



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals

SDGs in focus

SDG 1 (No Poverty) and interlinkages with other SDGs

Tuesday, 09 July 2024, 10:00 – 13:00

Dr. Rola Dashti, USG and Executive Secretary, ESCWA

Esteemed participants,

Across the five region, poverty is either on the rise or progress has stalled in the face of overlapping crises.

In the Arab region, for example, severe forms of poverty, using the \$2.15 line, have risen from 7.2 per cent in 2015 to 18.3 per cent in 2023. 29 million people have fallen into extreme poverty since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After decades of progress in Asia and the Pacific, poverty measured either in monetary or non-monetary terms is on the rise amid the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, or the triple planetary crisis.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the poverty rate has made no progress since 2015. Extreme poverty has even increased by 2.7 percentage points, to 11.4%.

The UNECE region is also not on track. In one third of countries with data, more than 20% of the population live below the income poverty threshold.

And more than half the world's poor (55%) are in Africa, making it unlikely to meet SDG 1 targets under any realistic scenario.

What we find is that across the regions, in addition to the impact of COVID 19, multiple crises are converging and increasing vulnerability:

- Conflict and instability have fueled human suffering and displacement, devastated economies, and pushed millions into poverty, hunger, and vulnerability. In my region, the war on Gaza has claimed tens of thousands of lives, wiped out basic infrastructure, is threatening famine, and risks having significant regional ramifications.
- The triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss threaten lives and livelihoods around the world
- economic trends give further cause for concern. Ongoing struggles with inflation and supply chain disruptions have fueled cost of living crises in developing and developed countries alike.

But the course can be corrected.

Today we need to focus on what can be done. Across the five regions, key strategies can change the trajectory:

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1. Governments need to prioritize pro-poor social expenditures in national budgeting decisions—the investment will pay off across development dimensions
2. social protection systems can be reformed to ensure financial sustainability and extend coverage to more people especially the 58% of workers globally in the informal sector.
3. And we need to prioritize economic sectors that create decent jobs!!!! Investing in emerging sectors and skill development to ensure that everyone can have the opportunity to benefit from new and innovative technologies and industries.

And most importantly, we have to get serious about efforts to ensure just peace, stability and good governance everywhere—we will not eradicate poverty anywhere otherwise.

Thank you.