45% of people believe their political systems are responsive and that their voices influence decisions, with even lower confidence in wealthier regions. Women are also less likely than men to believe they have a say in government decisions.
- **Target 16.9:** Globally, nearly 8 in 10 children under five (over 500 million) have their births registered, however, 150 million children remain unregistered, with global progress slowing over the past decade. Sub-Saharan Africa lags at 51%.
- **Target 16.10:**

- In 2024, killings of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists remained alarmingly high, with at least 502 cases reported across 44 countries—a slight decline from 580 cases in 54 countries in 2023. Conflict zones remained the deadliest for journalists, accounting for 53 killings, or 65%—the highest share in over a decade.
 - By late 2024, 139 countries had adopted constitutional, statutory, or policy frameworks for public access to information, up from 105 in 2015.
- **Target 16.a:** Since 2015, the number of countries with National Human Rights Institutions fully compliant with United Nations standards has grown by 27% (from 70 to 89 countries) and covering 55% of the world's population.
- **Target 16.b:** New data from 119 countries show rising global discrimination. In nations with repeated surveys since 2015, average discrimination rate on any ground increased from 14.8% to 17.1%. Discrimination is widespread for persons with disabilities (28%) and in LDCs (24%). Urban residents, women, the poor, and the less educated face higher rates of discrimination compared to their counterparts.

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

36. Global progress on SDG 17 has shown both advancement and persistent challenges over the past decade. While financial flows to developing countries have increased, driven by both official and private finance, but record-high debt servicing costs in 2023 strain low- and middle-income economies. This is compounded by a \$4 trillion annual investment gap for SDG achievement in developing countries. Access to information and communications technology has grown steadily, although digital divides remain stark, particularly in lower-income regions. While data systems and national statistical capacities have improved, but many countries still struggle to secure the necessary funding to fully track and implement the SDGs, slowing progress in key areas. Strengthened support and renewed global cooperation are critical to bridge these divides and accelerate SDG progress. Through initiatives such as the SDG Stimulus, the Joint SDG Fund, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and the Global SDG Indicator Framework, the UN is helping to build partnerships to close financing gaps, expand access to science, innovation, and data, and support developing countries—alongside international financial institutions—in unlocking capital and investment for SDG implementation and accelerating inclusive progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Finance

- **Target 17.1:**
 - 2023 data from approximately 130 countries shows that globally, government revenue accounts for approximately 33% of GDP. The average overall tax burden or revenue in the form of taxes is 25% of GDP amongst advanced economies and 18% of GDP amongst emerging market and developing economies—both similar to 2015 levels.
 - As of 2023, government spending funded by taxes has stabilized regionally and converged globally. From 2015 to 2019, tax revenue rose from 65% to 66% in advanced economies and 60% to 61% in emerging ones. After dropping to 52% for both in 2020 due to the pandemic, it rebounded to 62% and 61%, respectively, though below pre-pandemic levels.
- **Target 17.2:** In 2024, ODA from DAC member countries declined by 7.1% in real terms—the first drop in five years—reaching \$212.1 billion (0.33% of combined GNI). The

decrease was driven by lower contributions to international organizations, reduced aid for Ukraine and humanitarian support, and less spending on hosting refugees. Still, total ODA remained 23% higher than in 2019.

- **Target 17.3:**

- In 2023, financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources reported by 106 bilateral and multilateral providers amounted to \$303 billion in official resources and \$58.7 billion mobilized from private finance. An increase is observed for all forms of finance since 2019 (which amounted to \$205.9 billion in official sources and \$46.7 billion from private finance), with the largest increase (77%) in concessional loans.
- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) reached an estimated \$1.4 trillion in 2024, up 11% from 2023, however, falling 8% when excluding financial flows through European conduit economies. The number of SDG-related investments declined 11% in 2024. While there have been gains in renewable energy, health, and education, three sectors— infrastructure, agrifood systems, and water and sanitation— are now receiving less international financing than in 2015.
- Global remittance flows were at \$861 billion in 2023, an increase of 3% from 2022. Remittance flows to LMICs grew a slower pace at 1.4% to reach \$647 billion, after sharp increases averaging about 10% in 2021-22. The true size of remittances, including flows through informal channels, however, is believed to be even larger.

- **Target 17.4:** In 2023, total debt servicing costs for all LMICs reached a record high of \$1.4 trillion, driven by rapidly accumulating external debt over the last decade, interest rates at a two-decade high, and currency depreciation. Principal repayments rose by 1% to \$950.9 billion, while interest payments increased by 37.1% to \$405.3 billion, both all-time highs. The total debt service to export earnings ratio rose by 1.6 points to 14.7%.

37. **Target 17.5:** In 2024, 51 countries had investment promotion mechanisms for outward FDI; 27 (compared to 23 in 2023) had schemes targeting developing countries, including LDCs.

Information and communications technology

- **Target 17.6:** Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants grew at 6.3% annually between 2015 and 2024, reaching 20 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2024. But coverage remains low in low-income countries due to high prices and a lack of infrastructure.
- **Target 17.8:** Internet usage reached 68% of the global population in 2024 (5.5 billion users), up from 65% in 2023 and 40% in 2015. Still, 2.6 billion people remain offline, and universal access is distant.
- **Target 17.11:** In 2023, LLDCs and LDCs accounted for just 1.1% of global merchandise exports—modest increase since 2015, but far below the target to double their export shares by 2020.

Data, monitoring and accountability

- **Target 17.18.1:**
 - SDG data collection has expanded since the pandemic. The average Open Data Inventory coverage scores increased sharply from 2022 to 2024 across all regions, surpassing 50 globally for the first time, with gains in economic and environmental data. Social and demographic data lag behind. However, even in developed countries, the average ODIN score is only 60 out of 100, highlighting

the urgent need for increased investment in data infrastructure and production across all countries.

- Statistical performance scores rose from 58.6 in 2016 to 69.7 in 2023, with marked improvements over the COVID-19 period due to the heightened demand for reliable data.
 - In 2024, 159 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, an increase from 132 countries in 2019,
 - In 2024, 137 countries reported implementing a national statistical plan, 95 fully funded—mainly through government sources (103 countries), followed by donor funding (35 countries) and other sources (10 countries). However, many countries face challenges in securing sustainable financing for statistical development plans, limiting their ability to address evolving data needs.
- **Target 17.19:** In 2022, \$875 million was disbursed to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries, up 2% from 2021 yet a nearly 50% increase since 2015. New donors, including private foundations and non-DAC members, are increasing their role.