

KEY MESSAGES

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025

REPORT [WEBPAGE](#)

➤ **A decisive five-year countdown starts now.**

With the 2030 deadline only five years away, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025* delivers a stark message: the SDGs have improved millions of lives in the past decade, but progress is not sufficient to achieve all the Goals. 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. While a decade of progress demonstrates what is possible through solidarity and investment, the world is facing a global development emergency that demands immediate, bold, and coordinated action.

➤ **The SDGs at 10: Progress is real and substantial...**

Since 2015, over 100 million children and youth have gained access to education, maternal and child mortality rates have declined, and internet use has increased by 70 per cent. New HIV infections have dropped by nearly 40 per cent since 2010, while hundreds of millions of people have gained access to safe drinking water, sanitation and electricity, with electricity access now reaching 92 per cent of the global population.

➤ **...but fragile and unequal.**

Yet, development gains have been uneven. Over 800 million people still live in extreme poverty; hunger affects 1 in 11 globally; 1.12 billion people worldwide live in slums or informal settlements; and 120 million people are forcibly displaced — more than double the number in 2015. Official development assistance declined 7.1 per cent in 2024 after five years of growth, with further cuts expected through 2025. Women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities continue to face systemic disadvantages.



➤ **Conflicts, climate chaos, rising inequality, and inadequate financing are holding back further advancements.**

Conflicts caused nearly 50,000 deaths in 2024, one every 12 minutes. The year 2024 was the hottest on record, with global temperatures 1.55 °C above pre-industrial levels. Low- and middle-income countries are grappling with record-high debt servicing costs, totaling \$1.4 trillion in 2023. Developing countries face a staggering gap of \$4 trillion in SDG financing annually. These challenges impede progress from reaching the pace and scale needed to meet the 2030 targets.

➤ **Data are critical but statistical systems remain underfunded.**

Timely and disaggregated data are essential to monitor progress, target interventions, and ensure accountability. Yet national statistical systems remain chronically under-resourced. Recent disruptions, like the suspension of the Demographic and Health Surveys, expose the fragility of relying on external funding. The Medellín Framework for Action, adopted last year at the UN World Data Forum, provides a clear roadmap to modernize and finance data systems.

➤ **Success stories show that the Goals are achievable.**

While this report focuses on global trends, global averages may mask meaningful advances in many countries. For example, 45 countries have achieved universal electricity access in the past decade and 54 countries had eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease by the end of 2024. These national and local successes, driven by sound policies, strong institutions, and inclusive partnerships, prove that progress is not only possible, but already happening.

➤ **A call to action: breakthrough is still possible.**

The report highlights six transformations to rescue the SDGs: Food systems, energy access and sustainability, digital connectivity, education reform, jobs and social protection, and climate and biodiversity action. Progress in these areas can unlock cascading benefits across the Goals — but only with coordinated policies, sufficient financing, and inclusive implementation.

➤ **Urgent multilateralism and sustained investment are critical in the final five years.**

Our challenges and their solutions are inherently global and interconnected. Success depends on strong political will, adequate resources, increased international cooperation, and genuine solidarity. The Fourth Financing for Development Conference, the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Second United Nations Food Systems Summit, and the Second World Summit for Social Development provide vital opportunities to galvanize political will and secure necessary financing. The evidence is clear: transformation is possible. The next five years will determine whether the world meets the ambition of the 2030 Agenda — or leaves millions behind to face a future defined by poverty, inequality, and climate catastrophe.