

KEY FINDINGS

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- A decade after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs have improved millions of lives globally. However, the pace of change remains insufficient to meet the Goals by 2030 as escalating conflicts, climate change, rising inequality, and inadequate financing are holding back further progress.
- The latest data reveal that only 35 per cent of SDG targets with available trend data are on track or show moderate progress. Nearly half are moving too slowly or making only marginal progress, while 18 per cent have regressed.
- Despite these setbacks, progress is possible if we scale up solutions and build on hard-won gains. The report highlights opportunities and examples of success and resilience that can be built upon at global and regional levels.

The SDGs at 10: Progress is real but insufficient

A challenging global context is threatening to hold back further SDG progress. Conflicts and tensions are escalating. Temperatures keep breaking records. Debt levels and servicing costs are mounting. And developing countries face a staggering SDG financing gap.

- **Rising inequalities (SDGs 1, 10):**
 - More than 800 million people – nearly 1 in 10 – still live in extreme poverty in 2025.
 - By 2025, more than three-quarters of the global extreme poor will live in sub-Saharan Africa or in fragile and conflict-affected countries.
 - Only one in five countries is on track to halve its national poverty rate by 2030.
 - Spending on essential services was 60 per cent in advanced economies and 43 per cent in developing ones in 2023 – a persistent 20-point gap.
 - Persons with disabilities face discrimination at 28 per cent compared to 17 per cent for those without disabilities.
- **Food and hunger crises (SDGs 2, 12):**
 - Nearly 1 in 11 people worldwide faced hunger in 2023, while more than 2 billion experienced moderate to severe food insecurity.
 - Anaemia affected 30.7 per cent of women aged 15–49 in 2023, up from 27.6 per cent in 2012.
 - Only 65 per cent of women aged 15–49 years globally met minimum dietary diversity. Among children aged 6–23 months, only 34 per cent met the standard.

SDG successes and opportunities for acceleration

Global figures represent an average across all countries. This can hide pockets of significant progress in some areas, regions or countries. Spotlighting successes made in these areas or regions reveals a pathway to achieving the SDGs.

- **Reducing poverty and inequalities (SDGs 1, 10):**
 - Since 2015, about 6 in 10 countries with data have achieved higher income and consumption growth for the bottom 40 per cent of the population compared to the national average.
 - In 2024, 6.9 per cent of the employed population lived in extreme poverty, down from 8.4 per cent in 2015.
 - Social protection reached over half the global population in 2023, up from 42.8 per cent in 2015.
 - Customary and other informal tenure arrangements continue to provide a sense of tenure security. In countries with data, between 82 and 89 per cent of the population feel secure in their land rights.
- **Improving malnutrition (SDG 2):**
 - Between 2012 and 2024, the prevalence of stunting among children under age 5 decreased from 26.4 per cent to 23.2 per cent.
 - In 2023, 50 per cent of countries had moderately to abnormally high food prices, down from 60 per cent in 2022 – still more than three times pre-pandemic norms.
 - Public spending on agriculture hit a record \$701 billion in 2023, up 2 per cent annually since 2015.

- **Health setbacks (SDG 3):**

- The COVID-19 pandemic reduced healthy life expectancy by 1.8 years.
- 260,000 women still died during pregnancy and childbirth in 2023.
- 4.8 million children under age 5 died in 2023 and 30 million deaths of children under age 5 are projected by 2030 if current trends continue.
- Non-communicable diseases killed 18 million people under age 70 in 2021.
- In 2023, coverage for the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine was 84 per cent, still below pre-pandemic levels.

- **Education stagnation (SDG 4):**

- 272 million children and youth remained out of school in 2023.
- In 2019, only 58 per cent of primary school students reached minimum proficiency in reading and just 44 per cent did so in mathematics.
- 36 per cent of school-aged children and youth are out of school in low-income countries, compared to 3 per cent in high-income countries.
- Over 20 per cent of primary schools lack electricity, water, or sanitation; two-thirds of primary schools in LDCs lack digital tools.

- **Slow progress towards gender equality (SDG 5):**

- Only 38 countries have made 18 the minimum age for marriage, with no exceptions, and only 63 countries had laws on rape that were based on a lack of consent.
- Women perform 2.5 times as many hours of unpaid domestic and care work as men.
- Over 230 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation.
- Only 56.3 per cent of women aged 15–49 who are married or in a union have full decision-making power over their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- **Access to water, sanitation, and energy (SDG 6, 7):**

- In 2024, 2.2 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion went without safely managed sanitation, and 1.7 billion lacked basic hygiene services at home.
- 2.1 billion people still lacked access to clean cooking solutions in 2023; only 21 per cent of sub-Saharan Africans had access.

- **Improved health outcomes (SDG 3):**

- Healthy life expectancy increased by over five years between 2000 and 2019.
- The global maternal mortality ratio dropped from 228 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 197 in 2023. Under-5 mortality fell to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023, down 16 per cent from 2015.
- New HIV infections have declined by nearly 40 per cent since 2010.
- Malaria prevention has averted 2.2 billion cases and saved 12.7 million lives since 2000.
- 54 countries have eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease by the end of 2024.

- **Education gains (SDG 4):**

- 110 million more children and youth have entered school since 2015.
- Global completion rates in 2024 reached 88 per cent for primary, 78 per cent for lower secondary, and 60 per cent for upper secondary education, up from 85, 74, and 53 per cent, respectively, in 2015.
- Youth literacy rose globally from 91 per cent in 2014 to 93 per cent in 2024, while adult literacy increased from 85 per cent to 88 per cent.
- Over half of youth aged 15–24 participated in education or training in 2024, up more than ten percentage points since 2000.

- **Gender advancements (SDG 5):**

- 99 positive legal reforms were implemented between 2019 and 2024 to remove discriminatory laws and establish gender equality frameworks.
- As of 1 January 2025, women held 27.2 per cent of the seats in national parliaments, up 4.9 percentage points from 2015.
- The younger cohort of parliamentarians shows a more balanced gender ratio: 43 per cent of under-30 members of parliament are women, and 37 per cent of under-40 members of parliament are women.
- From 2015 to 2023, women representation in management positions increased by 2.4 percentage points, reaching 30 per cent.

- **Sustainable water and energy (SDG 6, 7):**

- Between 2015 and 2024, access to safely managed drinking water rose from 68 per cent to 74 per cent; sanitation coverage increased from 48 per cent to 58 per cent; and basic hygiene services rose from 66 per cent to 80 per cent.
- 92 per cent of the world's population had access to electricity in 2023.

- About 10 per cent of the global population lives under high or critical water stress, with some regions exceeding 75 per cent water stress levels.
- **Employment (SDG 8):**
 - Globally, 57.8 per cent of workers were informally employed in 2024, including 93.8 per cent of women in LDCs and 91.4 per cent of women in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - Global GDP per capita growth is projected to slow to 1.5 per cent in 2025, down from 1.7 per cent between 2015 and 2023 and 2.0 per cent during the 2010–2014 period.
- **Cities and the climate crisis (SDG 11, 13, 14, 15):**
 - 1.12 billion people worldwide live in slums or informal settlements without basic services.
 - 2024 was hottest year on record (beating the record set the year before in 2023), with temperatures 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels. CO₂ levels are at their highest in 2 million years.
 - Glaciers are melting at record rates, causing short-term hazards and threatening long-term water security.
 - An ongoing global coral bleaching event has affected 84 per cent of reefs across 83 countries between 2023 and 2025 – the worst on record.
 - Wildfires emitted 6,687 megatons of CO₂ in 2023, over twice the European Union’s fossil fuel emissions.
- **Escalating conflicts (SDGs 10, 16):**
 - The global refugee population surged to 37.8 million by mid-2024.
 - Conflicts caused nearly 50,000 deaths in 2024. By the end of that year, over 120 million people were forcibly displaced.
- **Inadequate SDG financing (SDG 17):**
 - Developing countries face a staggering gap of \$4 trillion in SDG financing annually.
 - Low- and middle-income countries faced record-high debt servicing costs of \$1.4 trillion in 2023.
 - Official development assistance declined 7.1 per cent in 2024 after five years of growth, with further cuts expected through 2025.
 - 2.6 billion people remained offline in 2024.
- Renewable energy is the fastest-growing energy source today and is projected to surpass coal as the primary electricity source in 2025.
- **Employment (SDG 8):**
 - Global unemployment hit a historic low of 5.0 per cent in 2024, down from 6.0 per cent in 2015.
 - Child labour dropped from 160 million to 138 million children between 2020 and 2024.
- **Climate and environment (SDG 11, 13, 14, 15):**
 - In 2024, 110 countries reported having local disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with national plans.
 - In 2024, 131 countries had national disaster risk reduction strategies, up from 57 in 2015.
 - Conservation efforts have doubled protection of key biodiversity areas across all biomes since 2000.
 - From 2014 to 2023, disaster-related mortality (excluding COVID-19) nearly halved to 0.79 deaths per 100,000 people, down from 1.61 in the previous decade.
 - The 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice resulted in 19 new ratifications of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement), bringing the total to 50 States or just 10 short of the threshold for entry into force.
- **Technology and statistical capacities (SDG 17):**
 - Global foreign direct investment (FDI) rose 11 per cent in 2024, reaching \$1.4 trillion.
 - In 2024, 5.5 billion people (or 68 per cent of the global population) were online, up from 40 per cent in 2015.
 - The global gender gap in internet access continues to narrow, dropping from 277 million in 2021 to 189 million in 2024.
 - Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI) scores rose from 58.6 in 2016 to 69.7 in 2023.
 - 137 countries reported having a national statistical plan in 2024, with 95 of them fully funded.