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Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

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

* A/81/50.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a global overview of progress made since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, highlighting areas in which decisive action is required to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. With under five years until 2030, the urgency to consolidate gains, accelerate progress and reverse negative trends is ever greater.

2. Of the 139 targets of the Goals with available trend data, 36% are on track or making moderate progress. Nearly half (49%) are making only marginal progress, while 15% have regressed below the 2015 baseline. Progress remains deeply uneven across the Goals and among countries, hampered by successive shocks, interconnected crises and escalating conflicts. Unmet financing targets risk putting many targets beyond reach.

3. Notwithstanding growing challenges, progress continues across many targets. Social protection coverage continues to expand significantly, with more than half of the world's population now benefiting from at least one form of protection. Sustained investment in disaster risk reduction has delivered tangible results: disaster-related mortality has declined by 65% from the previous decade and the number of countries adopting national disaster risk reduction strategies has increased to 141.

4. Maternal and child mortality continues its long-term decline. HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have decreased since 2015. Access to reproductive health services has expanded, with adolescent birth rates continuing to fall and progress in reducing child marriage over the past decade moving twice as fast compared with the previous decade. However, progress remains fragile on key indicators, and accelerated action is critical to advance Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment.

5. Since 2015, hundreds of millions of people have gained access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Electricity is now accessible to 92% of the global population. Renewable energy capacity per capita grew at a record 14% from 2023 to 2024, reaching 2.2 times its 2015 level. Internet use reached 74% of the global population in 2025, up from 40% in 2015. Since 2015, global infrastructure has grown markedly in digital connectivity and renewable energy capacity, while the annual investment gap in developing countries has widened, leaving critical shortfalls in energy access, transport networks and resilient infrastructure.

6. Across multiple Goals, national systems have strengthened through improved policy frameworks, increased data availability and enhanced institutional capacity. In a notable achievement, data availability for Goal monitoring has improved dramatically: in 2016, data were available for roughly half of the Goal indicators in the global Sustainable Development Goal Indicator Database, with approximately 330,000 data points. By March 2026, coverage had expanded to nearly all indicators, with more than 3 million data points.

7. Given that the present report aggregates global trends, it masks meaningful advances at the regional and national levels. For example, as of 2024, 134 countries had already met the target on under-5 mortality, with 6 more countries expected to do so by 2030, and 59 countries had eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease by the end of 2025. These successes, driven by sound policies, strong institutions and inclusive partnerships, demonstrate that progress is not only possible, but also already happening.

8. However, the pace of advancement remains insufficient or has even regressed in many areas. Some 1 in 10 people globally still live in extreme poverty. After peaking in recent years, the global hunger rate declined slightly in 2024, to 8.2% of

the world population, although undernourishment and food insecurity remain well above 2015 levels. More than 150 million children remain stunted, and anaemia affects more than 605 million women of reproductive age.

9. Progress on inequality remains uneven: while nearly 60% of countries have seen pro-poor growth, 13% of people still live below half the median income, compounded by a decade-long decline in the global labour income share. Pervasive discrimination affects one in five people and there has been a sharp doubling of the global refugee proportion since 2015. While measures to support youth employment are expanding, young people still face a double burden, being nearly four times more likely to be unemployed than adults and more than twice as likely to be working poor, underscoring persistent gaps in both access to and quality of jobs.

10. Over the past decade, advances in data disaggregation and equity focused policies have addressed leaving no one behind. However, progress remains insufficient, given that conflict, climate change and fiscal constraints exacerbate inequalities and disproportionately affect marginalized populations.

11. Climate change continues to intensify. Global average temperatures in 2025 were 1.43°C above pre-industrial levels, and atmospheric CO_2 concentrations reached their highest level in 2 million years in 2024. Although disaster-related deaths have declined significantly, the number of people affected has more than doubled over the past decade, averaging 123 million annually. With increasing absorption of CO_2, acidification and warming of the ocean continues to intensify.

12. Successive declines in official development assistance (ODA) – down 6.1% in 2024 and a further 23.1% in 2025, the largest annual contraction on record – have strained the funding that underpins core sustainable development investment in some developing countries. In 2025, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to developing economies declined by 2%. Total external debt of low- and middle-income countries reached a record $8.9 trillion in 2024 and debt-servicing costs climbed to historic highs. At the same time, global military expenditure rose to $2.9 trillion in 2025, an increase of 2.9% from 2024, reaching a new record high and the eleventh consecutive year of growth, raising urgent questions about the reallocation of resources away from sustainable development.

13. Closing the annual $4 trillion Goal financing gap in developing countries requires a bold global investment push, fundamental reform of the international financial architecture, a tripling of multilateral development bank lending capacity and full alignment of all domestic and international public and private financing with sustainable development objectives. The Sevilla Commitment adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development provides the framework; what is needed now is its rapid operationalization.

14. Violent conflicts have reached their highest levels in decades, reversing years of development progress in months. The conflict in Gaza has erased an estimated 77 years of human development and pushed an entire population into poverty. In the Sudan, the conflict has produced the world's largest displacement crisis. Globally, as of mid-2025, more than 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced, including nearly 42.5 million refugees.

15. Instability continues to have significant spillover effects on the Goals. The recent disruptions of maritime traffic have triggered interconnected shocks across energy, fertilizer and agrifood systems. Energy price increases and projected growth slowdowns demonstrate how such crises can undermine progress across multiple Goals, underscoring that peace remains a fundamental precondition for sustainable development.

16. Accelerating progress on achieving the Goals is facing a convergence of headwinds: armed conflicts and geopolitical fragmentation inflict devastating humanitarian and economic costs; international development and humanitarian assistance are under growing pressure; and the climate crisis, along with environmental degradation and pollution, compound existing vulnerabilities, affecting least developed countries and small island developing States the hardest.

17. Overcoming these headwinds demands decisive action on peace and stability, sustained financing, strengthened institutions and accelerated structural transformation. This includes restoring fiscal space through debt relief and mobilizing development finance, reversing declines in ODA and investment and ensuring equitable access to technology and data. It requires rebuilding and protecting essential services, strengthening food, energy and water systems, addressing inequalities and empowering women and young people. Above all, renewed international cooperation and effective multilateralism, as reaffirmed in the Pact for the Future, will be critical to translate commitments into tangible, scaled implementation.

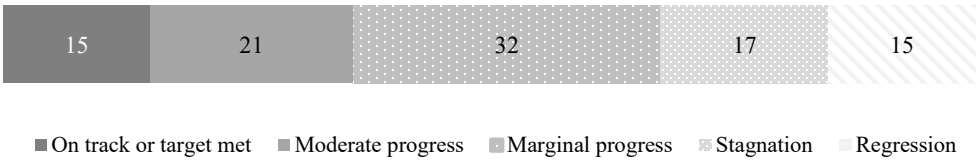
18. Partnerships across governments, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations system must move from aspiration to accountability, with clearer metrics, less duplication, better evidence of what is working and faster pathways from commitment to implementation. Strengthening national statistical systems and harnessing the potential of digital technologies and artificial intelligence remain essential enablers of acceleration, particularly for developing countries.

19. By building on proven successes and addressing the root causes of setbacks in the coming years, it remains possible to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for a more equitable, peaceful and sustainable future.

II. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals as of 2026

20. As shown in figure I, progress is on track (15%) or shows moderate progress (21%) with respect to 36% of the 139 targets for which trend data and additional input are available from custodian agencies. By contrast, there has been only marginal progress (32%) or no progress (17%) on 49% of targets. Alarmingly, there has been regression from 2015 baseline levels for 15% of targets.

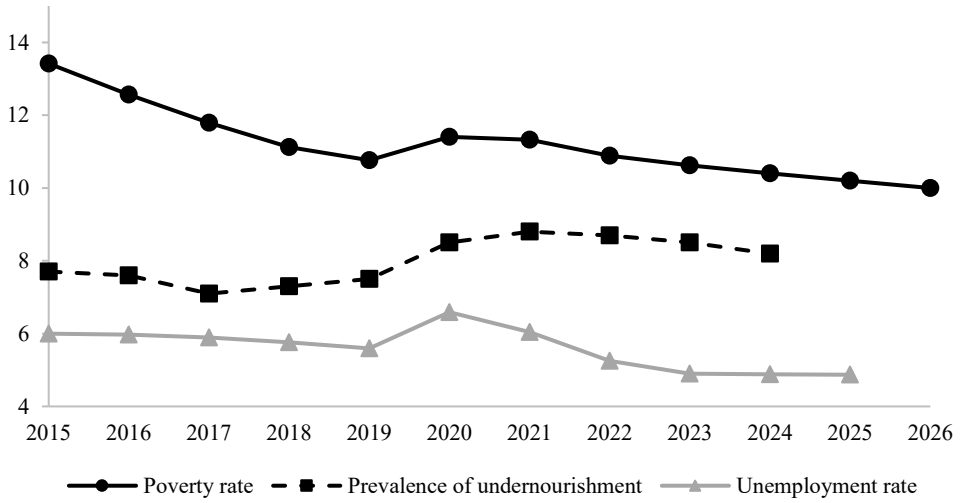
Figure I
Overall progress assessment across targets with trend data (2025 or the most recent data)
(Percentage)



21. While progress was already lagging, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic intensified the setbacks, driving sharp trend reversals across key social and economic indicators in 2020. As figure II shows, before the crisis, the global extreme poverty rate was on a steady downward trajectory, falling from nearly 14% in 2015 to roughly 11% by 2019; however, the pandemic triggered an immediate spike that erased years of gains and plateaued progress. The downward trend resumed in 2022, but the rate of decrease is lower than it was before the pandemic. Since 2020, the

global unemployment rate has seen a steady recovery, dropping to a record low of 4.9% in 2025; however, the prevalence of undernourishment remains elevated above the pre-pandemic low.

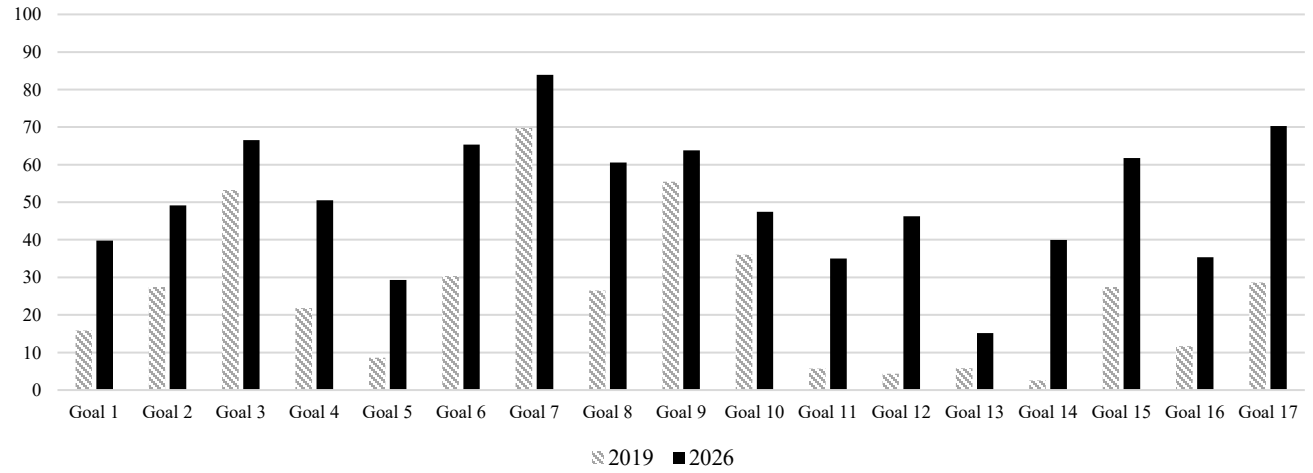
Figure II
Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on selected indicators, 2015–2026
(Percentage)



Note: Poverty data for 2025 and 2026 are nowcasting figures.

22. Between 2019 and 2026, data availability, measured by weighted averages across Goal indicators, increased for all Goals, with notable trend data coverage in health (Goal 3), clean water (Goal 6), clean energy (Goal 7) and partnerships (Goal 17). However, areas such as gender equality (Goal 5), sustainable cities (Goal 11), climate action (Goal 13) and peace and justice (Goal 16) continue to lag.

Figure III
Proportion of countries or areas with available trend data (at least two data points since 2015), with a comparison of the databases from 2019 and 2026, by Sustainable Development Goal
(Percentage)



23. The remainder of the present section draws on the most recently available data from 2022 to 2025 to provide an overview of each Goal, with a focus on selected targets for which new data are available. Global and regional data, along with progress assessments for all targets and indicators for which information is available, can be found in the statistical annex.[1]

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

24. Over the past decade, global poverty reduction has slowed substantially, compared with the sharp decline experienced during the period 1990–2015. This slowdown is due to a combination of interconnected crises, including sluggish economic growth, high levels of debt, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and fragility, and severe weather-related shocks. By 2026, 1 in 10 people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, showing limited improvement. Growth and population forecasts, even before the recent conflicts in the Middle East, suggest that approximately 9% of the world's population is likely to be living in extreme poverty by 2030. However, countries have made steady progress in halving national poverty rates over the Goal period. For example, East and South-East Asia, notwithstanding starting with the lowest poverty levels, are projected to have the highest share of countries to halve national poverty rates by 2030.

Target 1.1

25. As of 2024, 847 million people were estimated to live below the $3 per day poverty line. Globally, the nowcasted estimate projects that extreme poverty will be 10.0% in 2026, down only 3 percentage points from 2015.

26. An estimated 284 million workers, or 7.9% of the employed population, were living in extreme poverty in 2025. Although rates have declined since 2015, progress remains slow and uneven. Young people are more than twice as likely as adults to be working poor.

Target 1.2

27. Using the most recent post-2020 survey data for 102 countries, 24% of people live below their national poverty line. By 2030, only one in four countries is likely to have halved national poverty rates.

Target 1.3

28. In 2023, 52.4% of the global population was covered by at least one social protection benefit, up from 42.8% in 2015. Coverage varies widely by function, with unemployment protection remaining limited, at 16.7% of unemployed persons, while old age pensions reached 79.6% of people above retirement age. Only 28.2% of children receive a family or child benefit, 36.4% of women with newborns receive maternity benefits and 38.9% of persons with severe disabilities receive disability benefits.

Target 1.5

29. Disasters continue to impose substantial economic costs worldwide. Between 2015 and 2024, reported direct economic losses averaged more than $110 billion annually, equivalent to 0.28% of the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of reporting countries.

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

Target 1.a

30. In 2024, data from some 100 reporting countries showed that, globally, governments allocated approximately 47% of total spending to essential services on average. The share was higher in advanced economies (60%) than in emerging markets and developing economies (43%).

31. In 2024, total ODA grants focused on poverty reduction were $19.1 billion, a decrease of 8.7% compared with 2023.

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

32. Progress towards ending hunger shows modest improvement but remains insufficient. After peaking in recent years, global hunger declined slightly in 2024, while undernourishment and food insecurity remained well above 2015 levels, affecting billions worldwide. Food price pressures have eased significantly and returned to near pre-pandemic levels in many countries, offering some relief. However, progress towards sustainable and productive agriculture is only incremental, and public spending on agriculture has not recovered to earlier highs. However, climate change, economic shocks and conflicts continue to disrupt food production, supply chains and trade, contributing to volatility in global food and fertilizer markets and heightening vulnerability in import-dependent countries.

Target 2.1

33. In 2024, 8.2% of the global population was undernourished, down from 8.5% in 2023 and 8.7% in 2022, although still above 2015 levels of 7.7%. Food insecurity had also declined since 2021 but remained well above 2015 levels. In 2024, some 2.3 billion people were moderately or severely food insecure, compared with 1.6 billion in 2015.

Target 2.2

34. Between 2012 and 2024, global stunting prevalence among children under 5 years of age fell from 26.4% to 23.2%, reducing the number of stunted children from 180.4 million to 150.2 million. Both wasting and overweight remain unchanged for the most part, compared with 2012, at 6.6% and 5.5%, respectively, in 2024.

35. Approximately 30.7% of women of reproductive age, or 605 million women worldwide, were affected by anaemia in 2023, showing little improvement since 2012. If current trend continues, this proportion is projected to rise to 33% (679 million) in 2030.

36. Globally, fewer than one in three (30.8%) children aged 6 to 23 months achieved minimum dietary diversity between 2018 and 2024. This prevalence is unchanged for the most part over the past decade. Among women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years), 62.7% achieved minimum dietary diversity between 2020 and 2024, indicating that more than one third were consuming diets that were inadequate in essential vitamins and minerals.

Target 2.4

37. The world remains at a moderate distance from achieving productive and sustainable agriculture, with a global current-status score of 3.3 out of 5 in 2024. During the period 2015–2024, the global trend score of 4.0 out of 5 indicated a slight improvement towards achieving the target.

Target 2.a

38. In 2024, global government expenditure that went towards agriculture was $725 billion. This represented 1.83% of total government spending, comparable to 2023 but lower than the record high of 2.09% in 2015.

Target 2.c

39. The share of countries experiencing moderately to abnormally high food prices declined for the second consecutive year in 2024. It sank sharply year on year to 15.3%, a level slightly below the 2015–2019 average. In particular, the proportion of countries facing abnormally high food prices (3.6%) was the second lowest since 2015.

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

40. Major global health targets remain elusive, with gains in some areas offset by persistent and emerging challenges. Maternal, newborn and under-5 mortality has declined since 2015, but progress is far too slow to meet the 2030 target. While reductions in HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are notable, progress has stalled and funding shortfalls threaten further gains. Tuberculosis and malaria trends remain concerning because key targets are off track. Improvements in reproductive health, adolescent birth rates and reducing tobacco use show positive momentum. However, financial hardship from health spending remains widespread, and critical shortages of health workers persist in many regions.

Target 3.1

41. The global maternal mortality ratio was 197 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023, down from 228 in 2015 but still nearly three times the 2030 target of 70. An annual reduction rate of 14.8% – far above historical rates – is required between 2024 and 2030 to meet the global target. The share of births attended by skilled health personnel rose from 80% to 87% between 2015 and 2025. While the world is on track to reach the 90% target by 2030, stark regional disparities persist.

Target 3.2

42. Globally in 2024, 4.9 million children under age 5 died, down from 6.1 million in 2015. The under-5 mortality rate was 37.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, a 13% decline since 2015. The neonatal mortality rate fell to 17.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, down by 11% since 2015. As of 2024, 134 countries had already met the target on under-5 mortality and 6 countries were expected to do so by 2030 if current trends continue.

Target 3.3

43. Between 2015 and 2024, the number of new HIV infections declined by 30% and AIDS-related mortality dropped 35%. In 2024, 1.3 million people newly acquired HIV and more than 9 million people living with HIV were not on treatment. Abrupt reductions in international HIV assistance in 2025 deepened existing funding shortfalls.

44. Globally, 8.3 million people were reported as newly diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2024, a small increase from 2023. This represents 78% of the estimated 10.7 million incident cases globally, underscoring persistent challenges in case detection, diagnosis and reporting. The absolute number of people falling ill with

tuberculosis was 10.7 million in 2024, dropping for the first time after COVID-related disruptions had led to three consecutive years of increases (2021–2023).

45. There were an estimated 282 million malaria cases worldwide in 2024. Between 2015 and 2024, malaria incidence rose from 59 to 64 cases per 1,000 population at risk. At current trajectories, global incidence is not on track to meet the target of ending malaria by 2030.

46. Global prevalence of chronic hepatitis B infection among children under 5 years of age declined to 0.6% in 2024, from 0.8% in 2015. However, prevalence remains nearly six times the 2030 target of 0.1%, with sharp regional disparities.

47. In 2024, 1.41 billion people required interventions for neglected tropical diseases, a decline of 22% from 2015. As of December 2025, 59 countries, areas and territories had eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease.

Target 3.4

48. Globally, noncommunicable diseases claimed 18 million lives among people aged 70 or younger in 2021. This was equivalent to one premature death from a noncommunicable disease every two seconds.

Target 3.5

49. In 2024, annual global alcohol consumption was 4.9 litres of pure alcohol per person of 15 years of age or older, a 13% decline from 2010. Alcohol consumption has been decreasing or stable in all regions except Central and Southern Asia.

Target 3.7

50. The proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15 to 49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods increased slightly, from 76.4 to 77.3%, between 2015 and 2026.

51. Global adolescent birth rates continue to decline across both age groups: among girls and young women aged 15 to 19, rates dropped from 45.9 per 1,000 in 2015 to 37.6 in 2025, and among those aged 10 to 14, from 1.5 to 1.0 per 1,000 over the same period. Further reductions are expected by 2030.

Target 3.8

52. The world has advanced on both pillars of universal health coverage but at a slow pace. If the rate of progress since 2015 continues, the service coverage index will rise only 3 points, to 74, and close to one in four people globally will continue to face health-related financial hardship in 2030.

Target 3.a

53. The age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among adults aged 15 and older declined during the period 2015–2024. In 2015, an estimated 23.5% of this population was using tobacco. By 2024, this ratio was appreciably lower, at 19.5%.

Target 3.b

54. Between 2021 and 2024, immunization efforts averted an estimated 17 million future deaths. Many countries restored services and introduced new vaccines, recovering from setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, routine coverage remains below pre-pandemic levels, too many children are still “zero dose”

(with an estimated increase of 11 percentage points from 2021 to 2024) and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases persist.

Target 3.c

55. Data from 2016 to 2024 show that the densities of nursing and midwifery personnel in Northern America and Europe remained the highest in the world, at more than 123.1 and 86.5 per 10,000 population, respectively. The lowest densities were observed in sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa, at 12.6 and 17.1 per 10,000 population, respectively. The estimated density of medical doctors was highest in Europe, at 43.8 per 10,000 population, and lowest in sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia, at, respectively, 2.5 and 8.0 per 10,000 population.

Target 3.d

56. Between 2015 and 2024, global capacities to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health emergencies showed a long-term upward trend, with global average scores stabilizing during the 2021–2024 period.

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

57. Globally, there have been gradual gains in educational outcomes in the past decades. Access to improved school infrastructure and connectivity has expanded. However, learning outcomes remain a major concern in middle- and high-income countries, with recent assessments showing declining performance in key subjects. Persistent inequalities, linked to income, location and access, continue to limit opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged groups. Without targeted efforts to improve learning quality and equity, achieving inclusive and equitable education for all will remain out of reach.

Target 4.1

58. Globally, 58% of students achieved at least minimum proficiency in reading at the end of primary education in 2019. On the basis of data from 57 countries, from 2012 to 2022, the share of students achieving minimum proficiency in reading declined from 59% to 47% (down 12 percentage points), with larger losses in middle-income countries (down 14 points) than in high-income countries (down 6 points). In mathematics, proficiency fell from 41% to 36% (down 6 points), with similar declines across income groups. Globally, completion rates in 2024 reached 88% in primary, 78% in lower secondary and 61% in upper secondary education. Progress continues at all levels. East and South-East Asia recorded the strongest gains, while sub-Saharan Africa remains furthest from universal completion, with only 28% completing upper secondary education.

Target 4.2

59. Data from 81 mostly low- and middle-income countries during the period 2017–2025 showed that slightly less than two thirds of young children were developmentally on track, with no significant differences by sex.

60. Global participation in organized learning one year before the official primary entry age stagnated, at approximately 75%. Many regions achieve participation rates of more than 90%, but in sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa and Western Asia participation remains close to 50%.

Target 4.5

61. Socioeconomic disparities persist across education, especially by location and income, with rural and low-income families facing greater barriers. These gaps widen at higher levels of education owing to higher dropout rates and fewer opportunities for children from marginalized communities. For example, the wealth parity index in the completion rate (i.e., the ratio between the poorest 20% and the richest 20%) is 0.91 in primary, 0.68 in lower secondary and 0.34 in upper secondary education. Significant progress has been made in expanding girls' access to education, and female completion rates have increasingly outpaced male completion rates since 2015.

Target 4.6

62. Global literacy rates improved slightly between 2015 and 2024, with adult literacy (15 years of age and above) rising from 86% to 88% and youth literacy (15 to 24 years) from 91% to 93%. Significant regional shortfalls persist, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), where adult literacy rates remain below 70%.

Target 4.a

63. Global access to electricity, computers and Internet connectivity in schools has increased by some 10 percentage points in the decade since 2015. However, more than one in five primary schools globally still lack basic services such as electricity, safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Roughly half of primary schools worldwide do not have computers or Internet for educational use or facilities adapted for students with disabilities.

Target 4.c

64. Globally, approximately one in five teachers does not meet his or her country's minimum qualification standards. In 2024, between 18% and 21% of teachers remained unqualified, depending on the level of education. Progress has been modest since 2015, with slight improvements in primary education but stagnation or minor declines at the secondary level.

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

65. Progress on gender equality has advanced since 2015, driven by institutional and legal reforms worldwide intending to eliminate discriminatory laws and strengthen legal frameworks to advance gender equality, especially in the past five years. The past decade has seen child marriage decline at twice the pace of the previous one. However, no indicator has yet reached target levels; discriminatory laws and harmful practices persist, progress in decision-making parity is slowing and, without rapid acceleration, this Goal will not be achieved by 2030.

Target 5.1

66. Between 2019 and 2025, 99 positive reforms focused on removing discriminatory laws and establishing legal frameworks to advance gender equality were recorded, most of them in employment and economic benefits. However, around the globe, women hold only 64% of the legal rights enjoyed by men, and no country achieves a perfect score on all four areas measured by Goal indicator 5.1.1, given that 51% of the 131 countries with data have a gap in each one of the covered areas.

Target 5.2

67. Nearly 1 in 3 women – an estimated 840 million globally – have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner or sexual violence or from someone other than a partner during their lifetime, a figure that has barely changed since 2000. In the past 12 months alone, 316 million women, or 11% of those aged 15 or older, were subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.

Target 5.3

68. Worldwide, nearly one in five girls (18%) marry before the age of 18. The past decade accounted for twice as much progress in reducing levels of child marriage as the decade before it.

69. Female genital mutilation, an egregious violation of girls' rights, continues to be practised in many countries around the world, and 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone the practice.

Target 5.5

70. As at 1 January 2026, women's share in lower and single chambers of national parliaments reached 27.4%, up from 22.3% in 2015. In local governments, the share of women stagnated at 35.6% in 2025. Women held 30.5% of managerial positions globally in 2025, up from 26.9% in 2015, reflecting gradual but slow progress. While women account for some 40% of total employment worldwide, their representation in leadership lags significantly.

Target 5.6

71. In 2025, only 56.3% of women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union had full decision-making power over contraceptive use, sexual relations and reproductive healthcare, unchanged from the previous year. The lowest level of autonomy was reported in sub-Saharan Africa, at 36.8%, compared with 87.2% in Europe.

Target 5.a

72. On the basis of data from 78 countries, fewer than half of women in agricultural households hold ownership or secure rights to agricultural land in nearly 90% of reporting countries. Gender disparities remain significant, with men far more likely to hold secure land rights. Nearly two thirds of countries provide no or low legal protection for women's land rights, more than 40% lack guarantees for spousal consent and equal inheritance and fewer than 30% ensure joint land registration or women's participation in land governance.

Target 5.b

73. Globally, 78% of women and 87% of men owned a mobile phone in 2025. Women accounted for 63% of the population without mobile phones. Globally, women are 10% less likely to own a mobile phone than men, down from 12% in 2022 but still far from parity.

Target 5.c

74. The number of countries reporting a system to track and allocate resources for gender equality and women's empowerment increased from 69 in 2018 to 123 in 2025. However, only one in four countries has adequate systems in place.

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

75. While global access to essential services improved steadily between 2015 and 2025, billions of people still lacked safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. The share of safely treated household wastewater has shown no significant progress since 2020. Water use efficiency showed considerable regional variation, and similar disparities are evident with respect to water stress. While the implementation of integrated water resources management has improved since 2017, the pace remains too slow to meet the 2030 ambition. Minimum river flows remain close to the long-term reference period, but regional disparities are increasing.

Targets 6.1 and 6.2

76. From 2015 to 2024, the population using safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene services increased from 68% to 74%, from 48% to 58% and from 66% to 80%, respectively. However, in 2024, 2.1 billion people remained without safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion without safely managed sanitation and 1.7 billion without basic hygiene services.

Target 6.3

77. In 2024, an estimated 56% of global household wastewater flows were safely treated, remaining at the same level since 2020.

Target 6.4

78. From 2015 to 2023, global water use efficiency improved from \$17.4/m^3 to \$21.5/m^3, a 24% increase. However, 54% of countries still face challenges, with low efficiency of below \$20/m^3. Globally, water stress showed little change from 2015 to 2023. Water stress varies significantly across regions, with Northern Africa and Western Asia, as well as Central and South Asia, facing extreme scarcity.

Target 6.6

79. Globally, minimum river flows during the period 2019–2023 remained close to the long-term reference period. However, this apparent stability conceals widening regional divergence. Nearly half of Member States experienced declining low-flow conditions, with more than one fifth recording reductions exceeding 10%.

Target 6.a

80. ODA disbursements to the water sector reached \$9.6 billion in 2024, up slightly from \$8.9 billion in 2023, notwithstanding recent declines. ODA commitments to the water sector also rose from \$10.3 billion in 2023 to \$11.0 billion in 2024, driven mainly by higher commitments for agricultural water resources and hydroelectric power. By contrast, commitments for water supply and sanitation declined by 6.7% from 2023.

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

81. Global energy progress has gained momentum, with electricity access reaching 92% in 2024 and renewable energy capacity per capita growing at a record 14% from the previous year. Since 2015, clean cooking access has increased by 11 percentage points, to 75% of the global population, and the share of modern renewables in total

energy consumption continues to rise. However, major challenges remain. International financial flows to the most vulnerable countries have declined, while 655 million people still live without electricity and more than 2 billion people worldwide remain dependent on polluting and hazardous fuels for their cooking needs. To meet 2030 targets, the pace of the energy transition, including electrification and energy-efficiency improvements, must nearly double.

Target 7.1

82. Between 2023 and 2024, the pace of electrifications slowed significantly, given that the population without access dropped by only 11.5 million. This leaves 655 million people (8% of the global population) in the dark. The recent annual gain of 0.35% (2020–2024) is half the rate of the previous decade (0.70%). Those remaining without access are increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, remote rural areas, low-income households and conflict-affected regions.

83. In 2024, an estimated 75% of the global population had access to clean cooking, an 11 percentage point increase since 2015. However, 2 billion people still rely on polluting fuels and 1.8 billion are projected to remain without access by 2030.

Target 7.2

84. In 2023, renewable energy reached 18% of total final energy consumption, up from 15.6% in 2015, with modern renewables rising from 10.2% to 13.4%. While renewables now provide more than 30% of global power generation, led by solar and wind, they lag in heat, at 21%, and transport, at 4.3%.

Target 7.3

85. Global primary energy intensity improved by 1.5% in 2023, down from 2.4% in 2022 but slightly above the 2015–2023 average of 1.4%, with several major economies outperforming the global average. However, progress remains off track against the required 2.6% annual target for 2015–2030.

Target 7.a

86. In 2024, international public financial flows for clean energy in developing countries reached $24.6 billion, a slight increase from 2023. However, flows to least developed countries dropped 11%, to $3.7 billion, raising concerns about bridging structural financing gaps as overall development assistance is expected to tighten.

Target 7.b

87. In 2024, global renewable energy capacity reached a record 544 watts per person, a 14% increase driven largely by 18% growth in developing countries, although capacity in developed countries remained more than double, at 1,249 watts per capita, notwithstanding slower growth of 8%.

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

88. Estimates from early in 2026 had indicated that real GDP per capita at the global level was expected to grow at approximately 1.9% through 2027, with the corresponding figure for least developed countries at 5.1%. However, these figures have been downgraded owing to the conflict in the Middle East. Progress on Goal 8 is reflected in near-historic low unemployment, a reduction in child labour and broadened financial inclusion, with tourism rebounding and employment in the sector

on the rise. However, structural bottlenecks persist because informal employment remains stubbornly high, labour rights compliance has declined and youth unemployment continues to outpace that of adults, with young people nearly four times more likely to be unemployed. To accelerate progress, countries should prioritize worker formalization, stronger labour rights and expanded training pathways for young people and women.

Target 8.1

89. After a 3.9% pandemic-driven contraction in 2020, global real GDP per capita rebounded by 5.5% in 2021 before slowing down to 2.0% in 2023 and 1.9% in 2024, a percentage projected to persist through 2026. Least developed countries saw growth plummet to 1.5% in 2020 before recovering to a peak of 5.2% in 2022, easing to 3.9% in 2024 and expected to reach 5.1% by 2027.

Target 8.2

90. Labour productivity, measured as GDP per worker, has stabilized since the 2020 contraction, recovering from 0.7% in 2023 to 1.7% in 2025 and projected to remain slightly below the pre-pandemic average of 1.8% through 2027, suggesting that productivity gains remain too modest to significantly accelerate living standards.

Target 8.3

91. In 2025, informal employment remained high at 57.9%, slightly above 2015 levels, with current projections suggesting continued stagnation rather than progress. As a result, more than half the global workforce remains without full access to social protection or legal safeguards.

Target 8.5

92. In 2025, the global unemployment rate held steady at 4.9%, with the number of unemployed falling by 1.3 million, and is projected to reach an all-time low of 4.8% by 2027. However, women and young people continue to face the greatest barriers, with young people nearly four times more likely to be unemployed than adults.

Target 8.6

93. In 2025, the global share of young people not in employment, education or training edged up to 20.0% from 19.9% in 2024, equivalent to more than 4 million additional young people without opportunities to build skills or gain work experience, and is projected to rise further, to 20.2%, by 2027.

Target 8.7

94. In 2024, nearly 138 million children, or approximately 59 million girls and 78 million boys, were in child labour, accounting for almost 8% of children globally. This represents more than 20 million fewer child labourers than in 2020. However, eliminating child labour by 2030 would require progress to accelerate 11 times faster than the current pace.

Target 8.8

95. Global average compliance with labour rights stood at 4.83, on a scale from 0 to 10, in 2024, a slight improvement from 4.88 in 2023; however, scores remained unchanged in 80% of countries and reflect a 6.4% overall decline since 2015. This persistent erosion of fundamental labour rights undermines social dialogue, contributes to rising wage inequality and weakens the labour income share.

Target 8.9

96. In 2024, tourism's direct GDP contribution reached 3.5%, remaining slightly below the 3.7% recorded in 2015. Notwithstanding, the sector drove a 14.3% increase in employment between 2015 and 2024. Tourism accounted, on average, for 5.7% of global employment during the period 2015–2024.

Target 8.10

97. Access to financial services has expanded globally since 2015. While physical access points declined, with automatic teller machines per 100,000 adults falling from 65.2 to 61.4, the share of adults with financial accounts rose to 79% by 2024, up from 74% in 2021. This transition helped to boost formal saving rates in developing economies from 24% to 40%, although future progress depends on equitable access to mobile and Internet connectivity.

Target 8.b

98. In 2025, nearly every country took some action to support youth employment, although with varying degrees of policy integration. By 2024, nearly 2 in 5 countries (72 of 187) had an active, stand-alone national strategy for youth employment with budgeted measures to promote youth employability.

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

99. Global progress under Goal 9 reflects meaningful advances across trade, manufacturing, innovation and connectivity. Sea-borne trade has grown steadily since 2015, while manufacturing value added per capita rose and the sector posted solid growth in 2024. The share of medium- and high-technology manufacturing reached a record high in 2023, research and development investment expanded consistently and 5G coverage now reaches more than half the global population. However, progress is held back by persistent structural gaps, given that the majority of small manufacturing enterprises lack access to formal credit, manufacturing employment has stagnated and CO_2 emissions hit an all-time high in 2024. Deep regional disparities, particularly between high-income countries and least developed countries, further threaten to leave the most vulnerable behind, underscoring the need for more targeted investment and international cooperation to translate aggregate gains into inclusive progress, including greater support for green innovation and green industrialization to align growth with climate goals.

Target 9.1

100. Global sea-borne trade reached an estimated 24.1 billion metric tons in 2024, up from 21.0 billion metric tons in 2015 – an increase of 15%. After contracting in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, trade rebounded and has remained near record levels, notwithstanding heightened volatility, geopolitical tensions and disruptions affecting major maritime routes.

Target 9.2

101. Global manufacturing rebounded by 8.9% in 2021 before moderating to 1.6% in 2023 amid geopolitical tensions and tighter financial conditions, then strengthening to 3.0% in 2024, although growth is expected to ease to 2.7% in 2025. Global manufacturing value added per capita rose 18.1%, from $1,657 in 2015 to $1,956 in

2025. The global share of manufacturing employment declined from 14.3% in 2015 to 13.7% in 2025.

Target 9.3

102. Globally, 32.7% of small manufacturing enterprises have access to a loan or line of credit, with sub-Saharan Africa recording the lowest rate, at just 19.1%, leaving smaller firms highly vulnerable to external shocks.

Target 9.4

103. In 2024, global CO_2 emissions from fuel combustion and industrial processes reached a record 37.6 gigatons, a 0.8% increase from 2023. Rising natural gas and coal consumption drove emissions, while record-high temperatures increased electricity demand for cooling. However, the expansion of clean energy technologies such as solar, wind and nuclear power mitigated what could have been a threefold larger emissions increase.

Target 9.5

104. Global research and development spending grew by 4.9% annually from 2015 to 2023, with its share of global GDP rising from 1.71% to 1.92%. However, investment in many developing economies remains below 1% of GDP.

105. From 2015 to 2023, the global number of researchers grew by 4.4% annually, driven by East and South-East Asia. This is reflected in an increase in the number of researchers per million inhabitants, from 1,141 to 1,486 globally, over that period. Women represent 31.4% of the research workforce.

Target 9.b

106. In 2023, the share of medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added reached a record 47.29%. Regional disparities remain stark, given that high-tech manufacturing accounts for 49.63% in Europe and Northern America but only 14.25% in sub-Saharan Africa.

Target 9.c

107. In 2025, 5G covered 55% of the global population, with high-income countries at 84% and low-income at 4%. 4G reached 93% and 3G is available at 96% worldwide. However, 12% of people in least developed countries and 11% in landlocked developing countries lack mobile broadband.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

108. Progress towards achieving Goal 10 is mixed. Most countries have seen improvements in pro-poor growth and poverty reduction since 2015. However, Central and South Asia saw limited progress, while many low-income countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, face non-pro-poor growth. Financial resilience has strengthened since 2015 through higher capital adequacy and lower non-performing loans. However, the global labour income share remains below 2015 levels. Migrant deaths remain alarmingly high, with significant undercounting.

Target 10.1

109. Nearly 60% of countries experienced pro-poor growth, where income or consumption growth for the bottom 40% of the population exceeded the national average.

Target 10.2

110. Data from 109 countries show that 6 in 10 have reduced the share of people living on less than half the median income since 2015. Post-pandemic data from 93 countries indicate that 13% of the global population live on less than half the median income in their countries. However, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the corresponding value is as high as 20%, reflecting high levels of inequality in the region.

Targets 10.3 and 16.b

111. Across the world, nearly one in five people globally experiences discrimination. Some groups, including women, the less educated, those with lower incomes and persons with disabilities, are persistently disadvantaged. Disparities across population groups expose the scale of discrimination and how much remains unseen.

Target 10.4

112. In 2025, the global labour income share stood at 52.6%, reflecting a 0.4 percentage point decline since 2015. While this downward trend exerts upward pressure on inequality, the labour income share is gradually recovering following the post pandemic inflationary period.

Target 10.5

113. Globally, banking performance continued to strengthen through 2024, extending a decade-long improvement trend across more than 120 countries. Capital adequacy reached a median tier 1 ratio of 17.09% (up from 16.73% in 2023), while asset quality improved as non-performing loans dropped to 2.95% from 3.47%. Profitability remained robust, with a median return on assets of 1.90%, significantly exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

Target 10.7

114. Global refugee proportions have risen sharply over the past decade, reaching 440 per 100,000 people by mid-2025, up from 214 a decade ago.

115. In 2025, at least 7,900 people died or disappeared while migrating, a decline from the 2024 record of 9,197 people. However, this decline is likely due to more fatalities going unrecorded, given that restricted access and reduced funding for humanitarian groups hinder documentation.

Target 10.c

116. In the third quarter of 2025, the global average transaction cost of sending $200 fell to 6.36% of that amount, down from 7.42% in 2016. Digital remittances, which accounted for 35% of all services, recorded at 4.59%, while the non-digital remittances rate was 7.3%. Digital-only operators averaged 3.54%. This progress notwithstanding, meeting the 3% target by 2030 requires continued effort. Services provided by digital-only money transfer operators averaged 3.54 %.

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

117. Urban development shows mixed progress alongside persistent challenges. While some regions have reduced the share of people living in slums, some 1.16 billion people, or approximately 1 in 4 urban residents, still lack adequate housing, and the total continues to rise, with rapid growth in developing regions. Investment in cultural and natural heritage remains uneven, although 57% of countries reported increased spending in recent years. At the same time, disasters continue to damage infrastructure and disrupt essential services. Overall, these trends point to modest gains but significant bottlenecks, highlighting the need for stronger investment in inclusive housing, heritage preservation and resilient infrastructure.

Target 11.1

118. Globally, an estimated 1.16 billion people, roughly 1 in 4 urban residents, live in slums or informal settlements, reflecting persistent deficits in access to adequate housing and basic services. Rapid urban growth in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia is increasing slum populations, which could exceed 1.2 billion by 2030 without accelerated action.

Target 11.2

119. On the basis of data from a sample of 412 cities across 127 countries, convenient access to public transport increased from 53.2% to 61.5%. Across cities, public transport systems continue to be dominated by low-capacity modes, while informal and semi-formal transport systems shape the scene in cities in most developing countries.

Target 11.3

120. On the basis of 2025 data from a global sample of 781 cities in 123 countries, the 2020–2025 period saw land consumption rates fall from 1.24% (2015–2020) to 0.83%. This decrease occurred alongside a steady decline in population growth and demonstrates a measurable increase in global land-use efficiency.

Target 11.4

121. In 2024, at least 57% of countries reported increased heritage preservation spending since 2021, although more than one third still invest less than $10 per capita (2017 purchasing power parity).

Target 11.5

122. Between 2015 and 2024, disasters destroyed or damaged an average of 91,847 critical infrastructure units annually, while more than 1.5 million basic services, including education and health facilities, were disrupted each year.

Target 11.6

123. From 2015 to 2020, annual levels of fine particulate matter declined steadily. However, progress then stalled, with global concentrations remaining at 26.1 $\mu g/m^3$ annually from 2020 to 2023.

Target 11.7

124. Data from a sample of 414 cities across 126 countries indicate that, between 2020 and 2025, the share of the population with convenient access to open public

spaces declined from 48.0% to 45.9%, signifying a likely worsening of urban quality of life across the cities.

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

125. Global progress on sustainable consumption is advancing, with policy instruments up 16% since 2019, fossil fuel subsidies down 10.2% in 2024 compared with 2023 and a gradual improvement in monitoring tourism's contribution to sustainable development. However, implementation consistently lags policy adoption, with persistent gaps in food waste data and e-waste recycling capacity falling well short of e-waste generation. To bridge this gap, countries should prioritize national monitoring systems, standardized e-waste collection, food waste tracking and circularity principles. The United Nations is addressing these challenges through the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, playing an important role in supporting the translation of global commitments into national action and scaling multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Target 12.1

126. Between 2019 and 2025, 75 countries reported 609 policy instruments, a 16% increase compared with the previous period, with 8 countries reporting for the first time, reflecting broadening global engagement.

Target 12.3

127. The share of food lost globally after harvest, across farm, transport, storage, wholesale and processing stages, is estimated at 13.3% in 2023, up slightly from 13.0% in 2015. In 2022, 1.05 billion tonnes of food went to waste at the retail, food service and household levels, equivalent to 19% of the world's available food. Combined, food loss and waste are responsible for up to 10% of greenhouse gas emissions and result in $1 trillion in annual economic losses, in addition to the impact on biodiversity loss, land use and natural resources.

Target 12.4

128. Global reporting on hazardous waste and chemicals has improved, with the Montreal Protocol maintaining a 100% reporting rate. During the period 2020–2024, the Basel and Stockholm Conventions reached submission rates of 66% and 51%, respectively, while the Minamata Convention achieved 76% in its most recent cycle (2021–2024).

Target 12.5

129. In 2023, global e-waste reached 65 million tonnes (8.1 kg per capita); however, only 15.5 million tonnes were formally recycled. Collection rates are not keeping pace with rapidly increasing generation.

Target 12.7

130. In 2025, 54 countries achieved a compliant score for sustainable public procurement policies, up from 49 in 2022, and demonstrating that the primary challenge has shifted from policy creation to implementation.

Target 12.b

131. Between the 2024 and 2025 data-collection cycles, the number of countries implementing tools to monitor the economic and environmental dimensions of

tourism sustainability increased from 30 to 54 countries. During the period 2015–2024, 56% of countries compiled at least one of those tools for one or more years. Within this group, 52% compiled tourism satellite account tables and 34% compiled System of Environmental-Economic Accounting tables.

Target 12.c

132. In 2024, compared with 2023, global fossil fuel subsidies fell 10.2%, to $921 billion, continuing a downward trend from the 2022 peak of $1.66 trillion, although levels remain more than double the 2020 low of $402 billion.

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

133. Climate change continues to intensify, with record-high temperatures and rising greenhouse gas concentrations driving increasingly severe and widespread impacts. While disaster-related mortality has declined, the number of people affected has more than doubled. Progress is evident in the widespread adoption of national disaster risk reduction strategies and renewed global commitments to climate finance. However, current efforts remain entirely insufficient to curb emissions or fully address escalating risks. Accelerating progress will require stronger mitigation, scaled-up adaptation and effective implementation of climate finance commitments to support vulnerable countries.

Target 13.1

134. Disaster-related deaths and missing persons dropped 65%, from 2.11 per 100,000 population in 2005–2014 to 0.75 in 2015–2024. However, the human toll remains substantial, with disasters claiming 41,023 people annually in the past decade. The number of people affected by disasters more than doubled, from 1,199 per 100,000 population in 2005–2014 to 2,445 in 2015–2024, averaging 123 million people annually in the past decade.

135. By 2025, 141 countries reported the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies, up from 56 in 2015.

Target 13.2

136. Global temperatures in 2025 were 1.43°C above pre-industrial levels. The period 2023–2025 were the three warmest years in 176 years, as greenhouse gas concentrations drove continued warming of the atmosphere. In 2024, atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 again reached their highest level in the past 2 million years and were 152% above pre-industrial levels. Levels in 2024 represented the largest annual increase since 1957.

Target 13.a

137. At the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 2024, countries agreed on a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, calling for at least $1.3 trillion annually by 2035 for developing countries, with developed countries leading by mobilizing at least $300 billion per year and at least triple the annual outflows from United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change climate funds from 2022 levels, by 2030. The first progress report on this goal will be issued in 2028.

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

138. While the ocean is critical for sustainable development, growing efforts to strengthen ocean governance are met with persistent detrimental pressures on marine ecosystems. With the increasing absorption of CO_2, acidification and warming of the ocean increases and key marine biodiversity areas remain without full protection. Declining sustainability in fisheries and limited investment in marine research highlight ongoing structural challenges. However, advances in monitoring, management and international cooperation, including the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in January 2026, are improving understanding of the state of the oceans and the coordination of efforts aimed at reducing pressures. Ensuring the sustainable use and protection of ocean resources will require investing in sustainable ocean economies, scaling up effective area-based conservation and integrated coastal zone management, greater protection of the oceans and coastal communities and enhanced investment in science and innovation.

Target 14.3

139. As the global average ocean surface pH declines, as a result of rising CO_2 emissions and absorption by the ocean, acidification increases. The expansion of monitoring stations (from 178 in 2021 to 906 in 2026) highlights a growing capacity of countries to observe ocean pH. Notwithstanding this increase in observations, monitoring remains patchy, hindering the development of strategies for mitigation and adaptation at relevant scales.

Target 14.4

140. Fishery resources remain under significant pressure from overfishing and other human-induced impacts. The most recent data (2021) show that 35.5% of stocks are unsustainable. Although a two percentage point decline in the share of sustainable fish stocks has been estimated over the past six years, the trend appears to have stabilized.

Target 14.7

141. Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP declined for the third consecutive period in 2023, from 0.087% to 0.081%, although the value added of fisheries and aquaculture continued to increase, reaching $175 billion in 2023.

Target 14.a

142. The median national research budget allocated to marine technology remained less than 1% across those countries reporting during the period 2013–2024. This small allocation contrasts with the growing ocean economy, which now accounts for 3–4% of gross value added to the world’s economy.

Target 14.c

143. On 17 January 2026, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction entered into force, constituting a major milestone for the ocean and multilateralism. The treaty strengthens the legal framework for conserving and sustainably using marine biodiversity in the two thirds of the ocean that lie beyond national jurisdiction.

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

144. Progress on protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems reflects a mixed picture of advancing commitments but continued ecosystem decline. While more countries are strengthening biodiversity-related policies, expanding protected areas and improving forest management, deforestation persists and species extinction risk continues to rise. Gains in conservation coverage remain uneven, with many critical ecosystems still insufficiently protected. Overall, closing the gap between policy ambition and on-the-ground impact will be essential to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems. The United Nations is advancing global action on land restoration and biodiversity through recent Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change processes, which are mobilizing resources for conservation, sustainable forest management and nature based solutions. Momentum has also been strengthened by the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which is driving renewed implementation efforts. Across the globe, United Nations efforts have also supported countries in building resilience through sustainable resource management and innovation, including through the Strategic Plan for Forests, 2017–2030.

Targets 15.1 and 15.2

145. Global forest coverage was 31.8% in 2025 (4.14 billion hectares). Since 1990, global forest area has declined by 4.7%, representing a net loss of 203.1 million hectares, including 41.0 million hectares since 2015. While sustainable forest management has improved, ongoing deforestation driven largely by agricultural expansion highlights the need to scale up protection, restoration and sustainable practices.

Targets 14.5, 15.1 and 15.4

146. Globally, the average proportion of key biodiversity areas covered by protected and conserved areas across marine, terrestrial, freshwater and mountain biomes increased from 25% in 2000 to 45% in 2025.

Target 15.5

147. Globally across all species groups, extinction risk continues to worsen, with the Red List Index value of 0.80 in 1993 below 0.75 in 2025. A recent reassessment establishes warm water reef-building corals as the species group facing the most severe deteriorations, with 44% of species facing elevated extinction risk, owing to climate change and accumulated local and global pressures.

Target 15.6

148. As of 2025, 84 countries (up from 5 in 2015) and 98 countries (up from 12 in 2015) had reported on legislative, administrative or policy measures under the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, respectively.

Target 15.8

149. Globally, close to 26% of countries have enacted legislation, regulations or decrees, with the primary focus on alien and invasive alien species. However, nearly all countries have enacted legislation across sectors such as plant health (98%),

animal health (97%) and fisheries and aquaculture (90%), including aspects of alien and invasive alien species.

Target 15.9

150. A total of 157 countries have established national targets related to ensuring the integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations and planning and development processes. In addition, national implementation of the international statistical standard to measure the environment and ecosystems and their connection to the economy increased by 42% from 2017 to 2025.

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

151. Violent conflicts have reached their highest levels in decades, rapidly erasing hard-won development gains. The conflicts in Gaza, Myanmar, the Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere have demonstrated with brutal clarity that decades of development progress can be reversed in months. As of June 2025, more than 117.3 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide, including nearly 42.5 million refugees. Attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers and critical infrastructure reflect a deepening crisis of impunity that undermines directly the achievement of Goal 16. Violence, exploitation and limited access to justice continue to affect large segments of the global population, particularly children, women and vulnerable groups. While institutional gains are emerging in strengthened public financial management and the growing adoption of legal frameworks for access to information, women and young people remain significantly underrepresented in political leadership. Advancing Goal 16 requires the political will to end ongoing wars, uphold international law, close the accountability gap and deliver inclusive protection and functional justice.

Target 16.1

152. The global homicide rate fell to 5.1 victims per 100,000 population in 2024, compared with 5.9 in 2015. If the decline continues, the global homicide rate will decline by 25% between 2015 to 2030, falling short of the target of significantly reducing violence and related death rates, which can be interpreted as a 50% reduction.

153. In 2025, civilian conflict-related deaths fell by 23% from 2024, to 37,163, interrupting three consecutive years of increases. However, the scale remains alarming: one in five recorded civilian deaths was of a child and one in four was of a woman. Western Asia and Northern Africa accounted for 65% of all recorded civilian deaths in conflict, followed by sub-Saharan Africa at 24%.

154. Some 66% of people globally report feeling safe walking alone in their area after dark, a figure that remained relatively stable from 2017 to 2025. Women consistently report feeling less safe than men across all regions.

Target 16.2

155. Globally, 1.6 billion children, or 2 in every 3, regularly endure violent punishment by caregivers at home. Prevalence exceeds 60% in the majority of the nearly 90 countries (mostly low- and middle-income) with available data from 2016 to 2025.

Target 16.3

156. In 2024, 11.6 million individuals were held in detention worldwide, at a rate of 145 per 100,000 population, and nearly one third (3.6 million) were in pretrial detention, a proportion that remained unchanged between 2015 and 2024.

Target 16.5

157. The median proportion of people who reported paying a bribe or were asked to pay a bribe to a public official in the past 12 months was approximately 17%, based on data from 139 countries between 2015 and 2024.

Target 16.6

158. Countries are steadily strengthening their budget reliability, with expenditure deviations dropping from 12.6% in 2020 to 10.2% in 2024, indicating more disciplined and predictable public financial management.

159. Globally, satisfaction with public services varies markedly by region. East and South-East Asia reported the highest levels of satisfaction with the availability of healthcare services (74.2%), while Latin America and the Caribbean (46.9%), closely followed by sub-Saharan Africa (48.7%), recorded the lowest. Trend data available for 95 countries further showed that satisfaction with healthcare availability remained largely stagnant over the past decade.

Target 16.7

160. In 2025, parliamentary leadership remained dominated by men over 40 years of age who held 77% of speaker posts and 63% of committee chairs. The share of women speakers declined to 19.9% and youth representation stagnated at 2.8% for those under 30 and 19% for those under 40.

161. Notwithstanding significant efforts, women remain underrepresented in public service and the judiciary, with representation ratios of 0.80 and 0.88, respectively, still short of parity (1.00).

162. Globally, fewer than half of people believe they have a meaningful say in what their government does. In high-income regions, only approximately one in three people feel able to influence decisions and women consistently report lower levels of perceived influence than men.

Target 16.10

163. Since 2015, verified killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists have risen globally and in most regions. At least 5,335 defenders have been killed globally since 2015, representing a 61% increase over the decade. According to 2024 data, one human rights defender, journalist or trade unionist is killed or disappeared every 10 hours. Projected totals for 2025 are 743 killed and 202 disappeared, with no sign of reversal in the upward trend.

164. As of 2026, 141 Member States have adopted statutory guarantees for access to information, up from 105 in 2015.

Target 16.a

165. In 2025, 89 countries had national human rights institutions fully compliant with United Nations standards, unchanged from 2024.

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

166. Goal 17 is the “enabler” Goal – if it fails, every other Goal becomes harder to achieve. Current evidence points to growing structural challenges. While digital connectivity continues to expand, rising debt burdens, sharply declining ODA, reduced FDI to developing economies and uneven investment are undermining the means of implementation at precisely the moment when they are most needed. The countries with the greatest development needs are also the ones with the least connectivity, limited statistical capacity and the most constrained fiscal space.

Finance

Target 17.2

167. ODA from members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and associates fell to $174.3 billion in 2025, a 23.1% drop from 2024 – the largest annual decline on record, returning ODA to around 2015 levels. Bilateral ODA declined by 26.4% and core contributions to the United Nations system were down 27%.

Target 17.3

168. In 2026, initial data from nine pilot countries using the new United Nations conceptual framework to measure South-South cooperation revealed that nearly all reported South-South cooperation as non-financial, with 11% being non-monetized, underscoring the vital role of in-kind support.

169. Total official and private resources for developing countries (excluding South-South providers) reached $419.6 billion in 2024, up 12% from 2023. Grants (31%) and concessional loans (16%) supported mainly low-income countries and least developed countries, while non-concessional loans (36%) and private finance (16%) were directed primarily to middle- and high-income countries.

170. Global FDI rose by 14% in 2025 to an estimated $1.6 trillion. FDI flows to developed economies increased by 43%, to $728 billion, while flows to developing economies declined by 2%, to an estimated $877 billion. Three quarters of least developed countries saw stagnant or declining inflows.

171. Remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries increased by nearly 10% to reach $687 billion in 2024, after a sharp decrease in 2023. Strong growth in remittances in 2024 was driven mainly by steady economic growth and stable labour markets in several high-income migrant-hosting countries.

Target 17.4

172. In 2024, total external debt reached a record $8.9 trillion. Debt-servicing costs climbed to historic highs: interest payments increased by 2.2% to $415.4 billion, net debt transfers stayed negative for a third consecutive year and many countries increasingly turned to domestic borrowing.

Target 17.5

173. In 2025, 54 countries had an outward FDI promotion mechanism (31 developed economies and 23 developing economies); however, only approximately half had at least one instrument specifically targeting developing countries.

Information and communications technology

Target 17.6

174. Fixed-broadband subscriptions grew at an average annual growth rate of 5.9% between 2015 and 2025, reaching 20 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2025. However, fixed connections are nearly non-existent in low-income countries owing to high prices and a lack of infrastructure.

Target 17.7

175. In 2024, total trade of tracked environmentally sound technologies was $2.7 trillion, an increase of 16% compared with 2015.

Target 17.8

176. In 2025, 74% of the world's population was online, compared with 71% in 2024 and 40% in 2015. More than one quarter of the global population remains offline, making universal use a distant prospect.

Target 17.11

177. The share of developing economies in world merchandise exports reached 48.3% in 2024, 1.4 percentage points more than 2023 and 11.7 percentage points more than in 2005. Their share in world services exports was somewhat smaller, at 31.5% in 2024. It gained 0.4 percentage points compared with the year before and 8.4 percentage points compared with 2005.

178. The least developed countries' share in world merchandise exports rose from 0.71% in 2005 to 1.13% in 2024, with a relatively strong increase in their share in world services exports, from 0.45 to 0.59% during the same period. However, the progress was far too small to reach the target of doubling the least developed countries' export share by 2020.

Target 17.14

179. In 2025, 39 countries reported on mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development, with an average implementation rate of 74%.

Target 17.15

180. On average, bilateral development partners use country-owned results frameworks and planning tools to a medium extent (60%) in 2026, up from 56% in 2018, although still below 2016 (62%) levels.

Data, monitoring and accountability

Target 17.18

181. Countries made progress in data production between 2022 and 2024, with the average open data inventory coverage score rising above 50 out of 100 for the first time. However, sharp cuts to ODA in 2024 and 2025 now threaten the funding that underpins national statistical systems in countries long reliant on external financing. Production is already slowing and releases stalling, putting a decade of progress at risk and underscoring the urgent need for more inclusive and sustained investment in data infrastructure.

182. In 2025, 163 countries reported having national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, a slight increase from 159 reported in 2024 and 139 countries in 2019.

183. In 2025, 135 countries reported implementing a national statistical plan, 80 of which are fully funded, 22 that are not fully funded and 33 with an unknown funding status. This is a significant change from 2024, when 95 statistical plans were fully funded, of 137 statistical plans reported under implementation.

Target 17.19

184. In 2023, $1.14 billion was disbursed to strengthen statistics in developing countries, representing an 8% increase compared with 2022 and a 57% increase compared with 2015. The funding landscape for statistics in 2023 was dominated by Development Assistance Committee donors and multilateral organizations; however, prospects of continued growth are less assured, given the state of global funding uncertainty.

185. Between 2015 and 2024, 87% of countries or areas worldwide conducted at least one population and housing census. However, 31 countries failed to conduct a census during this 10-year period owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, financial constraints and political instability.