The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

Extended Report

-Goal 17-

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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

Note: The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) prepares the annual *The Sustainable Development Goals Report*, also known as the glossy report, based on storyline inputs submitted by UN international agencies in their capacity as mandated custodian agencies for the SDG indicators. However, due to space constraints, not all information received from custodian agencies is able to be included in the final glossy report. Therefore, in order to provide the general public with all information regarding the indicators, this 'Extended Report' has been prepared by UNSD. It includes all storyline contents for each indicator as provided by the custodian agencies and is unedited. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information linked for further information.

Contents

Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

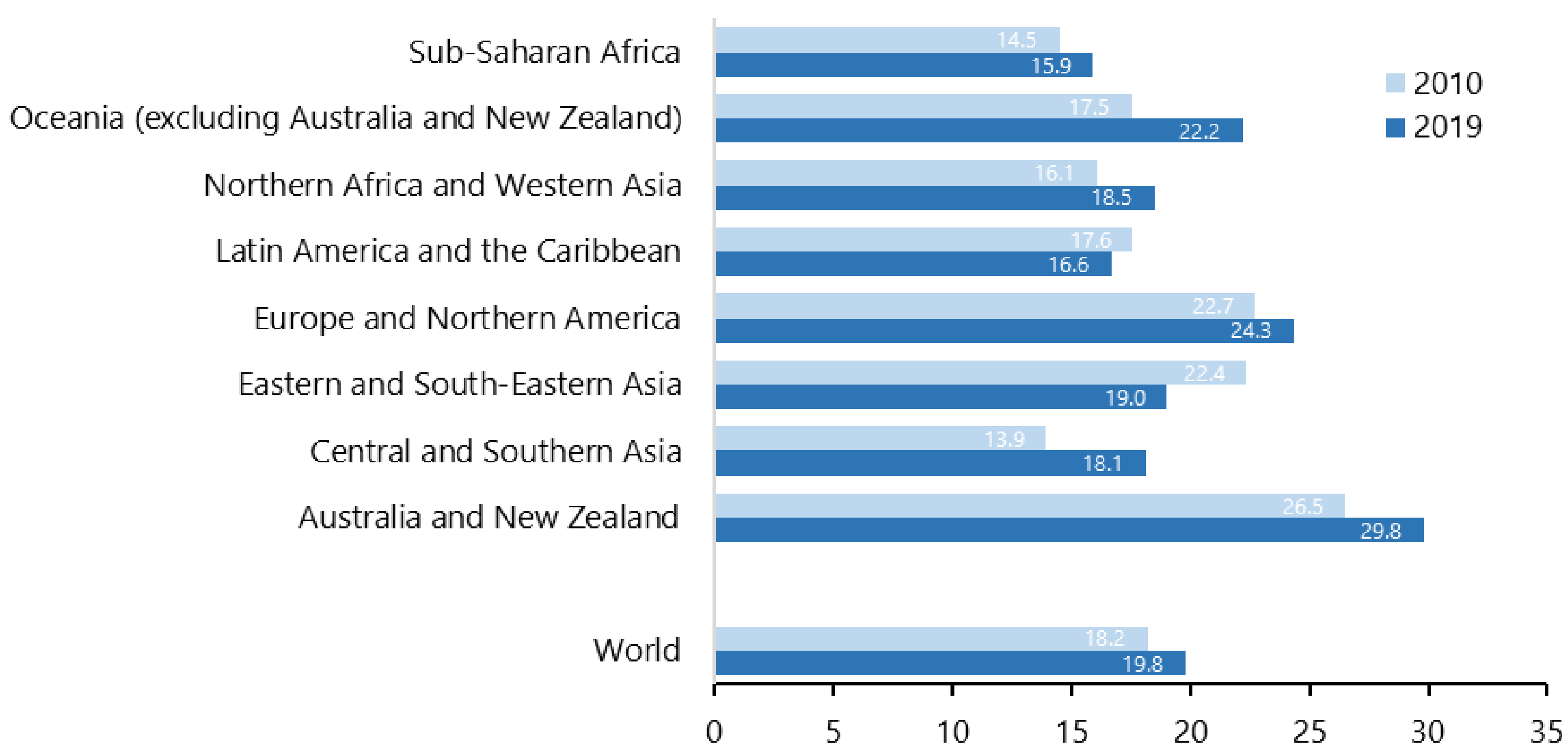
Indicator 17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source

Revenue mobilization is required if the state is to fulfill its role in sustainable and inclusive growth. Taxation is necessary to enable the state and is at the center of development policies, which in turn are concomitant with overall prosperity.

In order to enable the state, all countries face choices on where to set the ideal level of taxation and in determining how sources of non-tax revenue (social contributions, grants and other revenues) can augment overall revenue mobilization. The composition and the sustainability of government spending (see indicator 17.1.2) is also impacted.

Assessing whether the overall “tax burden” (revenue in the form of taxes) or, for countries with well-established social protection schemes, the “fiscal burden” (revenue in the form of taxes plus social contributions) is appropriate represents a key element of fiscal policy. The most recent data show, on average, that the “tax burden” in a representative sample of approximately 130 economies has tended to converge with the tax level in major industrialized countries. Amongst the advanced economies the average overall rate of taxation is 25% of GDP, while the “fiscal burden” is 36%. For most countries, revenue in the form of Grants is 3% of GDP, although there are outliers (Marshall Islands 33%, Palau, 16% and Tonga 18%). Similarly, other revenue comprises 6% of GDP, on average, except for some resource rich countries that tend to rely on rents/royalties (Azerbaijan 26%, Iraq 38%, Saudi Arabia 26% and Timor-Leste 56%).

Tax revenue as a percentage of GDP, 2010 and 2019



Custodian agency(ies):

IMF

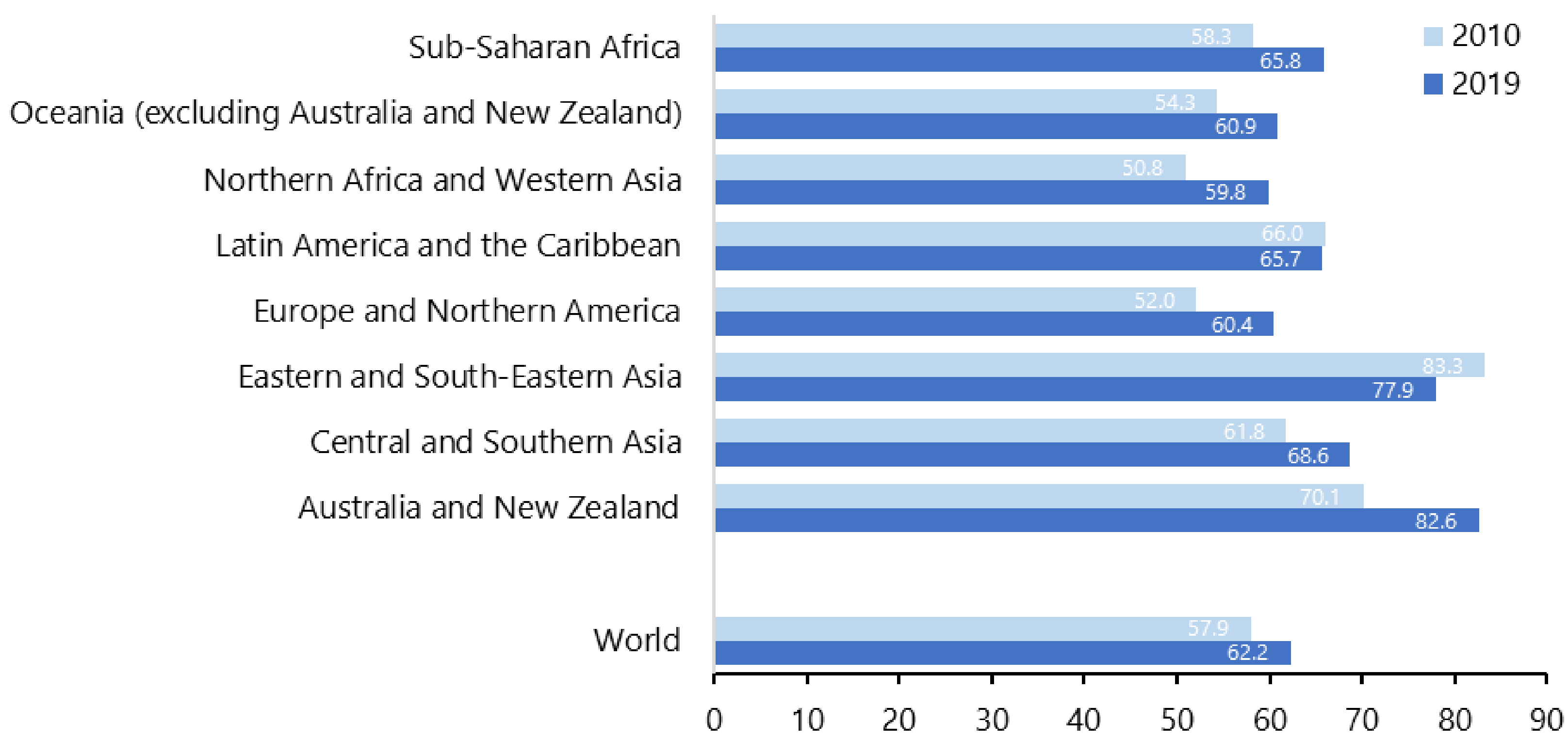
Indicator 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

A well-functioning revenue mobilization system is a necessary condition for government to effectively contribute to strong, sustained and inclusive economic development

World-wide, there is increased focus on spending levels, spending composition, and spending outcomes, as measured by both the economic and functional spending classifications. Many countries are seeking to adopt sound structural measures to ensure that spending levels remain sustainable, to address poor social outcomes such as high inequality and poor health and education outcomes, and to efficiently and equitably contain spending pressures arising from an ageing population. But what level of public spending is desirable for a country at a given level of national income? And can a link be made with setting the ideal levels and types of tax and non-tax revenue (see indicator 17.1.1) or determining the optimal "tax burden"?

Government revenue funds much of the public expenditure on physical, social and administrative infrastructure that enables growth and development. The most recent data show that in a representative sample of approximately 130 economies the proportion of government expenditure funded by taxes, on average, varies across regions but has remained stable within regions. Where it has occurred, the reduction in the role of taxes in funding government expenditure between 2010 and 2019 may represent a combination of improved revenue mobilization and public financial management.

Government expenditure funded by domestic taxes, 2010 and 2019 (percentage)



Custodian agency(ies):

IMF

Target 17.2: Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

Indicator 17.2.1: Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

In 2020, official development assistance (ODA) by member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) amounted to USD 161 billion, representing 0.32% of their combined GNI. It rose by 7% in real terms compared to 2019, reaching its highest level ever recorded. The increase in ODA is in part due to DAC members' support of an inclusive global recovery in light of the pandemic and in part due to an increase in bilateral sovereign lending by some loan-giving members. Most donors had adopted their ODA budgets for 2020 by the time the pandemic hit, and were able to maintain their planned ODA commitments. In addition, some were able to rapidly mobilise additional funding to support developing countries face exceptional circumstances.

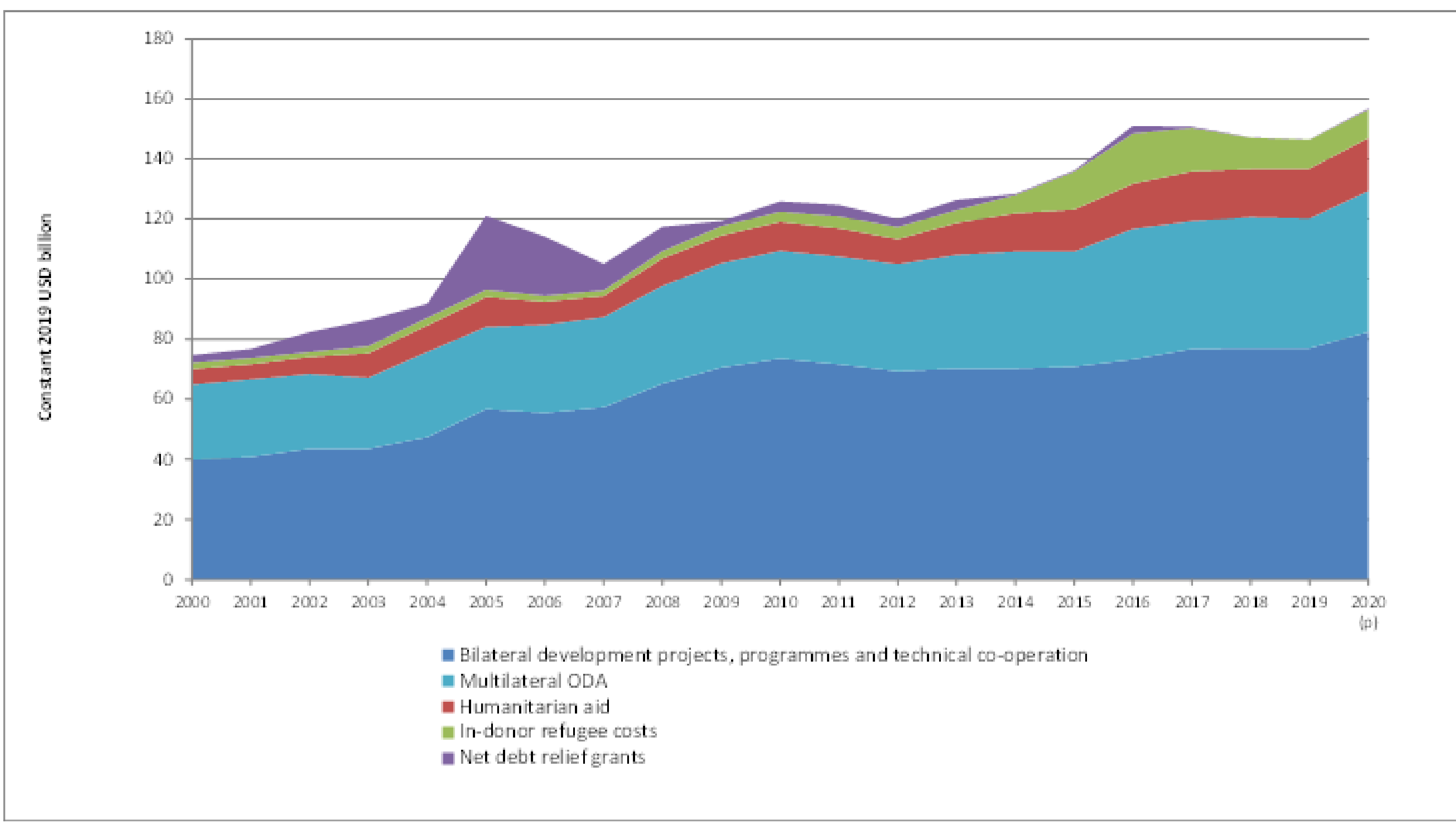
Initial estimates indicate that within total ODA, DAC countries spent USD 12 billion in 2020 on COVID-19 related activities.

The United States continued to be the largest DAC donor of ODA (USD 35.5 billion), followed by Germany (USD 28.4 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 18.6 billion), Japan (USD 16.3 billion) and France (USD 14.1 billion).

Six countries met or exceeded the United Nations' ODA as a percentage of GNI target of 0.7%: Denmark (0.73%), Germany (0.73%), Luxembourg (1.02%), Norway (1.11%), Sweden (1.14%) and the United Kingdom (0.70%). In addition, among the providers beyond the DAC that provide development cooperation, Turkey exceeded the 0.7% ODA/GNI target with 1.12%.

Net ODA flows by DAC member countries were USD 161.0 billion in 2020, an increase of 7% in real terms compared to 2019.

COMPONENTS OF DAC COUNTRIES' NET ODA



Progress analysis: [See progress chart]

[Custodian agency(ies):]

OECD

Target 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

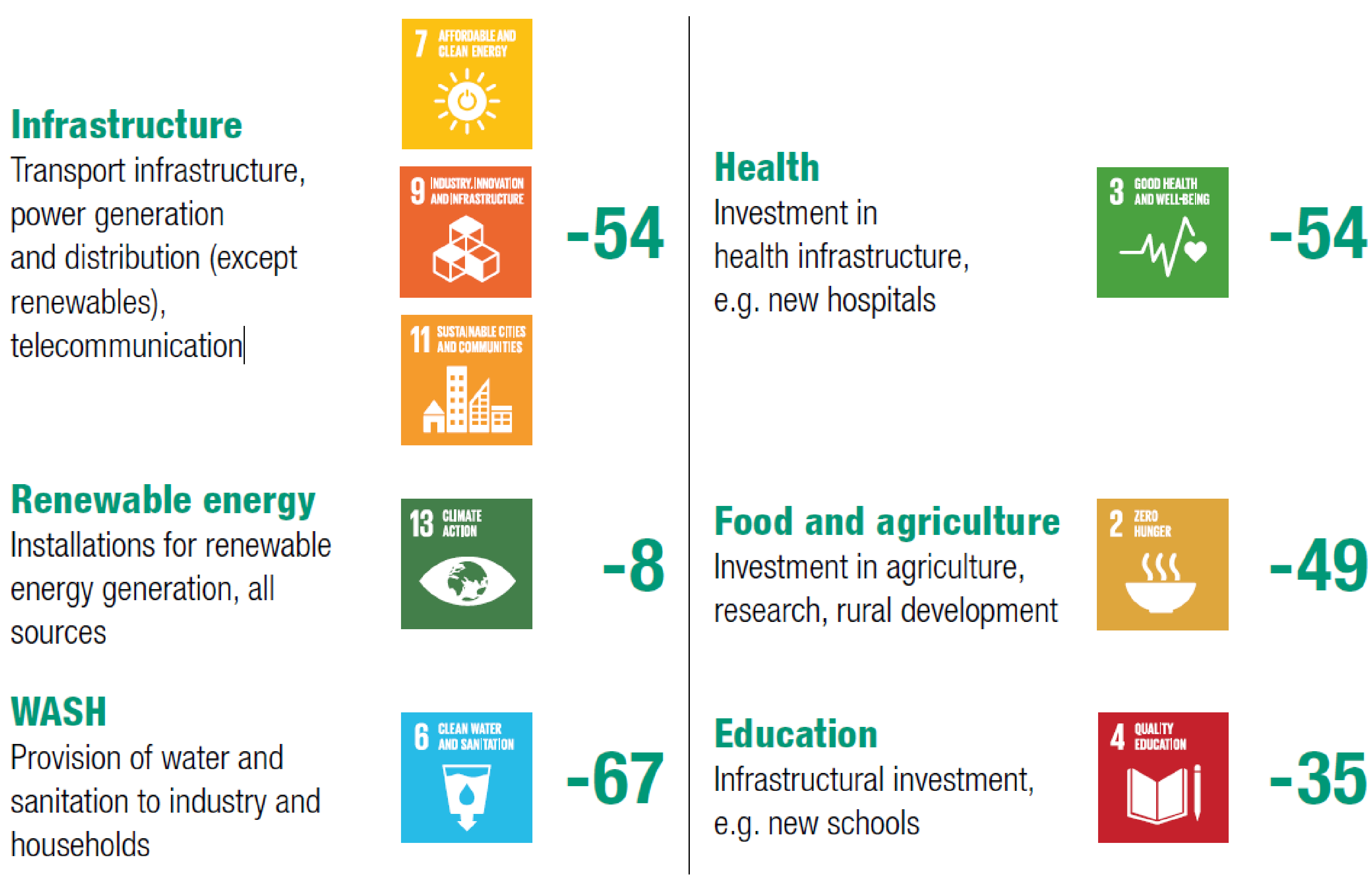
Indicator 17.3.1: Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income

The COVID-19 crisis has caused a dramatic fall in foreign direct investment (FDI). Global FDI flows fell by 35-40 per cent in 2020, from their 2019 value of $1.5 trillion, bringing them below $1 trillion for the first time since 2005. The pandemic was a supply, demand and policy shock for FDI. The lockdown measures were slowing down existing investment projects. The prospect of a deep recession lead MNEs to re-assess new projects. Policy measures taken by governments during the crisis include new investment restrictions.

The fall in FDI flows was concentrated mainly in developed countries while it was relatively resilient in developing economies. FDI flows across developing regions was uneven, with -45 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, -16 per cent in Africa and +4 per cent in developing Asia. Looking ahead, the FDI prospect is expected to bottom out in 2021 and recover some lost ground, with an increase of about 10-15 per cent. Current forecasts show a further increase in 2022 which, at the upper bound of projections, would bring FDI back to the 2019 level. Prospects are highly uncertain and will depend on, among other factors, the pace of economic recovery and the possibility of pandemic relapses, the potential impact on FDI of recovery spending packages, and policy pressures.

The fall in cross-border flows affected investment in sectors relevant for the SDGs. SDG-relevant greenfield investment in developing regions is 33 per cent lower than before the pandemic and international project finance is down by 42 per cent. All but one SDG investment sector registered a double-digit decline from pre-pandemic levels. The shock exacerbated declines in sectors that were already weak before the pandemic – such as power, food and agriculture, and health. The gains observed in investment in renewable energy and digital infrastructure in developed economies reflect the asymmetric effect that public support packages could have on global SDG investment trends. The sharp decline in foreign investment in SDG-related sectors may slow down the progress achieved in SDG investment promotion in recent years, posing a risk to delivering the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and to sustained post-pandemic recovery

The impact of COVID-19 on international privateinvestment in SDGs, 2019-2020 (Per cent change)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Link: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2021_en.pdf
- Website https://unctad.org/webflyer/world-investment-report-2021

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Custodian agency(ies):

UNCTAD

Indicator 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

Remittances are projected to fall by 14 percent between 2019 and 2021, the steepest decline in recent history, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

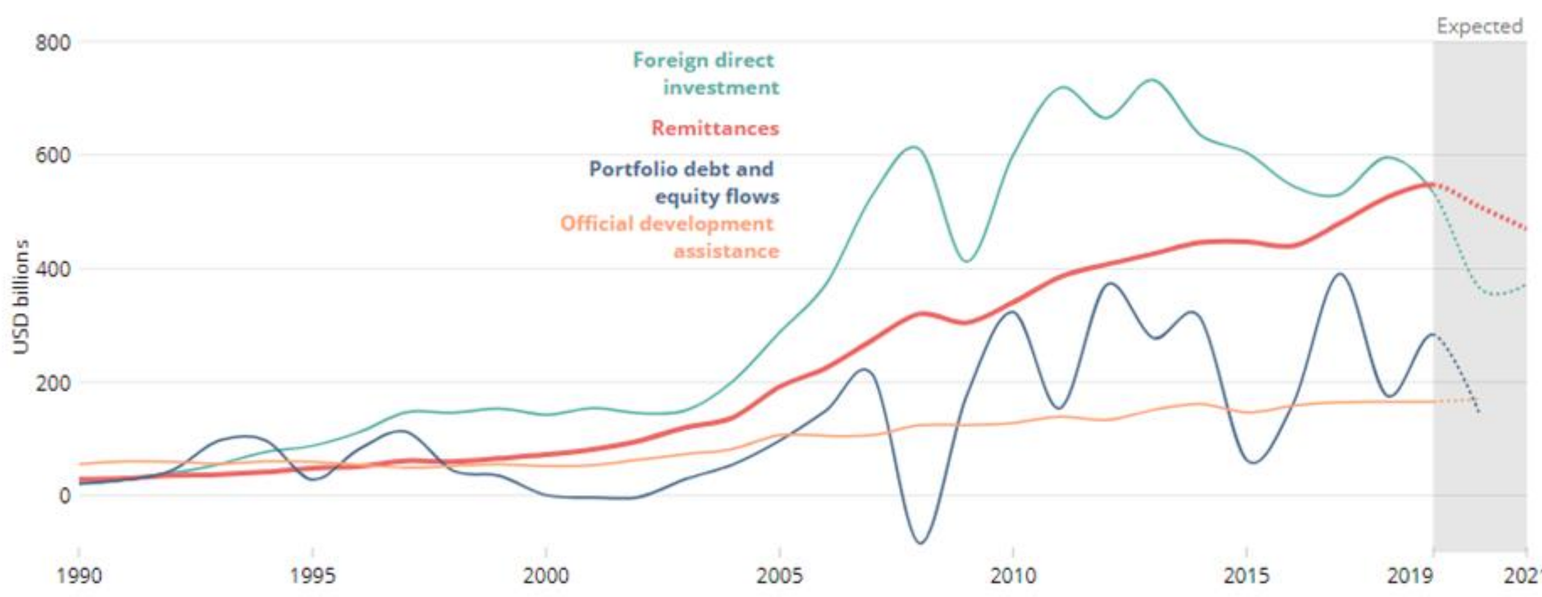
Before 2020, migration and remittances were trending upward. Remittance inflows to low- and middle-income countries had come to exceed official development assistance by a factor of three, reaching $548 billion in 2019 and overtaking foreign direct investment for the first time.

Border closures and the economic slowdown related to COVID-19 have drastically reduced the number of employment opportunities for migrant workers. As a result, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to fall 14 percent by 2021 when compared to 2019 pre-COVID levels, the steepest drop in recent history.

Remittances to LMICs are estimated to have declined by 7 percent in 2020, and by a further 7.5 percent in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic, falling oil prices, and currency devaluations will have a considerable impact on remittance outflows and job opportunities in the Russian Federation and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which employ a large share of the migrant populations from Central and South Asia, respectively.

Even though remittance flows declined in 2020, their relative importance as a source of external financing for LMICs is estimated to have increased. Remittance flows to LMICs touched a record high of $548 billion in 2019, larger than foreign direct investment (FDI) flows ($534 billion) and overseas development assistance (about $166 billion). The gap between remittance and FDI flows is expected to have widened further recently, as FDI flows decline more sharply.

Remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries are expected to decline in 2020, but to remain higher than FDI or Aid



Data for 2019 represent estimates; data for 2020 and 2021 are forecasts (October 2020)
Source: KNOMAD-World Bank staff estimates, World Development Indicators, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments Statistics (BPM6).

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Dilip Ratha, Supriyo De, Eung Ju Kim, Sonia Plaza, Ganesh Seshan, and Nadege Desiree Yameogo. 2020. "Migration and Development Brief 33: Phase II: COVID-19 Crisis through a Migration Lens." KNOMAD-World Bank, Washington, DC.

Custodian agency(ies):

World Bank

Target 17.4: Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

Indicator 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

Custodian agency(ies):

World Bank

Target 17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

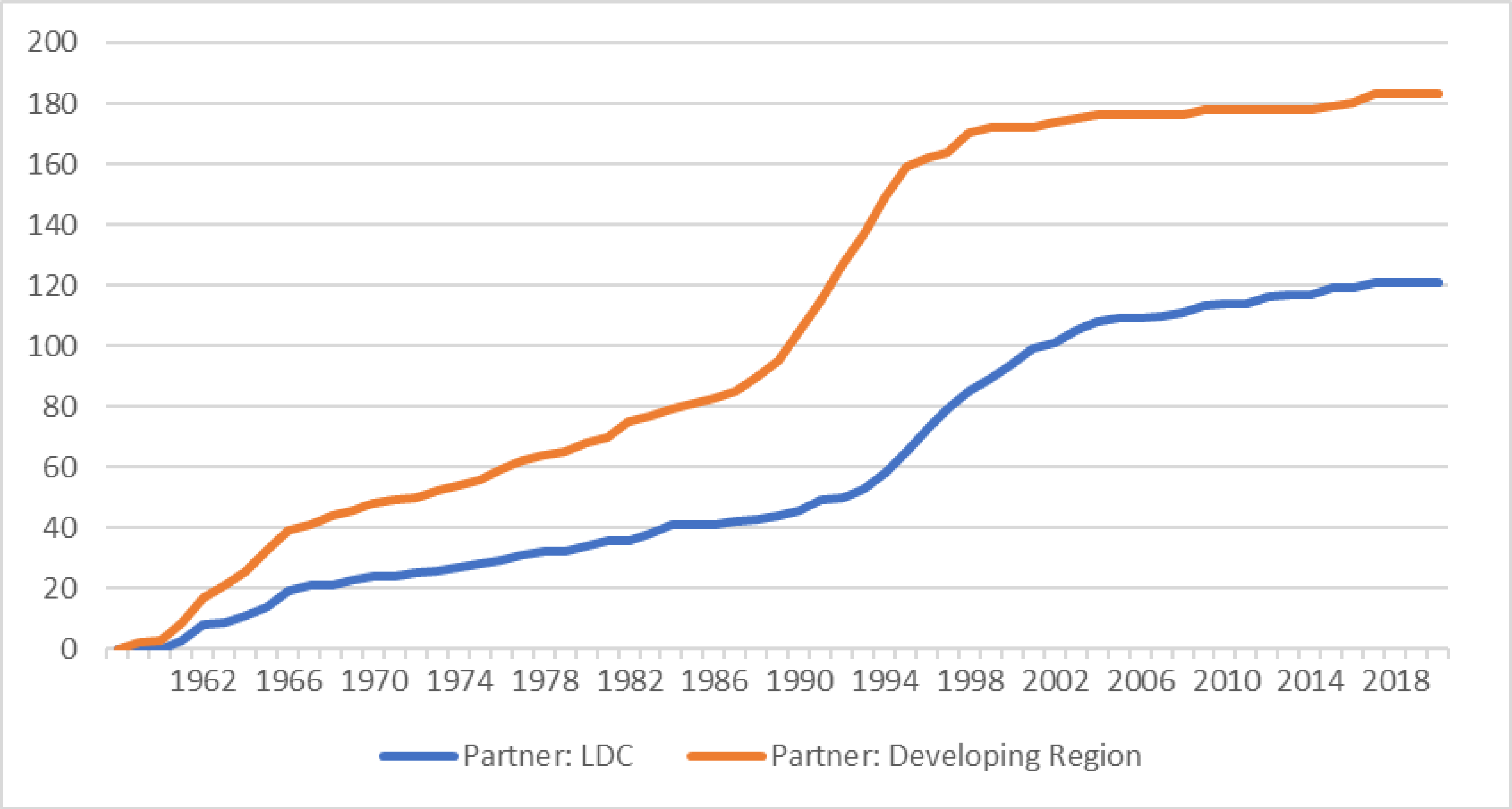
Indicator 17.5.1: Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries

The following provides a brief summary of UNCTAD's research results as of 31 December 2020.

1. Number of countries adopting and implementing bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with LDCs and developing economies

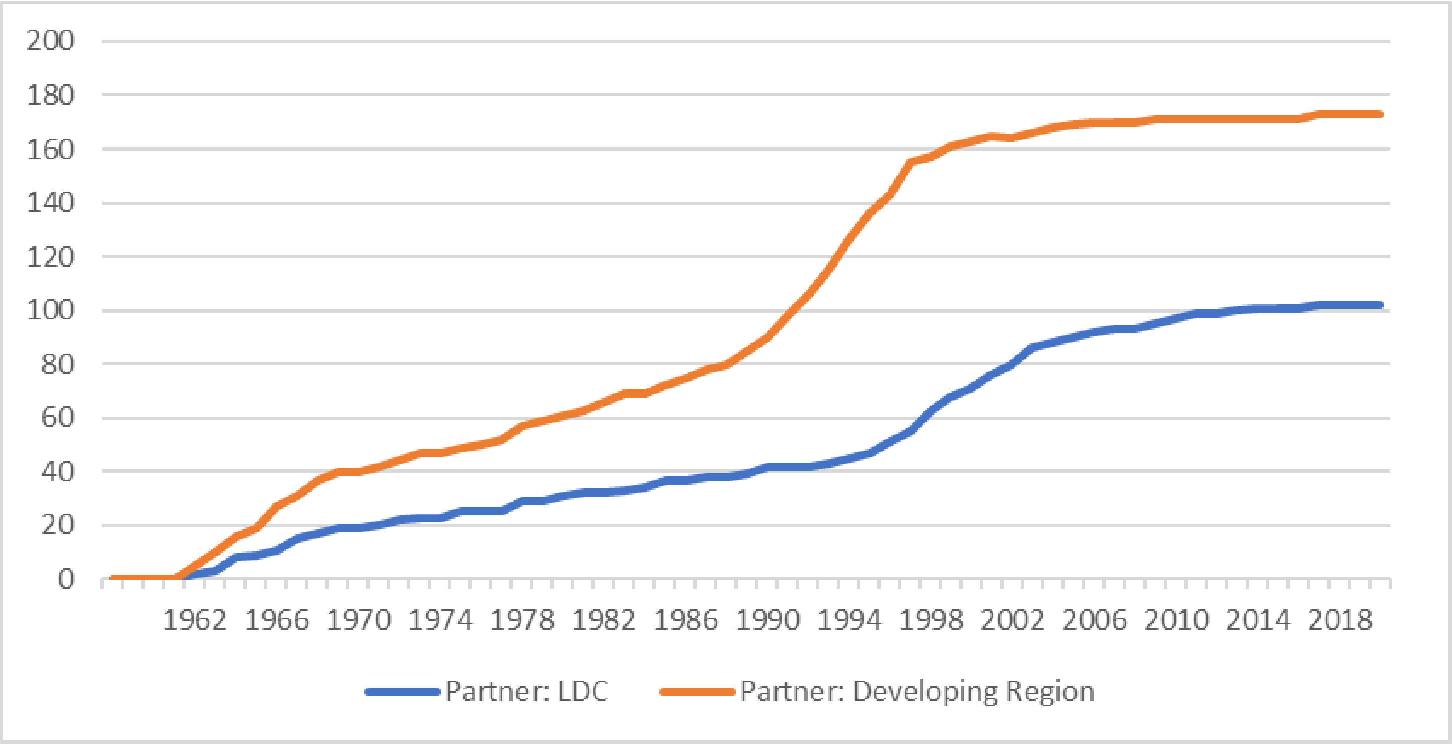
The cumulative number of countries that have signed ("adopted") BITs[1] with LDCs and developing economies reached 121 and 183 by the end of 2020, respectively (figure 1).[2] The number of countries with BITs in force ("implemented") with LDCs and developing economies reached 102 and 173 by the end of 2020, respectively (figure 2). The rate of new countries signing BITs with LDCs and developed economies has slowed in recent years after rapid growth in the 1990s. This slowdown can be explained by a number of factors, including the worldwide emergence of a reform-oriented approach to international investment agreements (IIAs), an increase in treaty-based investor-State dispute settlement cases (ISDS) filed against different groups of countries (including developing economies and LDCs), and an increase in regional and mega-regional agreements and reform approaches. In light of IIA reform efforts across different country groupings and geographical regions, the negotiation of BITs is becoming more complex as countries attempt to strike a balance between investment protection and the right of host states to regulate, assessing the risks and benefits of these agreements. UNCTAD developed several key international investment policy tools to guide countries in their efforts to reform and modernize their existing BITs.[3]

Figure 1: Cumulative number of countries with a signed BIT, 1959-2020



Source: UNCTAD, IIA Navigator.

Figure 2: Cumulative number of countries with an in force BIT, 1959-2020



Source: UNCTAD, IIA Navigator.

[1] Signed or "adopted" BITs includes agreements that (i) were signed but are not yet in force, (ii) have entered into force, or (iii) have been terminated by the end of 2020.

[2] A total of 553 BITs have been signed with LDCs and 2,467 with developing economies. This includes BITs concluded among LDCs (intra-LDC BITs) and among developing economies (intra-developing economies BITs).

[3] UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD or Policy Framework, 2015 version), UNCTAD's Road Map for IIA Reform (2015), UNCTAD's Reform Package for the International Investment Regime (2018), and UNCTAD's IIA Reform Accelerator (2020).

2. National promotion instruments for outward investment in LDCs

UNCTAD identified three main types of national promotion instruments for outward investment in LDCs. The most frequently used tool are investment guarantees protecting outward investors against certain political risks in the host country, followed by government loans to the investors and direct capital participation by the home state in the investment project abroad.

These promotion instruments are generally available for outward investment *in any foreign country or economy.* In total, UNCTAD identified 22 countries that provide for at least one type of instrument for promoting outward investment in other countries, including LDCs.

The most common policy instruments are investment guarantees or insurance policies (at least 16), but countries provide also loans for internationalization of local companies (at least 13). In addition, almost half of the identified home countries offer minority equity participation of the state in the investment project (at least 11).

Due to the limited response rate to UNCTAD's online questionnaire and to the considerable difficulties in finding relevant information through the internet, it is impossible at this stage to provide a comprehensive picture of existing promotion regimes for outward investment in LDCs. Further research and more feedback from home country authorities are needed to fill the current information gap.

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Custodian agency(ies):

UNCTAD

Target 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

Indicator 17.6.1: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

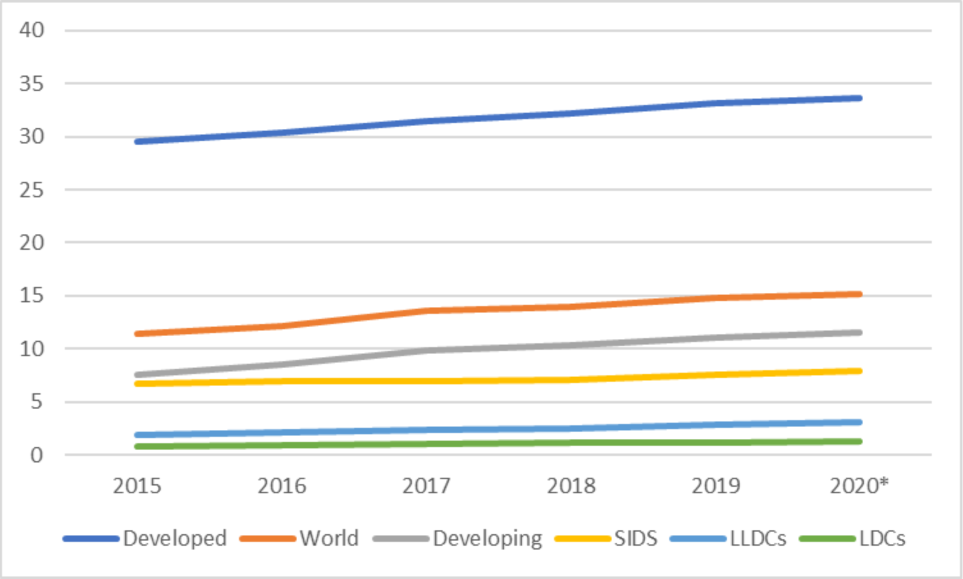
Growth in fixed-broadband subscriptions slowing down in 2020

Fixed-broadband has a significant impact on the world economy. An increase of 1 per cent in fixed-broadband penetration has been found to be associated with an increase in 0.08 per cent in gross domestic product (GDP), on average. This impact is guided by a return to scale effect, according to which the economic impact of fixed-broadband is higher in more developed countries than in less developed countries. The data show that this is due to the fact that very few people are connected to a fixed network in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries (LDCs).

In developed countries, there were more than 33 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, which represents a high penetration rate, given that fixed broadband subscriptions are usually shared by all members of a household. In developing countries, this number stood at 11.5 per 100 inhabitants. In LDCs, fixed networks are almost completely absent, with only 1.3 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.

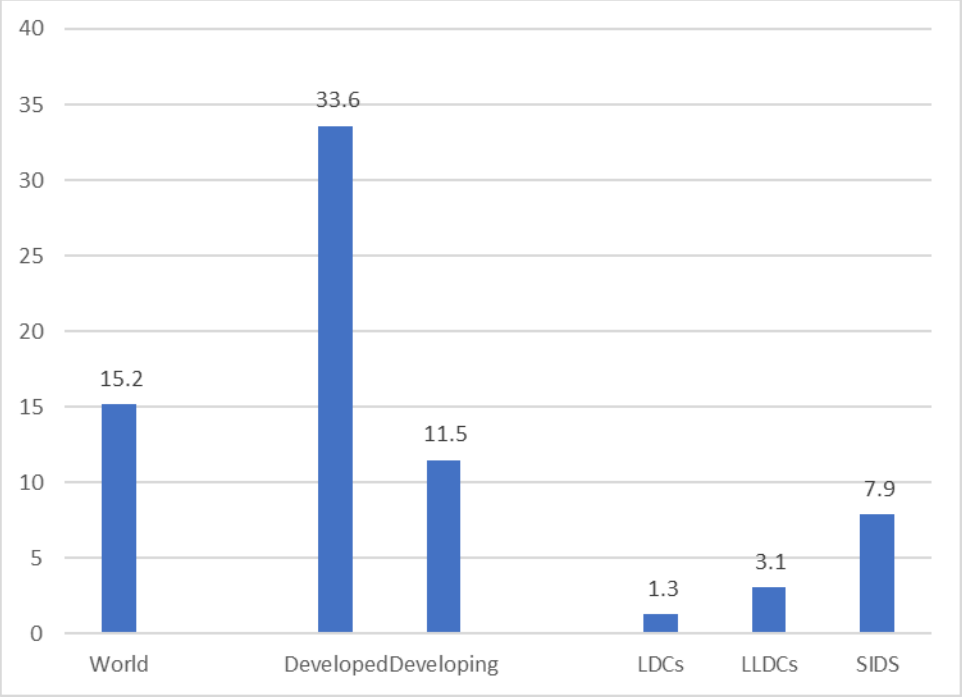
Although fixed-broadband subscriptions continue to increase, growth in fixed-broadband subscriptions slowed down, to 2.7% in 2020.

17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants



Source: ITU

17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2020



Source: ITU

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2020: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s):

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Custodian agency(ies):

ITU

Target 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

Indicator 17.7.1: Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

Custodian agency(ies):

UNEP-CTCN

Target 17.8: Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

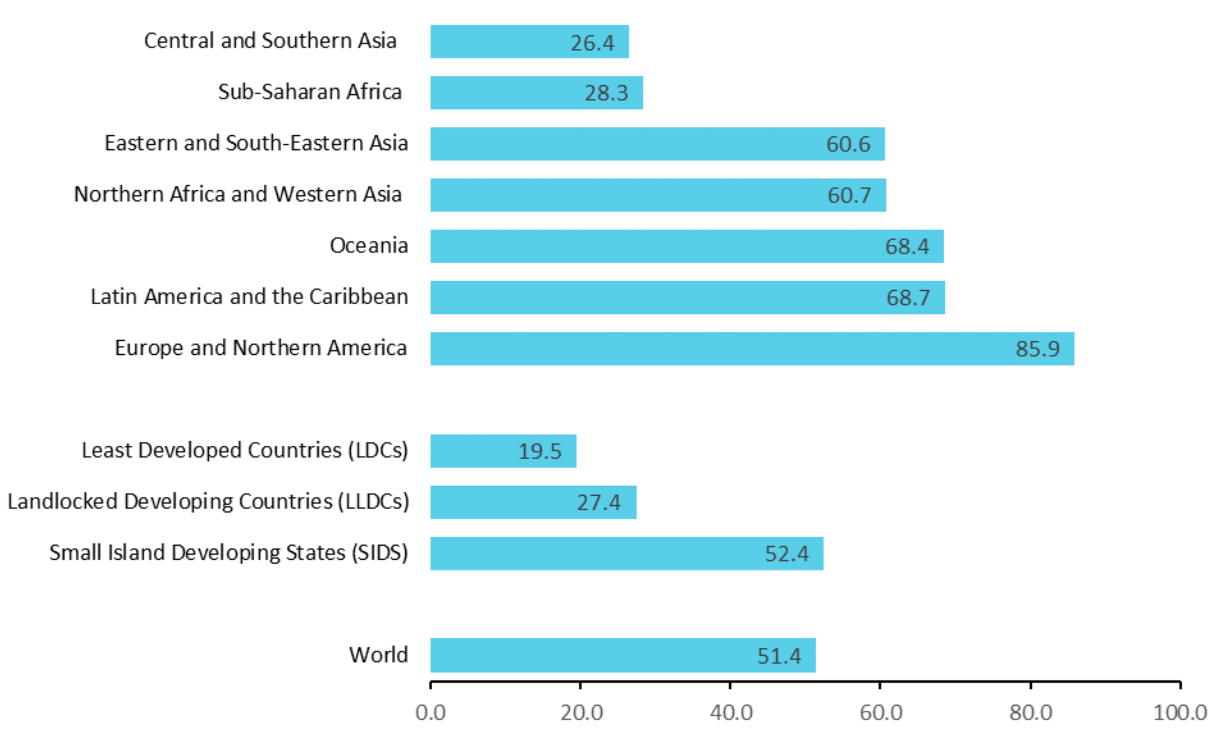
Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Universal, meaningful, connectivity still far away

Just over half of the population was using the Internet in 2019, but a large digital divide can still be observed. While 86% of individuals were using the Internet in North America and Europe, in Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, just over a quarter of the population was connected. In the other regions, between 60% and 70% of the population was online. The high cost of Internet access and devices, and a lack of skills are the most important barriers that are leaving behind large parts of the world.

Continued collective efforts are needed to connect the remaining half in order to leave no one behind. Nations around the world have recognized the transformational impact of bringing their population online and this positive change can happen if education about the technology is combined with the right policies. To strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development goals there needs to be a close collaboration among governments, policy makers and network operators.

17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet



Source: ITU

Progress analysis: [See progress chart]

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2020: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s):

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Custodian agency(ies):

ITU

Target 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Indicator 17.9.1: Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries

Total Official Development Finance for capacity building and national planning stood at USD 35.9 billion in 2019 and represented 14% of total sector allocable aid, stable since 2010. The main sectors assisted were energy policy, public administration and the financial sector, which received a total of USD 13.8 billion.

Within the total, sub-Saharan Africa received USD 7.1 billion, Latin America & the Caribbean received USD 5.9 billion, and Southern Asia USD 4.4 billion.

Custodian agency(ies):

OECD

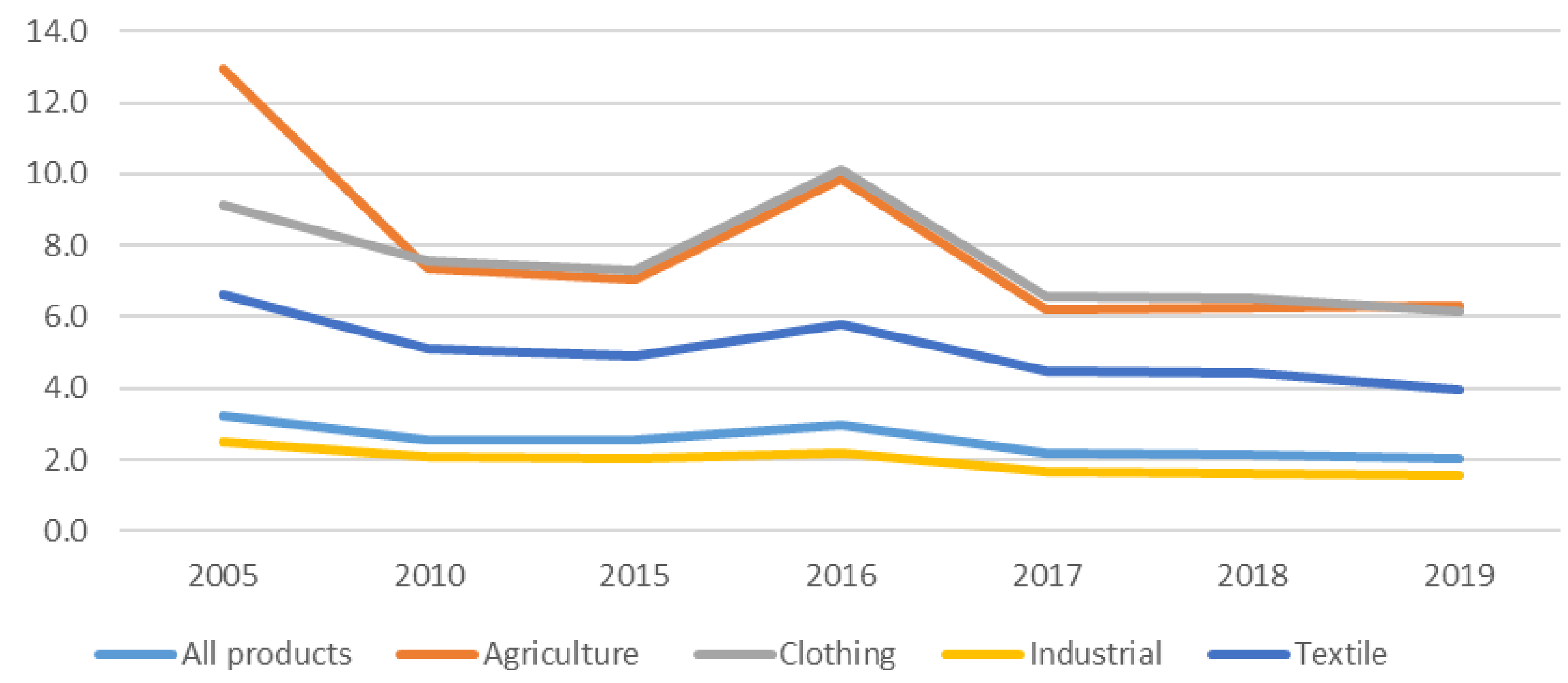
Target 17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

Indicator 17.10.1: Worldwide weighted tariff-average

Overall tariff rates have remained unchanged in recent years, although some slight improvements have occurred in the clothing and textile sectors.

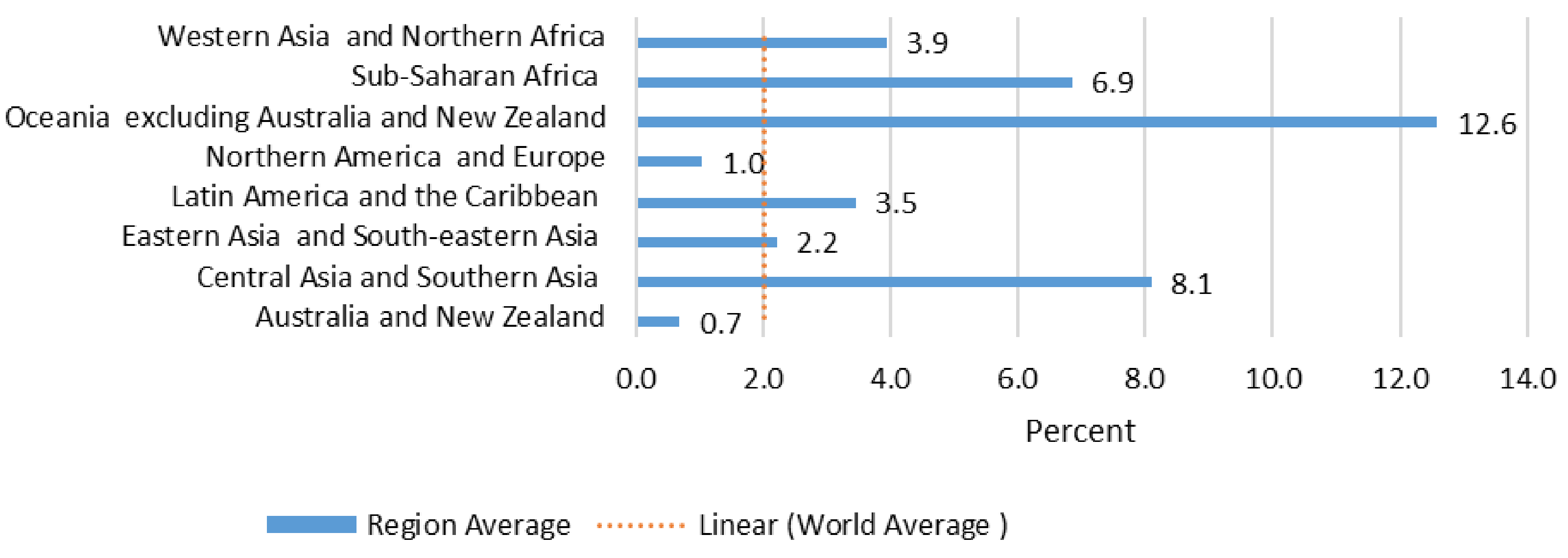
The Worldwide weighted tariff average has remained stable at around 2% since 2017. The latest figures indicate that by product sector, agriculture and clothing still have the highest tariff averages at around 6% followed by textile at around 4%. Small but relatively more significant improvements have been recorded in 2019 for two important sectors for LDCs and developing countries as textile and clothing. At regional level, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), Central & Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa apply the highest tariffs (more than twice the world average) at 12.6%, 8.1% and 6.9% respectively.

Worldwide weighted tariff (inc. preferences) average per sector (percent)



Source: ITC/UNCTAD/WTO

Average tariff (inc. preferences) applied in 2019 by geographic region



Source: ITC/UNCTAD/WTO

Custodian agency(ies):

WTO, ITC, UNCTAD

Target 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries’ share of global exports by 2020

Indicator 17.11.1: Developing countries’ and least developed countries’ share of global exports

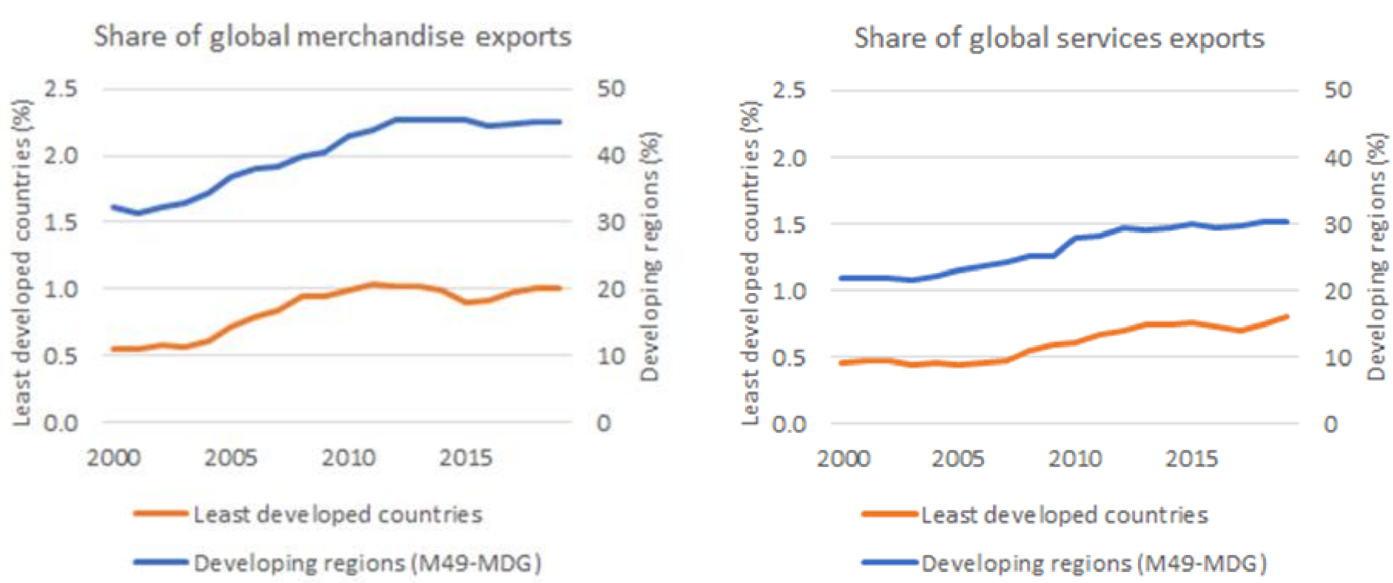
In 2019, the LDCs' share of world merchandise exports remained further constant; their share in world services exports increased

The share of LDCs' exports in global merchandise trade remained constant at 1% in 2019. As figure 2 shows in the left panel, over the last decade the share has stagnated, after significant improvements from 2000 to 2010, largely due to a commodities boom. The specific target of "doubling the share of global LDC exports" by 2020 from the level in 2011 (1.1 per cent) would imply bringing the LDCs' share of merchandise exports to around 2% of world trade. It must be acknowledged that this target is unlikely to be achieved and that the indicator has not moved in the intended direction over the last eight years.

Similarly, the group of the developing countries, as a whole, experienced an increase in the share in world merchandise exports, in the time period from 2001 to 2012, and thereafter the indicator remained constant at around 45 per cent.

As regards international trade in services, as the right panel of figure 2 shows, both least developed countries and the developing regions have recorded an overall positive trend in world market shares over the last 20 years. LDCs saw an ample increase in 2018 and 2019, after a slight decline in the two years before. In 2019, their share in world services exports stood at 0.8%. In developing regions, the trend has flattened since 2012. In 2019, their world services exports reached 30.2%.

Share of LDCs and developing countries in World Trade, 2000-2019



Source: ITC/UNCTAD/WTO

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[Custodian agency(ies):]

WTO, ITC, UNCTAD

Target 17.12: Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

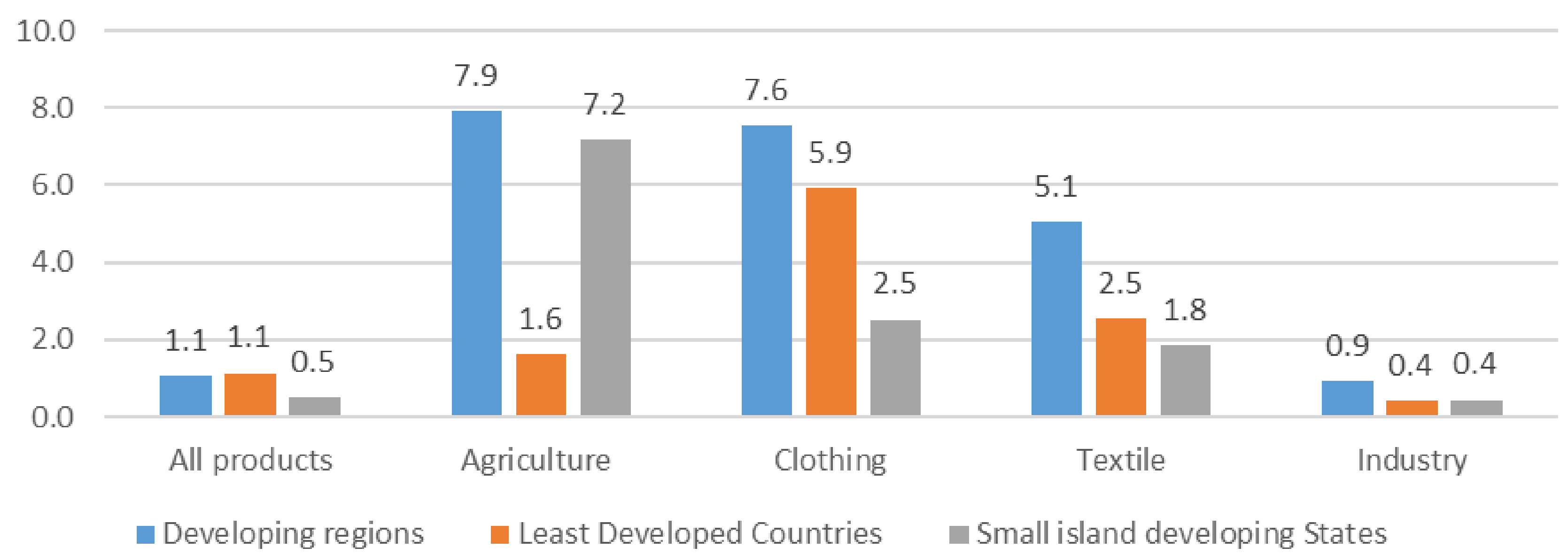
Indicator 17.12.1: Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

The special tariff treatment offered by developed countries to developing and least developed countries has remained unchanged in recent years

When all products are considered, exports of developing countries and LDCs countries have been given a preferential treatment in developed countries for several years. After reaching the lowest level ever of about 1.1% in 2011, the average tariff applied to imports from developing and LDCs countries by developed countries has so far remained flat due to a lack of new commitments, be unilateral or multilateral, by developed countries. This is equally true when data is analysed at sectoral level where the average tariff applied to products of special interest to developing countries including clothing and textile has remained stagnant but at highest levels of about 8% and 5% respectively since 2011. Agriculture instead is a sector of particular concern for developing countries, which account for the highest tariff faced in developed countries in 2019. As the MFN tariffs have also remained flat during the same period, the margin of preference that developing countries could enjoy has not changed.

It is worthwhile to note that developing countries and LDCs do not necessarily enjoy all the preferences to which they are entitled to in developed countries due in part to stringent rules of origin but also to non-tariff measures.

Tariffs (inc. preferences) faced in developed countries markets by sector in 2019 (percent)



Source: ITC/UNCTAD/WTO

Custodian agency(ies):

WTO, ITC, UNCTAD

Target 17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

Indicator 17.13.1: Macroeconomic Dashboard

Custodian agency(ies):

World Bank

Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Indicator 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

In 2020, UNEP launched in collaboration with OECD the data collection for SDG Indicator 17.14.1 Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. 27 countries had responded so far to the questionnaire. The low response rate may be related to the following main reasons: (1) the cross-cutting nature and complexity of the indicator, which requires broad consultation and coordination at the national level between different ministries and stakeholders in order to answer the questionnaire identifying mechanisms in place and measuring the policy coherence in the country; (2) the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, as highlighted by some countries in their response to the questionnaire; and (3) relatively low level of understanding about the indicator and its data collection methodology, which was finalized in 2019.

As part of systematic efforts to enhance understanding about the indicator and its methodology, UNEP and OECD organized an Informative Session on this indicator for OECD countries, highlighting the methodology used for the data collection of this indicator, the questionnaire used and mapping the data collection with the standards developed by the OECD and its Members to promote Policy Coherence in the implementation of the SDGs. The session was followed by two additional sessions for member states of UNEP regional offices of Latin America and the Caribbean and West Asia.

UNEP will continue working with partner organizations and experts on enhancing the questionnaire to make the data collected more reliable and accurate, including by enabling countries provide evidence for their responses.

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Custodian agency(ies):

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Target 17.15: Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

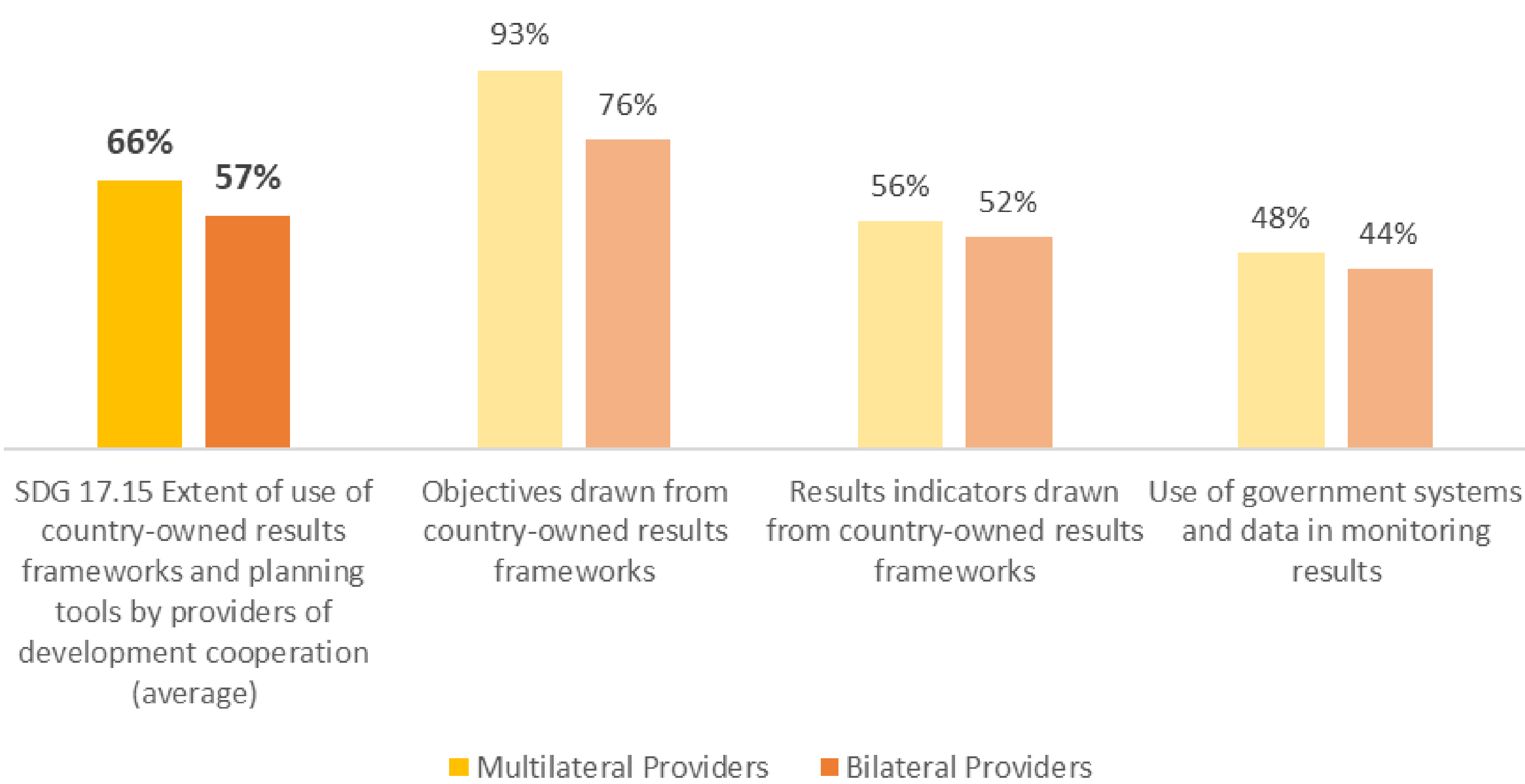
Indicator 17.15.1: Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation

Without greater respect for countries' policy space, responses to the COVID-19 pandemic will not be effective.

The extent to which development partners align their support with governments' national strategies and country-owned results frameworks (CRFs) is an indication of the policy space accorded to a country's leadership in establishing its own path and policies towards poverty eradication and sustainable development. Country ownership, building on developing countries' systems and aligning with country priorities are vital to engage in effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While developing countries have strengthened development planning since 2011, accelerated action is urgently needed from providers to align to these country priorities as well as to use their data, statistics and monitoring systems. Despite providers increased use of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs as a framework for results around shared objectives, the extent to which they use CRFs and planning tools in the design and monitoring of new development projects has declined since 2016 (from 64% to 62%). While the lack of progress is common to both bilateral and multilateral providers, the latter align their projects to partner countries priorities, results indicators, statistics, and monitoring and evaluation systems to a larger extent than bilateral partners (figure 1):

Extent of use of country-owned results framework and planning tools by providers of development cooperation (project/programme level)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Making development co-operation more effective - 2019 Progress Report
- Statement on Covid-19 and the importance of effectiveness

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s):

Ashley Palmer, Valentina Orrù, OECD-DCD
Yuko Suzuki Naab, Rebekah Chew, UNDP

Custodian agency(ies):

OECD, UNDP

Target 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Indicator 17.16.1: Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals

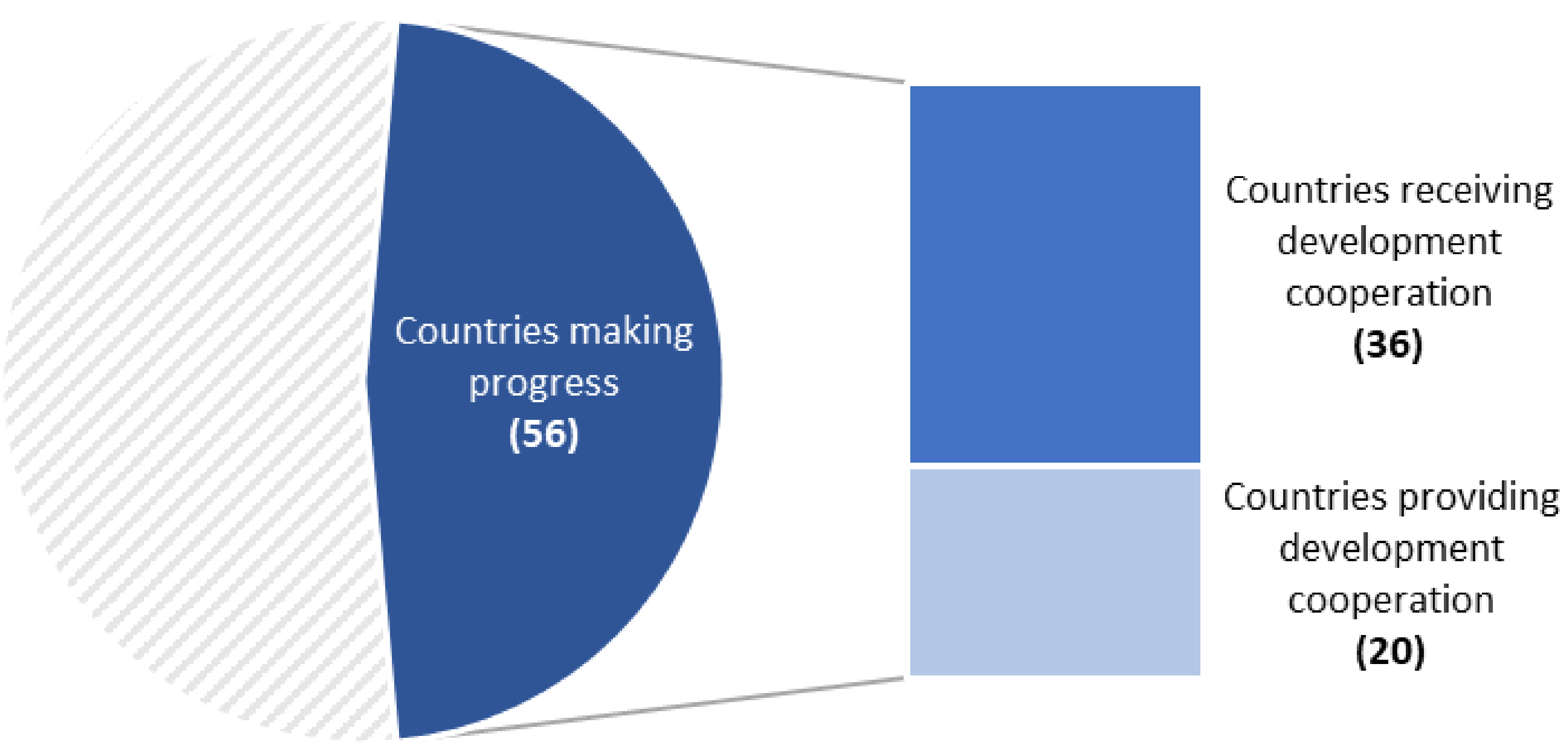
Countries must strengthen the conditions for civil society and private sector's contribution to enable a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19

Governments have a unique responsibility to lead the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and inclusive partnerships with civil society and the private sector are crucial to succeed, with the support provided by development partners.

Out of the 114 countries providing and/or receiving development co-operation that took part in consecutive multi - stakeholder assessments of progress made towards effective development co-operation, less than half (56) have made overall progress towards strengthening multi – stakeholder partnerships for development in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Findings from these consecutive multi-stakeholder effectiveness assessments show that substantial efforts are needed to increase the space for civil society's contribution to development. The quality of government consultation with civil society has declined and the legal and regulatory framework to facilitate CSO operations has weakened. Furthermore, despite efforts by both public and private actors to increase mutual trust, more inclusive and relevant dialogue is needed to leverage the potential of the private sector's contribution to sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

Countries making progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks (number)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- [Making development co-operation more effective - 2019 Progress Report]
- [Statement on Covid-19 and the importance of effectiveness]

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Yuko Suzuki Naab, Rebekah Chew, UNDP

Custodian agency(ies):

OECD, UNDP

Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Indicator 17.17.1: Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure

Custodian agency(ies):

World Bank

Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Indicator 17.18.1: Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring

Custodian agency(ies):

Indicator 17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

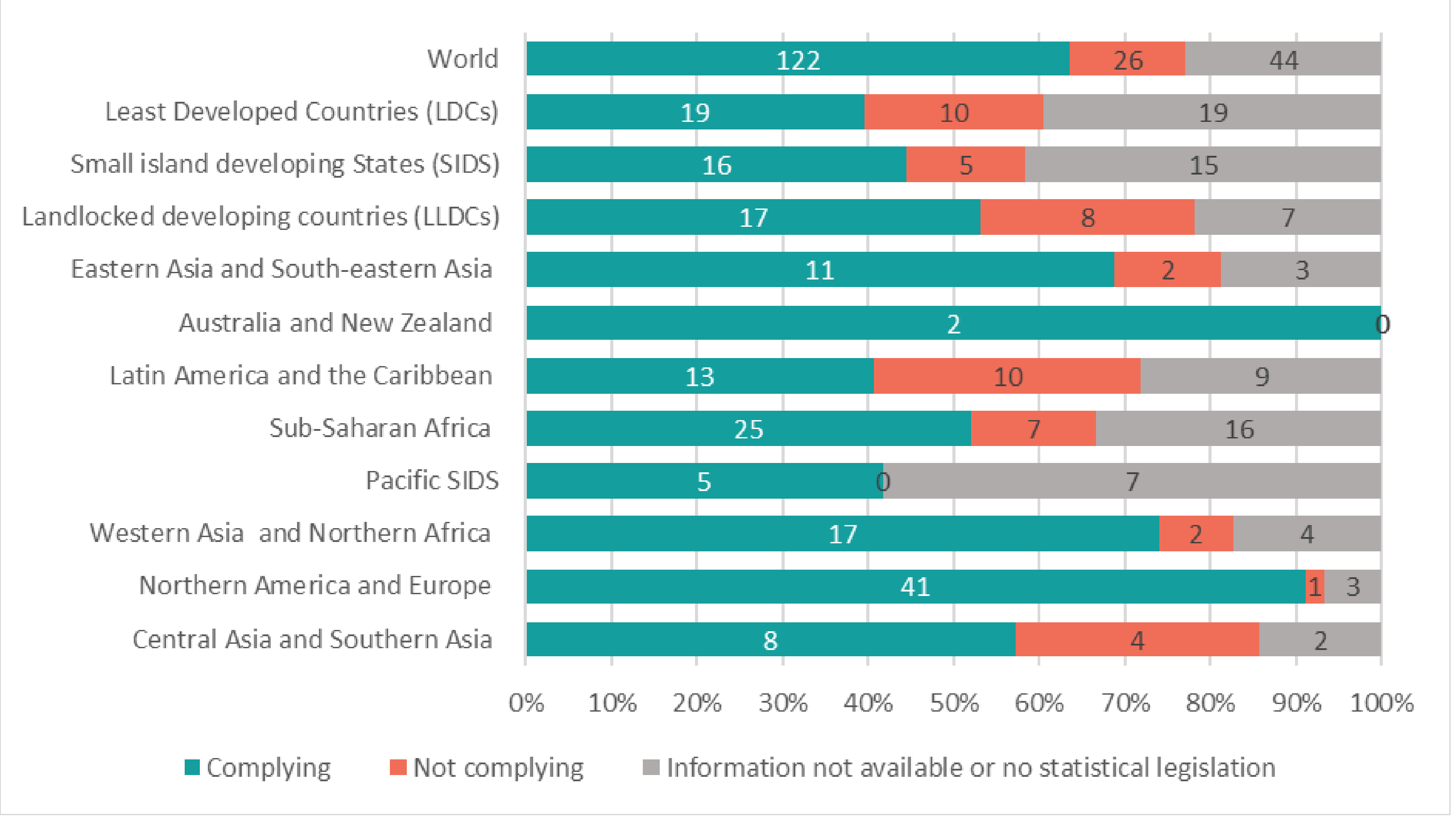
Progress on improving statistical legislature's compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics slowed down in 2020.

While the trust in official statistics may have been a persistent challenge for official statistics, the unprecedented need to retain trust emerged since the beginning of the pandemic. Statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics can help NSOs to strengthen the public's trust in data. It provides a legal basis for NSOs' independence and funding security and ensures that the NSO follows strict international standards in transparency, methodology, procedure, and ethics.

In 2020, 122 United Nations member states reported having a national statistical legislation that was compliant with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Promisingly, the shares of compliant countries are over 40% for almost all regions and country groups except for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), who also made the fastest progress prior to 2020.

Nevertheless, 122 compliant countries also made 2020 the year with the smallest progress made since the SDG era. While it is understandable for NSOs and support providers reprioritising and focusing on more urgent issues, the statistics community should be mindful that the risk of operating under an outdated statistical law has never been higher with a sophisticated and fast-evolving data ecosystem.

Figure 1: Number of countries with national statistical legislation compliant with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 2020



Custodian agency(ies):

PARIS21

Indicator 17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding

Less United Nations member states had a national statistical plan under implementation and fully funded in 2020 than 2019, which more challenges ahead

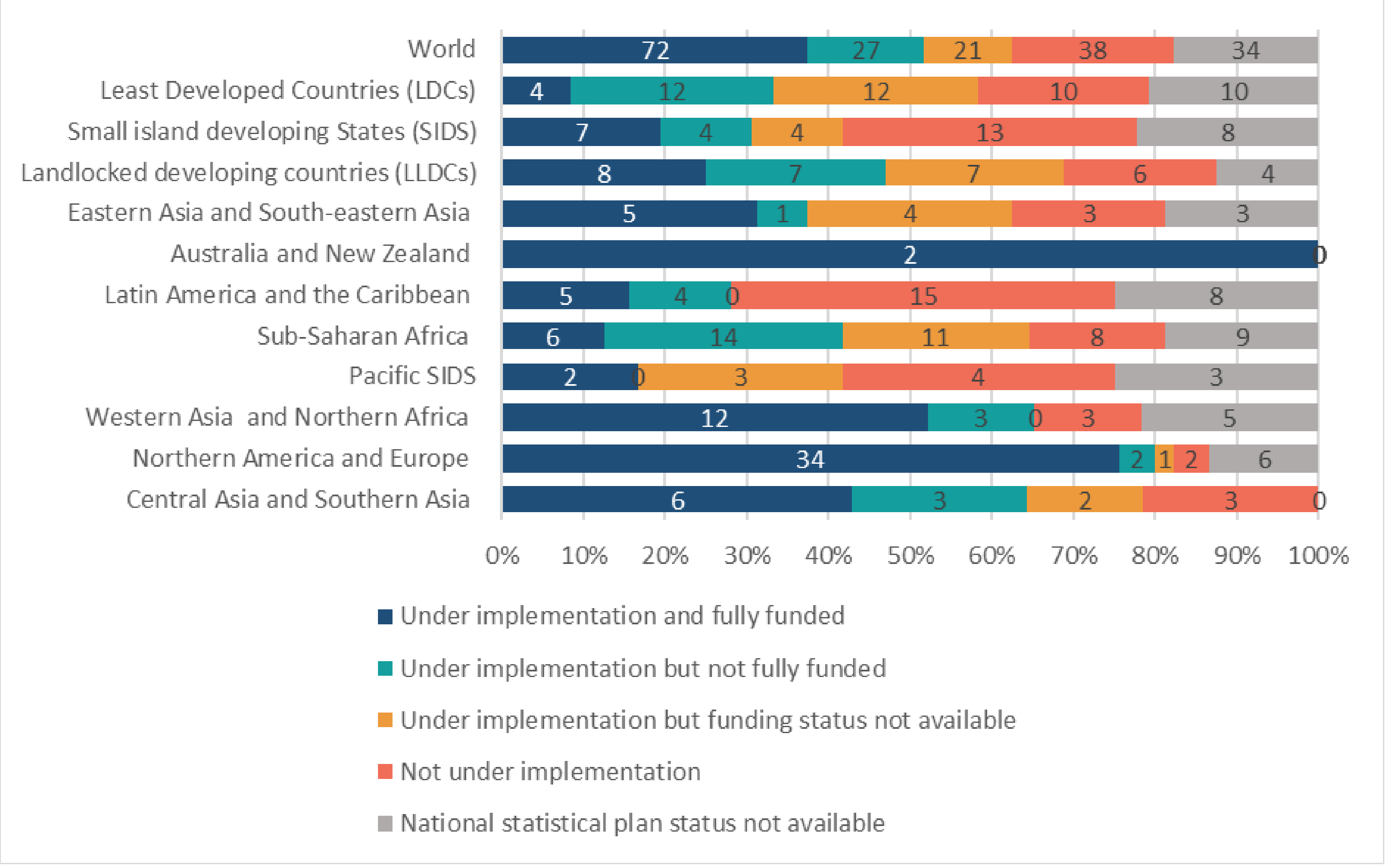
The COVID-19 pandemic exhibited the importance to build a responsive, resilient and coordinated national statistical system (NSS). A national statistical plan with an overall vision and a road map for where the NSS should be in five to ten years can help a country to get there. A fully funded national statistical plan allows a country to ensure production and dissemination of core statistics are in line with its national development priorities, data users' evolving needs and the growing demands for high quality, timely and accessible data. For developing countries with limited resources, the national statistical plan is a crucial document for mobilising, harnessing, and leveraging resources (both domestic and international) and a basis for the effective and results-oriented strategic management of the NSS.

In 2021, 72 United Nations members reported that they implemented a national statistical plan that is fully funded in 2020 (Figure 1). While the shares of countries with available information are similar across different regions and country groups, Australia, New Zealand, Northern America and Europe are by far the regions with the highest share (77% combined) of countries with their statistical plans fully funded. In a concerning contrast, only 4 out of 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) reported having fully funded national statistical plans in 2020.

Moreover, while the world total did not decrease significantly in this challenging year (comparing with 76 in 2020), the actual impact of COVID-19 on implementing and funding statistical plans might be worse. Previous publications reported that some countries revised their statistical plans in 2020 by rescheduling activities such as census and household surveys to 2021. With these costly items and reduced national income, countries could be facing more difficulties in implementing and funding national statistical plans in 2021.

To ensure sufficient data is produced to leave no one behind, international co-operation must not overlook the importance of financing the implementation of statistical plans in 2021. Governments should make sure that funding for fundamental statistical activities is secured to monitor the recovery in a post-COVID world.

Figure 1: Implementation and funding status of national development plans in 2020



Progress analysis: [See progress chart]

[Custodian agency(ies):]

PARIS21

Target 17.19: By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Indicator 17.19.1: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

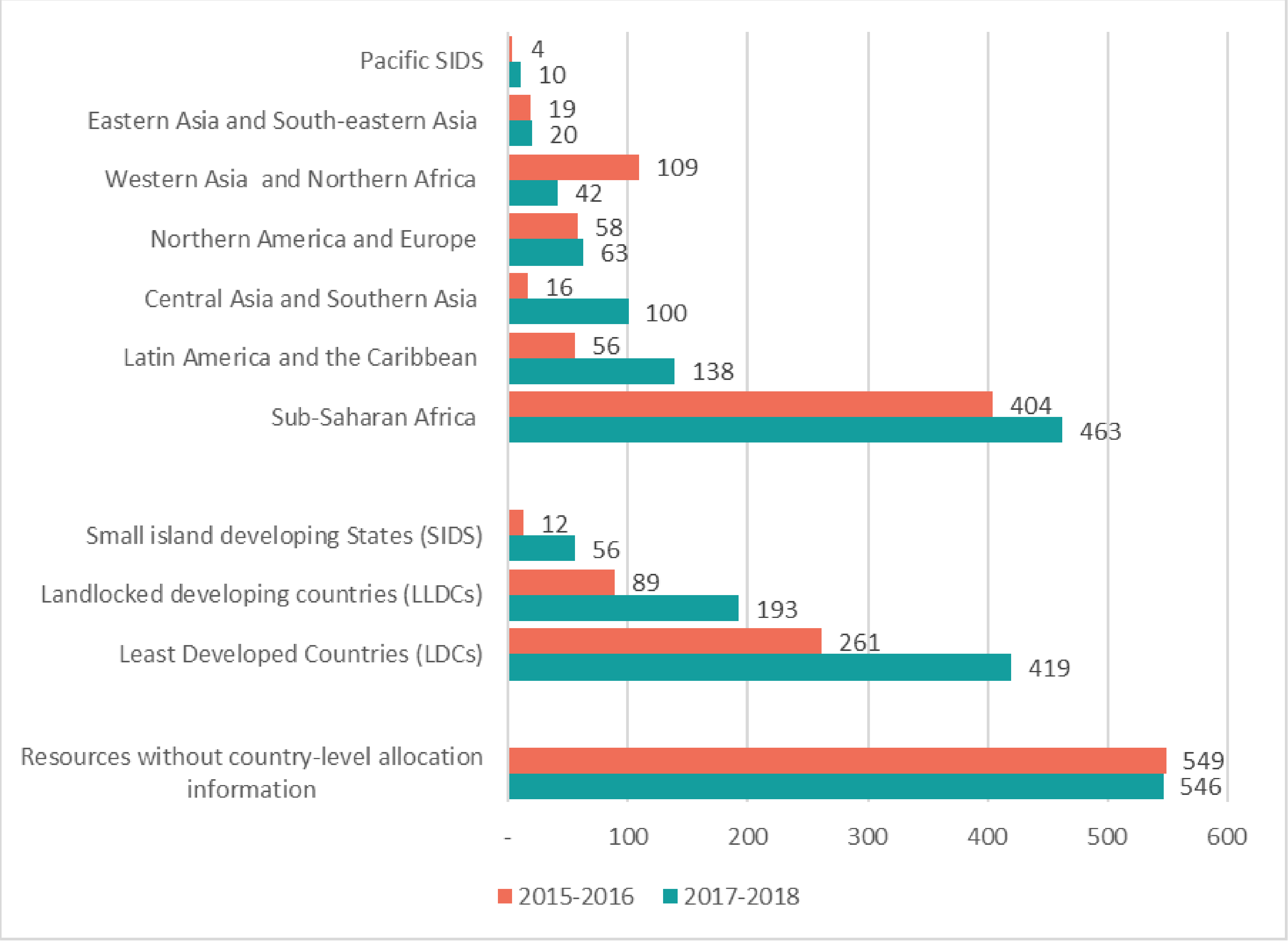
After four years of increase in the SDG era, international support to data and statistics may reach a bottleneck and may be insufficient to build resilient post-pandemic

Since the adoption of the SDGs, funding to data and statistics has increased four years in a row, from $591 million in 2015 to $693 million in 2018. Almost every region and country group received more support in 2017-2018 than in 2015-2016. The pledge to Leave No One Behind also successfully drove an even more substantial rise in aid recipients with the most urgent needs, such as SIDS (from $12 million to $56 million), LLDCs (from $89 million to $193 million), and LDCs (from $261 million in 2015-2016 to $419 million in 2017-2018). The same increase is also observed in previously overlooked areas, such as gender statistics.

Despite the progress made in the first four years, the trend of support to data and statistics may be reaching a bottleneck, as nowcasting analysis indicated no significant increase in 2019. A similar analysis also showed that the increase in funding boosted by rising demand for data and statistics during the pandemic might be set off by the reallocation of funding from statistics to other areas in 2020. Besides, the sudden increase in demand was directing support to quick data production projects that may not effectively build national statistical capacity.

The pandemic may have permanently changed the way we build statistical capacity and the way official data is collected, produced, disseminated and used. To prepare countries for a post-pandemic world and to help them build resilient statistical capacity, the development co-operation community must make continued, increased and coordinated support available.

Figure 1: Increase in international support to statistics in the SDG era (in USD million)



Custodian agency(ies):

PARIS21

Indicator 17.19.2: Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

The universal coverage of birth and death registration and the completeness of vital statistics remain a challenge, even among countries with functioning civil registration systems. For the period 2015-2019, 146 countries have birth registration data that are at least 90% complete and 151 countries have death registration data that are at least 75% complete. Compared to the previous reporting, improvements are noted in Sub-Saharan Africa: 29 countries have birth registration data and 25 countries have death registration data. Among them, the number of countries where birth registration is considered at least 90% complete and death registration at least 75% complete, has remained the same, 9 countries.

Custodian agency(ies):

UNSD