

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020



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The Sustainable Development Goals Report **2020**

Foreword

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched in 2015 to end poverty and set the world on a path of peace, prosperity and opportunity for all on a healthy planet. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demand nothing short of a transformation of the financial, economic and political systems that govern our societies today to guarantee the human rights of all. They require immense political will and ambitious action by all stakeholders. But, as Member States recognized at the SDG Summit held last September, global efforts to date have been insufficient to deliver the change we need, jeopardizing the Agenda's promise to current and future generations.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 brings together the latest data to show us that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress remained uneven and we were not on track to meet the Goals by 2030. Some gains were visible: the share of children and youth out of school had fallen; the incidence of many communicable diseases was in decline; access to safely managed drinking water had improved; and women's representation in leadership roles was increasing. At the same time, the number of people suffering from food insecurity was on the rise, the natural environment continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate, and dramatic levels of inequality persisted in all regions. Change was still not happening at the speed or scale required.

Now, due to COVID-19, an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis is threatening lives and livelihoods, making the achievement of Goals even more challenging. As of the beginning of June, the death toll had surpassed 400,000 and was continuing to climb, with almost no country spared. Health systems in many countries have been driven to the brink of collapse. The livelihood of half the global workforce has been severely affected. More than 1.6 billion students are out of school, and tens of millions of people are being pushed back into extreme poverty and hunger, erasing the modest progress made in recent years.

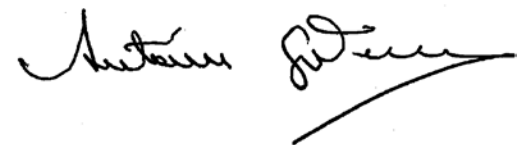
Although the novel coronavirus affects every person and community, it does not do so equally. Instead, it has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities and injustices. In advanced economies, fatality rates have been highest among marginalized groups. In developing countries, the most vulnerable – including those employed in the informal economy, older people, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and refugees – risk being hit even harder.

Across the globe, young people are being disproportionately affected, particularly in the world of work. Women and girls are facing new barriers and new threats, ranging from a shadow pandemic of violence to additional burdens of unpaid care work.

Far from undermining the case for the SDGs, the root causes and uneven impacts of COVID-19 demonstrate precisely why we need the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and underscore the urgency of their implementation. I have therefore consistently called for a coordinated and comprehensive international response and recovery effort, based on sound data and science and guided by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Health systems must be urgently strengthened in countries that are at greatest risk, with increased capacity for testing, tracing and treatment. Universal access to treatments and vaccines, when they become available, is essential. A large-scale multilateral response is needed to ensure that developing countries have the resources they need to protect households and businesses. Recovery packages must facilitate the shift to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and support universal access to quality public services. And leadership and support are needed to ensure statistical organizations have the tools and resources to facilitate timely and smart decision-making. To guide and support these actions, the United Nations system has mobilized at all levels, leveraging the recent reforms of the United Nations development system.

At the start of this Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, I call for renewed ambition, mobilization, leadership and collective action, not just to beat COVID-19 but to recover better, together – winning the race against climate change, decisively tackling poverty and inequality, truly empowering all women and girls and creating more inclusive and equitable societies everywhere.



António GUTERRES

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Finding transformative pathways in turbulent times

This year marks the start of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It is a critical period to advance a shared vision and accelerate responses to the world's gravest challenges – from eliminating poverty and hunger to reversing climate change. Yet, in only a brief period of time, the precipitous spread of the novel coronavirus turned a public health emergency into one of the worst international crises of our lifetimes, changing the world as we know it. The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020* presents an overview of progress towards the SDGs before the pandemic started, but it also looks at some of the devastating initial impacts of COVID-19 on specific Goals and targets. The report was prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with over 200 experts from more than 40 international agencies using the latest available data and estimates.

No area has been spared the effects of the pandemic

One third of the way into our SDG journey, the world is not on track to achieve the global Goals by 2030. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, progress had been uneven, and more focused attention was needed in most areas. The pandemic abruptly disrupted implementation towards many of the SDGs and, in some cases, turned back decades of progress.

The crisis has touched all segments of the population, all sectors of the economy, and all areas of the world. Not surprisingly, it is affecting the world's poorest and most vulnerable people the most. It has exposed harsh and profound inequalities in our societies and is further exacerbating existing disparities within and among countries.

Forecasts indicate that the pandemic will push 71 million people back into extreme poverty in 2020, in what would be the first rise in global poverty since 1998. Many of these people are workers in the informal economy, whose incomes dropped by 60 per cent in the first month of the crisis. Half of the global workforce – 1.6 billion people – support themselves and their families through insecure and often unsafe jobs in the informal economy, and have been significantly affected. The impacts of COVID-19 are also increasing the vulnerability of the world's one billion slum dwellers, who already suffer from inadequate housing with limited or no access to basic infrastructure and services.

Older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees are more likely to experience severe effects from COVID-19 due to their specific health and socioeconomic circumstances. Similarly, the pandemic is taking a toll on the world's women and children. Disrupted health care and limited access to food and nutrition services could result in hundreds of thousands of additional under-5 deaths and tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths in 2020. About 70 countries reported moderate-to-severe disruptions or a total suspension of childhood vaccination services during March and April 2020. Many countries have seen a surge in reports of domestic violence against women and children. Millions of unintended pregnancies can be expected as tens of millions of women are unable to access family planning supplies and services.

School closures kept 90 per cent of students (1.57 billion) out of school and caused over 370 million children to miss out on school meals this spring. Prolonged absence from school results in lower

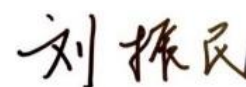
retention and graduation rates and worsens learning outcomes. It also has an adverse effect on the social and behavioural development of children and youth. As more families fall into extreme poverty, children in poor and disadvantaged communities are at much greater risk of child labour, child marriage and child trafficking. In fact, the global gains in reducing child labour are likely to be reversed for the first time in 20 years. In short, the crisis is having life-altering consequences for millions of children and youth worldwide.

The economic impacts of the crisis are equally sobering: the world is now facing its worst recession in generations. Even the most advanced and developed countries are struggling to cope with the health, social and economic fallout of the pandemic, but the poorest and most disadvantaged countries will inevitably be hit the hardest. Estimates suggest that world trade will plunge by 13 to 32 per cent, foreign direct investment will decline by up to 40 per cent, and remittances to low- and middle-income countries will fall by 20 per cent in 2020. Many poorer countries are already experiencing acute food insecurity. All of these external shocks, together with job losses, fragile health systems, insufficient basic services and low coverage of social protection systems have aggravated their vulnerabilities. Without support from the international community, the crisis could destabilize the economies of already impoverished nations.

We must hold firm in our convictions

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to its very core. However, we must hold firm in our convictions and not let the crisis derail our hopes and ambitions. In fact, the principles on which the SDGs were established are key to building back better in the post-COVID-19 recovery. The continued pursuit of these universal Goals will keep Governments focused on growth, but also on inclusion, equity and sustainability. Our collective response to the pandemic can serve as a "warm-up" for our preparedness in preventing an even larger crisis – that is, global climate change, whose effects are already becoming all too familiar. Governments and businesses should heed the lessons learned from this wake-up call to formulate the kinds of transitions needed to build a healthier, more resilient and more sustainable world. Central to such transitions are timely and disaggregated data and statistics, from which effective and equitable measures and policies can be shaped.

In September 2020, the United Nations will commemorate its seventy-fifth anniversary amidst extraordinary global challenges. While commitment to the purpose and principles of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda remains strong, the COVID-19 pandemic is a vivid reminder of the need for global cooperation and solidarity. We must strengthen and combine our efforts to leave no one behind and to forge the transformative pathways needed to create a more livable world.



Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs

The need for data innovations in the time of COVID-19

The importance of timely, quality, open and disaggregated data and statistics has never been as clear as during the COVID-19 crisis. Such data are critical in understanding, managing and mitigating the human, social and economic effects of the pandemic. They are also essential for designing short-term responses and accelerated actions to put countries back on track to achieve the SDGs.

Many of the data challenges encountered during the first five years of SDG implementation are severely limiting COVID-19 responses. These include the lack of basic health, social and economic data. To make matters worse, the crisis is disrupting routine operations throughout the global statistical and data system, with delays in planned censuses, surveys and other data programmes.

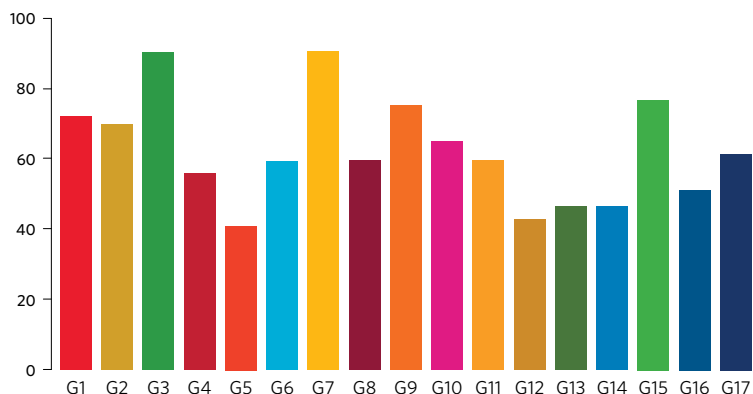
In response, members of the statistical community have quickly set up mechanisms to ensure operational continuity by adapting and innovating data production methods and processes. Assessments of statistical operations around the world show that investments and support for data innovations are urgently needed. These will help to both inform policy responses to the crisis and support SDG acceleration efforts over the coming decade.

Serious data gaps remain in assessing country-level progress towards the SDGs

Over the years, good progress has been made in increasing the availability of internationally comparable data for SDG monitoring. However, huge data gaps still exist in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness and the level of disaggregation required. Moreover, challenges remain in compiling and disseminating metadata to document the data quality of SDG indicators at local and national levels.

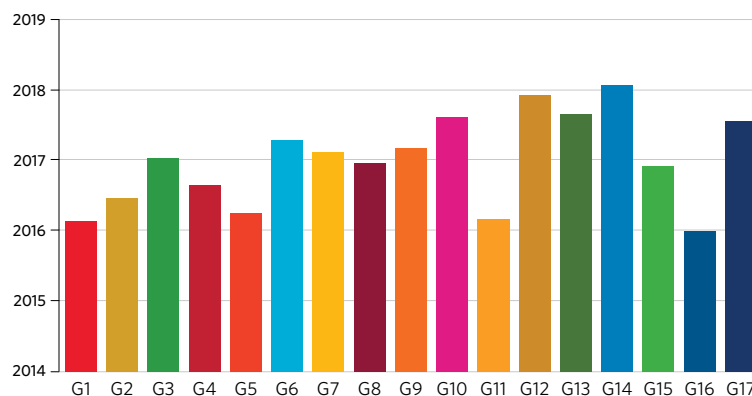
An analysis of the indicators in the Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>) reveals that for 4 of the 17 goals, less than half of 194 countries or areas have internationally comparable data. This lack of country-level data is particularly worrisome for Goal 5 (gender equality), where on average only about 4 in 10 countries have data available. Country-level data deficits are also significant in areas related to sustainable production and consumption (Goal 12) and to climate action (Goal 13). What's more, even countries with available data have only a small number of observations over time, making it difficult for policymakers to monitor progress and identify trends.

Data coverage: proportion of countries or areas with available data (weighted average across indicators), by Goal (percentage)



In addition, a large number of SDG indicators are available only with a significant time lag. For instance, in at least half of countries or areas in the database, the latest data point available for poverty-related indicators (Goal 1) is for 2016 or earlier. A similar situation is found for indicators on gender equality (Goal 5), sustainable cities (Goal 11) and peace, justice, and strong institutions (Goal 16).

Data timeliness: the most recent year available (weighted average of the median country by indicator), by Goal



The pandemic is jeopardizing the production of data central to the achievement of the SDGs

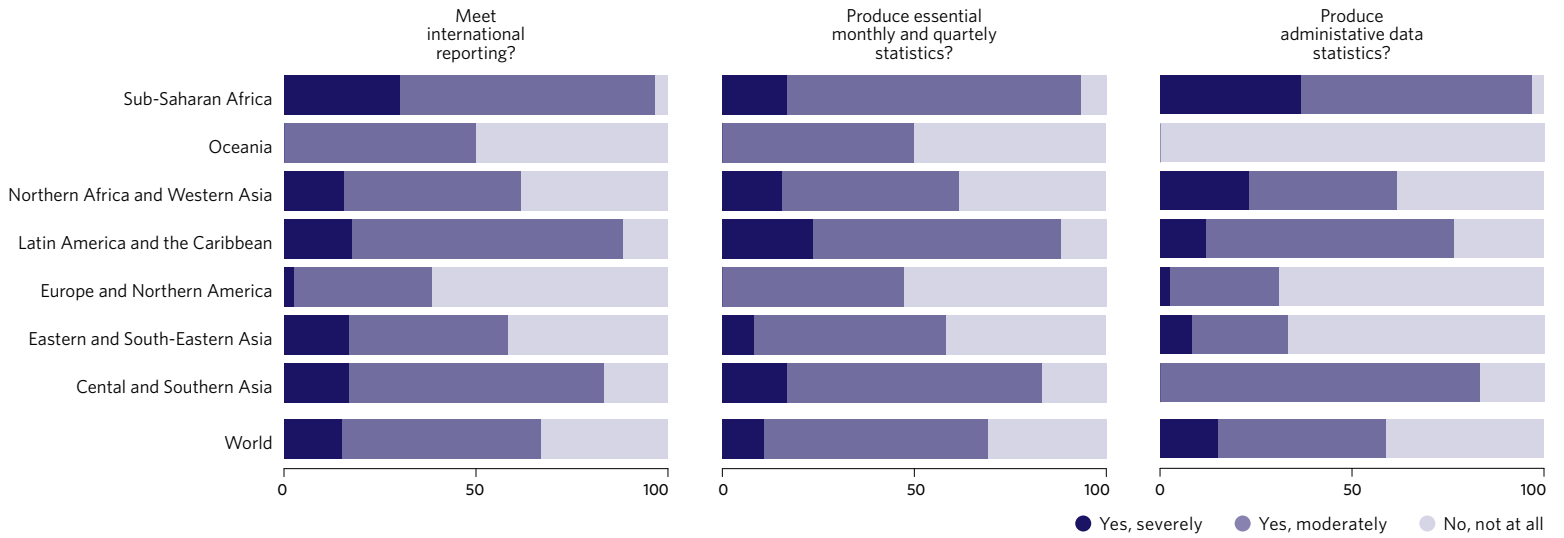
As Governments attempt to contain the spread of the coronavirus, field data collection operations are being disrupted. This is limiting the ability of many national statistical offices to deliver official monthly and quarterly statistics as well as the data necessary to monitor progress on the SDGs.

A recent survey conducted by the United Nations and the World Bank (with responses from 122 countries) shows that the pandemic has affected the operations of the vast majority of national statistical offices: 65 per cent of headquarters are partially or fully closed, 90 per cent have instructed staff to work from home, and 96 per cent have partially or fully stopped face-to-face data collection. In sub-Saharan Africa, 97 per cent of countries surveyed indicated that the production of regular statistics was affected, and 88 per cent of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean indicated that they were having difficulty meeting international data reporting requirements.

According to survey results, 9 in 10 national statistical offices in low- and lower-middle-income countries have seen funding cuts and are struggling to maintain normal operations during the pandemic. In fact, 73 offices – 61 per cent of those responding to the questionnaire – expressed the need for external support in addressing challenges associated with COVID-19. Priority areas cited included technical assistance and capacity-building, financial aid, and software for remote data collection.

If these needs are not filled, they will have a lasting effect on countries' ability to produce timely and disaggregated data for a large number of SDG indicators. In other words, the COVID-19 pandemic is not only creating a massive setback in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but it is also exacerbating global data inequalities. The statistical community and donors must urgently provide technical and financial support to national statistical offices most in need.

Survey results (percentage): Is the current COVID-19 pandemic affecting your ability to



Investments in data and innovation are key to responding to the crisis and to supporting SDG acceleration

Investments in data and statistics are needed to maintain adequate coverage of all population groups as well as to guarantee the internal consistency, comparability and overall quality of data produced to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, many countries would benefit from support to fully digitize their data collection instead of using traditional paper-based methods. This could include telephone and web-based surveys, and using administrative data along with newer, more innovative data sources to produce official statistics.

One important area of innovation is the integration of geospatial and statistical information. The integrated analysis and visualization of geospatially enabled data on SDG indicators enhances the ability of policymakers and the public at large to understand and respond to local circumstances and needs across geographic space and time. It also offers insights into data connections and relationships that can be further explored by combining traditional and non-traditional sources of data, statistics and information.



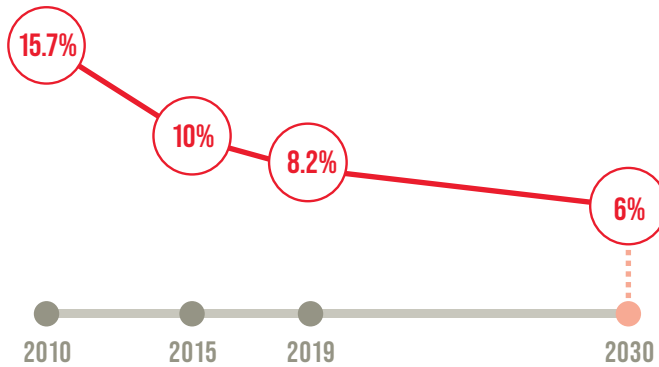
1 NO POVERTY



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

BEFORE COVID-19

THE WORLD
WAS **OFF TRACK** TO
END POVERTY BY **2030**



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

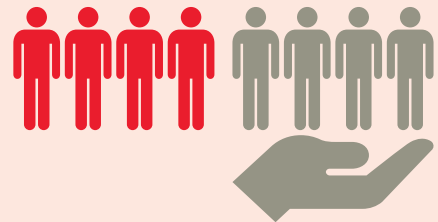


COVID-19 CAUSES
THE **FIRST INCREASE**
IN GLOBAL POVERTY IN DECADES

+71 MILLION PEOPLE ARE PUSHED
INTO **EXTREME POVERTY** IN 2020



YOUNG WORKERS ARE
TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE
LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY
AS ADULT WORKERS (2019)



4 BILLION PEOPLE
DID NOT BENEFIT
FROM ANY FORM OF
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN 2016

NATURAL DISASTERS
EXACERBATE POVERTY



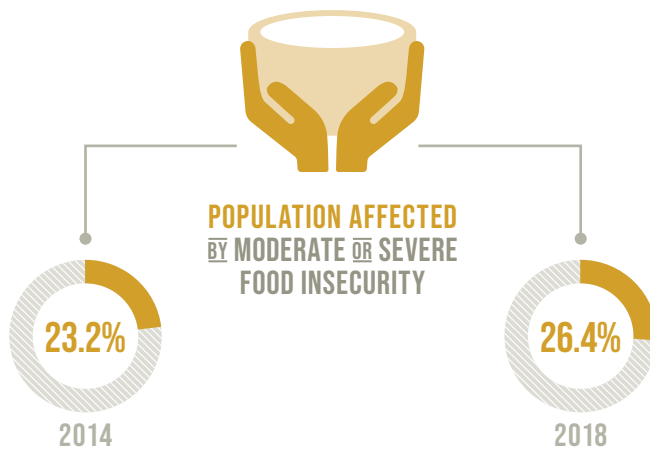
\$23.6 BILLION
DIRECT ECONOMIC LOSSES
(FROM 63 COUNTRIES IN 2018)



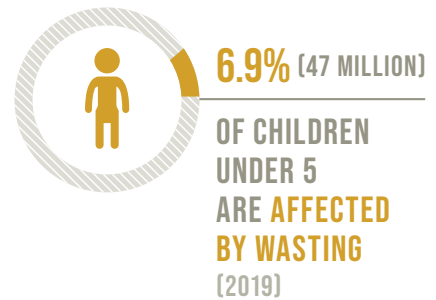
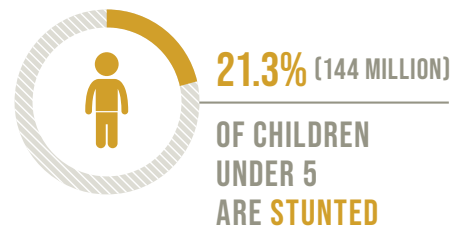
END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BEFORE COVID-19

FOOD INSECURITY WAS ALREADY ON THE RISE

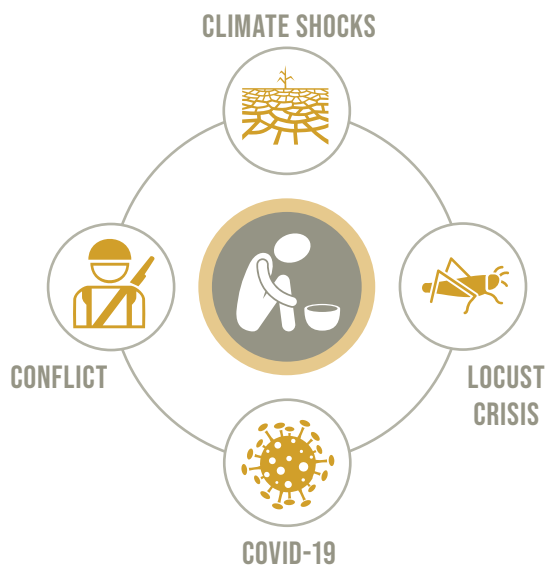


STUNTING AND WASTING AMONG CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO WORSEN



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE PANDEMIC IS AN ADDITIONAL THREAT TO FOOD SYSTEMS



SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS ARE HIT HARD BY THE CRISIS



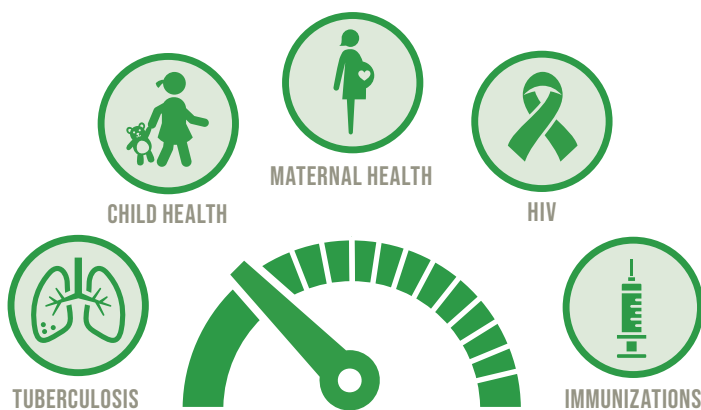
COMPRISING 40%–85% OF ALL FOOD PRODUCERS IN DEVELOPING REGIONS



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

BEFORE COVID-19

PROGRESS IN MANY HEALTH AREAS CONTINUED, BUT NEEDS ACCELERATION

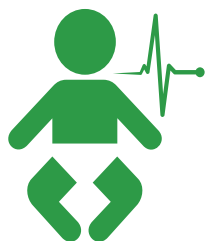


THE PANDEMIC HAS INTERRUPTED CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES IN AROUND 70 COUNTRIES



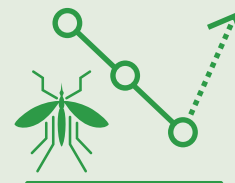
COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

HEALTHCARE DISRUPTIONS COULD REVERSE DECADES OF IMPROVEMENTS



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL UNDER-5 DEATHS MAY BE EXPECTED IN 2020

ILLNESS AND DEATHS FROM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WILL SPIKE



SERVICE CANCELLATIONS WILL LEAD TO 100% INCREASE IN MALARIA DEATHS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

LESS THAN HALF OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION



IS COVERED BY ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

[2017]





ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

BEFORE COVID-19

PROGRESS TOWARDS
INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY
EDUCATION WAS **TOO SLOW**



OVER 200 MILLION CHILDREN WILL
STILL BE **OUT OF SCHOOL** IN 2030

**INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION ARE
EXACERBATED BY COVID-19**

IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES,
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IS



79% IN RICHEST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS



34% IN POOREST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



SCHOOL CLOSURES KEPT
90% OF ALL STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL
REVERSING YEARS OF PROGRESS ON EDUCATION

REMOTE LEARNING REMAINS
OUT OF REACH FOR
AT LEAST
500 MILLION STUDENTS

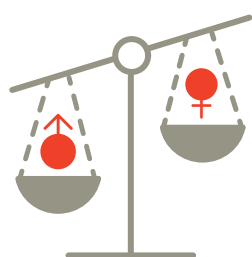


ONLY 65% OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
HAVE BASIC HANDWASHING FACILITIES
CRITICAL FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

BEFORE COVID-19

DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS, **FULL GENDER EQUALITY REMAINS UNREACHED**



FEWER GIRLS ARE FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE



MORE WOMEN ARE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

WOMEN
MUST BE REPRESENTED FAIRLY
IN PANDEMIC-RELATED LEADERSHIP ROLES

WOMEN REPRESENT



25%
IN NATIONAL
PARLIAMENTS
[2020]



36%
IN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
[2020]

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

LOCKDOWNS ARE INCREASING THE RISK OF **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**



PHYSICAL



SEXUAL



PSYCHOLOGICAL

CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HAVE INCREASED BY 30%
IN SOME COUNTRIES

WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONT LINES
OF FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS



WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR **70%**
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS



WOMEN BEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD BURDENS
DURING THE PANDEMIC



WOMEN ALREADY SPEND ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MANY HOURS
IN UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK AS MEN



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

BEFORE COVID-19

DESPITE PROGRESS,
BILLIONS STILL LACK
WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES



2.2 BILLION PEOPLE
LACK SAFELY MANAGED
DRINKING WATER
(2017)



4.2 BILLION PEOPLE
LACK SAFELY MANAGED
SANITATION
(2017)



TWO IN FIVE
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
WORLDWIDE HAVE
NO
SOAP AND WATER OR
ALCOHOL-BASED
HAND RUB
(2016)



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



3 BILLION
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
LACK BASIC HANDWASHING
FACILITIES AT HOME
↓ ↓ ↓
THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR
COVID-19 PREVENTION



WATER SCARCITY
COULD DISPLACE
700 MILLION PEOPLE
BY 2030



SOME COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE
A FUNDING GAP OF **61%** FOR ACHIEVING
WATER AND SANITATION TARGETS



ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

BEFORE COVID-19

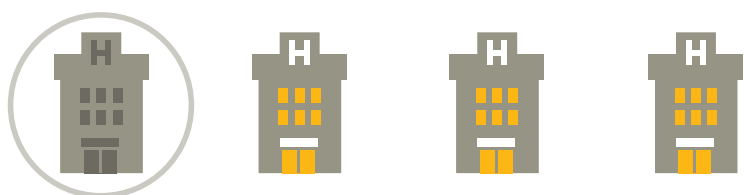
EFFORTS NEED **SCALING UP** ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

789 MILLION PEOPLE LACK ELECTRICITY (2018)



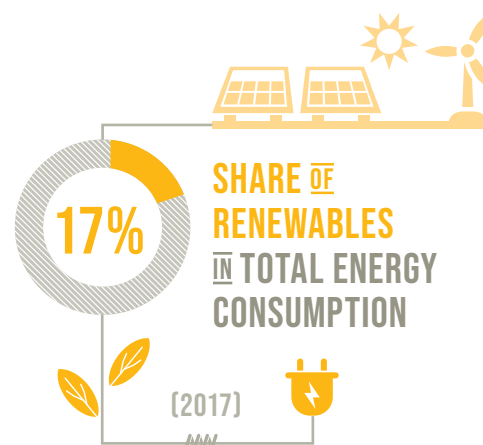
COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY IS CRITICAL FOR HEALTH FACILITIES

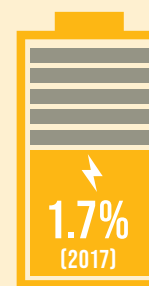


1 IN 4 NOT ELECTRIFIED IN SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2018)

STEPPED-UP EFFORTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY ARE NEEDED



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT RATE **FALLS SHORT** OF **3% TARGET**



FINANCIAL FLOWS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ARE **INCREASING**

\$21.4 BILLION (2017)



BUT ONLY 12% GOES TO LDCs



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

BEFORE COVID-19

GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS SLOWING DOWN



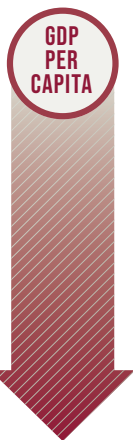
2.0%
GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH
(2010-2018)

1.5%
GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH
(2019)



DURING THE PANDEMIC
1.6 BILLION WORKERS
IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY
RISK LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



THE WORLD FACES THE
WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION
SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION

GDP PER CAPITA
EXPECTED TO DECLINE
BY **4.2% IN 2020**

TOURISM IS FACING UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

INTERNATIONAL
TOURIST ARRIVALS
WITH COVID-19
2020 SCENARIOS



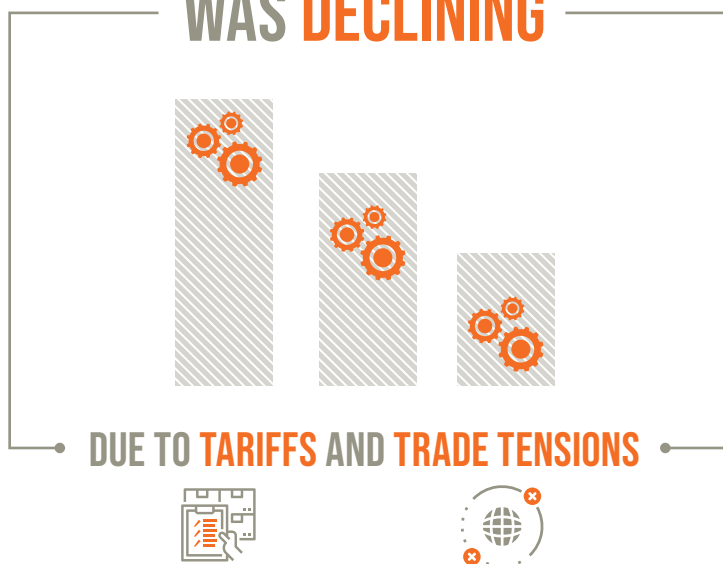
COVID-19 COULD CAUSE THE EQUIVALENT OF
400 MILLION JOB LOSSES IN SECOND QUARTER OF 2020



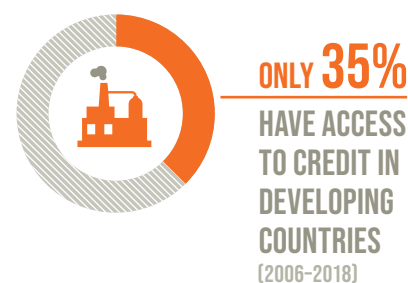
BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

BEFORE COVID-19

MANUFACTURING GROWTH WAS DECLINING



FINANCING FOR SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES IS NEEDED FOR THEIR SURVIVAL THROUGH THE CRISIS



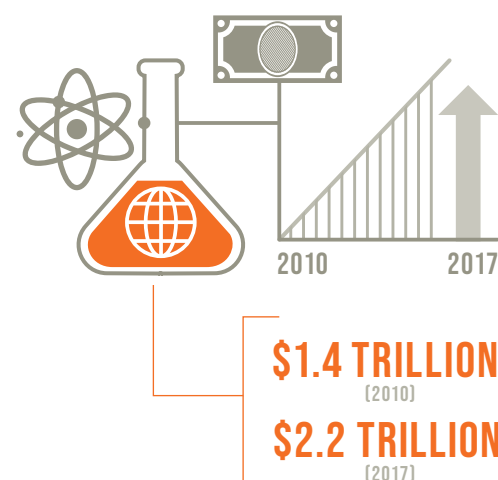
COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE AVIATION INDUSTRY HAS SUFFERED THE STEEPEST DECLINE IN HISTORY



AIR PASSENGER NUMBERS **FELL BY 51%** FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2020 (COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2019)

INVESTMENT IN R&D IS GROWING BUT NEEDS TO ACCELERATE



FEWER THAN 1 IN 5 PEOPLE USE THE INTERNET IN LDCs (2019)



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

BEFORE COVID-19

INCOME INEQUALITY WAS FALLING IN SOME COUNTRIES



GINI INDEX FELL
IN 38 OUT OF 84 COUNTRIES
(2010-2017)

THE GINI INDEX MEASURES INCOME INEQUALITY AND RANGES FROM 0 TO 100, WHERE 0 INDICATES THAT INCOME IS SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL PEOPLE, AND 100 INDICATES THAT ONE PERSON ACCOUNTS FOR ALL INCOME

GLOBAL RECESSION COULD SQUEEZE DEVELOPMENT AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



RESOURCE FLOWS FOR DEVELOPMENT

\$420
BILLION
(2017)

\$271
BILLION
(2018)

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE BEING HIT HARDEST BY THE PANDEMIC



OLDER PERSONS



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



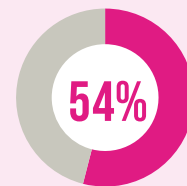
CHILDREN



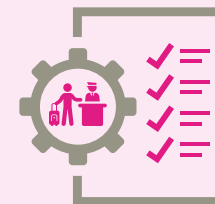
WOMEN



MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



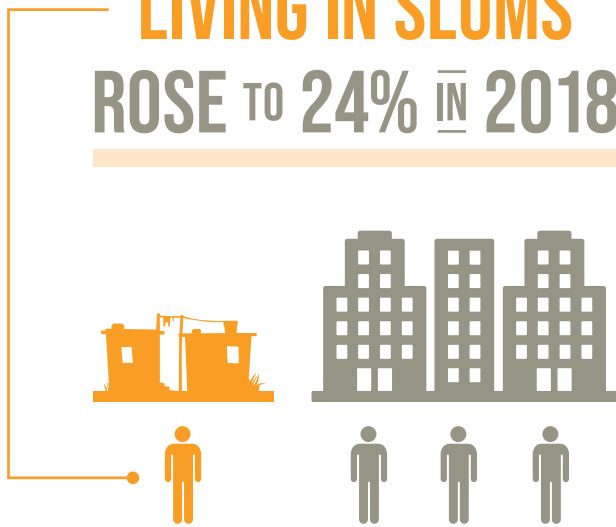
54% OF COUNTRIES WITH DATA HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF MIGRATION POLICIES



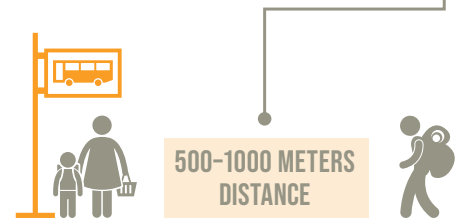
MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

BEFORE COVID-19

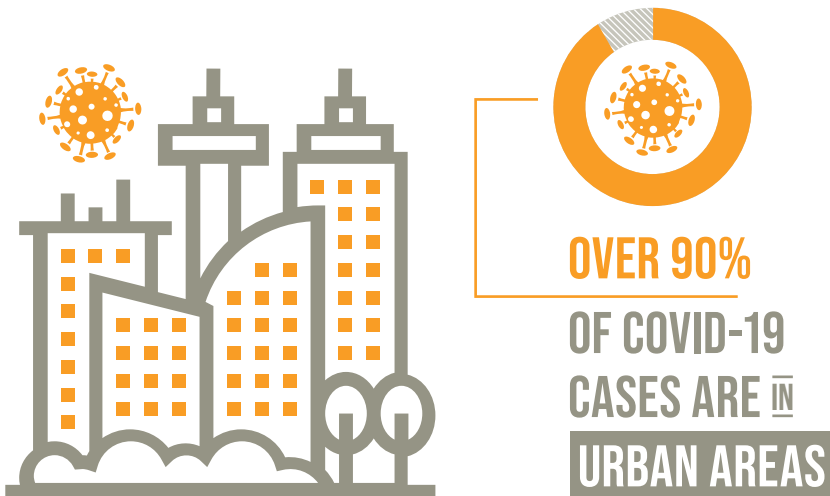
SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION LIVING IN SLUMS ROSE TO 24% IN 2018



ONLY HALF THE WORLD'S URBAN POPULATION HAS **CONVENIENT ACCESS** TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT (2019)



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



AIR POLLUTION CAUSED **4.2 MILLION** PREMATURE DEATHS IN 2016



47% OF POPULATION LIVE WITHIN 400 METRES WALKING DISTANCE TO OPEN PUBLIC SPACES



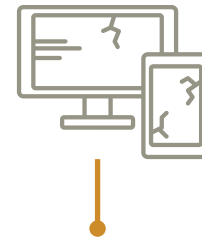
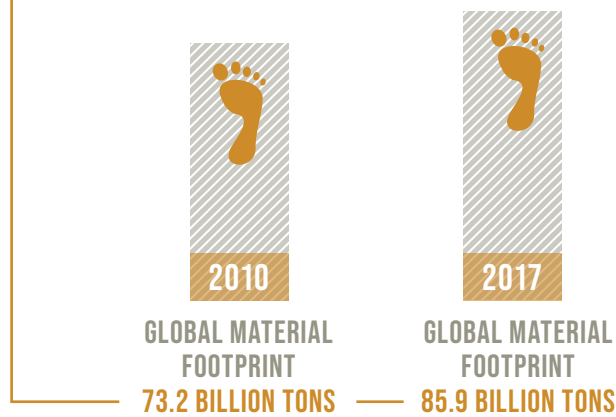
400M



ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

BEFORE COVID-19

THE WORLD CONTINUES TO USE NATURAL RESOURCES **UNSUSTAINABLY**



ELECTRONIC WASTE GREW BY 38%



BUT LESS THAN 20% IS RECYCLED
(2010-2019)

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE PANDEMIC OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO **DEVELOP RECOVERY PLANS** THAT BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



FROM 2017 TO 2019, 79 COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION REPORTED AT LEAST ONE POLICY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



RISING FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

\$318 BILLION
(2015)

\$427 BILLION
(2018)



HARVESTING



TRANSPORT



STORAGE



PROCESSING



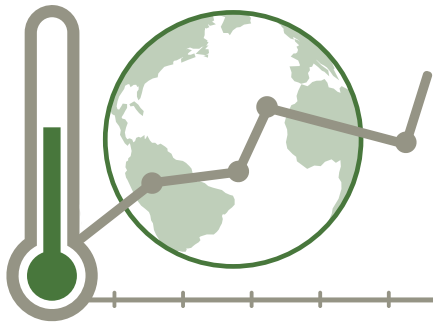
13.8%
OF FOOD IS LOST IN SUPPLY CHAINS (2016)



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

BEFORE COVID-19

GLOBAL COMMUNITY SHIES AWAY FROM COMMITMENTS REQUIRED TO REVERSE **THE CLIMATE CRISIS**



2019 WAS THE SECOND WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES ARE PROJECTED TO RISE BY UP TO 3.2°C BY 2100



ONLY 85 COUNTRIES HAVE NATIONAL **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

ALIGNED TO **THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK**

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

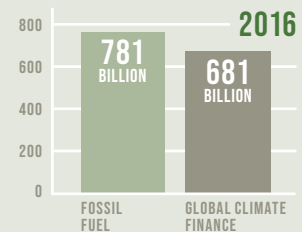


COVID-19 MAY RESULT IN A **6% DROP IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR 2020**

STILL SHORT OF **7.6% ANNUAL REDUCTION** REQUIRED TO **LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5°C**

CLIMATE FINANCE: INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS

CONTINUES TO BE HIGHER THAN INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE ACTIVITIES



CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUES TO EXACERBATE THE FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF **NATURAL DISASTERS**



MASSIVE WILDFIRES



DROUGHTS



HURRICANES



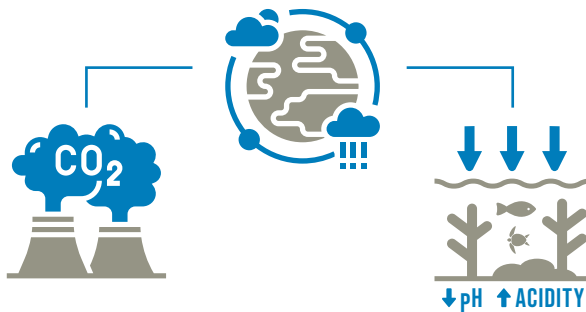
FLOODS

AFFECTING **MORE THAN 39 MILLION PEOPLE** IN 2018

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE COVID-19

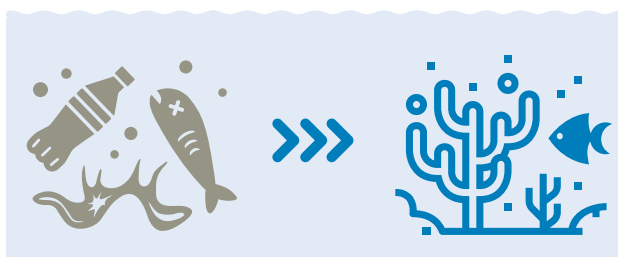
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION CONTINUES TO THREATEN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



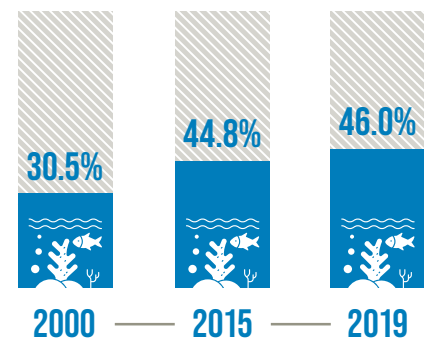
A 100-150% RISE IN OCEAN ACIDITY IS PROJECTED BY 2100, AFFECTING HALF OF ALL MARINE LIFE

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

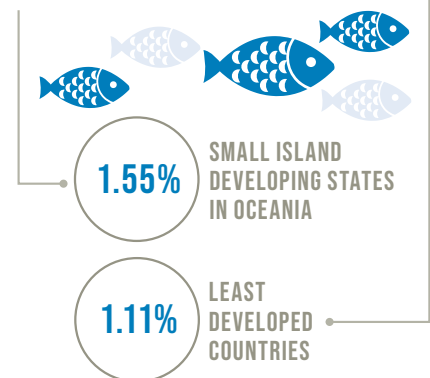
THE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN HUMAN ACTIVITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY COVID-19 MAY BE A CHANCE FOR OCEANS TO RECUPERATE



GLOBAL MARINE KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS COVERED BY PROTECTED AREAS INCREASED



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CONTRIBUTE TO GDP



10x THE GLOBAL AVERAGE

97 COUNTRIES SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES, THE FIRST BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

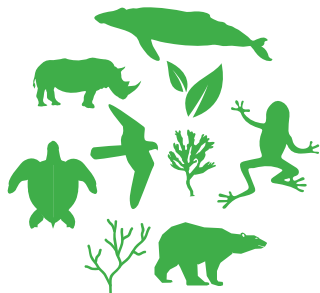




PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

BEFORE COVID-19

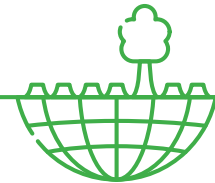
THE WORLD IS **FALLING SHORT ON 2020 TARGETS TO HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**



OVER 31,000 SPECIES ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

WHICH IS

27% OF OVER 116,000 ASSESSED SPECIES IN THE IUCN RED LIST

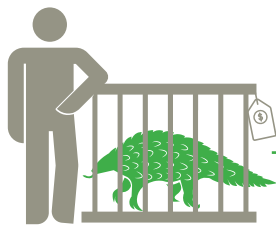


FOREST AREAS CONTINUE TO DECLINE AT AN ALARMING RATE, DRIVEN MAINLY BY AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION

EACH YEAR, 10 MILLION HECTARES OF FOREST ARE DESTROYED (2015-2020)

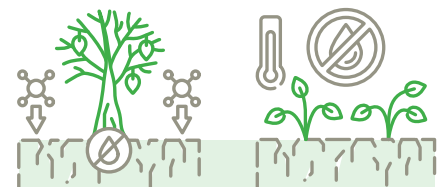
COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING DISRUPTS ECOSYSTEMS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

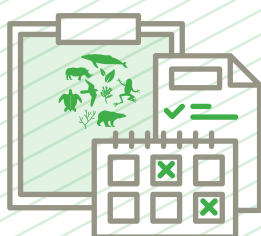


PANGOLINS ARE POSSIBLY THE INTERMEDIARY ANIMAL THAT TRANSFERRED THE CORONAVIRUS

THE EQUIVALENT OF 370,000 PANGOLINS WERE SEIZED GLOBALLY (2014-2018)



TWO BILLION HECTARES OF LAND ON EARTH ARE DEGRADED, AFFECTING SOME 3.2 BILLION PEOPLE, DRIVING SPECIES TO EXTINCTION AND INTENSIFYING CLIMATE CHANGE



ONLY A THIRD OF 113 COUNTRIES WERE ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THEIR NATIONAL TARGET TO INTEGRATE BIODIVERSITY INTO NATIONAL PLANNING

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

BEFORE COVID-19

EVERY DAY,
100 CIVILIANS ARE KILLED
 IN ARMED CONFLICTS



DESPITE PROTECTIONS
 UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW



THE GLOBAL HOMICIDE RATE
 HAS DECLINED SLOWLY



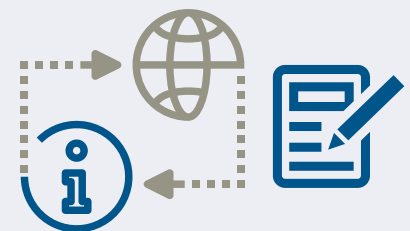
TRANSLATING TO
 440,000 HOMICIDE VICTIMS
 WORLDWIDE

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS FURTHER THREATEN
 GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY



ALREADY IN 2019, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FLEEING WAR, PERSECUTION AND CONFLICT EXCEEDED 79.5 MILLION, THE HIGHEST LEVEL EVER RECORDED



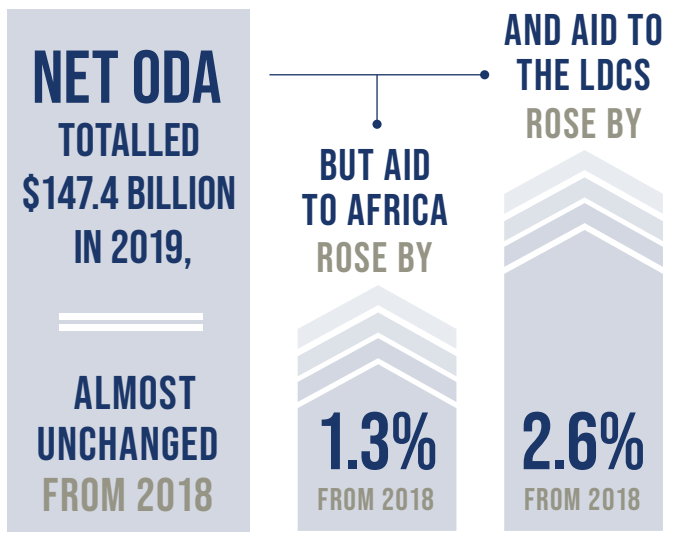
127 COUNTRIES
 HAVE ADOPTED
 RIGHT-TO-INFORMATION
 OR
 FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION
LAWS



**60% OF COUNTRIES HAVE PRISON OVERCROWDING,
 RISKING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE COVID-19

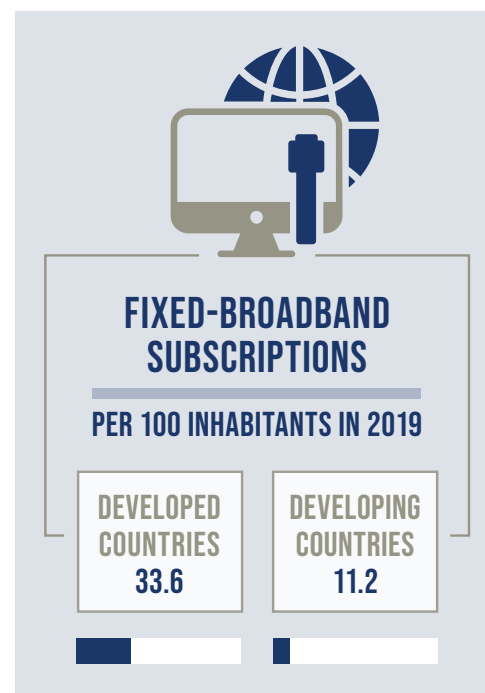


GLOBAL FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY UP TO 40% IN 2020

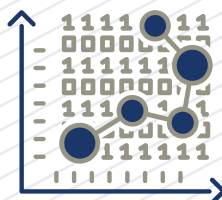
COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



\$554 BILLION IN 2019 → **\$445 BILLION IN 2020**



INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR DATA AND STATISTICS WAS \$690 MILLION IN 2017



ONLY HALF THE LEVEL IT NEEDS TO BE

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

BEFORE COVID-19

CHILDREN ARE REGULARLY EXPOSED TO MULTIPLE FORMS OF VIOLENCE



NEARLY
8 IN 10 CHILDREN
(1-14 YEARS)
SUFFERED FROM
PSYCHOLOGICAL OR
PHYSICAL AGGRESSION
AT HOME



ALMOST ONE THIRD
OF DETECTED
TRAFFICKING
VICTIMS ARE
CHILDREN
(2016)



BASED ON DATA FROM 69 COUNTRIES,
MOSTLY LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

+
80-YEAR-OLDS
ARE DYING FROM
CORONAVIRUS AT
5X
THE AVERAGE RATE

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



AN ESTIMATED
379 MILLION CHILDREN
MISSED SCHOOL MEALS
BECAUSE OF
SCHOOL CLOSURES
DURING THE PANDEMIC



THE GLOBAL GAINS IN
REDUCING CHILD LABOUR
ARE LIKELY
TO BE REVERSED
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN 20 YEARS



3 IN 10 PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES HAVE
EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION
(2014-2019)



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Even before the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, progress towards Goal 1 had slowed, and the world was not on track to ending extreme poverty by 2030. Now, as the world anticipates the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression, tens of millions of people will be pushed back into poverty, undoing years of steady improvement. As the economic impacts of the pandemic begin to be felt more strongly, the importance of robust social protection systems for safeguarding the poor and vulnerable is becoming clearer than



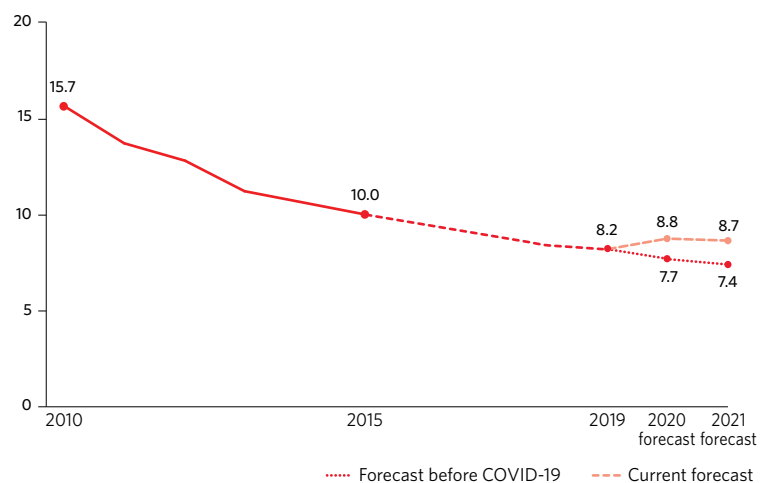
ever. So, too, is the need for effective emergency preparedness, both for pandemics and other hazards that cause disasters.

COVID-19 shifts forecast on the global goal to end extreme poverty

The share of the world's population living in extreme poverty declined from 15.7 per cent in 2010 to 10.0 per cent in 2015. However, the pace of global poverty reduction has been decelerating. Nowcast estimates put the global poverty rate in 2019 at 8.2 per cent.

Even before COVID-19, baseline projections suggested that 6 per cent of the global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of ending poverty. Assuming the pandemic remains at levels currently expected and that activity recovers later this year, the poverty rate is projected to reach 8.8 per cent in 2020. This is the first rise in global poverty since 1998, and close to the 2017 level. An estimated 71 million additional people will be living in extreme poverty due to COVID-19. Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with an additional 32 million and 26 million people, respectively, living below the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic.

Proportion of people living below \$1.90 a day, 2010–2015, 2019 nowcast, and forecast before and after COVID-19 (percentage)

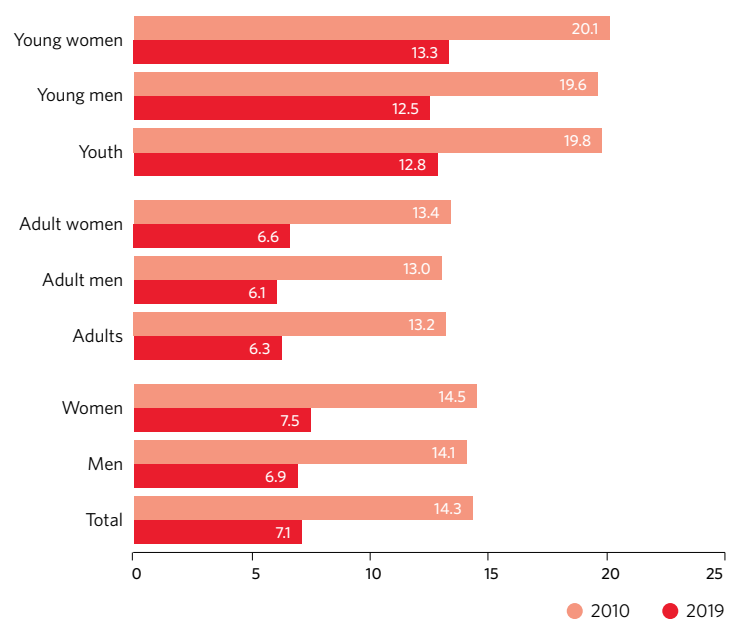


Working poverty is expected to increase sharply as a result of the pandemic

The share of the world's workers living in extreme poverty fell by half over the last decade: from 14.3 per cent in 2010 to 7.1 per cent in 2019. However, the pace of progress has slowed since 2013, requiring reinvigorated efforts to reach the 2030 target. Moreover, the impacts of COVID-19 are projected to push millions more into poverty. As of April 2020, recommended or required workplace closures around the world affected 81 per cent of employers and 66 per cent of own-account workers, severely limiting jobs and income.

The gender gap in working poverty had almost been bridged, but evidence is emerging that women are being disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Young workers are exposed to poverty more systematically than adults, a result of inadequate earnings and deficits in job quality. In 2019, 12.8 per cent of workers between the ages of 15 and 24 lived in poverty, compared with 6.3 per cent of workers over the age of 24, with the difference between youth and adult working poverty rates decreasing only marginally since 2000. These disparities are likely to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, which has already led to a sharp increase in unemployment and underemployment, a decline in labour income and job-quality challenges.

Proportion of employed population living below \$1.90 a day, 2010 and 2019 (percentage)



Social protection coverage varies widely across regions, with many left exposed in the current crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic will have both immediate and long-term economic consequences for people across the globe. Strong social protection systems are essential for mitigating the effects and preventing many people from falling into poverty. Nevertheless, 55 per cent of the world's population – about 4 billion people – did not benefit from any form of social protection in 2016. Only 22 per cent of unemployed workers were covered by unemployment benefits. As of February 2020, only 87 countries had unemployment protection programmes anchored in national legislation, and only 34 of these countries covered the self-employed.

The extent of unemployment benefit coverage varies substantially across regions. Half of unemployed people in Australia and New Zealand receive unemployment payments, and 44 per cent in Europe and Northern America. In contrast, just 3 per cent of the unemployed in sub-Saharan Africa and 12 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean receive such payments.

Differences across regions in coverage of social assistance cash benefits for vulnerable groups – children, people of working age and older persons not protected by contributory schemes – are similarly pronounced. Sixty-one per cent of people in these groups receive cash benefits in Europe and Northern America, compared with 4 per cent in Central and Southern Asia.

Proportion of vulnerable population receiving social assistance cash benefits, and unemployed persons receiving unemployment cash benefits, 2016 (percentage)



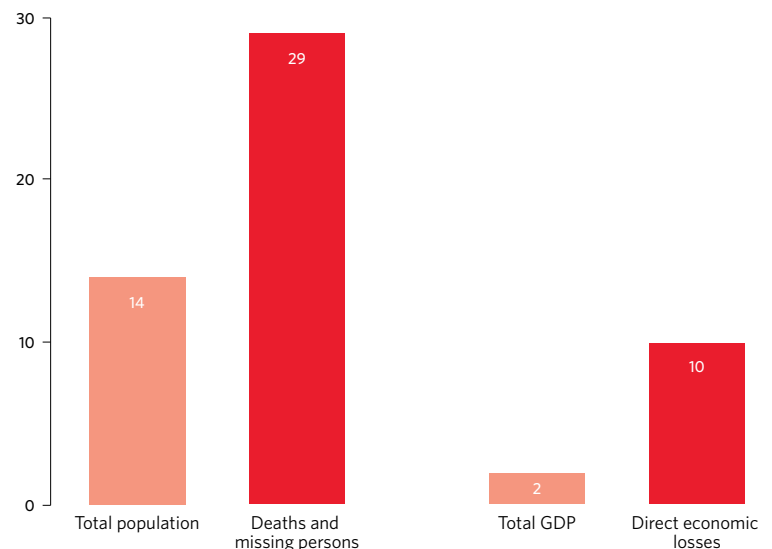
Note: Data for Northern Africa and Western Asia and for Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) are not shown due to low population coverage of available data. Data on unemployment benefits are not shown for Central and Southern Asia due to low population coverage of this data for Southern Asia.

Disasters affect least developed countries disproportionately

Biological hazards such as COVID-19, along with other hazards such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and wildfires, cause disasters and worsen poverty. Based on the latest reporting under the Sendai Framework monitoring process from 80 countries in 2018, 23,458 deaths and 2,164 persons missing were attributed to disasters. Direct economic losses of \$23.6 billion were reported by 63 countries, of which 73 per cent (\$17.1 billion) were recorded in the agricultural sector and 16 per cent (\$3.8 billion) in the housing sector.

Least developed countries (LDCs) were disproportionately affected by disasters in 2018. The 17 LDCs reporting disaster-related losses accounted for 14 per cent of the total population of the 80 countries reporting such losses, but over 29 per cent of the total reported deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters. The economic impacts of disasters were also larger for LDCs, relative to the size of their economies. The 17 LDCs reporting economic losses made up 2 per cent of the GDP of all countries reporting such losses, but suffered 10 per cent of the total direct economic losses.

LDCs share of reported human and economic losses due to disasters, compared with their share of the total population and GDP of countries reporting losses, 2018 (percentage)





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

Eradicating hunger and achieving food security remains a challenge, more so in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. At the global level, hunger and food insecurity have been on the rise, and malnutrition still affects millions of children. The situation is likely to get worse owing to economic slowdowns and disruptions caused by a pandemic-triggered recession. In addition to COVID-19, the desert locust upsurge in six Eastern African countries and Yemen – where 35 million people are already experiencing acute food insecurity – remains alarming. To



mitigate the threats posed by the pandemic to vulnerable populations, countries need to take immediate action to keep trade flowing, to strengthen food supply chains and to increase agricultural production.

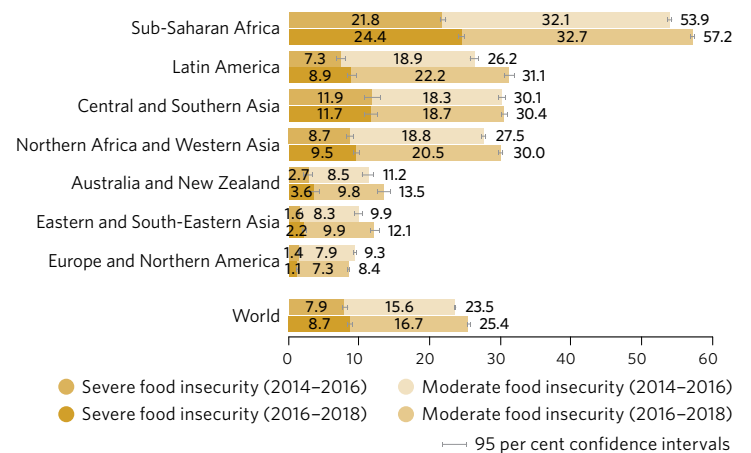
Recent increases in food insecurity are likely to worsen as a result of COVID-19

Since 2015, the global prevalence of undernourishment has remained virtually unchanged at slightly below 11 per cent. However, the total number of people going hungry has slowly increased for several consecutive years. More than 820 million people were undernourished in 2018.

Eliminating hunger alone will not ensure that everyone has access to sufficient nutritious food. An estimated 26.4 per cent of the global population – about 2 billion people – were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity in 2018, an increase from 23.2 per cent in 2014. People experiencing moderate food insecurity are typically unable to eat a healthy, balanced diet on a regular basis because of income or other resource constraints. Those facing severe food insecurity – about 700 million people – tend to run out of food and, at worst, go a day, or days, without eating. The recent increase in food insecurity was primarily due to worsening situations in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. The estimates for 2016–2018 also indicate that food insecurity was higher among adult women than men in every region. The situation is likely to deteriorate even further owing to COVID-19. Along with conflict, climate shocks and the locust crisis, the pandemic

poses an additional threat to food systems, indirectly reducing purchasing power and the capacity to produce and distribute food, which affects the most vulnerable populations.

Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, 2014–2016 and 2016–2018 averages (percentage)

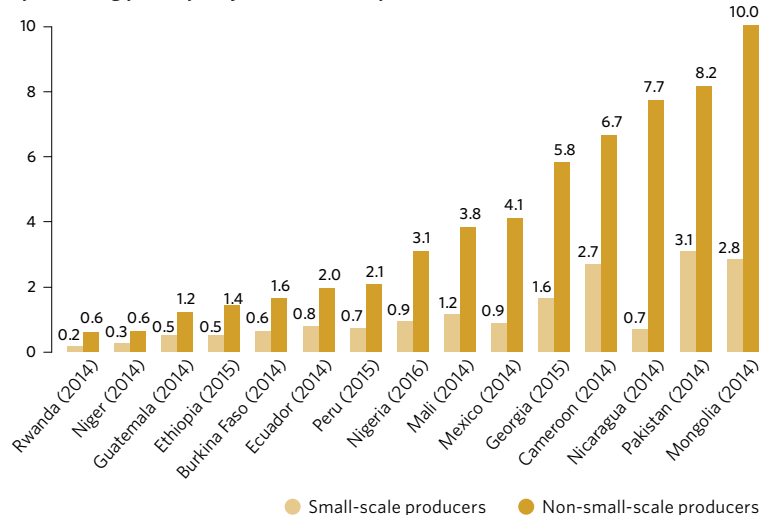


Small-scale food producers, already disadvantaged, are being hit hard by the effects of the pandemic

Small-scale farmers play a critical role in food production worldwide, although they routinely face difficulties accessing land and other productive resources, along with information, financial services, markets and opportunities. Available data show that the share of small-scale producers among all food producers in Africa, Asia and Latin America ranges from 40 per cent to 85 per cent. However, their productivity is systematically lower, on average, than that of larger-scale producers, and in most countries their incomes are less than half of the incomes of their larger counterparts, as shown by data collected from selected countries.

The lockdown measures in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus have caused businesses and local markets to close, and small-scale food producers are often not allowed to get their products to consumers.

Average annual income from agriculture, 2014–2016, selected countries (purchasing power parity, constant 2011 prices in thousands of dollars)



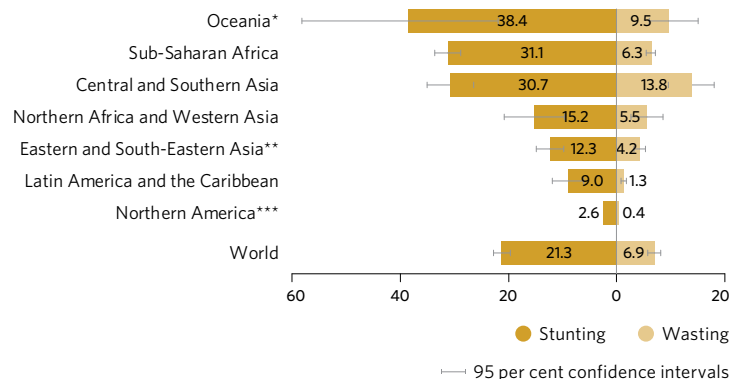
Urgent actions are especially needed to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable children during the pandemic

Chronic undernutrition, or stunting, puts children at greater risk of dying from common infections; it is also associated with poor cognitive development. The proportion of children under 5 years of age suffering from stunting decreased from 32 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2015 and 21 per cent in 2019. However, 144 million children under age 5 were still affected by stunting in 2019. Three quarters of these children lived in just two regions: Southern Asia (39 per cent) and sub-Saharan Africa (36 per cent). More intensive efforts are needed to achieve the global target of bringing down the number of stunted children to 99 million by 2025 and to 82 million by 2030.

In 2019, 6.9 per cent (or 47 million) children under 5 were affected by wasting, or acute undernutrition, a condition caused by limited nutrient intake and infection. This is well above the 5 per cent global target for 2025, and the 3 per cent global target for 2030. More than half of the children suffering from wasting live in Central and Southern Asia, the only region with a prevalence of more than 10 per cent.

The growth and development of these children are at higher risk during the current crisis due to constrained access to nutritious diets and essential nutrition services.

Proportion of children under 5 years who are affected by stunting and wasting, 2019 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

** Excluding Japan.

*** Including estimates only for the United States of America. Confidence intervals are not available.

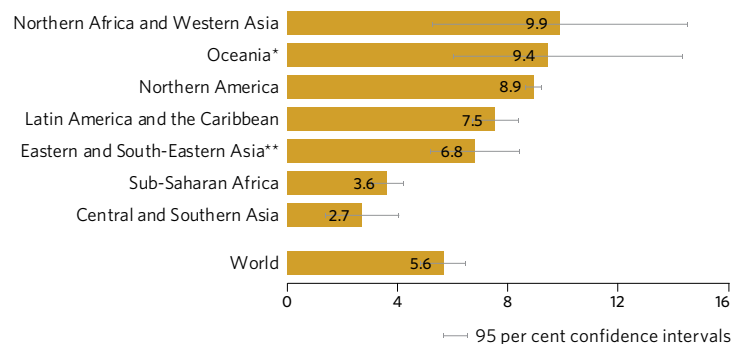
Note: Data coverage is low for Europe, so it is not included in the chart.

The incidence of overweight in young children is increasing, a warning sign for future health problems

Childhood overweight is recognized as a global public health problem because of its pernicious influence on the incidence of acute and chronic diseases, healthy development and the economic productivity of individuals and societies. In 2019, 5.6 per cent (or 38 million) children under age 5 worldwide were overweight. The current global prevalence represents a medium level of severity, signalling that preventative actions are urgently needed for the youngest population.

Overweight and wasting often coexist in a population, and are considered the double burden of malnutrition. For example, in Northern Africa and South-Eastern Asia, the prevalence of wasting was 7.2 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively, in 2019, while overweight was 11.3 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

Proportion of children under 5 years who are overweight, 2019 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

** Excluding Japan.

Note: Data coverage is low for Europe, so it is not included in the chart.

Investment in agriculture, relative to its contribution to the economy, continues to decline

Public investment in agriculture can enhance productivity, attract private investment and help reduce poverty and hunger. The share of government contribution to agriculture compared with the sector's contribution to GDP – known as the agriculture orientation index – fell from 0.42 in 2001 to 0.31 in 2015 and 0.28 in 2018 worldwide. Meanwhile, the share of sector-allocable aid to agriculture from all donors fell from nearly 25 per cent in the mid-1980s to only 5 per cent in 2018, representing \$12.8 billion. The fall in agricultural aid is due to a shift in donors' focus to social-sector issues, such as improving governance, building social capital and helping fragile states.

Rising food prices were mostly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa in 2019

Sharp increases in food prices were largely concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa in 2019, driven by production shocks, macroeconomic difficulties and prolonged conflict. In Eastern Africa, extreme weather conditions reduced agricultural outputs and hampered transport, shrinking market supplies and increasing the price of staple crops. Strong regional demand for exports exerted additional upward pressure on prices. In Western Africa, lingering civil insecurity continued to hamper market activities, thereby adversely impacting food prices. Prices in Southern Africa reached record highs owing to weather-induced shocks and significant economic challenges, including strong depreciation of local currencies. The depreciation of local currencies also contributed to high food prices in other regions, such as Latin America. In 2020, an upsurge in food demand and disruptions to supply chains triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic underpinned food price increases in several countries in the second half of March through April.



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

Until the end of 2019, advances in many areas of health continued, but the rate of progress was not sufficient to meet most Goal 3 targets. The COVID-19 pandemic is throwing progress even further off track. The rapid increase in COVID-19 cases is causing a significant loss of life and overwhelming many health systems. Essential health services and lifesaving interventions are being disrupted. People are unable or afraid to go to health-care facilities to seek services such as check-ups, vaccinations and even urgent medical care. This could have potentially fatal consequences and threatens to reverse decades of improvements in health outcomes.



In many countries, the outbreak is also triggering an alarm in terms of preparedness for health emergencies and immunization services. This is particularly true for countries where health systems are unable to cope with the surge in demand due to the lack of health-care workers, medical equipment and supplies.

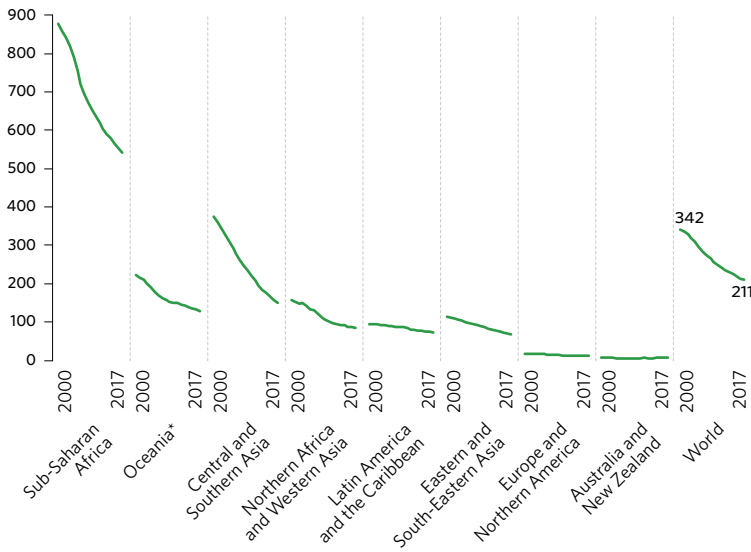
COVID-19 could reverse years of progress in reducing maternal and child deaths unless urgent action is taken

Progress has been made in maternal health. The maternal mortality ratio fell by 38 per cent between 2000 and 2017, from 342 deaths to 211 deaths per 100,000 live births worldwide. On average, the global maternal mortality ratio declined by 2.9 per cent each year over this period. Still, this is less than half of the 6.4 per cent annual rate needed to achieve the global target of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. Every day in 2017, approximately 810 women died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia account for about 86 per cent of maternal deaths globally.

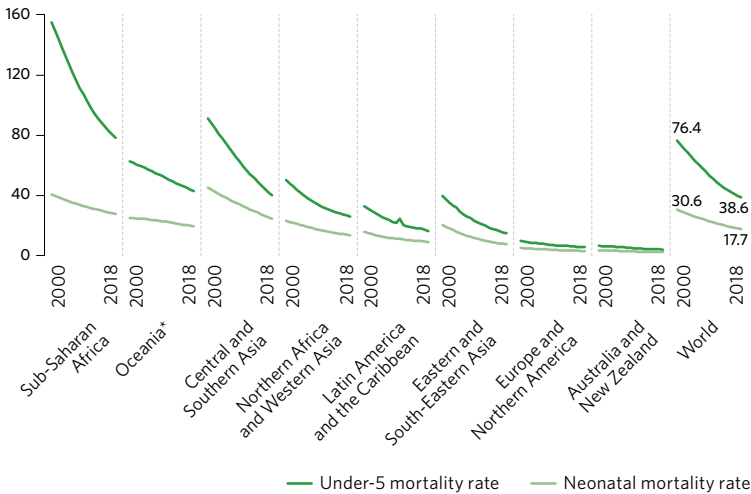
The world has also made tremendous strides in reducing child mortality over the past two decades. The global under-5 mortality rate fell from 76 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 42 in 2015, and to 39 in 2018. The global neonatal mortality rate fell from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 18 deaths per 1,000 in 2018. Despite this progress, some 5.3 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 2018 alone; almost half of those deaths, or 2.5 million, occurred within the first 28 days of life (the neonatal period). Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest under-5 mortality rate: in 2018, 1 in 13 children died before reaching age 5. That is 16 times higher than the average in high-income countries. By 2018, 121 countries had already met the SDG target on under-5 mortality, and 21 countries are expected to do so by 2030. However, progress will need to accelerate in 53 countries, two thirds of which are in sub-Saharan Africa.

As the COVID-19 epidemic continues to erode health systems, disrupt routine health services and constrain access to nutritious diets and essential nutrition services, hundreds of thousands of additional under-5 deaths are expected in 2020, along with tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths. According to a recent study, if routine health care is disrupted and access to food is decreased, the increase in child and maternal deaths could be devastating: 118 low- and middle-income countries could see an increase of 9.8 to 44.8 per cent in under-5 deaths per month and an 8.3 to 38.6 per cent rise in maternal deaths per month, over a period of six months.

Maternal mortality ratio, 2000–2017 (deaths per 100,000 live births)



Under-5 and neonatal mortality rates, 2000–2018 (deaths per 1,000 live births)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

The rate of unintended pregnancies could soar if continuity in family planning supplies and services is not ensured

Ensuring that all births are assisted by a skilled attendant is part of a proven strategy for reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. Globally, 81 per cent of births were assisted by skilled health professionals during 2014–2019, up from 64 per cent in 2000–2005, with many regions achieving almost universal coverage. Despite this progress, only 60 per cent of all births were assisted by skilled attendants in sub-Saharan Africa and 77 per cent in Southern Asia. Moreover, sub-Saharan Africa is expected to see a 15 per cent rise in annual births between 2019 and 2030. Assuming current coverage stays the same, an estimated 17 million births in sub-Saharan Africa will not be attended by a skilled provider in 2030.

Meeting the demand for family planning with modern contraceptive methods also contributes to improving maternal and child health by preventing unintended and closely spaced pregnancies. Globally, the proportion of women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern contraceptive methods increased slightly, from 75.7 per cent in 2010 to 76.8 per cent in 2020. Despite progress in sub-Saharan Africa over the past decade,

only 55.5 per cent of the region's women who want to prevent pregnancy are using modern contraceptives. Globally, more than 250 million women have an unmet demand for modern contraceptives.

A steady decline has been observed worldwide in the adolescent birth rate. It fell from 48 births annually per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 years in 2010 to 45 in 2015 and 41 in 2020. Contributing factors include efforts to promote healthy and responsible reproductive and sexual behaviour among adolescents, a reduction in the incidence of child marriage and increased access to modern contraception. Yet stark disparities persist across regions: in sub-Saharan Africa, the adolescent birth rate remains at 101 births annually per 1,000 women.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, many health facilities are closed or are providing only limited services. What's more, many women and girls are choosing to skip important medical check-ups for fear of contracting the virus. In addition, global supply chain disruptions may lead to shortages of contraceptives. As a result, tens of millions of women may not be able to access contraceptive services, resulting in millions of unintended pregnancies.

The COVID-19 crisis has interrupted childhood immunization efforts globally, with potentially deadly consequences

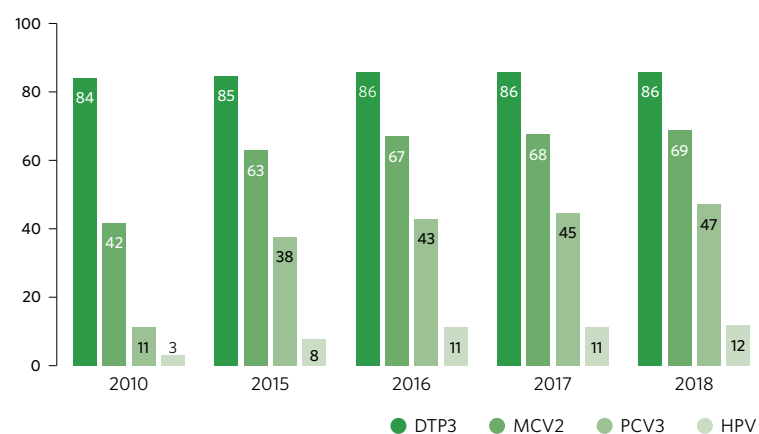
Immunization is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions, saving millions of lives. Coverage of the required three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine increased from 72 per cent in 2000 to 86 per cent in 2018. Coverage of the second dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) increased from 19 per cent in 2000 to 69 per cent in 2018. That year, an estimated 19.4 million children did not receive these essential vaccines during the first year of life, putting them at serious risk of potentially fatal diseases. Moreover, global coverage of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), which has the potential to significantly reduce pneumonia, another major killer of children, has yet to reach 50 per cent.

The COVID-19 crisis has interrupted childhood immunization efforts globally. Since March 2020, routine childhood immunization services have been disrupted on a scale not seen since the inception of the Expanded Programme on Immunization in the 1970s. More than half (53 per cent) of the 129 countries where data are available reported moderate-to-severe disruptions or a total suspension of vaccination services during March and April 2020.

Measles and polio vaccination campaigns, in particular, have been badly hit, with suspended measles campaigns in 27 countries and

suspended polio campaigns in 38 countries. At least 24 million people in 21 lower-income countries are at risk of missing out on vaccines against polio, measles, typhoid, yellow fever, cholera, rotavirus, human papillomavirus (HPV), meningitis A and rubella. Moreover, border closures resulting from COVID-19 outbreaks are resulting in potential vaccine shortages in at least 26 low- and middle-income countries.

Immunization coverage worldwide, by type of vaccine, 2010–2018 (percentage)



Critical care for people with non-communicable diseases is even more precious in the age of COVID-19

The probability of dying from any of the four main non-communicable diseases – cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease – between the ages of 30 and 70 declined from 22 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2010 and to 18 per cent in 2016. Slow progress is mainly due to an overall shortage of services within and outside health systems to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases. In 2016, 71 per cent of all deaths worldwide were attributable to non-communicable diseases; of these, 85 per cent of the 15 million premature deaths (before age 70) occurred in

low- and middle-income countries. People with pre-existing non-communicable diseases are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the coronavirus. However, prevention and treatment services for non-communicable diseases have been severely disrupted since the COVID-19 pandemic began, with low-income countries most affected. Many people are not receiving the health services and medicines they need. Key actions are therefore urgently required, including essential care for acute, life-threatening conditions.

COVID-related disruptions could cause a spike in illness and deaths from other communicable diseases

In spite of gains on many fronts, COVID-19-related service disruptions could cause hundreds of thousands of additional deaths from AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases.

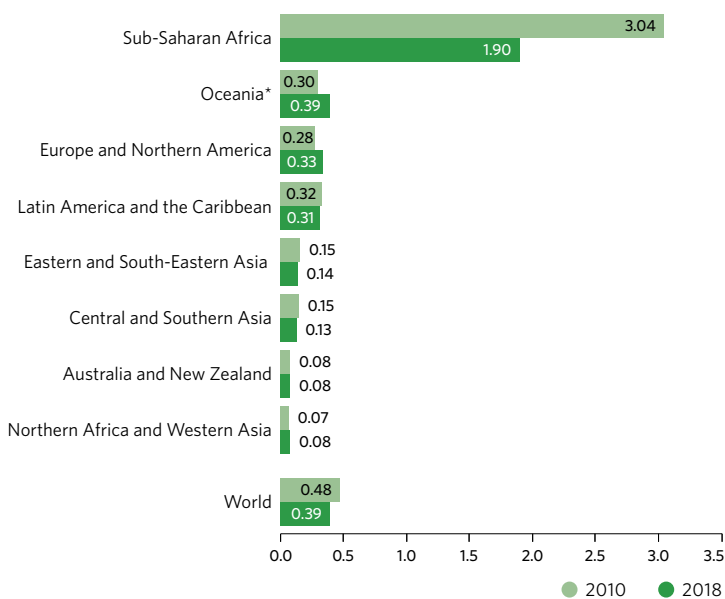
HIV: Globally, HIV incidence among adults aged 15 to 49 declined by 18 per cent from 2010 to 2018. But advances have been negligible since 2015, putting the world off track in achieving the SDG target. In 2018, HIV incidence was 0.24 per 1,000 uninfected population, and new HIV infections were estimated at 1.7 million. Globally, persistent efforts to reach pregnant women living with HIV have resulted in a 44 per cent decline in incidence among young children between 2010 and 2018. The steepest decline (37 per cent) among adults over that period was seen in sub-Saharan Africa. Still, 61 per cent of all new HIV infections occurred in that region in 2018. Efforts must be made to mitigate and overcome interruptions in health services and supplies in sub-Saharan Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. Models show that if no action is taken, a six-month complete disruption in HIV services, including antiretroviral therapy, could lead to more than 500,000 additional deaths in 2020–2021 in sub-Saharan Africa from AIDS-related illnesses, including tuberculosis.

Malaria: After many years of impressive reductions in the global burden of malaria, progress has stalled. The malaria incidence rate fell by 30 per cent between 2000 and 2014 – from 81 to 57 cases per 1,000 population – and then remained at a similarly low level through 2018. The world is not on a trajectory to achieve the SDG target of ending malaria. Worse yet, malaria prevention services could potentially be disrupted by the spread of COVID-19 in malaria-endemic countries. Recent modelling shows that cancellation of prevention campaigns and severe disruptions in treatment in sub-Saharan Africa could lead to a 23 per cent increase in cases and a 100 per cent increase in deaths by the end of 2020 (compared with a 2018 baseline). This means that the projected 769,000 malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa alone could exceed the number of global malaria deaths in 2000, when the malaria epidemic was at its peak.

Tuberculosis: Tuberculosis is the world’s top killer from a single infectious agent and the tenth leading cause of death overall. In 2018, an estimated 10 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (89 per cent were adults, 63 per cent were male, and 8.6 per cent were people living with HIV). The incidence of tuberculosis declined from 172 new and relapse cases per 100,000 population in 2000 to 141 per 100,000 in 2015 and 132 in 2018. The tuberculosis mortality rate among HIV-negative people fell by 42 per cent between 2000 and 2018 and 8 per cent between 2015 and 2018. Drug-resistant tuberculosis is a continuing threat: in 2018, there were 484,000 new cases with resistance to rifampicin, the most effective first-line drug. Large gaps in detection and treatment persist, and the current pace of progress is not fast enough to meet the SDG target of ending the epidemic by 2030. Modelling suggests that if the COVID-19 pandemic leads to a 25 per cent global reduction in expected tuberculosis detection for 3 months – a realistic possibility given the levels of disruption being observed in multiple countries – then a 13 per cent rise in tuberculosis deaths could be expected. This would bring the world back to the tuberculosis mortality levels of five years ago.

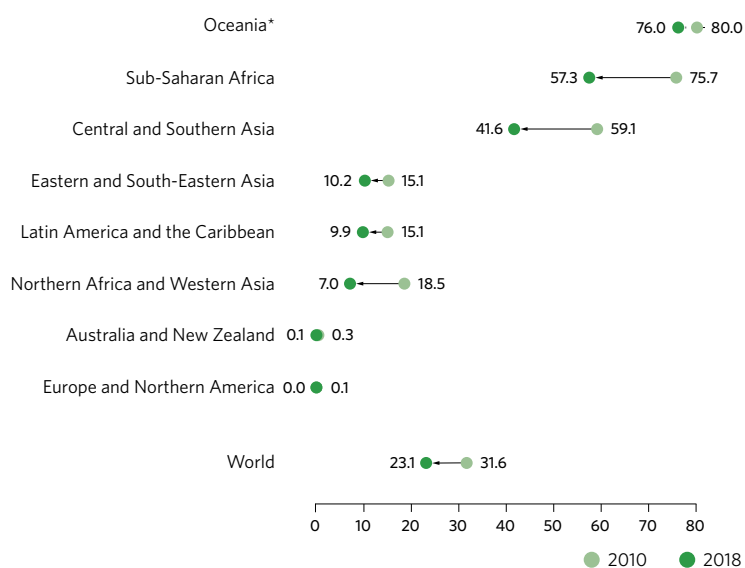
Neglected tropical diseases: Progress in neglected tropical disease control, elimination and eradication was notable over the past decade. The total number of people who required treatment for neglected tropical diseases declined from 2.19 billion in 2010 to 1.80 billion in 2015 and 1.76 billion in 2018. Progress has been partly driven by the fact that at least one neglected tropical disease was eliminated in each of 40 countries. Nonetheless, 52 per cent of the population of LDCs (530 million people) still require treatment and care; this represents a decline from 78 per cent in 2010. Temporary suspension of community-based activities and other disruptions due to COVID-19 may erode gains won by years of hard work and investment in neglected tropical diseases.

HIV incidence rates, 2010 and 2018 (new cases per 1,000 uninfected adults aged 15 to 49 years)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Proportion of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases out of the total population, 2010 and 2018 (percentage)



The world is falling short on its promise of universal health coverage by 2030

Universal health coverage means that all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It includes the full range of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. The number of people covered by essential health services in 2017 was estimated to be between 2.5 billion and 3.7 billion – about one third to one half of the global population. Only 12 to 27 per cent of the population in low-income countries were fully covered that year. If current trends continue, only 39 to 63 per cent of the global population will be covered by such services by 2030.

The COVID-19 crisis is disrupting essential health services around the world. Some services have been suspended to free up resources for COVID-19 patients and to reduce the risk of transmission. Demand for some critical services has been reduced as patients seek to lighten the burden on hospitals and other health facilities. If universal health coverage is to become a reality by 2030, growth in the provision and use of essential health services must greatly accelerate.

The pandemic has spotlighted the shortage of medical personnel worldwide as well as the heavy burden on women as nursing personnel

In most countries, women's share of employment in the health and social sector is much higher than their share of employment in the overall economy. Based on global 2013–2018 data, women comprise over 76 per cent of medical doctors and nursing personnel combined, but the distribution varies considerably between the two occupations. Women represent just over 40 per cent of medical doctors but almost 90 per cent of nursing personnel. Recent studies show that, although women comprise the majority of the health and social sector workforce, they are often underrepresented at the senior management level.

The pandemic is highlighting the existing shortage of health professionals in many countries, particularly in regions with the highest burden of disease. Over 40 per cent of all countries have fewer than 10 medical doctors per 10,000 people; over 55 per cent of countries have fewer than 40 nursing and midwifery personnel

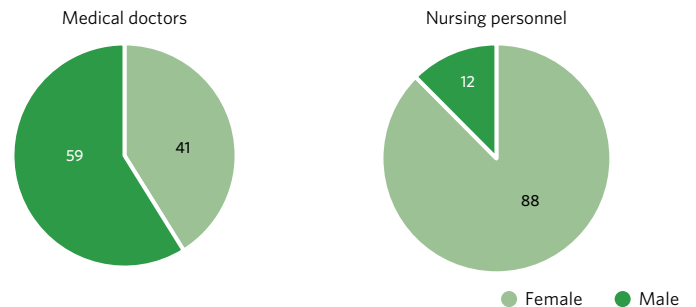
Rising out-of-pocket health expenses are reaching unsustainable levels, pushing millions into extreme poverty

Achieving universal health coverage remains a global challenge. The number of people incurring large out-of-pocket health expenses has been increasing and will likely continue to increase. Globally, the proportion of the population spending more than 10 per cent of their household budgets to pay for health services rose from 9.4 per cent to 12.7 per cent (927 million people) between 2000 and 2015. It is estimated that nearly 90 million people were pushed into extreme poverty by out-of-pocket health payments in 2015. An estimated 1 billion people will spend at least 10 per cent of their household budgets on health care in 2020, the majority in lower-middle-income countries. The income loss due to COVID-19 lockdown measures will likely exacerbate the situation.

Official development assistance (ODA) plays a vital role in funding health care and medical research and in supporting national responses to COVID-19. But while ODA for basic health from all donors increased by 41 per cent in real terms since 2010 – reaching \$10 billion in 2018 – progress has stalled in recent years.

per 10,000 people. An additional 18 million health workers are needed, primarily in low- and lower-middle-income countries, to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

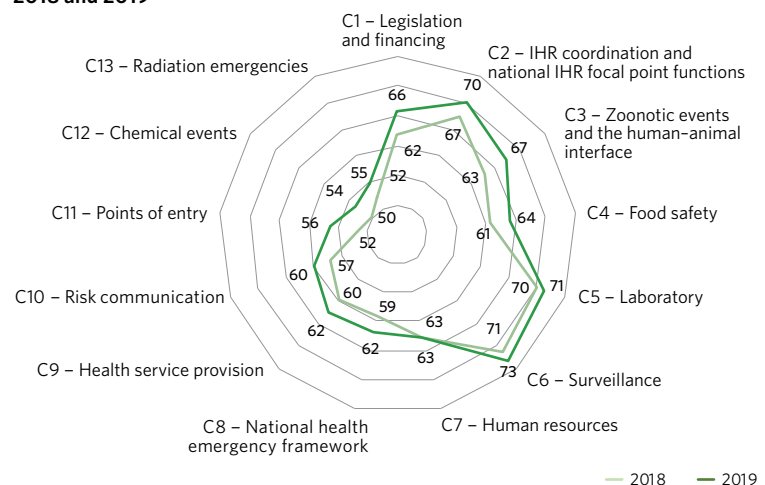
Distribution of medical doctors and nursing personnel by sex, 2013–2018 (percentage)



The need for greater public health preparedness has never been clearer

In 2019, 166 countries reported on their preparedness to detect, report on and respond to health emergencies such as the coronavirus pandemic through the implementation of the International Health Regulations. Analysis shows steady progress since 2018 in almost every core capacity except for human resources, which is unchanged at 63 per cent. Although more work remains in most areas, the 2019 reports provided clear evidence of the strong political commitment to fulfil obligations under the International Health Regulations. They also showed that continuing efforts are needed to improve and maintain early warning systems and to mitigate and manage public-health risks within the national context. The current experience with the COVID-19 crisis has further highlighted the need for strengthening emergency preparedness as well as for rapidly scaling up response capacities and increasing multisectoral and international collaboration.

Score by capacities according to International Health Regulations reports, 2018 and 2019



Note: 191 countries reported in 2018; 166 countries reported in 2019.



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

Despite progress, the world is not on track to meet 2030 education targets. Before the coronavirus crisis, projections showed that more than 200 million children would be out of school, and only 60 per cent of young people would be completing upper secondary education in 2030. Education systems worldwide have been hit hard and abruptly by the pandemic. School closures to stop the spread of COVID-19 have affected the vast majority of the world's student population. Disrupted education is adversely affecting learning outcomes and social and behavioural development of children and youth.



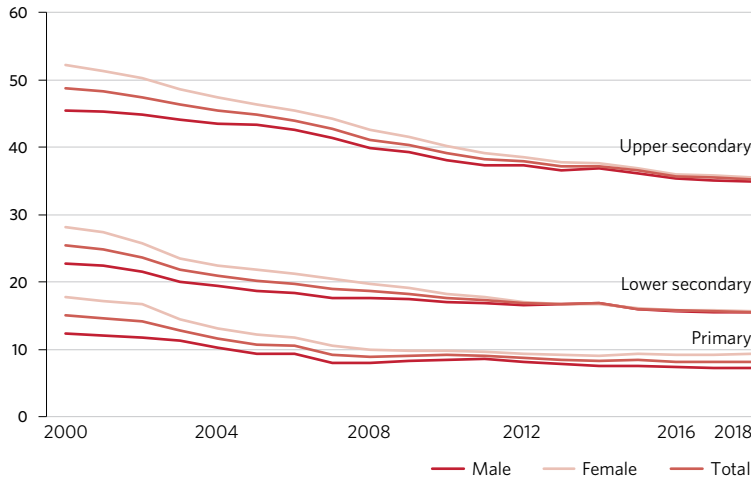
Children and youth in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities are particularly at risk of educational exclusion. The pandemic is deepening the education crisis and widening existing educational inequalities.

School closures worldwide may reverse years of progress in access to education

Before the coronavirus crisis, the proportion of children and youth out of primary and secondary school had declined from 26 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2010 and 17 per cent in 2018. Despite some progress, 258 million children and youth were still out of school in 2018, of which three quarters lived in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Girls face more barriers than boys at the primary level. Globally, around 5.5 million more girls than boys of primary school age were out of school in 2018. The disadvantage girls face is more prominent in sub-Saharan Africa, where there were 128 girls for every 100 boys out of primary school that year.

In 2020, as COVID-19 spreads across the globe, more than 190 countries have implemented nationwide school closures. About 90 per cent of all students (1.57 billion) were out of school. Although distance learning solutions are provided in four out of five countries with school closures, at least 500 million children and youth are currently excluded from these options. The sheer magnitude of school closures is likely to set back progress on access to education.

Proportion of children and youth out of primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school, 2000–2018 (percentage)

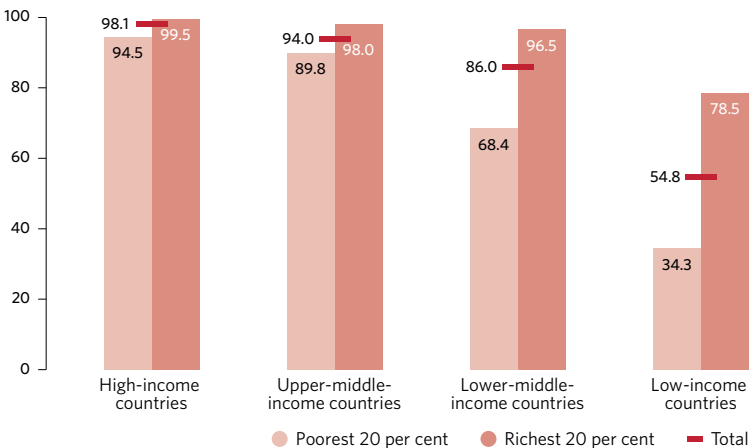


Without remedial action, the effects of COVID-19 will only add to the obstacles faced by poor children in completing their education

Goal 4 aims to keep children in school and ensure they complete their education. The global primary school completion rate was estimated at 85 per cent in 2019, up from 70 per cent in 2000. The lower and upper secondary school rates were 73 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively, with large disparities among population groups. For example, in low-income countries, the primary completion rate is 34 per cent for children from the poorest 20 per cent of households and 79 per cent for children from the richest 20 per cent of households. Similar disparities were found in completion rates for lower secondary and upper secondary schools.

Months of absence from school owing to COVID-19 are likely to impact education outcomes. In the longer term, prolonged absence from school is associated with lower retention and graduation rates and worse learning outcomes, in particular among segments of the population that are already disadvantaged, including members of poor households and students with disabilities.

Primary school completion rate, 2014–2018 (percentage)



Remote learning remains out of reach for most students in the poorest countries

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools are offering remote learning to students through virtual classrooms to mitigate the impact of school closures. While this is an option for some, it is out of reach for many. Lack of access to computers and the Internet at home, as well as a low level of computer-related skills, put many already marginalized students at a further disadvantage.

In 2019, around 87 per cent of households in Europe had Internet access at home, compared with 18 per cent of those in Africa. The digital divide is also reflected in computer ownership: 78 per cent of European households owned a computer in 2019 compared with 11 per cent in Africa.

Successful remote learning also depends on the computer skills of teachers and parents. In about half of the 86 countries for which data are available, less than half of the population possessed basic computer skills, such as copying an electronic file. For more complex skills, such as downloading and installing new software and writing a specialized computer program, the rates were even lower.

Proportion of the population with various levels of computer skills, 2014–2018 (percentage)



School closures create added risks for the health and safety of vulnerable children

For millions of children around the world, school is not only a place to learn. It is also a safe place, removed from violence, where they can receive free meals, and health and nutrition services such as vaccinations, deworming and iron supplementation. An estimated 379 million children missed out on school meals because of school closures during the pandemic. Without them, many children go hungry, which also threatens their immune systems and their capacity to cope with disease.

As studies from previous crises show, school closures and the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 may also increase rates

of violence against children, child labour, child marriage and early pregnancies. Children from poor families often work to compensate for lost family income. Moreover, the reduced productivity of working parents poses economic challenges to both the family and society.

The cost of fighting COVID-19 and the reduction in tax revenue caused by the economic downturn are likely to have a negative effect on education spending by governments and on global aid to education.

Lack of basic infrastructure in schools, such as handwashing facilities, will make recovery from COVID-19 more difficult

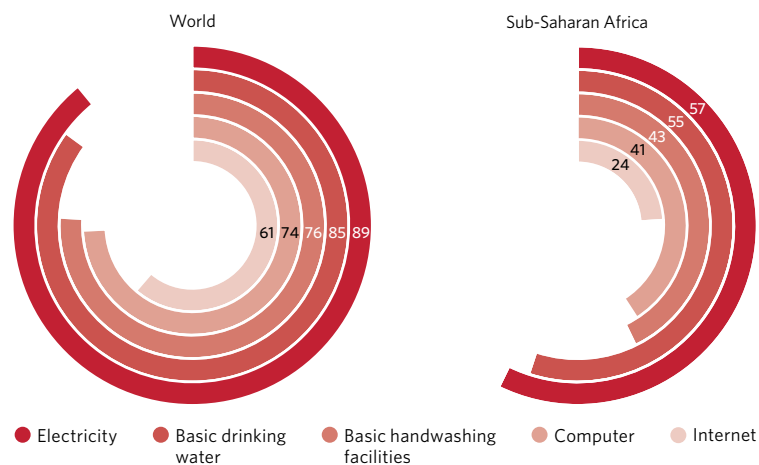
Lack of basic handwashing facilities in many schools around the world means that teachers and students do not enjoy a safe learning environment. In areas where schools are closed because of the pandemic, it also means that they will be unable to practice essential hygiene measures when they go back to school. According to the latest available data, only 65 per cent of primary schools worldwide have basic handwashing facilities. The proportion is slightly higher for lower secondary and upper secondary schools, at 71 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively. Of all regions, sub-Saharan Africa faces the biggest challenges, with basic handwashing facilities in only 38 per cent of primary schools and 43 per cent of upper secondary schools.

Many schools also lack other basic resources, such as electricity, clean drinking water, computers and Internet access. Globally, 89 per cent of upper secondary schools have access to electricity, 85 per cent to basic drinking water, 74 per cent to computers and 61 per cent to the Internet. Those in sub-Saharan Africa are the most disadvantaged: only 57 per cent of upper secondary schools have access to electricity, 55 per cent to drinking water, 41 per cent to computers and 24 per cent to the Internet.

One important step towards the goal of quality education for all is getting enough trained teachers into classrooms. According to

the latest available data, 85 per cent of primary school teachers and 86 per cent of secondary school teachers worldwide received the minimum required training. Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest percentage of trained teachers: 64 per cent at the primary level and 50 per cent at the secondary level.

Proportion of schools with access to basic school resources globally and in sub-Saharan Africa, upper secondary, 2016–2018 (latest) (percentage)





Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

International commitments to advance gender equality have brought about improvements in some areas: child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) have declined in recent years, and women's representation in the political arena is higher than ever before. But the promise of a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality, and where all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed, remains unfulfilled. In fact, that goal is probably even more distant than before, since women and girls are being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis is creating circumstances that have already contributed to a surge in reports of



violence against women and girls, and may increase child marriage and FGM. Moreover, women are likely to take on most additional care work owing to the closure of schools and day-care centres. They are also on the front lines in fighting the coronavirus, since women account for nearly 70 per cent of health and social workers globally.

COVID-19 is intensifying the risk of violence against women and girls

The coronavirus pandemic lockdowns have confined many women and girls to their homes, sometimes with abusive partners, putting them at greater risk of domestic violence. Even before the pandemic, physical and sexual violence against women were all too common. According to surveys conducted between 2005 and 2017 in 106 countries, 18 per cent of ever-partnered women and girls 15 to 49 years of age experienced such violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Already, data from several countries show an increase in reporting of domestic violence to helplines, women's refuges and shelters, and the police. When considering such data, it is important to keep in

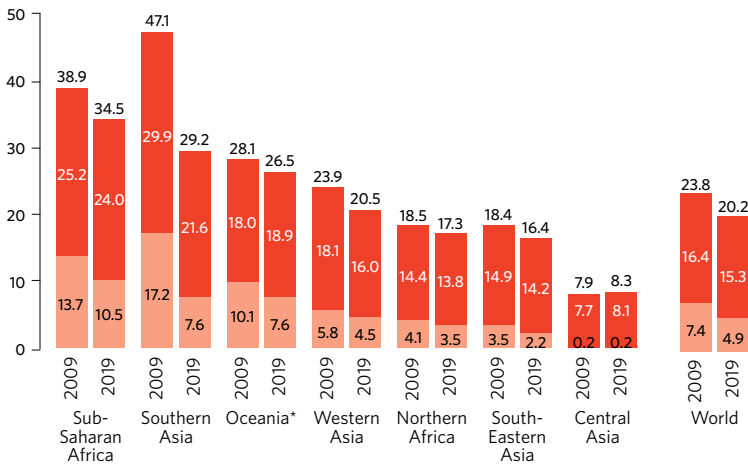
mind that less than 40 per cent of women who experience violence report this crime or seek help. Being confined at home with an abusive partner and, in some countries, lacking access to mobile phones or the Internet, makes it more difficult for women to safely reach out for help. According to data from 66 countries over the period 2016 to 2018, mobile phone ownership among women was 6.8 percentage points lower than for men, on average. Women are also more likely to have their phones monitored by abusive or controlling partners. In addition, because of service disruptions and closures, women experiencing violence have less access to support and may not seek or be able to receive medical care, if needed.

The global pandemic could set back progress to end child marriage and female genital mutilation

Marriage before the age of 18 is a human rights violation, mostly affecting girls, and can lead to a lifetime of disadvantage and deprivation. One in five women (20.2 per cent) between the ages of 20 and 24 was married before the age of 18 around 2019, compared with about one in four (23.8 per cent) 10 years earlier. Southern Asia has seen the greatest decline over this period. Today, the risk of child marriage is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than one in three women (34.5 per cent) between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18. School closures and widening poverty as a result of the pandemic could put more girls at risk.

FGM is another blatant violation of human rights. At least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to FGM in 31 countries where the practice is concentrated; half of these countries are in Western Africa. Although this harmful practice has been declining, there are still countries where FGM is almost universal – where at least 9 in 10 girls and women aged 15 to 49 years have been cut. Even in countries where the practice has become less common, progress would need to accelerate by a factor of 10 to meet the global target of elimination by 2030, owing to population growth. COVID-19 is interrupting programmes to end FGM, which could threaten progress.

Proportion of women 20 to 24 years of age who were married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, around 2009 and around 2019 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

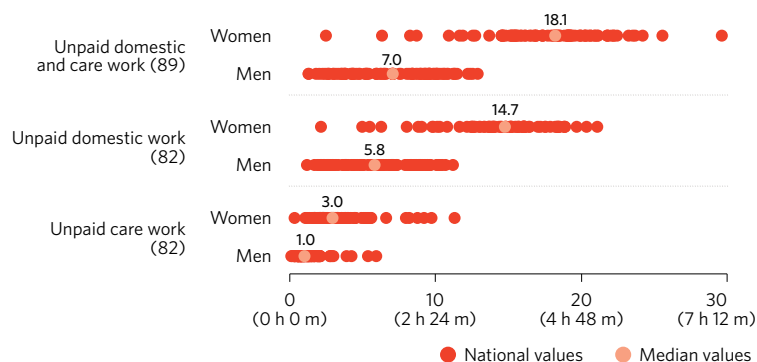
Note: The values for 2019 refer to the latest available data for 91 countries (covering 77 per cent of the world's population of women aged 20 to 24 years) over the period 2013–2019. The values for 2009 refer to the latest available data for these countries over the period 2003–2009. Confidence intervals are not shown here, and apparent differences over time may not be statistically significant.

Women spend more time than men in unpaid work, a burden that is likely to get heavier during the pandemic

In an average day, women spend about three times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care work as men, according to the latest data from 89 countries and areas between 2001 and 2018. Time spent in these activities tends to be even higher for women with young children at home. In roughly 75 per cent of countries with trend data, a small decrease has been observed in the time spent by women on unpaid domestic and care work compared with that spent by men.

The COVID-19 crisis is radically changing how people, particularly women, spend their time – often with a negative impact on their well-being. A poll conducted in 17 countries shows that both women and men are taking more responsibility for household chores and the care of children and family during the lockdown, but the majority of work continues to fall on women and girls, reflecting a pre-pandemic pattern.

Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, women and men, 2001–2018 (latest available) (percentage of time spent per day)



Note: The figure reflects available data for 89 countries and areas over the period 2001–2018. The number of countries and areas represented in each type of unpaid work is indicated in parentheses.

Women are increasingly assuming positions of power, but the world is still far from parity

As of 1 January 2020, women's representation in national parliaments (lower chamber and unicameral parliaments) had reached 24.9 per cent – up from 22.3 per cent in 2015. The share of female representation ranged from more than 30 per cent in Australia and New Zealand, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe to only 6.2 per cent in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). Data from 133 countries and areas show that women now have better access to decision-making positions at the local level, holding 36.3 per cent of elected seats in local deliberative bodies. Only 13 per cent and 15 per cent of countries, respectively, have reached gender balance (40 per cent or more) in legislative bodies in national parliaments and in local government. This progress is largely attributed to legislated gender quotas.

In 2019, women represented 39 per cent of the world's workers and half of the world's working-age population, but only 28 per cent of managerial positions (up from 25 per cent in 2000). Women face higher barriers than men in accessing employment. And when they do get a job, they are often excluded from decision-making positions. In 2019, women accounted for 41 per cent of managerial positions in South-Eastern Asia and 40 per cent in Northern America, but only 8 per cent in Northern Africa.

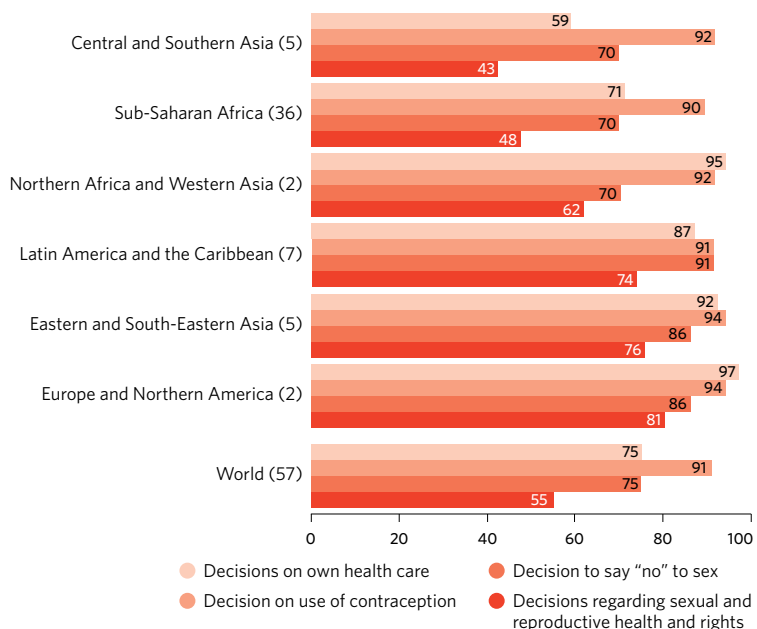
In the context of COVID-19, it is critical that women are fairly represented in leadership positions related to the pandemic. This will help to avoid deepening existing inequalities. It will also ensure that gender dimensions and investments in gender equality are included in response and recovery legislation, economic packages and budgets during and after the pandemic.

Women's lack of decision-making power extends even to their own reproductive health

Slightly more than half of all women (55 per cent) make their own decisions when it comes to sexual and reproductive health and rights, based on 2007–2018 data from 57 countries on women aged 15 to 49 who are either married or in union. The analysis also found that women have the most autonomy in deciding on the use of contraception (91 per cent). However, only three in four women are making their own decisions regarding health care or on whether or not to have sex.

Progress on other fronts is encouraging: in 2019, countries had established 73 per cent of the laws and regulations needed to guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, according to data from 75 countries. The findings were particularly heartening when it comes to HIV. On average, countries had set in place 87 per cent of laws and regulations needed for HIV counselling and testing services; 91 per cent of those needed for HIV treatment and care services; and 96 per cent for HIV confidentiality. Meanwhile, countries had instituted 79 per cent of relevant laws and regulations that stipulate full, free and informed consent of individuals before they receive contraceptive services, including sterilization.

Proportion of women aged 15 to 49 years who make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights, most recent data 2007–2018 (percentage)



Note: The number of countries with comparable survey data included in the regional aggregations is presented in parentheses.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The coronavirus crisis has brought to the fore the critical importance of water, sanitation and hygiene for protecting human health. Despite progress, billions of people across the globe still lack these basic services. Immediate action to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene services is required to prevent infection and contain the spread of COVID-19.

Water is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems and education. Nevertheless, countries face growing challenges linked to water scarcity, water pollution, degraded water-related ecosystems and



cooperation over transboundary water basins. In addition, funding gaps and weak government systems hold many countries back from making needed advancements. Unless current rates of progress increase substantially, Goal 6 targets will not be met by 2030.

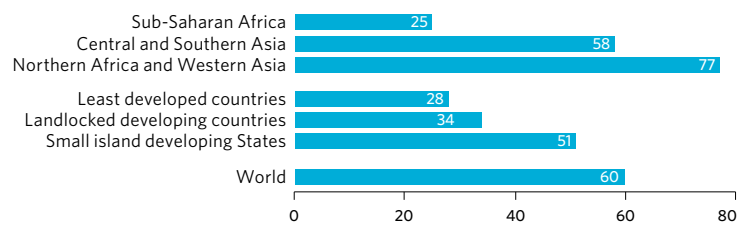
Closing the gaps in water, sanitation and hygiene are critical to containing the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases

The proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 61 per cent in 2000 to 71 per cent in 2017. Despite progress, 2.2 billion people around the world still lacked safely managed drinking water, including 785 million without basic drinking water. The population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 28 per cent in 2000 to 45 per cent in 2017. However, 4.2 billion people worldwide still lacked safely managed sanitation, including 2 billion who were without basic sanitation. Of these, 673 million people practised open defecation.

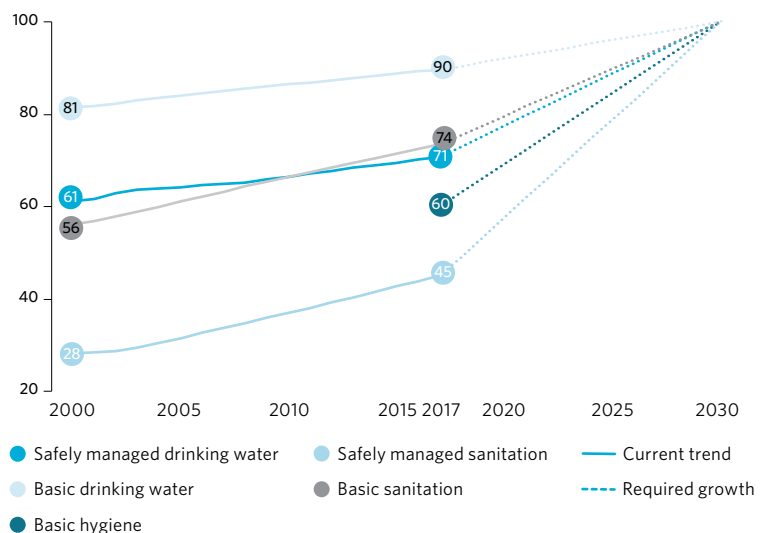
Handwashing is one of the cheapest, easiest and most effective ways to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. But in 2017, only 60 per cent of people had a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water at home. In LDCs, the share was 28 per cent. This means that, in 2017, an estimated 3 billion people worldwide lacked the ability to safely wash their hands at home. The regional disparities are stark: in sub-Saharan Africa, 75 per cent of the population (767 million people) lacked basic hand-washing facilities, followed by Central and Southern Asia at 42 per cent (807 million people), and Northern Africa and Western Asia at 23 per cent (116 million people).

Water, sanitation and hygiene services are not always available in places where people seek medical care: in 2016, one in four health-care facilities around the world lacked basic water supplies, one in five had no sanitation services, and two in five had no soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub, at points of care. Moreover, 47 per cent of schools worldwide lacked hand-washing facilities with soap and water. Closing these gaps will be critical to providing effective health care and to containing the spread of COVID-19.

Proportion of population that has a handwashing facility with soap and water at home, 2017 (percentage)



Proportion of population with access to basic and safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene services, 2000–2017, and required growth, 2017–2030, to meet targets (percentage)



Cooperation over transboundary waters needs to accelerate

More than 60 per cent of global freshwater flow comes from basins that cross national borders. Transboundary cooperation is a prerequisite for ecologically sound management of freshwater resources and for peaceful regional integration. According to data from 67 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters, the

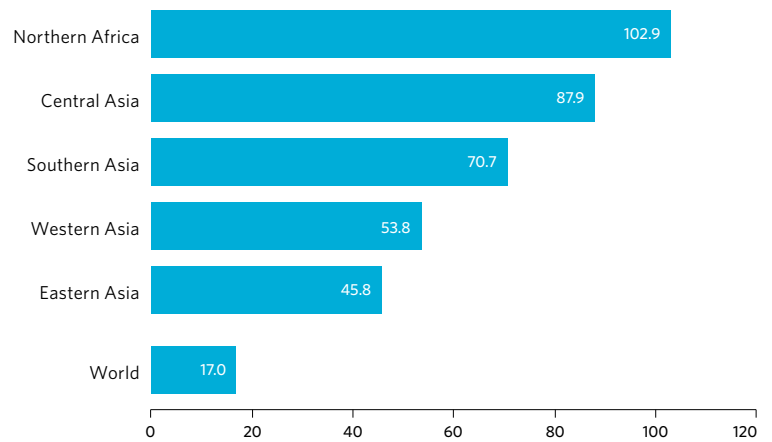
average share of national transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement was 59 per cent over the period 2017–2018. Only 17 countries reported that all their transboundary basins were covered by such arrangements. A major effort is needed to ensure that cooperation is operational in all transboundary basins.

Alarming levels of water stress in many regions threaten progress towards sustainable development

High water stress – the withdrawal of too much fresh water from natural sources compared with the fresh water available – can have devastating consequences for the environment and can constrain or reverse sustainable development. If unmitigated, water stress can lead to water scarcity, which could displace an estimated 700 million people by 2030. Globally, water stress remains at a safe 17 per cent; however, this overall value masks huge regional variations. Northern Africa and Central and Southern Asia register water stress levels above 70 per cent. Western Asia and Eastern Asia follow, with water stress levels between 45 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively.

Increasing water-use efficiency reduces the risk of water stress, reinforcing both economic and environmental resilience. Globally, water-use efficiency stands at \$18.20 per cubic metre in 2017. Estimates ranged from as little as \$0.20 per cubic metre in countries whose economies depend largely on agriculture, to \$1,197 in highly industrialized, service-based economies. Increasing agricultural water productivity is a key intervention for improving water-use efficiency.

Levels of water stress (freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources), subregions with high and very high water stress, 2017 (percentage)



Lack of fresh water in the poorest countries is increasing their vulnerability to climate change and water scarcity

Freshwater ecosystems provide natural sites for human settlements, bringing benefits such as transportation, natural purification, irrigation, flood protection and habitats for biodiversity. However, population growth, agricultural intensification, urbanization and industrial production degrade freshwater bodies worldwide, threatening ecosystems and the livelihoods of people everywhere. Globally, slightly more than 2.1 per cent of land is covered by freshwater bodies, but they are unevenly distributed. In developed countries, 3.5 per cent of land is covered by fresh water, compared with 1.4 per cent in developing countries. Least developed countries and small island developing States have a significantly lower coverage of freshwater bodies, at 1.2 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively, which increases their vulnerability to climate change and water scarcity.

Funding available for Goal 6 targets is insufficient to meet countries' needs

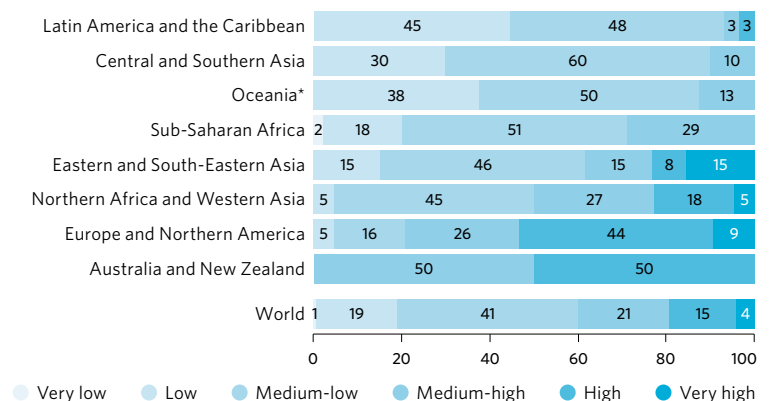
Commitments of ODA to the water sector dropped by 9 per cent in 2018 from the previous year, compared with a 38 per cent increase from 2016 to 2017. Commitments to water and sanitation continued to increase, but at 3 per cent from 2017 to 2018, compared with 19 per cent the previous year. Data from 20 developing countries and territories showed a funding gap of 61 per cent between identified needs to achieve national water, sanitation and hygiene targets and available funding. Increasing donor commitments to the water sector remains crucial in sustaining progress towards Goal 6.

On the brighter side, disbursements of ODA to the water sector increased by 6 per cent since 2017, reaching \$9.4 billion in 2018, despite the overall decrease of 1.9 per cent in ODA disbursements across all sectors. Disbursements to the water and sanitation sector increased by 9 per cent, including an increase of \$346 million to sub-Saharan Africa for large drinking water systems and water sector policy and administrative management.

A global framework for water resources management shows a poor record of implementation

Integrated water resources management is a global framework covering policies, institutions, management instruments and financing for the comprehensive and collaborative management of water resources. Of the 172 countries that reported in 2018, 60 per cent stated very low, low or medium-low levels of implementation. These countries are unlikely to meet the target of implementing integrated water resources management by 2030. In 2018, the average global score for integrated water resources management implementation was 49 out of 100. Implementation is particularly slow (very low to medium-low) in around 90 per cent of countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Southern Asia, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), and in 50 per cent to 70 per cent of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Northern Africa and Western Asia. An acceleration of progress is needed in these countries, particularly in the area of revenue raising for sustainable financing.

Proportion of countries by integrated water resources management implementation level, 2018 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



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

The world continues to advance towards sustainable energy targets, although efforts are not of the scale required to achieve Goal 7 by 2030. Some progress has been made in improving energy efficiency and expanding access to electricity. However, millions of people across the globe still lack this basic service, and progress on clean cooking fuels and technologies has stagnated, affecting the health of billions of women and children in particular.

The COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting the urgent need for affordable and reliable energy – for hospital and health facilities to treat patients, for communities to pump clean water and access vital information,



and for out-of-school children to learn remotely. At the same time, the crisis is certain to stymie efforts towards Goal 7. Disruptions in supply chains could wreak havoc on energy services, and reduced incomes could limit people’s ability to pay for them. In addition, plummeting oil prices are likely to discourage growth in renewable energy.

Deficits in electricity are increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa

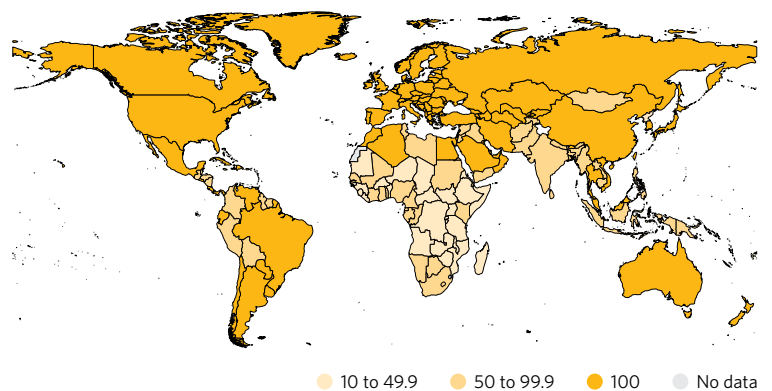
The proportion of the global population with access to electricity increased from 83 per cent in 2010 to 90 per cent in 2018, meaning that over 1 billion people acquired this essential service. Still, 789 million people – 85 per cent in rural areas – lacked electricity in 2018. Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia maintained strong progress, exceeding 98 per cent access by 2018. The deficit is increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, affecting about 548 million people, or 53 per cent of the population.

The COVID-19 pandemic spotlights the need for reliable and affordable electricity. A 2018 survey conducted in six African and Asian countries showed that one quarter of health facilities surveyed were not electrified, and another quarter experienced unscheduled outages, which affected their capacity for essential health services. Damage to equipment caused by poor connections and voltage fluctuations impacted 28 per cent of health centres. These deficits further weakened the response of health systems to the coronavirus crisis.

To meet the target of universal access to electricity by 2030, the annual rate of electrification has to rise from the current 0.82 percentage

points to 0.87 for 2019 to 2030. At the current rate of progress, a projected 620 million people would still lack access to electricity in 2030. This estimate does not, however, take into account the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

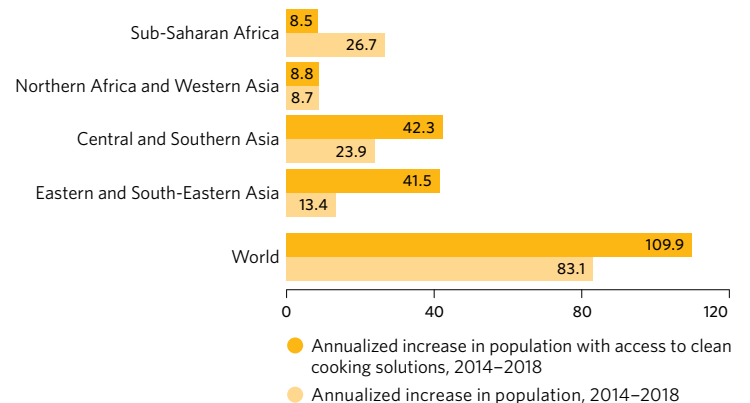
Proportion of population with access to electricity, 2018 (percentage)



Slow progress on clean cooking solutions puts the health of nearly 3 billion people at risk

Access to clean cooking fuels and technologies increased from 56 per cent of the global population in 2010 to 60 per cent in 2015 and 63 per cent in 2018. Approximately 2.8 billion people remain without access, a number that has stayed roughly the same over the past two decades. Promising improvements have been made in various Asian regions. However, in sub-Saharan Africa, population growth between 2014 and 2018 outstripped growth in access by an average of 18 million people each year. Slow progress towards clean cooking solutions is of grave global concern, affecting both human health and the environment. Under current and planned policies, 2.3 billion people would still be deprived of access to clean cooking fuels and technologies by 2030. This means that nearly one third of the world’s population, mostly women and children, will continue to be exposed to harmful household air pollution.

Annual incremental increases in population and population with access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, 2014–2018 (millions of people)



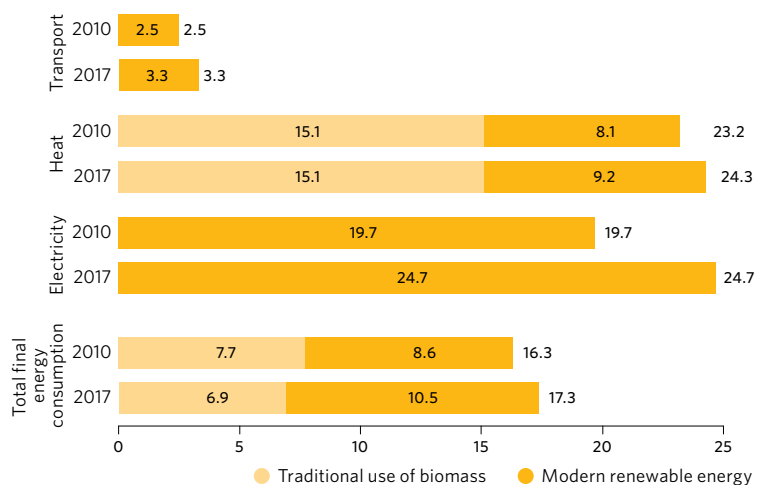
Stepped-up efforts in renewable energy are needed to achieve long-term climate goals

The share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption reached 17.3 per cent in 2017, up from 17.0 per cent in 2015 and 16.3 per cent in 2010. This growth was driven primarily by increased consumption of modern renewables, which rose from 8.6 per cent in 2010 to 10.5 per cent in 2017.

The largest increase in the use of renewables has come from the electricity sector, driven by the rapid expansion of solar and wind power. But the share of renewables in the heat and transportation end-use sectors, which accounted for 80 per cent of final energy use, lagged far behind its potential. An acceleration of modern renewables in all sectors will be needed to achieve the target of substantially increasing the share of renewable energy.

Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest share of renewable energy in total energy consumption in 2017, although 85 per cent of it was due to traditional uses of biomass. Latin America and the Caribbean had the largest share of modern renewables among all regions owing to heavy reliance on hydropower and the extensive use of modern bioenergy across all sectors.

Proportion of renewable energy in total final energy consumption and by end use, 2010 and 2017 (percentage)

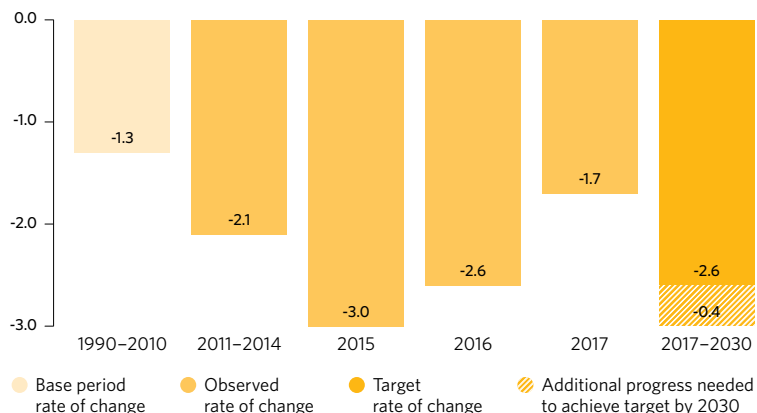


Improvements in energy efficiency – key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions – are falling short of the SDG target

Improving energy efficiency is crucial to reaching the global climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, global primary energy intensity (defined as total energy supply per unit of GDP) was 5.0 megajoules per dollar – a 1.7 per cent annual improvement from 2016, but the lowest annual improvement since 2010. Nevertheless, progress of 2.2 per cent annually between 2010 and 2017 was more sustained than historical trends.

The 2030 SDG target calls for a doubling of the historical rate of 1.3 per cent improvement in energy intensity between 1990 and 2010. Preliminary estimates for 2018 and 2019 are 1.3 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively. This suggests that the improvement rate would reach approximately 2.1 per cent between 2010 and 2019, thus falling below the annual 2.6 per cent target rate. Meeting the SDG target will require an improvement rate of at least 3 per cent per year from now to 2030 – a challenging proposition.

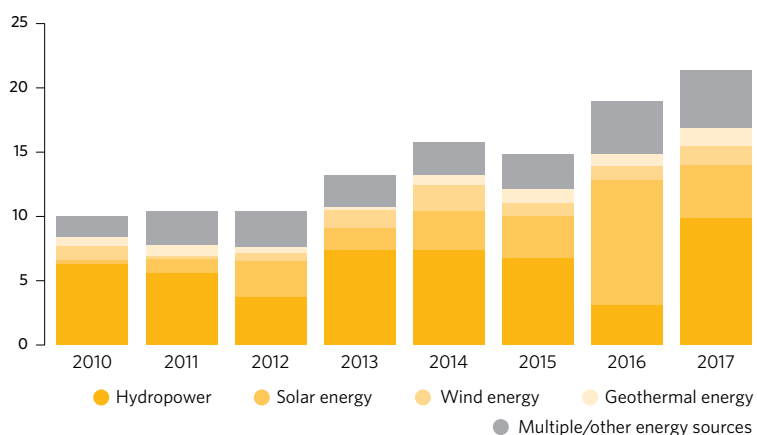
Improvement rate of primary energy intensity, 1990–2017, and 2017–2030 target rate (percentage)

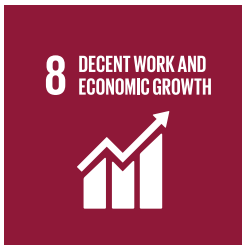


The rise in international financing for renewable energy is encouraging, but only a fraction of it is reaching the poorest countries

International public financial flows to developing countries in support of clean and renewable energy reached \$21.4 billion in 2017. This is 13 per cent more than in 2016 and double the level of 2010. Investment in hydropower projects represented 46 per cent of 2017 flows, followed by investments in solar (19 per cent), wind (7 per cent) and geothermal energy (6 per cent). While the progress is encouraging, only 12 per cent of these financial flows reached the least developed countries, which are the farthest behind in reaching Goal 7 targets. Focused attention is needed to ensure that financing reaches countries most in need.

International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean and renewable energy by type of technology, 2010–2017 (billions of dollars at 2017 prices and exchange rates)





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

After the global economic downturn in 2009, the world as a whole witnessed rising labour productivity and improved unemployment rates, despite large disparities across regions. Ten years later, in 2019, the global economy again slowed, with the lowest growth since 2008–2009. The coronavirus in 2020 has caused abrupt and profound changes, slowing the economy even further. It is having an adverse impact on the world’s labour markets, particularly on workers in informal employment, the self-employed, daily wage earners and workers in sectors at the highest risk of disruption. In fact, we can expect the biggest increase in global unemployment since World War II. At the same time, the crisis poses a serious threat to the



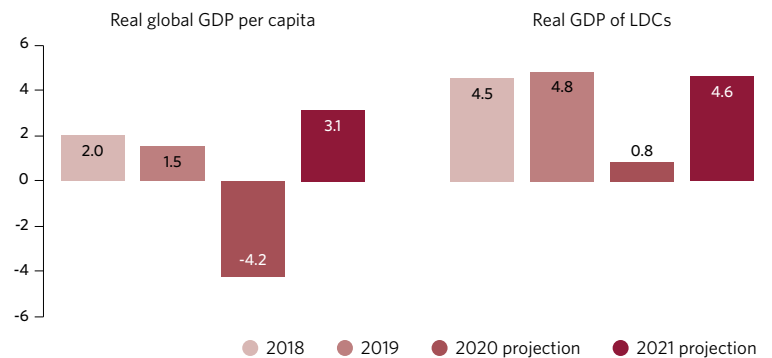
occupational safety and health of workers, and may increase the risk of child labour. Urgent policy measures are needed to support businesses, boost labour demand and preserve existing jobs – especially for the most vulnerable – to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.

Even before the pandemic, economic growth in LDCs, while rapid, failed to approach the 7 per cent target

Globally, real GDP per capita growth rate was 2.0 per cent in 2018 – the same level as the average annual growth rate between 2010 and 2018. Sustained per capita growth during this period was driven mainly by strong progress in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and in Central and Southern Asia. In 2019, the growth rate dropped to 1.5 per cent and, in 2020, the coronavirus pandemic is pushing the world into the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Real GDP per capita is expected to decline by 4.2 per cent in 2020 before increasing again in 2021 at a rate of 3.1 per cent.

Real GDP growth rate for LDCs reached 4.5 per cent in 2018 and 4.8 per cent in 2019. Due to the pandemic, that rate is expected to weaken to 0.8 per cent in 2020 and is projected to increase again at a rate of 4.6 per cent in 2021. This means that LDCs are falling short of the SDG target of at least 7 per cent real GDP growth per year.

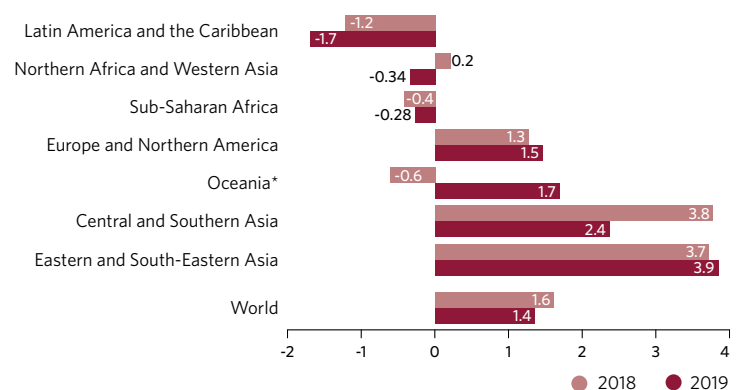
Annual growth rate of global real GDP per capita and annual growth rate of real GDP of LDCs, 2018–2021 (percentage)



The steady rise in global labour productivity observed since 2000 may falter in the face of the coronavirus crisis

The global average output per worker – a measure of labour productivity – has steadily increased since 2000, with growth interrupted only briefly during the economic downturn of 2009. The growth rate in labour productivity reached 1.6 per cent in 2018 and 1.4 per cent in 2019. However, these levels varied considerably across regions: in 2019, while labour productivity declined in Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Africa and Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, it rose everywhere else and was especially fast in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and in Central and Southern Asia. Labour productivity growth in 2020 may be adversely affected by the global reduction in working hours and the economic decline caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person, 2018 and 2019 (percentage)

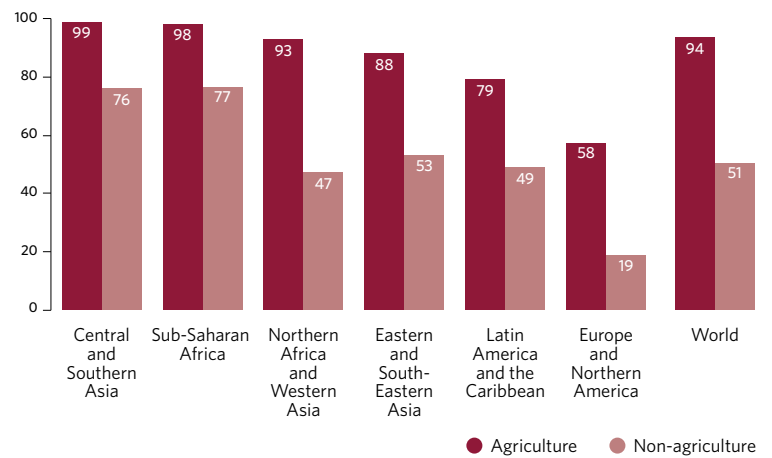


* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

The pandemic will have a particularly adverse impact on workers in the informal economy

In 2016, an alarming 61 per cent of workers globally were engaged in informal employment. Typically, informality has a negative impact on earnings, working time, occupational safety and health, and working conditions generally. In 2016, informal employment was much more widespread in the agricultural sector (94 per cent) than in the non-agricultural sector (51 per cent). Reliance on informal workers was also more prevalent in certain regions, including sub-Saharan Africa (89 per cent) and Central and Southern Asia (86 per cent). Due to unemployment and underemployment caused by the coronavirus crisis, some 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy – half of the global workforce – may be significantly affected. Globally, the income of informal workers is estimated to have dropped by 60 per cent in the first month of the crisis, and up to 81 per cent in some regions. Significant policy measures are urgently needed to protect both enterprises (particularly smaller businesses) and workers in the informal economy to achieve decent work for all by 2030.

Proportion of informal employment by sector, 2016 (percentage)

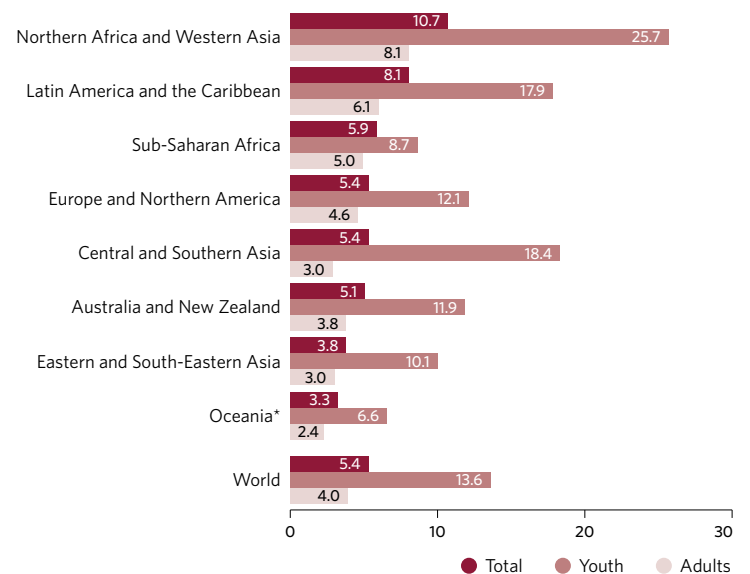


Global unemployment may reach an historic high in 2020, depending on the policies adopted

In 2019, the global unemployment rate stood at 5 per cent. Joblessness that year was particularly pervasive in Northern Africa and Western Asia, where 11 per cent of the labour force were unemployed, and the female unemployment rate was 9 percentage points higher than that of males. The unemployment rate was also considerably higher among young workers than among adults in all regions in 2019. Furthermore, in 40 out of the 59 countries with recent and comparable data, the unemployment rate was higher for persons with disabilities.

The pandemic is expected to have a devastating impact on global unemployment. According to estimates from the International Labour Organization, global working hours could drop by 14 per cent in the second quarter of 2020. This is equivalent to approximately 400 million full-time workers doing a 48-hour work week. The eventual increase in global unemployment over 2020 will depend on how effectively policy measures preserve existing jobs and boost labour demand once the recovery phase begins.

Unemployment rate, youth and adults, 2019 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Occupational safety and health becomes an even heavier challenge as workplaces reopen

In the age of COVID-19, occupational safety and health, a core aspect of decent work, is more important than ever. Workers have the right to feel safe in their workplaces, but many are exposed to undue risks. More than 10 work-related fatalities were reported per 100,000 workers in 9 out of 71 countries with available data since 2010. The same data showed that migrants are exposed to more risks and hazards at work than non-migrant workers. They also had a higher incidence of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries than non-migrant workers in three quarters of countries with recent comparable data. Implementing adequate health and safety measures and promoting supportive working environments are fundamental to protecting the safety of workers. This is especially relevant for health workers and those providing essential services during the pandemic. In addition, policies must ensure that all necessary precautions are taken to protect both workers and consumers as workplaces reopen.

Tourism is facing unprecedented challenges, with many small island developing States confronting new and harsh economic realities

During 2008–2018, the contribution of tourism to total GDP increased in 43 of the 70 countries that reported data. This highlights the growing importance of tourism in the global economy, and its potential for contributing to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Tourism is one of the economic sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of borders, travel bans and lockdown measures. Depending on when travel restrictions are lifted and national borders reopen, international travel arrivals in 2020 may decrease by 60 to 80 per cent compared with 2019. Countries with the highest number of reported COVID-19 cases account for about 55 per cent of global inbound and 68 per cent of global outbound tourism expenditure. The effects of the crisis on these economies will spill over to other countries, particularly those small island developing States and territories that are heavily dependent on international tourism from affected source markets.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Promoting inclusive and sustainable industries and continuing to invest in physical infrastructure, innovation and research are vital to long-term economic development. Investment in research and development (R&D) globally, and financing for economic infrastructure in developing countries has increased. What's more, the intensity of global CO₂ emissions has declined, and impressive progress has been made in mobile connectivity. However, the growth of manufacturing has decelerated and industrialization in LDCs is still too slow. The pandemic has dealt a severe blow to manufacturing and transport industries, causing disruptions in global value chains and

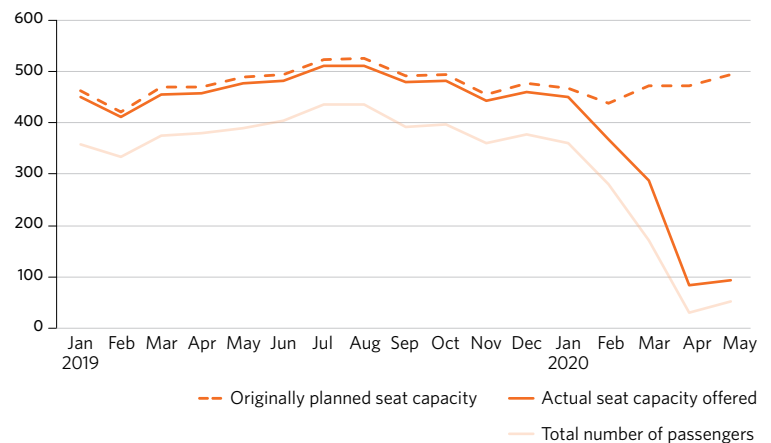


the supply of products as well as job losses and declining work hours in these sectors. In developing countries, manufacturing jobs are an essential source of income and are key to poverty reduction. The effects of COVID-19 have been so destabilizing that they threaten to halt or even reverse progress towards SDG 9 and other Goals.

The aviation industry, a driver of economic development, has likely suffered the steepest decline in its history

Air transport is a driver of economic development. In 2016, the direct and indirect global economic impact of air transport was estimated at \$2.7 trillion, which is equivalent to 3.6 per cent of the world's GDP. The COVID-19 outbreak has hit the aviation industry hard. By April 2020, strict travel restrictions by governments and concerns among travelers had led to the grounding of about 90 per cent of fleets, with travel demand dropping to near zero. In the first five months of 2020, passenger numbers plunged by 51.1 per cent compared with the same period in 2019. According to 5 June 2020 estimates from the International Civil Aviation Organization, the pandemic may cause an overall reduction of 2.29 billion to 3.06 billion passengers in 2020, resulting in losses of between \$302 billion and \$400 billion in gross operating revenues for airlines compared with business-as-usual operations. A safe and sustainable recovery of the aviation industry, which will also accelerate recovery in other sectors including tourism and trade, will require a coordinated global effort.

Air seat capacity and number of air passengers, January 2019 to May 2020 (millions)

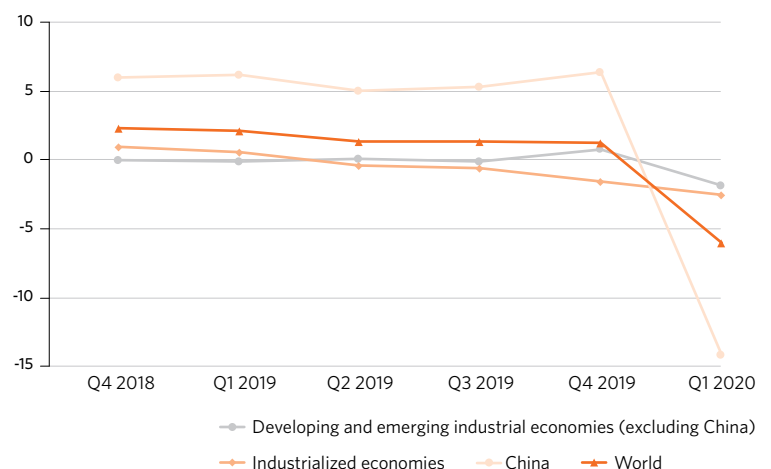


Already slow manufacturing growth has plummeted as a result of the pandemic

Global manufacturing growth decelerated in 2018 and continued to decline in 2019 due to tariffs and trade tensions between the world's most dominant economies. The slowdown affected all regions and country groups. In LDCs, the share of manufacturing in GDP increased from 10.0 per cent in 2010 to 12.4 per cent in 2019. However, the rate of growth was too slow to reach the target of doubling industry's share in GDP by 2030. Moreover, manufacturing value added per capita in LDCs reached only \$132 in 2019, lagging far behind Europe and Northern America, where it was \$4,856.

Global manufacturing output growth saw a sharp decline of 6.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 due to economic lockdown measures. China, the world's largest manufacturer, was walloped by COVID-19 in the first quarter of the year, registering an unprecedented drop of 14.1 per cent in manufacturing output. Since manufacturing is considered an engine of overall economic growth, the global slump in manufacturing production has had serious impacts on the global economy.

Quarterly growth rate of manufacturing output compared to the same quarter the previous year, fourth quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2020 (percentage)

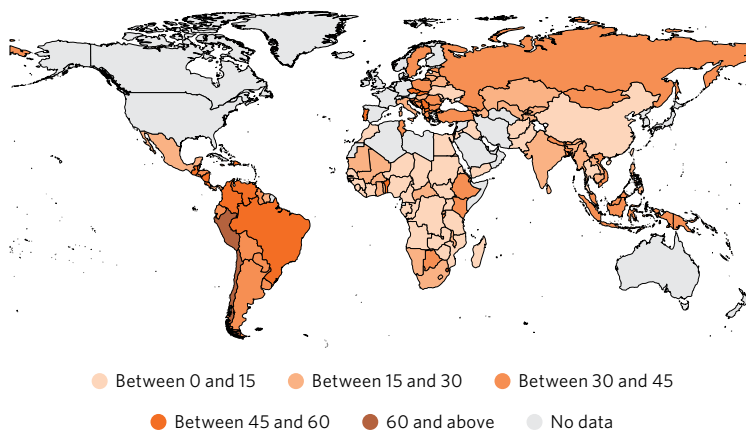


Better access to financial services for small-scale industries is urgently needed to resuscitate the global economy

Small-scale industrial enterprises are major sources of employment in developing and emerging economies. They are central to income-generation and the alleviation of poverty and will play a crucial role in the recovery of the global economy post-COVID-19. However, they are vulnerable due to their small size and limited resources. They do not have the capacity to deal with unexpected shocks, such as the current crisis, without help from governments.

Access to credit is particularly important to small-scale firms for increasing their competitiveness and enabling them to integrate into local and global value chains. In developing countries, 34.7 per cent of small-scale industries (manufacturing and services) benefit from loans or lines of credit. However, only 22.9 per cent of small-scale industries in sub-Saharan Africa received loans or lines of credit, compared with almost half in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to recent data. Providing fiscal stimulus and access to financial services in support of small- and medium-sized enterprises is essential to enabling them to survive and thrive during and after the crisis.

Proportion of small-scale manufacturing enterprises with a loan or line of credit, according to surveys conducted in 2006–2018 (percentage)

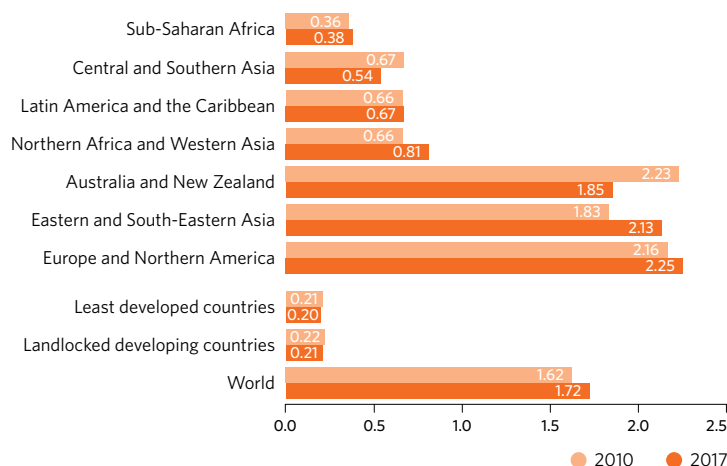


Despite progress in recent years, investments in research and development need to accelerate, in part to cope with COVID-19

Globally, R&D has continued to grow at a brisk pace, reaching \$2.2 trillion (purchasing power parity) in 2017, up from \$1.4 trillion in 2010 and \$741 billion in 2000. While Europe and Northern America leads in R&D, representing 47.6 per cent of global investments in 2017, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia is quickly catching up, increasing its share in R&D investment from 22.6 per cent in 2000 to 40.4 per cent in 2017. In relative terms, the proportion of global GDP invested in R&D increased from 1.62 per cent in 2010 to 1.72 per cent in 2017. Yet regional disparities are extreme, ranging from 2.25 per cent in Europe and Northern America to 0.38 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. For LDCs and landlocked developing countries, the proportion was around 0.20 per cent.

The importance of increased investment in R&D, perhaps at a faster rate, has been highlighted by COVID-19. More investment is needed in the pharmaceutical industry and in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, which can assist in developing drugs and vaccines and in managing related services and resources.

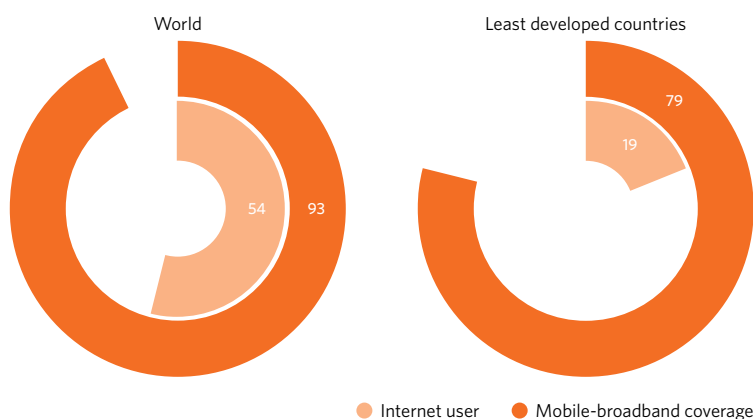
Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP, 2010 and 2017 (percentage)



Mobile connections are practically universal, but about half the global population is offline, mostly in LDCs

With COVID-19 forcing many to work, learn, seek health care and socialize from home, digital technologies and Internet connectivity have never been more a part of our daily lives. To access the Internet, mobile connections provide flexibility, particularly in places where fixed-broadband service is unavailable or unaffordable. Coverage of mobile access has expanded rapidly. In 2019, almost the entire world population (97 per cent) lived within reach of a mobile cellular signal, and 93 per cent lived within reach of a mobile-broadband signal. Least developed countries have seen significant growth in coverage of mobile-broadband signals, from 51 per cent in 2015 to 79 per cent in 2019. However, just 54 per cent of the global population actually use the Internet. Most of the offline population live in LDCs, where only 19 per cent use the Internet, compared with 87 per cent in developed countries. Key reasons for this large gap are the cost of using the Internet and the lack of necessary skills.

Proportion of population covered by a mobile-broadband signal and using the Internet, 2019 estimates (percentage)





Reduce inequality within and among countries

Despite some positive signs – such as lower income inequality in some countries and preferential trade status for lower-income countries – inequality in its various forms persists. The COVID-19 crisis is making inequality worse. It is hitting the most vulnerable people hardest, and those same groups are often experiencing increased discrimination. The wider effects of the pandemic will likely have a particularly damaging impact on the poorest countries. If a



global recession leads to reduced flows of development resources, that impact will be even more severe.

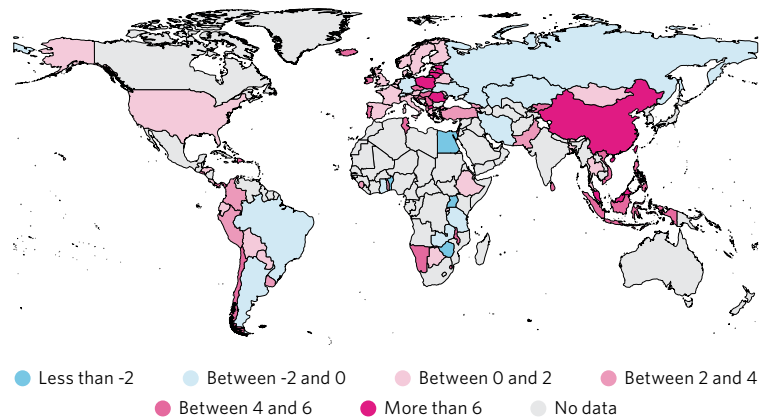
While real incomes of the poorest within countries are rising, the rich still prosper disproportionately

Leaving no one behind means that those with lower incomes are able to benefit and participate in a country's broader economic growth. Progress towards shared prosperity can be measured through the growth of household income (or consumption) of the poorest 40 per cent of a country's population. In 73 of the 90 countries with comparable data during the period 2012 to 2017, this group experienced real income growth. Furthermore, in more than half of those countries (49), the bottom 40 per cent experienced income growth higher than the overall national average, indicating lower levels of inequality. Still, in all countries with data, the bottom 40 per cent of the population received less than 25 per cent of the overall income, while the richest 10 per cent received at least 20 per cent of total income.

Progress in shared prosperity has been strongest in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, with the bottom 40 per cent of the population growing annually by 4.9 per cent, on average. Growth in sub-Saharan African countries has been more limited, although comparison is challenging due to limited data (available for 15 countries only).

The need for improved data collection is particularly pertinent now, so that countries are able to identify and take action if the poorest are disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Annualized per capita growth rate of income of the poorest 40 per cent of the population, 2012–2017 (percentage)



Women with disabilities face multiple – and intersecting – forms of discrimination

Almost two in ten people reported having personally experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds established by international human rights law, according to data from 31 countries over the period 2014 to 2019. Moreover, women are more likely to be victims of discrimination than men. Among those with disabilities, 3 in 10 personally experienced discrimination, with higher levels still among women with disabilities. The main grounds of discrimination mentioned by these women was not the disability itself, but religion, ethnicity and sex, pointing to the urgent need for measures to tackle multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The COVID-19 pandemic may further entrench existing patterns of discrimination and stigma, with reports emerging from many countries of discrimination against different groups.

Workers are receiving a smaller share of the output they helped produce

In 2017, the labour income of the world's workers represented an estimated 51 per cent of global GDP. The labour share of GDP takes into account the employment-related earnings of both employees and the self-employed, and provides an indication of whether higher national income will lead to increased material living standards for workers. The global labour income share has shown a downward trend since 2004, when it stood at 54 per cent, implying that workers are receiving a smaller proportion of the output they helped produce. The labour income share varies considerably from one region to the other. In 2017, the labour income of workers in Northern Africa and Western Asia accounted for a little over a third of the region's output (36 per cent). At the other end of the spectrum, the labour income share was close to 58 per cent in Europe and Northern America.

Income inequality is falling in some countries, but levels generally remain high

The Gini index is one of the most commonly used measures of income inequality. It ranges between 0 and 100, where 0 indicates that income is shared equally among all people and 100 indicates the extreme situation where one person accounts for all income. Among the 84 countries with available data, the Gini index for disposable income (or consumption expenditure) fell by at least one point in 38 countries between 2010 and 2017, meaning those countries saw a reduction in inequality. However, income inequality rose over the same period in 25 of the countries with available data.

Despite falling inequality in the vast majority of countries with a Gini index value in excess of 40 in 2010, levels of income inequality remain high in many countries. Out of 166 countries with data, 65 still had a Gini index value of over 40 in their most recent values, with 17 having an index value greater than 50. The lowest levels of income inequality were seen in Slovenia and the Czech Republic, with Gini index values below 25.

Gini index for disposable income (or consumption expenditure) by country, around 2010 and 2017



Note: If data for a reference year are not available, the nearest year within a two-year window are presented.

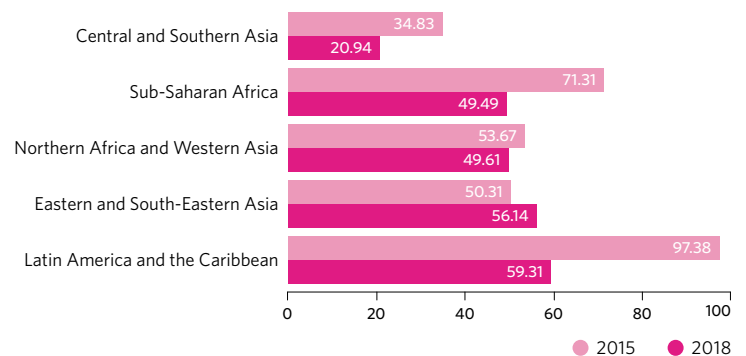
The global recession could constrict aid flows to developing countries

In 2018, total resource flows for development to developing countries from Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development donors, multilateral agencies and other key providers totalled \$271 billion in current prices, compared with \$420 billion the previous year and \$314 billion in 2015. ODA made up 61 per cent (\$166 billion) of the total. The region that received the largest share of total resource flows was Latin America and the Caribbean (\$59 billion), although this amount fell considerably from 2015 (\$97 billion). Flows to Eastern and South-Eastern Asia rose slightly in nominal terms, from \$50 billion in 2015 to \$56 billion in 2018.

Looking ahead, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development projects a decline in global GDP of up to 7.6 per cent in 2020 if there is a second wave of COVID-19 infections, which could put pressure on Development Assistance Committee members' ODA

budgets. Development resource flows fell in the aftermath of the 2008 economic and financial crisis, and the global recession could again put pressure on development resources.

Total resource flows for development to developing countries, by region of recipient, 2015 and 2018 (billions of current dollars)

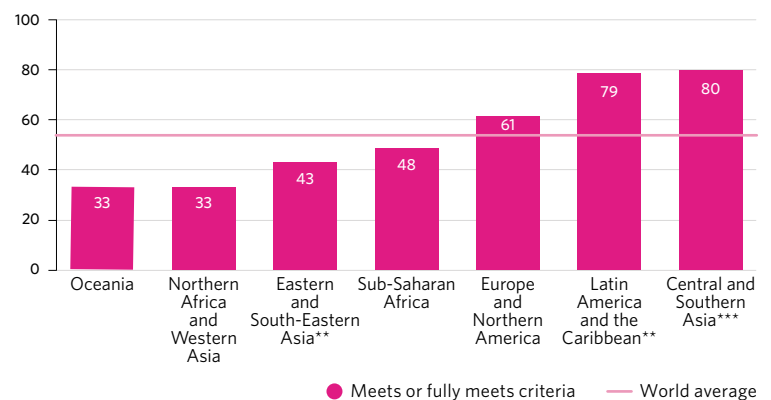


Most regions still have a long way to go in establishing adequate migration policies

Globally, 54 per cent of countries have a comprehensive set of policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, based on 111 countries with available data in September 2019. This means that they reported having policy measures in place for at least 80 per cent of the subcategories that make up the six policy domains of this indicator. Central and Southern Asia (80 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (79 per cent) have the highest share of countries with a comprehensive set of policies, compared with just 33 per cent of countries in both Oceania and in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

Across the six domains, policies to promote cooperation and partnerships and to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration are most widespread, with more than three quarters of Governments reporting that they met or fully met the criteria. Migrant rights and their socioeconomic well-being have the lowest proportions of Governments reporting a wide range of policy measures, at 55 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively.

Proportion of Governments reporting that they met the criteria for having a comprehensive set of policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, by region, 2019 (percentage)



Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

** Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries.

*** Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries and for less than 50 per cent of the population.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Over 90 per cent of COVID-19 cases are occurring in urban areas. The pandemic is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest, including the 1 billion residents of the world's densely populated informal settlements and slums. Even before the new coronavirus, rapid urbanization meant that 4 billion people in the world's cities faced worsening air pollution, inadequate infrastructure and services, and unplanned urban sprawl. Safe public transportation, reliable basic services and open public spaces are especially important now to ensure the health and livelihoods of urban dwellers. Successful examples of containing COVID-19 demonstrate the remarkable



resilience and adaptability of urban communities in adjusting to new norms. Cities will emerge from the pandemic, but whether they are prepared for the next crisis will depend on how much they can advance data-driven inclusive and sustainable urban development.

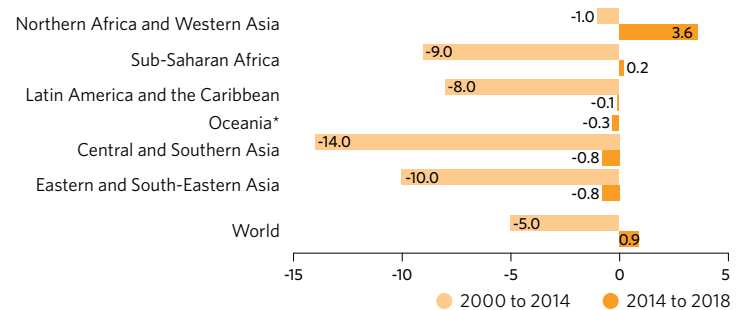
Global progress has been reversed in reducing the share of slum dwellers, whose vulnerability has been intensified by the pandemic

The impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbating the vulnerability of slum dwellers and those living in informal settlements. Many of these urban residents already suffer from inadequate housing with limited or no access to basic infrastructure and services, including water, sanitation and waste management. Overcrowding of public transportation and limited health-care facilities have had a catastrophic effect on these communities, turning them into epicentres within epicentres. Many urban dwellers in the developing world work in the informal sector and are at high risk of losing their livelihoods as cities lock down.

Concerted efforts by national governments, city authorities and other stakeholders led to a significant decline in the proportion of the urban population living in slums – from 28 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2014. Alarming, that trend has reversed as rapid urbanization outpaces the development of housing, infrastructure and services. The proportion of the urban population living in slums

rose to 24 per cent in 2018, or over 1 billion people, due to increases in Northern Africa and Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Changes in the proportion of urban population living in slums in developing countries, 2000 to 2014 and 2014 to 2018 (percentage)



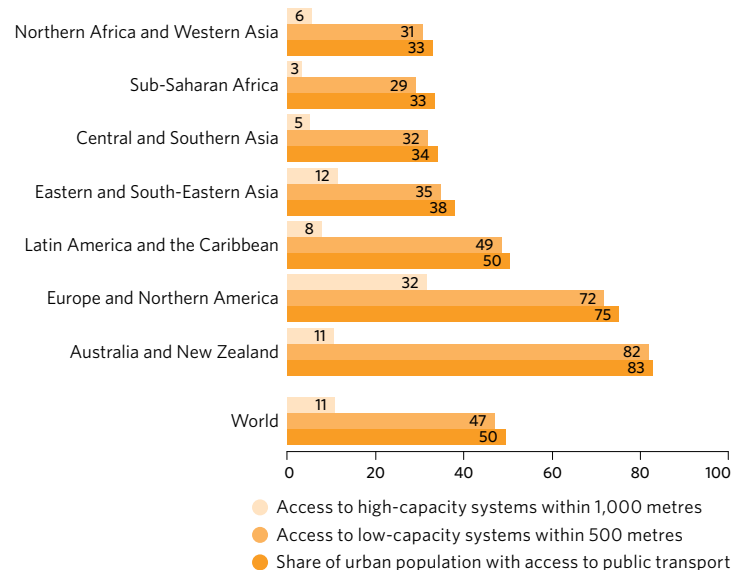
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

More public transport is needed in the world's cities

Reliable, accessible and affordable public transportation reduces pollution and traffic and promotes productivity and inclusion. Only half the world's urban population has convenient access to public transportation, according to 2019 data from 610 cities in 95 countries. Access is measured as the share of the population within 500 metres walking distance of low-capacity transport systems (buses and trams) and 1,000 metres distance to high-capacity systems (trains, subways and ferries). In addition, many cities have a high prevalence of informal transport systems, which are often deficient in terms of regularity and safety. A focus on short-term investments in road-based public transport infrastructure can translate into higher access to low-capacity public transport systems.

While the pandemic is ongoing, cities may need to introduce additional safety measures to mitigate the elevated risk of coronavirus transmission in crowded public transport. Global data illustrate the need to enhance access to public transport systems that are well integrated with walking and cycling paths through long-term mobility plans and targeted investments.

Proportion of urban population with convenient access to public transport, 2019 (percentage)

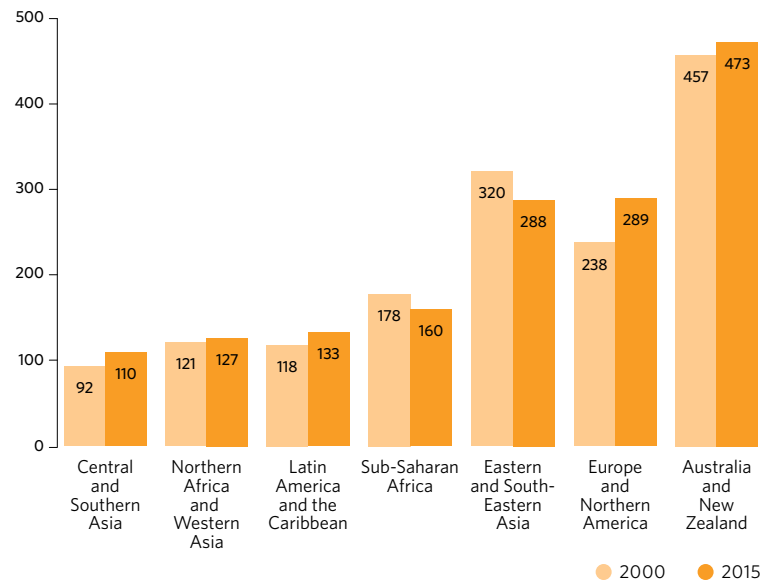


Beyond the devastation, the pandemic has prompted a positive rethinking of our cities

How we plan and develop our urban areas, infuse infrastructure and services, mitigate risks and respond to the needs of growing populations determines the long-term prosperity of cities and their people. Over the period 1990 to 2015, most urban areas recorded a general increase in the amount of built-up area per person – that is, the physical expansion of cities was faster than their rates of population growth – according to 2019 data from a representative global sample of 755 cities from 95 countries. In some cities, this rapid expansion reflects unplanned urban sprawl, making the delivery of services more costly and inefficient. On average, all regions except for sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia recorded a consistent increase in the built-up area per capita.

The pandemic has made it clear that urban planning is crucial for better public health and for mitigating people’s vulnerabilities to other hazards, such as natural disasters. As of May 2020, 154 countries out of 194 United Nations Member States have some form of national urban plan. Many national and city governments are now revisiting those plans to help prevent the next pandemic.

Built-up area per capita, 2000 and 2015 (square metres per person)

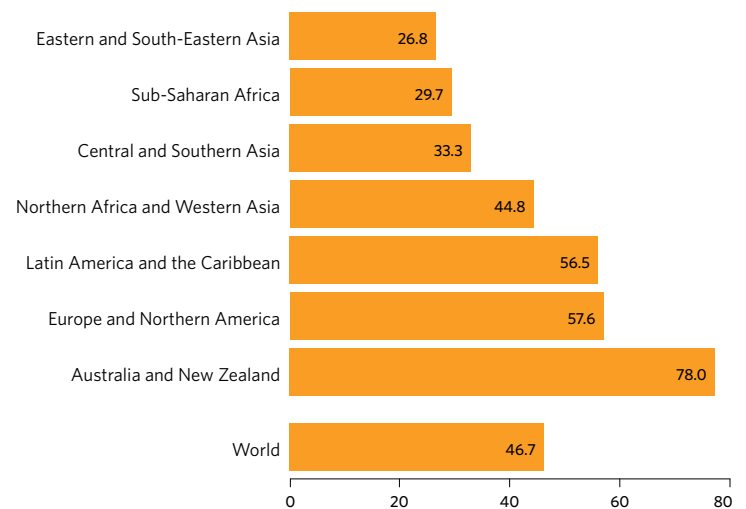


Open public spaces in the world’s cities promote health and productivity, but access is often limited

With cities on lockdown, open public spaces are even more in demand. As with public transport, equitable access to open and public spaces contributes to enhanced productivity and health. In particular, open spaces as places of commerce are critical to the informal economy, which many people depend on for their livelihoods.

The share of land allocated to streets and open spaces averaged only about 16 per cent globally, according to 2019 data from 610 cities in 95 countries. Of this combined share, streets accounted for about three times as much urban land as open public spaces, such as parks and riverfronts. In terms of access, the share of the population that can access open public spaces (within 400 metres walking distance along a street network) averaged 46.7 per cent. Wide disparities in access are observed across regions, ranging from 26.8 per cent in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia to 78 per cent in Australia and New Zealand. Within countries, smaller cities consistently recorded higher levels of access than large cities.

Proportion of population within 400 metres walking distance to open public spaces, 2019 (percentage)



Clearer skies over some of the world’s most polluted cities provide a glimpse of what could be

In 2016, 9 in 10 people living in urban areas worldwide were breathing air that did not meet the World Health Organization air quality guidelines value for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). That same year, more than half the world’s urban population was exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times above that value. Half the world’s urban population also experienced an increase in particulate matter and a worsening of air quality from 2010 to 2016.

Globally, ambient air pollution is estimated to have caused 4.2 million premature deaths in 2016. In some cities, the lockdowns in response to COVID-19 have significantly lowered certain air pollutants due to

the closing of factories and the reduction in the number of cars on the road. However, that improvement is likely to be only a temporary reprieve from a long-term unhealthy situation. Once the lockdowns ease, air pollution will climb back to pre-pandemic levels, as already demonstrated in some countries. It is entirely possible that these levels may worsen due to the relaxation or lifting of environmental laws and standards during the pandemic or during the post-pandemic phase to stimulate economic growth. Together, the United Nations and Governments have a major role to play in ensuring that does not happen.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Consumption and production drive the global economy, but also wreak havoc on planetary health through the unsustainable use of natural resources. The global material footprint is increasing faster than population growth and economic output. Improvements in resource efficiency in some countries are offset by increases in material intensity in others. Fossil fuel subsidies remain a serious concern. An unacceptably high proportion of food is lost along the supply chain. And waste, including additional medical waste generated during the pandemic, is mounting. The pandemic offers an opportunity to develop recovery plans that will reverse current

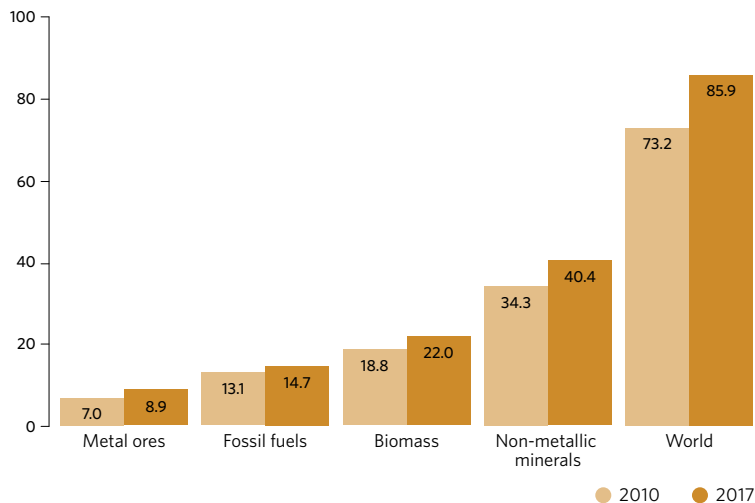


trends and shift our consumption and production patterns to a more sustainable course. A successful transition will mean improvements in resource efficiency, consideration of the entire life cycle of economic activities, and active engagement in multilateral environmental agreements.

The world continues on a path of using natural resources unsustainably

The world's reliance on natural resources has continued to accelerate over the last two decades. One measurement of this reliance is the material footprint: the amount of primary materials required to meet basic needs for food, clothing, water, shelter, infrastructure and other aspects of life. It is an indicator of the pressure put on the environment to support economic growth and to satisfy the material needs of people. The global material footprint grew from 73.2 billion metric tons in 2010 to 85.9 billion metric tons in 2017, a 17.4 per cent increase. The footprint expanded for all types of materials, but especially for non-metallic minerals (which accounted for almost half of the global footprint), pointing to growth in the areas of infrastructure and construction. In 2015, the material footprint per capita in high-income countries was over 10 times larger than in low-income countries. Urgent action is needed to decrease our reliance on raw materials and increase recycling and "circular economy" approaches to reduce environmental pressure and impact.

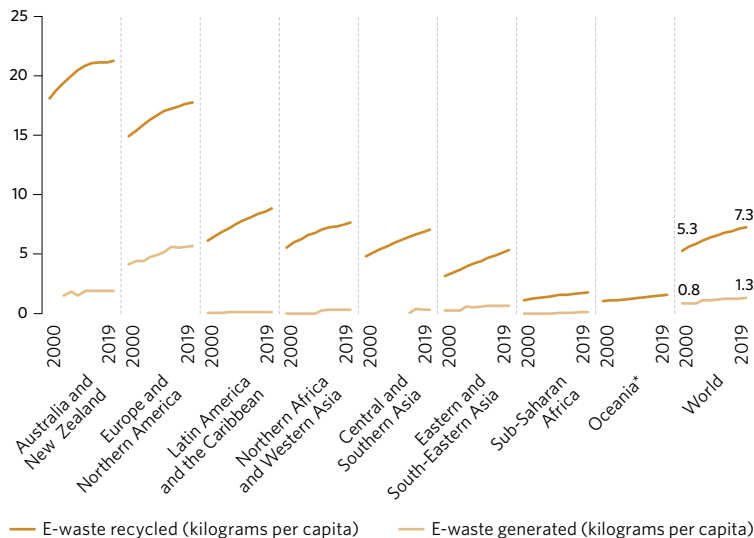
Material footprint by type of material, 2010 and 2017 (billions of metric tons)



Growth in the generation of electronic waste far outpaces its rate of recycling

The disposal of electronic and electrical equipment has become a fast-growing waste stream, driven by growing consumption, short product life cycles and limited repair. Such e-waste contains both valuable and hazardous materials. From 2010 to 2019, e-waste generated globally grew from 5.3 to 7.3 kilograms per capita annually. Meanwhile, the environmentally sound recycling of e-waste increased at a much slower pace – from 0.8 to 1.3 kilograms per capita annually. In high-income regions, an e-waste management infrastructure exists. However, collection rates are, on average, substantially below 50 per cent. E-waste materials are often categorized as reusable goods and can also be exported to middle- and low-income countries. But in many of those countries, infrastructure is not yet developed or is inadequate to manage locally generated and illegally imported e-waste. The waste is mostly handled by the informal sector through open burning or acid baths, both of which pollute the environment and result in the loss of valuable and scarce resources. Moreover, workers and their children, who live, work and play on those sites, often suffer severe health effects.

E-waste generated and recycled, 2010 and 2019 (kilograms per capita)

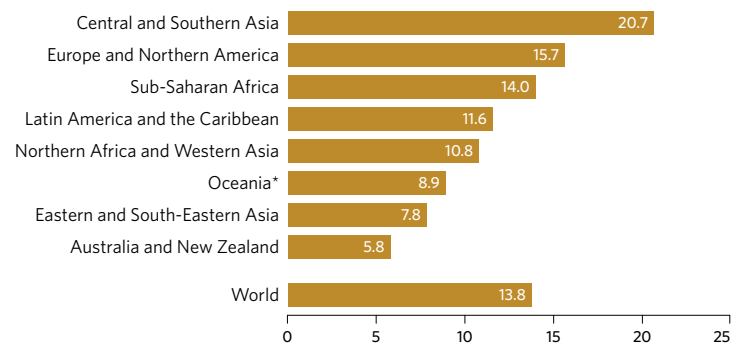


* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

A significant proportion of food is lost along the supply chain before it reaches the consumer

Reducing food loss and waste can contribute to environmental sustainability by lowering production costs and increasing the efficiency of food systems. At the same time, it can improve food security and nutrition. While it is not yet possible to estimate the percentage of food waste at the retail and consumption stage, the percentage of food lost after harvesting and during transport, storage and processing stands at 13.8 per cent globally, amounting to over \$400 billion a year. Regional estimates suggest that the highest level of food loss occurs in Central and Southern Asia (20.7 per cent), followed by Europe and Northern America (15.7 per cent). Australia and New Zealand register the lowest food losses (5.8 per cent). Countries need to implement targeted interventions at critical stages of the value chain to reduce unnecessary food loss and waste.

Proportion of food lost, 2016 (percentage)

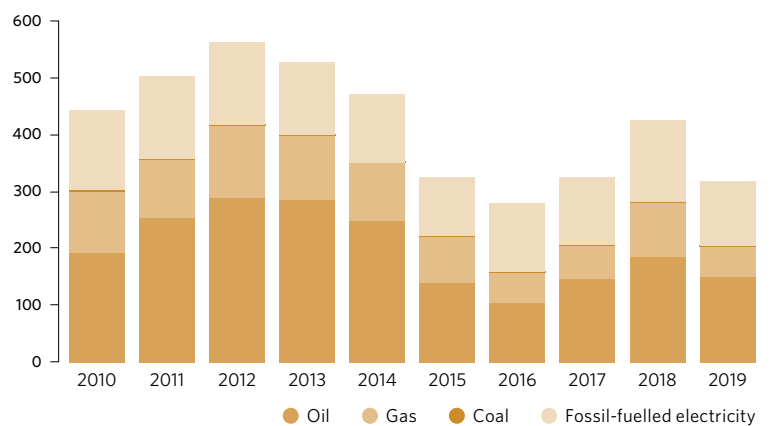


* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Despite the growing urgency of the climate crisis, Governments are still subsidizing the fossil fuel industry

Fossil fuel subsidies are creating irreparable harm by incentivizing activities that produce large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. The adverse consequences include air pollution and global warming. Fossil fuel subsidies may also be contributing to COVID-19 mortality rates, based on the link between air pollution, respiratory illnesses and the severity of COVID-19 infections. Fossil fuel subsidies globally rose to over \$400 billion in 2018, approaching 2014 levels, but fell by around 27 per cent in 2019, mostly due to a decline in fuel prices. Subsidies for oil, gas and fossil-fuelled electricity will likely further decrease in 2020 due to weak demand. However, the continued prevalence of these subsidies is counterproductive to the global goal of achieving an early peak in greenhouse gas emissions. Especially at a time when many Governments need resources to finance large-scale COVID-19 relief and recovery measures, fossil fuel subsidy reform could be a valuable instrument in the policy toolkit for re-allocating scarce public resources.

Fossil fuel subsidies, 2010 to 2019 (billions of constant 2019 dollars)



Countries now need to operationalize the principles of sustainable economic growth

Advances in sustainable consumption and production spur progress in all the SDGs. From 2017 to 2019, 79 countries and the European Union reported on at least one national policy instrument that contributed to the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Of the reported policy instruments, 70 per cent are seen as relevant to the SDGs with strong economic objectives (such as SDGs 8 and 9). Paradoxically, economic and financial instruments represent only 10 per cent of all policies reported in 2019, which reflects a limited operationalization of the vision outlined in the 10-Year Framework. Of all the policies that have quantified targets, 40 per cent are aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The commitment of countries to join forces to create a sustainable and resource-efficient economy is clear – including through multilateral cooperation to accelerate behavioural change across trade flows and value chains, the alignment of ambitious national policies, and the eventual generation of benefits for all. Science-based evidence on sustainable consumption and production and data on policy impacts are crucial to ensuring effective action.

Businesses must address gaps in the quality of sustainability reporting

Sustainability reporting has been used by an increasing number of companies to demonstrate their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several initiatives have been launched to develop an agreed-upon and harmonized set of indicators for consistent and comparable sustainability reporting. Since 2017, the overall quality of sustainability reports has improved around the world. The share of reporting in the environmental, social, and institutional and governance dimensions that is aligned with the minimum requirements outlined in SDG indicator 12.6.1 (the number of companies publishing sustainability reports) has almost doubled. However, in many of the companies' reports, certain critical aspects of environmental, social and governance domains were hardly mentioned. These include water use, waste and emissions, gender equality, training on anti-corruption issues, and expenditures on employee health and safety. Large disparities were also observed across countries and regions. In Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Northern America, firms demonstrated a higher level of reporting of baseline data that fulfilled the minimum requirements. Large gaps in reporting are evident in other regions, especially in Africa, Central Asia and Oceania.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The climate crisis continues unabated as the global community shies away from the full commitment required for its reversal. The year 2019 was the second warmest on record and the end of the warmest decade (2010–2019), bringing with it massive wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, floods and other climate disasters across continents. Global temperatures are on track to rise as much as 3.2°C by the end of the century. To meet the 1.5°C – or even the 2°C – maximum target called for in the Paris Agreement, greenhouse gas emissions must begin falling by 7.6 per cent each year starting in 2020. However, despite the drastic reduction in human activity due to the COVID-19 crisis, the resulting 6 per cent drop in emissions projected for 2020 falls short of this target, and emissions are expected to rise as restrictions are lifted. If the world does not act now, and forcefully, the catastrophic effects of climate change will be far greater than the current pandemic.



Governments and businesses should use the lessons learned and opportunities arising from this crisis to accelerate the transitions needed to achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, redefine our relationship with the environment, and make systemic shifts and transformational changes to become low-greenhouse-gas emission and climate-resilient economies and societies.

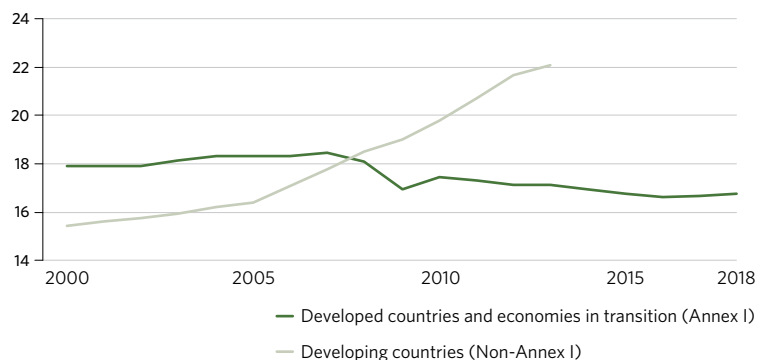
The world is way off track to meet the Paris Agreement target, signalling cataclysmic changes ahead

To mitigate the threat of runaway climate change, the Paris Agreement calls for limiting global warming to 1.5°C. This requires global emissions to peak as soon as possible, with a rapid fall of 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, and to continue to drop off steeply to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The world is way off track to meet this target at the current level of nationally determined contributions. Global greenhouse gas emissions of developed countries and economies in transition have declined by 6.5 per cent over the period 2000–2018. Meanwhile, the emissions of developing countries are up by 43.2 per cent from 2000 to 2013. The rise is largely attributable to increased industrialization and enhanced economic output measured in terms of GDP.

As of 31 March 2020, 189 parties had ratified the Paris Agreement, and 186 parties (185 countries plus the European Union) had communicated their first nationally determined contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. Three parties had communicated their second nationally determined contributions. In addition, 17 long-term strategies, 18 national adaptation plans, and 2 adaptation communications were submitted by parties. By 2020, parties are expected to update

existing nationally determined contributions or communicate new ones, with a view to substantially increasing the ambitiousness of proposed climate action. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has throttled economic activity and disrupted business as usual worldwide, offers an opportunity for countries to reassess priorities and to rebuild their economies to be greener and more resilient to climate change.

Total aggregate greenhouse gas emissions of developed and developing countries (gigatons of equivalent CO₂)



Financing for climate action has increased substantially, but it continues to be surpassed by investments in fossil fuels

Global climate-related financial flows saw a 17 per cent rise from 2013–2014 to 2015–2016, from \$584 billion to \$681 billion. The spurt in growth was largely due to high levels of new private investment in renewable energy, which represents the largest segment in total climate-related flows. However, investments in climate activities across sectors continued to be surpassed by those related to fossil fuels in the energy sector, which totalled \$781 billion in 2016. To

achieve a low-carbon, climate-resilient transition, a much greater scale of annual investment is required.

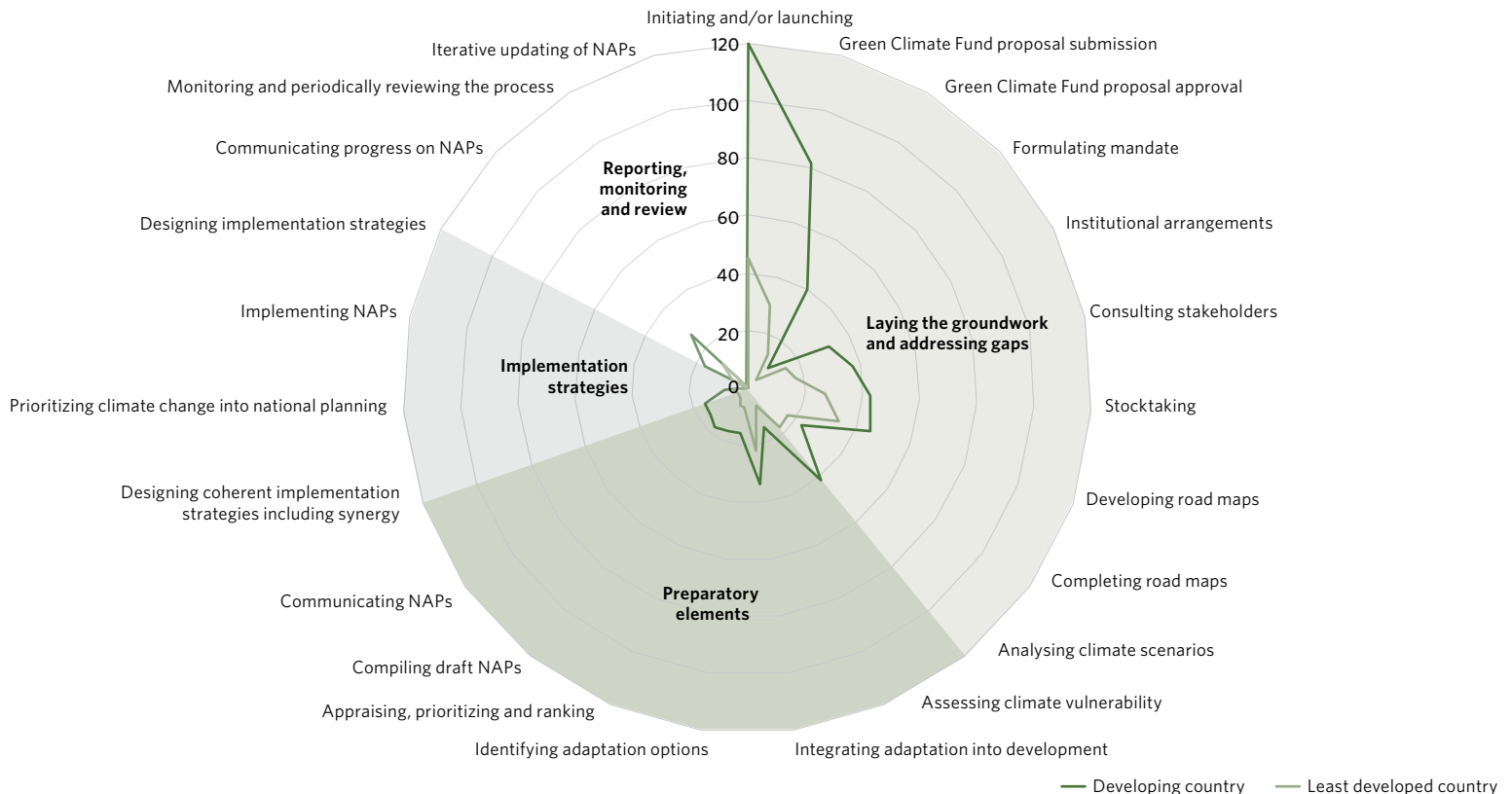
Climate-related financing provided by developed countries to developing countries increased by 14 per cent in 2016, reaching nearly \$38 billion. Climate change mitigation remained the predominant focus, at \$24.3 billion, followed by climate change adaptation (\$5.6 billion) and cross-cutting issues (\$5.1 billion).

Most developing countries have begun to formulate plans to strengthen resilience and adapt to climate change

National adaptation plans (NAPs) help countries achieve the global goal on adaptation under the Paris Agreement – namely, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. In 2019, at least 120 of the 153 developing countries had undertaken activities to formulate and implement NAPs, an increase of 29 countries over the previous year. Eighteen countries, including five LDCs and four small island developing States, have completed and submitted their NAPs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, while many others are at various stages in the process.

Funding for the formulation of NAPs is provided by the Green Climate Fund, through its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, and by the Least Developed Countries Fund. As of December 2019, 81 countries had submitted 83 proposals totalling \$203.8 million in requested support from the Green Climate Fund. Of these countries, 29 (35 per cent) were LDCs. A total of 40 proposals had been approved, 14 of them (35 per cent) from LDCs. Fewer proposals (12 as of 3 October) were submitted in 2019 than in previous years (22 in 2018 and 42 in 2017). Nine project proposals under the Least Developed Countries Fund were also approved to support the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

Measures undertaken by developing country parties in the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans, as of December 2019¹ (number of countries)

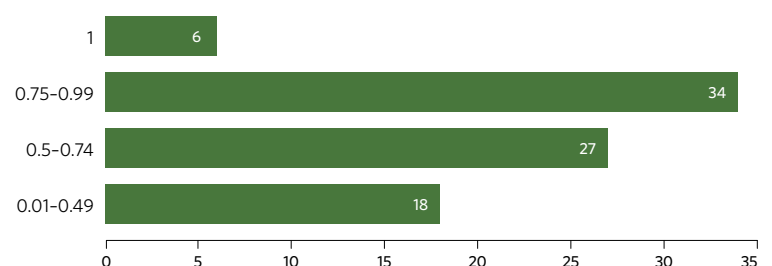


Despite its glaring relevance, progress in meeting the 2020 disaster risk reduction target has been slow

Climate change continues to exacerbate the frequency and severity of natural disasters, which affected more than 39 million people in 2018, resulting in deaths, disrupted livelihoods and economic losses. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 aims to reduce existing – and prevent new – disaster risk through clear targets and priorities for action, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Target (e) of the Sendai Framework, which focuses on the establishment of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, has a 2020 deadline. As of April 2020, 85 countries – slightly over 40 per cent – reported that they have national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned, to some extent, to the Sendai Framework, with six of the countries reporting fully aligned national strategies. In 2018, 55 countries reported that at least some of their local governments had local disaster risk reduction strategies in line to some extent with national strategies.

Countries are making vigorous efforts to address the risks of pandemics such as COVID-19 by integrating biohazard risk management into disaster risk reduction strategies at the national and local levels.

Alignment of national disaster risk reduction strategies of the 85 countries reporting to the Sendai Framework, 2015–2019, by degree of alignment, measured by scores between 0 and 1 (number of countries)



¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/NAPProgress2019.aspx>.



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

Oceans are our planet's life support and regulate the global climate system. They are the world's largest ecosystem, home to nearly a million known species, containing vast untapped potential for scientific discovery. Oceans and fisheries continue to support the global population's economic, social and environmental needs. Despite the critical importance of conserving oceans, decades of irresponsible exploitation have led to an alarming level of degradation. Current efforts to protect key marine environments and small-scale fisheries, and to invest in ocean science are not yet meeting the urgent need to safeguard this vast, but fragile, resource. The drastic

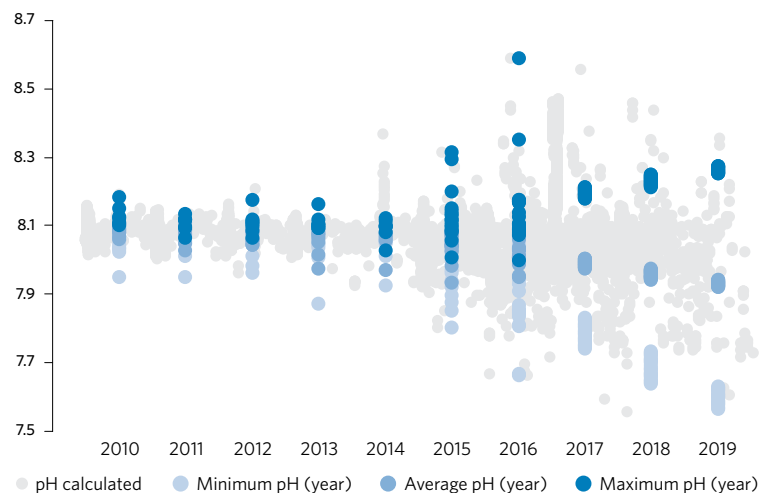


reduction in human activity brought about by the COVID-19 crisis, while rooted in tragedy, is a chance for oceans to recuperate. It is also an opportunity to chart a sustainable recovery path that will ensure livelihoods for decades to come in harmony with the natural environment.

Continuing ocean acidification threatens the marine environment and ecosystem services

The ocean is the planet's largest carbon sink, absorbing around 23 per cent of annual CO₂ emissions generated by human activity and helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change. However, the absorbed CO₂ has caused seawater to become more acidic, evidenced by a 26 per cent drop in pH levels since pre-industrial times. Ocean acidification endangers coral reefs and other key species that are the base of the marine food chain, and has negative effects on marine ecosystem services, including fisheries and aquaculture, coastal protection, transportation and tourism. The more acidic the ocean becomes, the lower its capacity to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and to moderate climate change. Information drawn from a new ocean acidification data portal shows an increase in pH variability (up to 10–30 per cent in the past five years) and in ocean acidity. By the end of this century, a 100–150 per cent rise in acidity is projected, affecting half of all marine life.

Calculated ocean surface pH values (minimum, average and maximum) for the period 1 January 2010 to 8 January 2020 from global measurements

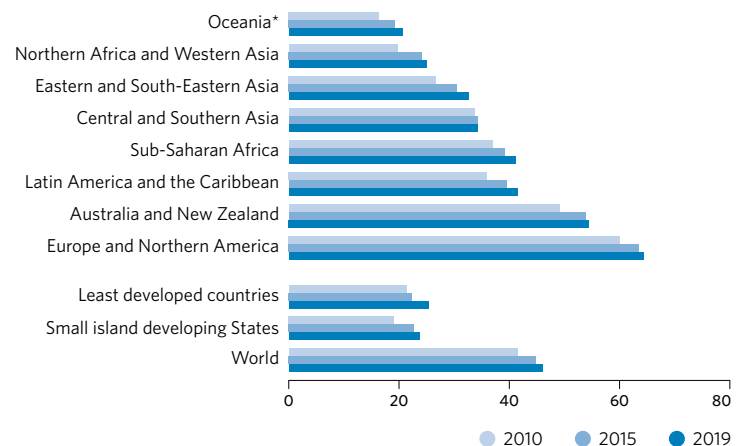


While protection of marine environments is expanding, it is critical that coverage extend to key biodiversity areas

Marine protected areas are vital to the sustainable development of oceans. They safeguard vulnerable species and ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and avert potential conflicts among users by delineating specific allowed activities. As of December 2019, over 17 per cent (or 24 million square kilometres) of waters under national jurisdiction (0 to 200 nautical miles from shore) were covered by protected areas. Coverage has increased significantly over the years, more than doubling since 2010.

Protected area networks must continue to expand to increase their coverage of key biodiversity areas (KBAs). The global mean percentage of each marine KBA covered by protected areas increased from 30.5 per cent in 2000 to 44.8 per cent in 2015 and 46.0 per cent in 2019. While this represents substantial progress, many KBAs have only partial or no protected area coverage. Least developed countries and small island developing States continue to lag behind at 25.4 per cent and 23.7 per cent, respectively.

Mean percentage of each marine key biodiversity area covered by protected areas, by geographic region, 2010, 2015 and 2019



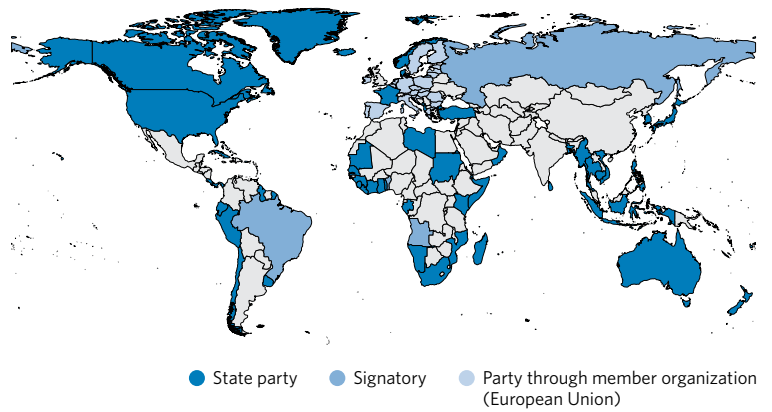
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Countries are curtailing illegal fishing through a binding international agreement, but even more concerted action is required

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing threatens the social, economic and environmental sustainability of global fisheries; it also hinders countries' ability to manage their fisheries effectively. Adopting and implementing relevant international instruments is key to curbing this destructive practice. As of 14 February 2020, the number of parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures – the first binding international agreement that specifically targets this type of fishing – increased to 66 (including the European Union), up from 58 the year before.

Based on their own reporting, countries have made good progress overall in carrying out the recommended measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In 2020, close to 75 per cent scored high in their degree of implementation of relevant international instruments, compared with 70 per cent in 2018. But while impressive progress has been made, further concerted global action is required to ensure that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing no longer represents a threat to the sustainability of fisheries worldwide.

Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures (as of February 2020)



Sustainable fisheries are vital to the livelihoods of communities in the most disadvantaged countries

Managing fish stocks sustainably is crucial to harnessing the benefits of fisheries and aquaculture to alleviate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and to generate economic growth. In recent years, the contribution of sustainable fisheries to global GDP has hovered at around 0.1 per cent per year, reflecting the interplay of two opposing trends: the consistently rising value added of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and the continued decline in the sustainability of global fish stocks. The contribution of sustainable marine-capture fisheries to GDP has been markedly higher in small island developing States in Oceania and in LDCs, where fishing activities are vital for local communities and indigenous peoples. The share of sustainable fisheries in the GDP of these groups of countries averaged 1.55 per cent and 1.11 per cent, respectively, for the period 2011–2017.

Small-scale fishers, large contributors to developing country economies, continue to be marginalized

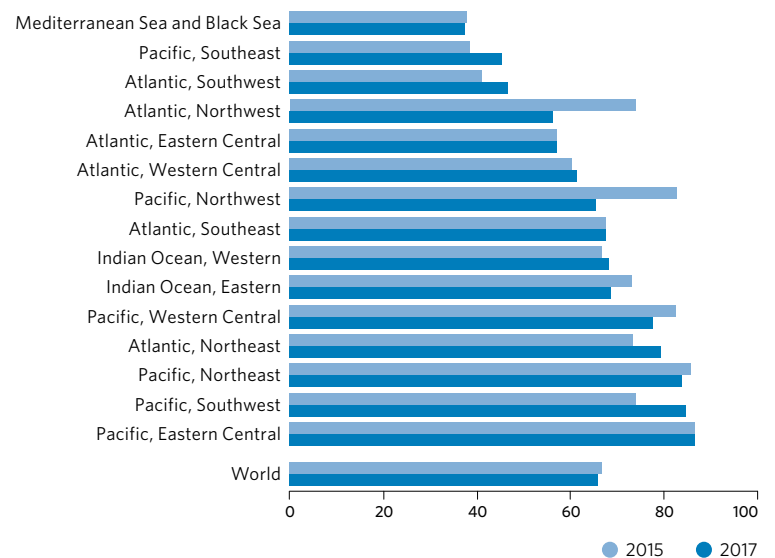
Small-scale fishers, who account for more than half of total fishery output in developing countries, continue to be among the most marginalized food producers. Moreover, evidence suggests that the COVID-19 crisis is already affecting their livelihoods adversely, as global demand for seafood dwindles and transportation restrictions prevent market access. At the same time, small-scale producers fulfil a critical role in providing food for local communities. It is more important than ever for countries to support small-scale fishers as key contributors to sustainable food systems. This can be achieved by adopting specific initiatives to implement the internationally agreed Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

A pause in the assault on global fish stocks may not be enough to avert the collapse of certain fisheries

The proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90.0 per cent in 1974 to 66.7 per cent in 2015 and 65.8 per cent in 2017. Despite this continued deterioration, the rate of decline has slowed in recent years. While encouraging, this will not be enough to prevent a medium-term collapse of certain global fisheries unless measures are more widely adopted to restore stocks to biologically sustainable levels.

In 2017, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea continued to have the lowest percentage of stocks fished at sustainable levels (37.5 per cent), followed by the Southeast Pacific (45.5 per cent) and Southwest Atlantic (46.7 per cent). In contrast, the Eastern Central Pacific, Southwest Pacific and Northeast Pacific had the highest proportion (above 83 per cent). Whereas the Southwest Pacific saw an improvement of 10.5 percentage points from 2015 levels, the Northwest Pacific and Northwest Atlantic experienced significant declines, of 17.3 and 17.7 percentage points, respectively.

Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, by marine region, 2015 and 2017 (percentage)





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

Conservation of terrestrial ecosystems is not trending towards sustainability. Forest areas continue to decline at an alarming rate, protected areas are not concentrated in sites known for their biological diversity, and species remain threatened with extinction. Moreover, surging wildlife crime, land use changes such as deforestation, and habitat encroachment are primary pathways of transmission for emerging infectious diseases, including COVID-19, threatening public health and the world economy.

Valiant efforts are being made to turn the tide. These include the expansion of sustainable forest management and gains in protected



area coverage for terrestrial, freshwater and mountain areas. Countries are making progress in implementing programmatic, legislative and accounting principles to protect biodiversity and ecosystems. In order to build back better following the global pandemic, these gains need to be solidified and reinforced. Equally important is the need to foster awareness of the interconnections between people and the natural world to ensure more balanced coexistence.

Wildlife crime endangers both animal species and human health, including through new deadly diseases

Seventy-five per cent of emerging infectious diseases, such as bird flu and Ebola, are zoonotic – they are transmitted from wildlife to people. Transmission occurs through human contact with affected wild animals and tends to happen when populations encroach on natural habitats and engage in activities that disrupt ecosystems, such as wildlife trafficking.

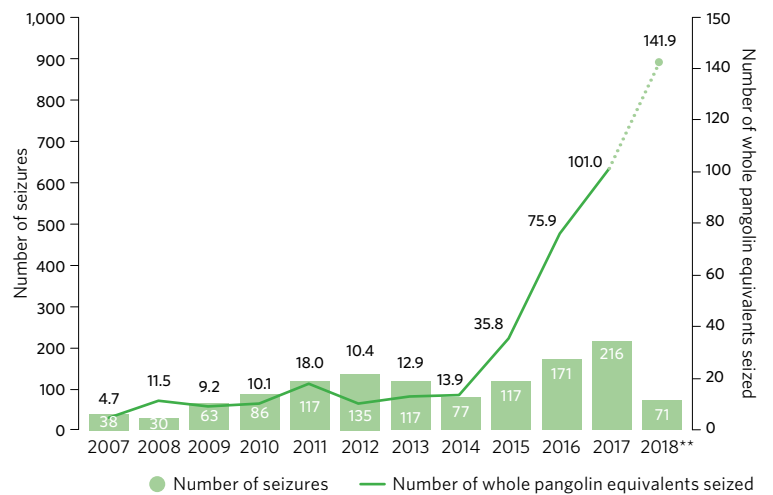
Pangolins, scaly anteaters found in Africa and Asia, are the most heavily trafficked wild mammal on Earth. They are among the leading suspects in intermediary animals that transferred the coronavirus from wild bats to people. Pangolin meat is sold in wet markets, which have been identified as possible sites where the coronavirus jumped to humans.

Since 2014, the number of whole pangolin equivalents seized for trafficking globally has increased tenfold. Seizures represent only a fraction of the animals killed. Between 2014 and 2018, the equivalent of 370,000 pangolins were seized globally, suggesting that millions were trafficked and killed, despite the ban on legal trade in all eight species in January 2017. Currently, seized pangolins are primarily from Western and Central Africa and are intended for Asian markets.

Wildlife crime, such as illicit poaching and trafficking of pangolins and other animals, not only threatens ecosystem health and biodiversity. It

also has the potential to disrupt human health, economic development and security around the world, as we are now witnessing first-hand.

Number of whole pangolin equivalents seized (thousands) and number of seizures annually, 2007–2018



Note: Number of whole pangolin equivalents refers to seizures of pangolin bodies, scales, meat, trophies as well as live pangolins.

** Data collection for 2018 is not yet complete.

Land degradation affects billions of people, drives species to extinction and intensifies climate change

Globally, one fifth of the Earth's land area (more than 2 billion hectares), an area nearly the size of India and the Russian Federation combined, is degraded. Land degradation is undermining the well-being of some 3.2 billion people, driving species to extinction and intensifying climate change. From 2000 to 2015, global trends in land cover indicated a net loss in natural and semi-natural classes of land. These losses resulted from direct and indirect factors, including deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices and urbanization, as well as land tenure and poverty. Land use change, a key driver of

land degradation, is also one of the primary transmission pathways for emerging infectious diseases.

By early 2020, 123 countries had committed to setting voluntary targets to achieve "land degradation neutrality", a global target adopted in the 2030 Agenda, and 60 countries had officially endorsed those targets. Reversing the current trend in land degradation would not only improve biodiversity and the well-being of billions of people, it would contribute positively to the climate crisis through restoration, conservation and other land management actions.

The world is falling short on 2020 targets to halt biodiversity loss, despite some progress

Five targets linked to biodiversity under Goal 15 will mature in 2020. Based on current progress, most of them are unlikely to be met by the deadline. At the High-level Political Forum in 2019, United Nations Member States committed to "...maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda, including by ensuring ambitious and continuous action on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline".

Forest loss remains high, despite growing efforts to manage them sustainably

The world's forest area continues to shrink, although at a slightly slower pace than in previous decades. From 2015 to 2020, the annual rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million hectares, down from 12 million hectares over 2010 to 2015. The proportion of forest area globally declined from 31.9 per cent in 2000 to 31.2 per cent in 2020. This represents a net loss of almost 100 million hectares, primarily due to agricultural expansion. These lost forests mean the disappearance of livelihoods in rural communities, increased carbon emissions, diminished biodiversity and the degradation of land. While forest loss remains high, 2020 data show that the proportion of forests in protected areas and under long-term management plans, as well as certified forest area, increased or remained stable at the global level and in most regions of the world. Today, out of 4.06 billion hectares of forest, more than half are subject to management plans. Additionally, the share of forests designated primarily for soil and water protection is increasing, growing especially over the last decade.

Less than half of key biodiversity areas are under protection, while progress has slowed considerably

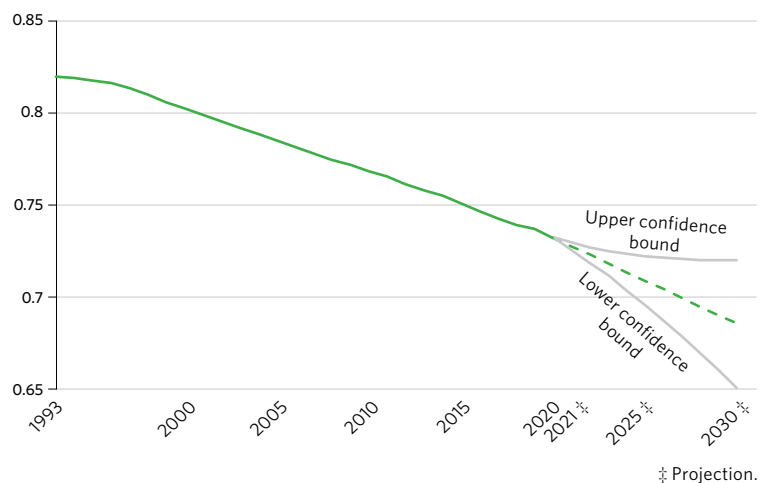
In 2020, on average, only 44 per cent of each terrestrial and 41 per cent of each freshwater KBA was within a protected area, an increase of around 12 to 13 percentage points since 2000. However, the majority of terrestrial and freshwater KBAs still have incomplete or no coverage by protected areas. For instance, according to 2018 data, KBAs have been identified in biodiversity hotspots for 21 per cent of all globally threatened species on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. However, of these sites, only 13 per cent are fully within protected areas, while another 31 per cent are only partially covered by protected areas. Moreover,

since 2010, the increase in coverage of KBAs by protected areas has slowed considerably compared with the previous decade.

Biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate

An irreversible effect of human activity on the environment is species extinction, which upsets the balance of nature and makes ecosystems more fragile and less resistant to disruptions. Globally, species extinction risk has worsened by about 10 per cent over the last three decades, with the Red List Index declining from 0.82 in 1990 to 0.75 in 2015, and to 0.73 in 2020 (a value of 1 indicates no species are at risk of extinction in the immediate future, while a value of 0 indicates all species are extinct). This translates into more than 31,000 species threatened with extinction due primarily to habitat loss from unsustainable agriculture, deforestation, unsustainable harvest and trade, and invasive alien species. If current trends continue, the Red List Index will drop to or below 0.70 by 2030. Averting this dangerous threshold will necessitate a dedicated emergency response to safeguard critically endangered species and reduce extinction risk driven by agriculture, industry, trade and other sectors. The post-2020 biodiversity framework aims to bend the curve on biodiversity loss, such that increases in extinction risk would be halted or reversed by 2030 and on track towards recovery by 2050.

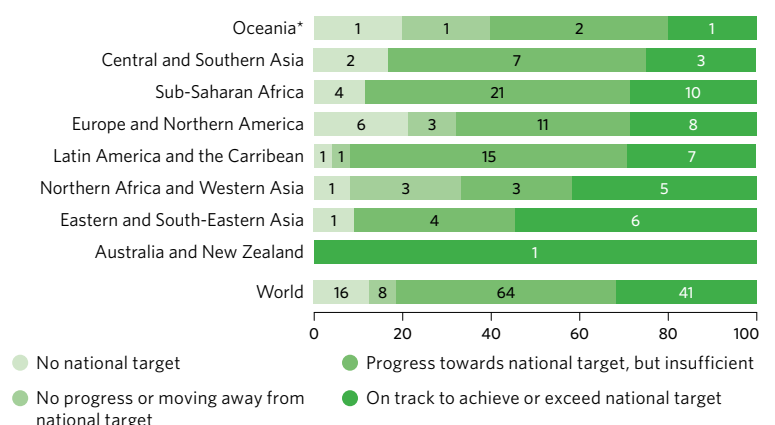
Red List Index of species survival, 1993–2020, and projections for 2021–2030 (based on a business-as-usual extrapolation of the global indicator)



Only one third of countries are on track to achieve their national biodiversity targets

Recognizing the importance of biodiversity in supporting economies, food production and human health, many national and local development plans and national accounting and reporting systems have integrated the values reflected in international treaties and strategic plans on biodiversity. As of January 2020, 129 parties (including the European Union) had submitted their sixth national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and 113 parties had assessed progress towards national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2. About 32 per cent of parties are on track to achieve or exceed their national targets; 50 per cent have made progress, but not enough to meet the targets by 2020; and 7 per cent reported that they are making no progress or moving away from their targets.

Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011–2020



*Excluding Australia and New Zealand.



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

Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain threats to sustainable development. In 2019, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 79.5 million, the highest level recorded since these statistics have been systematically collected. One in four children continues to be deprived of legal identity through lack of birth registration, often limiting their ability to exercise rights in other areas. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to amplify and exploit fragilities across the globe. In March 2020,



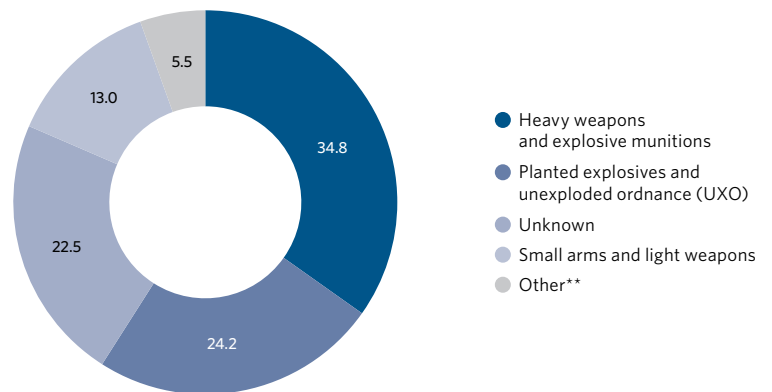
the Secretary-General launched an appeal for an immediate global ceasefire to aid in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and open channels for diplomacy, in particular for those most vulnerable to COVID-19. The measure is being met with support, but implementation challenges still exist.

Every day, 100 civilians – including women and children – are killed in armed conflicts despite protections under international law

Under international law, civilians are to be protected in armed conflicts. Yet, at least 106,806 civilian deaths were recorded by the United Nations in 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts between 2015 and 2017. This translates to an average of 11.9 civilian deaths per 100,000 population each year; one in eight of those deaths was a woman or child. Most of the civilian deaths were caused by heavy weapons and explosive munitions, followed by planted explosives and unexploded ordnance. More than 20,000 civilians were killed or injured in 10 conflicts in 2019, which is only a fraction of the actual total.

The threat of COVID-19 is greater in situations of armed conflict, where fighting has ravaged health systems, displaced people and forced them to live in overcrowded conditions with marginal or no access to basic services. The terrible suffering of civilians could be significantly reduced if parties to conflict respected international humanitarian and human rights laws. More must be done to prevent, reduce and resolve ongoing conflicts.

Conflict-related civilian deaths, by cause, 2015–2017 (percentage)



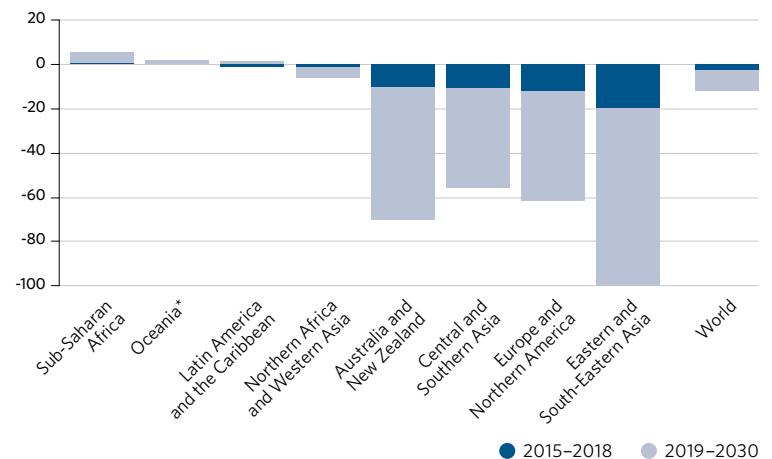
** "Other" refers to weapons that are incendiary; chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear; electromagnetic; or other, less lethal weapons. The category also includes denial of access to or destruction of objects indispensable to survival; accidents related to conflict; use of objects and other means; multiple weapons used and other causes.

Stronger efforts are needed to reduce the global homicide rate, which is dropping too slowly

The global rate of intentional homicides has declined slowly – from 6.8 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 5.9 in 2015 and 5.8 in 2018. This translates to approximately 440,000 homicide victims worldwide (81 per cent male and 19 per cent female) each year. Two thirds of homicide victims live in sub-Saharan Africa (36 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (33 per cent). To significantly reduce all forms of violence, stronger efforts are needed to cut the global homicide rate. If 2015–2018 trends continue, the rate per 100,000 population would stand at around 5.2 in 2030, an overall decrease of about 12 per cent.

Policies adopted by Governments subsequent to the COVID-19 pandemic have had different impacts on homicide prevalence in various countries. Trends suggest that lockdown measures have hardly affected violence in Latin American countries with high levels of homicides, but the intense lockdown measures in European countries with low levels of homicide seem to have drastically reduced violence.

Change in intentional homicide rates, 2015–2018, and projections for 2019–2030 (percentage)



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Children are regularly exposed to multiple forms of violence, many of which are unrecognized and unreported



Children are subject to various forms of violence – physical punishment and psychological aggression, trafficking and sexual violence.

Violent forms of discipline are widespread, despite their detrimental and often long-lasting impact. Nearly eight in ten children from 1 to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of

psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the previous month in 69 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries with available data from 2012 to 2019.

Trafficking of children is a global problem, mostly associated with sexual exploitation, but also forced labour. In 2016, children accounted for almost one third of detected trafficking victims worldwide (23 per cent were girls and 7 per cent were boys). Large areas of impunity for this crime still exist, even though most countries have comprehensive trafficking-in-persons legislation in place. However, the number of convictions has recently started to increase in response to improvements in detection.

Sexual violence, one of the most disturbing violations of children's rights, is widely underreported. A lack of comparable data also limits understanding of the full extent of the problem. In slightly more than one in four countries with comparable data, at least 5 per cent of women between 18 and 29 years of age reported experiencing sexual violence in childhood.

The impact of **COVID-19** on children's risk of exposure to violence and exploitation due to lockdowns and associated school closures, which have affected the majority of children globally, is still largely unknown. Some countries have seen a surge in reports of violence against children at home. In addition, use of the Internet for remote learning may increase children's exposure to cyberbullying, risky online behaviour and online predators.

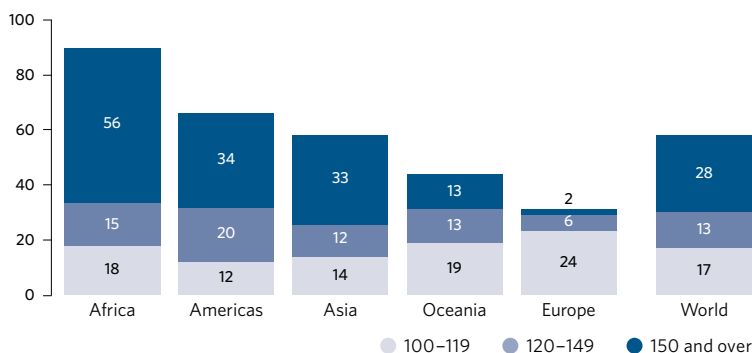
All of these forms of violence can have devastating and lifelong implications for millions of children worldwide. Urgent actions are needed to advocate for and invest in effective child protection solutions.

Exposure to COVID-19 is among the many inhumane conditions faced by those who are incarcerated, often unsentenced

Access to justice for all should ensure a fair trial within a reasonably short period of time. However, 31 per cent of prisoners worldwide are being held in detention having been being sentenced for a crime – a level that has not declined since 2005. Significant increases over the past three years were recorded in all regions of Asia and in Oceania.

Prison overcrowding remains a serious problem in many countries, often leading to inhumane conditions, violation of human rights, violence among prisoners and reduced prospects for rehabilitation. Overcrowding is accelerating the spread of COVID-19 across jails and prisons worldwide due to cramped quarters, and the frequent lack of protective gear and access to adequate health care. Of 190 countries worldwide with available data, almost 60 per cent had prison populations exceeding prison capacity; 13 per cent of countries had between 120 per cent and 149 per cent of capacity, and 28 per cent had 150 per cent of capacity or more.

Proportion of countries where prisoners outnumber prison capacity, 2018 or latest year (percentage)



Note: The regional groupings shown here are different from the SDG regional groupings. They cover Africa (39 countries), the Americas (41 countries), Asia (43 countries), Europe (51 countries), Oceania (16 countries) and the world (190 countries).

Human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists are too often targets of violent attacks

Across all regions, people defending the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others are the targets of violent attacks. From 2015 to 2019, the United Nations recorded at least 1,940 killings and 106 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists across 81 countries, with over half of killings occurring in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2019, 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances were reported in 47 countries. While the 2019 toll constitutes the lowest number of killings of journalists per year in over a decade, journalists are increasingly experiencing verbal and physical attacks, including online, in connection with their work. Women journalists in particular are targeted by online harassment. This is underscored by a marked rise in widespread hostile rhetoric directed at the media and journalists.

More countries now have freedom-of-information laws, but their implementation could be stepped up

The right to information held by public authorities is an integral aspect of freedom of expression and serves as a mechanism to support government openness and accountability as well as enhanced empowerment and equality among all social groups. Progress is being made in ensuring this right through policies and binding laws. Such laws have now been adopted by 127 countries, with at least 27 adopting guarantees since 2014. However, of 73 public authorities surveyed, only 58 per cent provided specialized training on the right to information for their information officers. The same percentage reported publishing guidelines for requests for the public. Survey results indicate that oversight and appeals bodies (as opposed to multi-purpose bodies) should be essential components of access-to-information law enforcement and specialized entities.



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

Support for implementing the SDGs has been steady but fragile, with major and persistent challenges. Financial resources remain scarce, trade tensions have been increasing, and crucial data are still lacking. The COVID-19 pandemic is now threatening past achievements, with trade, foreign direct investment and remittances all projected to decline. The pandemic also appears to be accelerating existing trends of global value chain decoupling. One of the few bright spots at this time is the increased use of technology as people flock to the Internet to work, shop and connect with others, but even this draws attention



to a still-enormous digital divide. Containing COVID-19 requires the participation of all Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and ordinary citizens around the world. Strengthening multilateralism and global partnership are more important than ever.

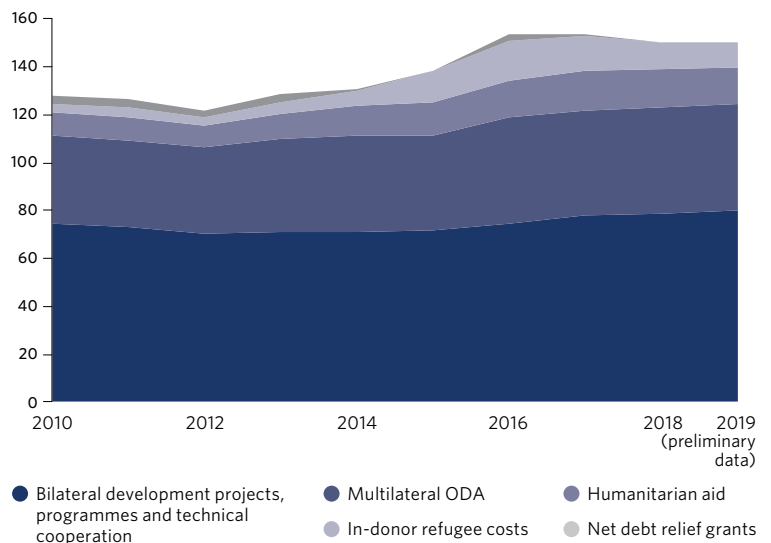
Major donors say they will strive to protect ODA budgets, even as the coronavirus upends the global economy

Net ODA flows by member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development totalled \$147.4 billion in 2019. This was almost the same as in 2018, but with an increased share going to the most disadvantaged countries. Net bilateral aid to Africa and to LDCs rose in real terms by 1.3 per cent (\$37 billion) and 2.6 per cent (\$33 billion), respectively, from 2018.

Concessional finance for the health sector from all donors averaged \$26 billion per year in real terms between 2016 and 2018. In 2018, the United States, the Global Fund and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation accounted for more than half of this total, providing \$8.6 billion, \$3.3 billion and \$2.6 billion, respectively. Total ODA for infectious diseases amounted to \$6 billion.

ODA has long been a source of financing to cushion the immediate impact of crises, and can be an important part of the global response to this pandemic. Nevertheless, the magnitude of the crisis could put pressure on donors' aid budgets, despite DAC issuing a statement on 9 April 2020 that members will "strive to protect ODA budgets".

Components of net ODA flows, 2010–2019 (billions of constant 2018 dollars)



After reaching a new high, remittances are expected to drop dramatically in 2020

Remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries are estimated to have reached \$554 billion in 2019. Remittances have exceeded official aid by a factor of three since the mid-1990s. In 2019, remittances overtook even foreign direct investment flows to low- and middle-income countries. The growth of remittances slowed to 4.7 per cent in 2019 compared with a robust 8.6 per cent the previous year.

Global remittances are projected to decline by about 20 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown – the steepest decline in recent history. This is largely the result of a fall in the wages and employment of migrant workers, who tend to be more vulnerable than non-migrants in economic crises in host countries. Remittances to low- and middle-income countries – an economic lifeline for many poor households – are projected to fall by 19.7 per cent in 2020, reaching \$445 billion.

Foreign direct investment and global value chains are likely to take a hit from the coronavirus crisis

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing economies remained stable in 2018. It rose by 2 per cent to \$706 billion, but with significant differences among regions. Developing countries in Asia, already the largest recipient region of FDI, registered a rise of 4 per cent to \$512 billion in 2018, with growth occurring in all subregions. FDI to Africa expanded by 11 per cent to \$46 billion, but was still below the annual average of the last 10 years (about \$50 billion). FDI to Latin America and the Caribbean totalled \$147 billion in 2018, a 6 per cent drop after an increase in 2017.

FDI is expected to decline by up to 40 per cent in 2020 as a result of delayed investment caused by the shock in global demand, and by a further 5 to 10 per cent in 2021. The pandemic has the potential to accelerate existing trends that show a decoupling of global value chains and reshoring, driven by a desire on the part of multinational enterprises to make supply chains more resilient.

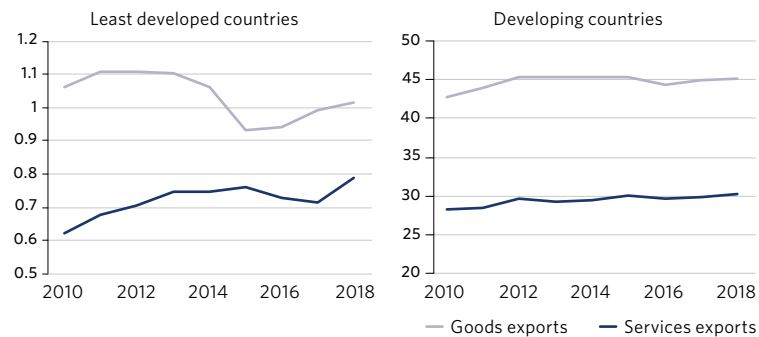
Global trade is expected to plummet while LDCs struggle to build their share of exports

Global merchandise trade is projected to decline by 13 to 32 per cent in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Trade-weighted tariffs decreased from 2.2 per cent in 2017 to an average of 2.1 per cent worldwide in 2018. The preferential tariffs offered by World Trade Organization members providing unilateral concessions of preferences have reached an average low level of 1.1 per cent for both developing countries and LDCs. Difficulties in complying with conditions for preferential treatment – and the increasing number of trade agreements among developed countries – may narrow the window of opportunity that these rates offer to developing country exporters.

The share of LDC exports in global merchandise trade was just above 1 per cent in 2018, a slight increase from 2017. This is roughly the same level of 10 years ago, and far from the target of doubling by 2020. The share of global exports in services of LDCs reached

0.8 per cent in 2018. However, participation remains concentrated within a few economies, particularly in Asian countries, with most other LDCs struggling to export services internationally.

Share of global exports, 2010–2018 (percentage)

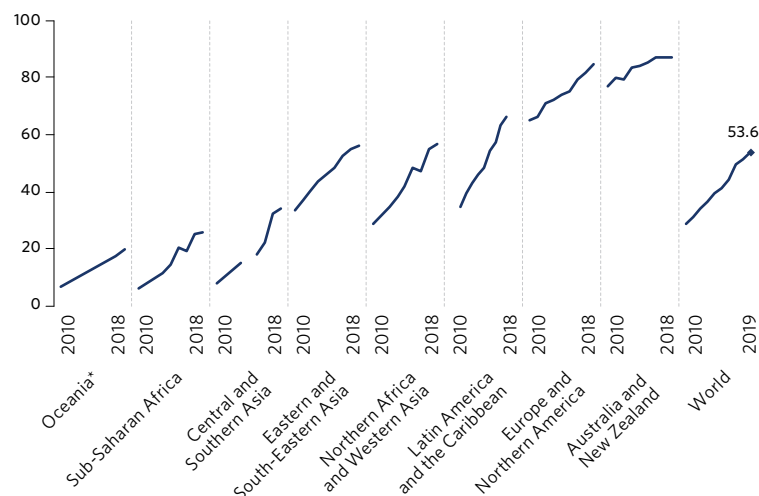


The Internet is now essential for many daily activities, but half the world's population is still not connected

During coronavirus lockdowns, many people are forced to rely on the Internet for daily activities, including working from home, taking online classes, shopping and socializing. However, almost half of the world's population is not connected, particularly in poor countries. At the end of 2019, 53.6 per cent of people (4.1 billion) were using the Internet, with wide regional disparities. In 2018, only 20 per cent of the population in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and 26 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa were using the Internet compared with 84 per cent in Europe and Northern America and 87 per cent in Australia and New Zealand.

Fixed-broadband subscriptions have nearly doubled over the last decade – from 7.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2010 to 14.9 in 2019. That year, fixed-broadband connections (1.1 billion) outnumbered fixed-telephone connections (931 million). Developed countries had 33.6 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2019, while developing countries had a third of that amount, at 11.2 subscriptions. LDCs had almost no fixed-broadband connections owing to the high cost and lack of infrastructure.

Individuals using the Internet, 2010–2018 (percentage)



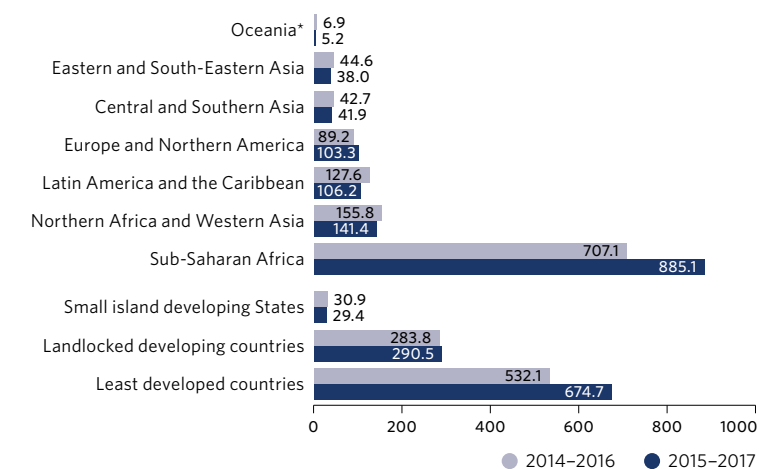
* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

While the need for sound data continues to escalate, poorer countries lack the resources to produce them

In 2019, most countries reported that they were carrying out a national statistical plan (141 countries, up from 129 in 2018). However, many also said that they lacked sufficient funding for full implementation. Only 25 per cent of plans were fully funded in sub-Saharan Africa (9 out of 36 countries), compared with 95 per cent (36 out of 38 countries) in Europe and Northern America.

From 2016 to 2017, ODA for data and statistics rose by 11 per cent, from \$623 million to \$690 million, but this was only 0.34 per cent of total ODA. International funding for data and statistics is about half the level it needs to be. Over the past three years, countries in sub-Saharan Africa benefited most, receiving \$885 million, a significant increase in funding. Continued and increased technical and financial support is needed to ensure that countries in developing regions are better equipped to monitor progress of their national development agendas.

Total official development assistance** dedicated to statistical capacity-building activities, 2014–2016 and 2015–2017 (millions of current dollars)















* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.










** Country-specific commitments only. Unallocated commitments to multiple countries/regions are excluded.

Progress summary for SDG targets with a 2020 deadline





By the end of 2020, 21 of the 169 Sustainable Development Goal targets will have matured. This summary reviews progress made towards those targets at the global level based on available data as of June 2020. It takes stock of how far the world has come in meeting these commitments by mid-2020 and provides an assessment in stoplight colours. Of these 21 targets, 12 are linked to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The biodiversity-linked SDG targets are grouped together on this page.

Biodiversity-linked SDG targets with a 2020 deadline ¹		
	Progress	Progress analysis
2.5	Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, plants and animals for food and agriculture	 Progress has been negligible in maintaining plant and animal genetic diversity for food and agriculture. The number of local livestock breeds (occurring in only one country) with sufficient material stored to allow them to be reconstituted in case of extinction increased to 101 in 2019 – a tiny proportion of the approximately 7,600 breeds reported globally. According to country reports, 73 per cent of assessed breeds are at risk of extinction. At the end of 2019, global holdings of plant genetic material conserved in gene banks totalled 5.4 million samples, a 1.3 per cent increase from 2018.
6.6	Protect and restore water-related ecosystems	 In 2018, slightly more than 2.1 per cent of global land was covered by freshwater bodies. Water-related ecosystems captured by these data (lakes and large rivers) have maintained a consistent spatial area since the baseline reference year 2000 (<i>progress indicated in yellow</i>). For other water-related ecosystems, including wetlands, groundwater and open water bodies, global-level data is not yet currently available (<i>progress indicated in grey</i>).
12.4	Responsibly manage chemicals and waste	 Parties continue to meet their commitments as required by multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster, in particular for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (<i>progress indicated in yellow</i>). However, between 2010 and 2019, global generation of e-waste – discarded electronic and electrical equipment – grew from 5.3 to 7.3 kilograms per capita, while the environmentally sound recycling of such waste increased at a much slower pace – from 0.8 to 1.3 kilograms per capita (<i>progress indicated in red</i>).
14.2	Protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems	 The global Ocean Health Index appears to have been static over the last eight years. Some regions have low scores on ocean health that are likely worsening.
14.4	Restore fish stocks to sustainable levels	 The sustainability of global fishery resources continues to decline, although at a reduced rate, with the share of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels at 65.8 per cent in 2017, down from 90 per cent in 1974, and 0.8 percentage points lower than 2015 levels.
14.5	Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas	 As of December 2019, over 17 per cent (or 24 million square kilometres) of waters under national jurisdiction (0 to 200 nautical miles from shore) were covered by protected areas, more than double the area covered in 2010. The global mean percentage of each marine KBA covered by protected areas increased from 30.5 per cent in 2000 to 46.0 per cent in 2019, but the majority of these sites still have incomplete or no coverage by protected areas.
14.6	End subsidies that contribute to overfishing and to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	 As of February 2020, the number of parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures – the first binding international agreement that specifically targets illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing – increased to 66 (including the European Union) from 58 the previous year. Close to 70 per cent of countries reported high scores in implementing the Agreement.
15.1	Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems	 In 2020, on average, 44 per cent of each terrestrial and 41 per cent of each freshwater and each mountain KBA were in protected areas, an increase of 12 to 13 percentage points since 2000. However, the majority of KBAs still have incomplete or no protected area coverage. Moreover, since 2010, the increase in coverage has slowed considerably compared with the previous decade.
15.2	Promote sustainable management of forests, halt deforestation and restore degraded forests	 The world's forest area continues to shrink, although at a slightly slower pace than in previous decades. From 2015 to 2020, the annual rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million hectares (<i>progress indicated in yellow</i>). While forest loss remains high, 2020 data show the proportion of forests in protected areas and under long-term management plans, as well as certified forest area, increased or remained stable at the global level and in most regions of the world (<i>progress indicated in green</i>).
15.5	Protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	 Globally, species extinction risk has worsened by about 10 per cent over the last three decades, with the Red List Index declining from 0.82 in 1990 to 0.75 in 2015, and to 0.73 in 2020 (a value of 1 indicates no threat to extinction and a value of 0 indicates all species are extinct).
15.8	Prevent invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems	 The overall rate of biological invasions shows no sign of slowing down, with growth in both the number of invasive species and their spread due to increased trade and transport (<i>progress indicated in red</i>). However, preliminary results of a survey carried out by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Invasive Species Specialist Group show an increased commitment by national governments to prevent and manage the spread of such species (<i>progress indicated in green</i>).
15.9	Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values in governmental planning and accounts	 As of January 2020, 113 parties had assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2. About half of the parties made progress towards their targets, but not at a rate that will allow them to achieve their goals by the end of 2020. In 2017, 69 countries had programmes on the System of Environmental Economic Accounting, a 28 per cent increase since 2014.

¹ The full description of the target can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

Other SDG targets with a 2020 deadline		Progress	Progress analysis
3.6	Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents		The death rate due to road traffic injuries decreased slightly – from 18.7 per 100,000 population in 2010 to 18.2 in 2016 – but the number of road traffic deaths continued to rise, reaching 1.35 million in 2016. That year, road traffic injuries were the leading cause of death among children and young adults aged 5 to 29 years. Based on this trend, the world is unlikely to meet this target by the end of 2020.
4.b	Expand the number of scholarships to developing countries, especially LDCs, small island developing States and African countries		Official development assistance for scholarships amounted to \$1.6 billion in 2018, up from \$1.3 billion in 2017. Australia, European Union institutions, France, Japan and Turkey accounted for nearly two thirds of this total. The largest recipient regions were Asia and Africa, and the largest beneficiary countries were the Philippines, Indonesia, Republic of Moldova and Viet Nam.
8.6	Reduce the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education or training		In 2019, 22 per cent of the world's youth were not employed or engaged in education or training, a share that has changed little since 2005.
8.b	Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment		According to 2019 data from 102 countries, 98 per cent had a youth employment strategy or plan to develop one in the near future. Furthermore, almost one third of these countries have formulated and operationalized the global strategy for youth employment.
9.c	Increase access to information and communications technology		Coverage by mobile networks is now nearly universal. In 2019, an estimated 96.5 per cent of the global population were covered by at least a 2G network, with 81.8 per cent covered by at least a Long-Term Evolution network.
11.b	Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaption to climate change and promote holistic disaster risk management		As of April 2020, 85 countries – slightly over 40 per cent – reported that they had national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned, to some extent, to the Sendai Framework, with 6 of the countries reporting fully aligned national strategies. In 2018, 55 countries reported that at least some of their local governments had local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies.
13.a	Jointly mobilize \$100 billion annually for developing countries for climate change mitigation		The tracking of progress towards the \$100-billion goal is still under negotiation within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process. Biennial reports from the Convention provide additional information on flows from Convention funds, multilateral development banks, bilateral and other channels in climate finance-specific amounts, as well as amounts estimated to be privately mobilized.
17.11	Increase the exports of developing countries and double the share of LDC global exports		The share of LDC exports in global merchandise trade was just above 1 per cent in 2018. This is roughly the same level as 10 years ago, and far from the target of doubling this share by 2020. The share of developing countries in global merchandise and services exports has flattened over the last few years.
17.18	Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data		In 2019, 132 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation that was compliant with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, up from 111 in 2018. In addition, most countries reported that they were carrying out a national statistical plan (141 countries and territories in 2019, up from 129 in 2018). However, many also reported that they lacked sufficient funding for full implementation. Only 25 per cent of plans were fully funded in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 95 per cent in Europe and Northern America.

Legend:

-  Target is achieved or on track to being achieved
-  Progress has been made, but is insufficient to meet the target
-  No progress or moving away from the target
-  No data or data are insufficient to assess progress

Note: Some targets cover multiple aspects of a development issue. Their assessments are therefore conducted separately and reflected in the bicoloured stoplight.

Note to the reader

Global indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals

The information presented in this report is based on the latest available data (as of May 2020) on selected indicators in the global indicator framework¹ for the Sustainable Development Goals, which was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 (see resolution 71/313, annex). The global indicator framework is used to review progress at the global level.

Data sources and basis for the analysis

The values for most of the indicators presented in this report represent regional and/or subregional aggregates. In general, the figures are weighted averages of country data, using the reference population as a weight, and calculated from national data compiled by international agencies, according to their respective mandates and specialized expertise, from national statistical systems. The national data compiled by the international agencies are often adjusted for comparability and, where lacking, are estimated. As decided by the Statistical Commission and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, estimates used to compile the global indicators should be produced in full consultation with national statistical authorities. The criteria and mechanisms for validation by national statistical authorities are outlined in the report of the IAEG-SDGs³ and were endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fiftieth session.⁴

The collaboration between national statistical systems and regional and international organizations is essential for the effective flow of

The choice of indicators for this report does not represent a prioritization of targets, since all goals and targets are equally important. The composition of regions and subregions in this report is based on United Nations geographical divisions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, groups of countries for which a meaningful analysis could be carried out.²

internationally comparable data. Such mechanisms can be improved by strengthening the coordination function of national statistical offices in national statistical systems.

A database of available global, regional and country data and metadata for the SDG indicators accompanying this report is maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division and is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>. Owing to the emergence of new data and revised methodologies, data series presented in this report may not be comparable with previous data series.

Although the aggregate figures presented in this report are a convenient way to track progress, the situation of individual countries within a given region, and across population groups and geographical areas within a country, may vary significantly from regional averages. Presenting aggregate figures for all regions also obscures another reality: the lack, in many parts of the world, of adequate data to assess national trends and to inform and monitor the implementation of development policies.

Investing in data to build back better and to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Timely, quality, open and disaggregated data are vital in enabling Governments, development partners, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the general public to make informed decisions. The COVID-19 crisis is clearly demonstrating how critical data can effectively guide decision-making at each step of the pandemic response. At the same time, it is also calling attention to the fact that even the most basic health, social and economic data are often absent. In addition, the most vulnerable populations who need help the most remain invisible. Many national statistical systems across the globe have faced serious challenges in tracking progress on the SDGs, which requires an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at all levels.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, financial and technical support for data and statistical systems are needed over the short term to ensure continuation of statistical operations, monitoring of emergency

response efforts, and preparation of mitigation and recovery strategies. In the medium and long term, increased investments in national data and statistical systems and the mobilization of additional international and domestic resources will be imperative if we are to build back better from the crisis and accelerate implementation of the SDGs.

The Dubai Declaration, launched at the World Data Forum 2018, envisages a demand-driven funding mechanism under United Nations membership oversight that can respond quickly and efficiently to the priorities of national statistical systems. New data sources and technologies for data collection and for the integration of various data sources will need to be explored, including through partnerships with civil society, the private sector and academia. The integration of geospatial information and statistical data will be particularly important in this regard.

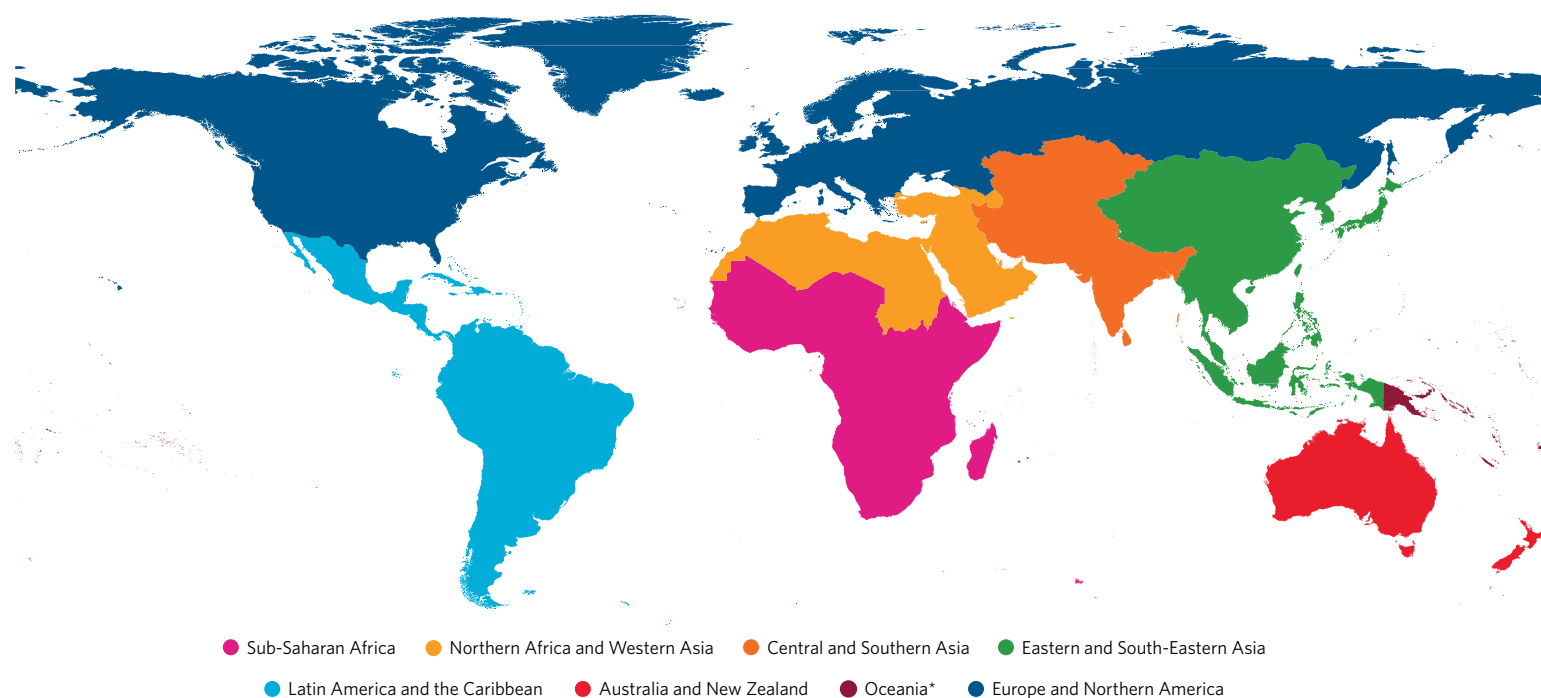
¹ The complete list of indicators is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list>.

² The composition of the subregions is shown in the section on regional groupings.

³ See Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2019/2), annex I.

⁴ See Report of the Statistical Commission on its fiftieth session (E/2019/24-E/CN.3/2019/34).

Regional groupings



- Notes:
- Oceania* refers to Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand, throughout the publication.
 - The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this and other maps throughout this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

This report presents data on progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide and by various groups. The country groupings are based on the geographic regions defined under the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (known as M49)⁵ of the United Nations Statistics Division. The geographic regions are shown on the map above. For the purpose of presentation, some of the M49 regions have been combined.

The use of geographic regions as the basis for country groupings is a major change from *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016* and the progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals. Previously, data were presented for countries in “developed” regions and countries in “developing” regions, which were further broken down into geographic subregions. Although there is no established convention for the designation of “developed” and “developing” countries or areas in the United Nations system, data for some indicators in this report are still being presented for developed and

developing regions and countries for the purpose of statistical analysis only, and are based on the practice employed by the international agencies that provided the data.⁶

In addition, the text and figures present, to the extent possible, data for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, which are country groups requiring special attention.

A complete list of countries included in each region and subregion and country group is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups>.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

⁵ Full details of the M49 standard can be found on the Statistics Division website at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49>.

⁶ The discussion note, “Update of the regional groupings for the SDG report and database”, of 31 October 2016 describes the details of this change and is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups>.

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Energy Agency
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Renewable Energy Agency
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
International Trade Centre (ITC)
International Union for Conservation of Nature
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
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Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)
Peacebuilding Support Office, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
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Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Sustainable Energy for All
United Nations Capital Development Fund
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
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United Nations Mine Action Service
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UN-Energy
UN-Ocean
UN-Water
World Bank Group
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

For more information, visit the Sustainable Development Goals website of the United Nations Statistics Division at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.



“ Everything we do during and after this crisis [COVID-19] must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face. ”

— *ANTÓNIO GUTERRES*
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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