The Sustainable Development Goals
Extended Report 2023

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Note: This unedited ‘Extended Report’ includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2023. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The ‘Extended Report’ aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
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Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Indicator 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

The incomes of the bottom 40 percent grew faster than the national average in a majority of countries

Across 119 countries with data available prior to the pandemic, more than half of them have achieved income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. This is particularly the case in Northern America and Europe, where more than two-thirds of countries with data saw the bottom 40 percent grow faster than the mean, and Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, where there is progress in six out of 10 countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia and Northern Africa, about half of the countries have seen progress in shared prosperity. However, in Central Asia and Southern Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, much less than half of the countries have seen the bottom 40 percent grow faster than the mean. Many countries, unfortunately, do not have data on this indicator, given that it requires two comparable household surveys conducted about five years apart. Data deprivation is even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the difficulty of fielding traditional surveys during lockdowns. Central Asia and Southern Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa have one country each with post-2019 data.

### Share of countries with growth of the bottom 40% higher than the national average (percentage)

Two-thirds of the 50 countries with post-2019 data have seen the incomes of the bottom 40% grow faster than the national average. This trend is largely driven by Northern America and Europe, where more data are available. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the share of countries experiencing shared prosperity is lower in the post-2019 era than in the pre-pandemic period. By contrast, the share of countries in Northern America and Europe experiencing shared prosperity is higher in the post-2019 era than in the pre-pandemic period. In several advanced economies, transfers have mitigated the economic impacts of the pandemic on the bottom of the income distribution. This is not to say that the bottom 40% were not affected by the pandemic, only that their income losses often were comparable to that of the average person in a country. Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, and Western Asia and Northern Africa also saw progress in shared prosperity during the pandemic for the few countries with data, but the lack of country coverage makes it hard to generalize this finding for these regions.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune, World Bank.
- Narayan, Ambar; Cojocaru, Alexandru; Agrawal, Sarthak; Bundervoet, Tom; Davalos, Maria; Garcia, Natalia; Lakner, Christoph; Mahler, Daniel Gerszon; Montalva Talledo, Veronica; Ten, Andrey; Yonzan, Nishant. 2022. COVID-19 and Economic Inequality: Short-Term Impacts with Long-Term Consequences. Policy Research Working Paper 9902. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022: Correcting Course, World Bank.
- Storyline authors/contributors: Samuel Kofi Tetteh Baah, World Bank; Daniel Gerszon Mahler, World Bank; Christoph Lakner, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank
Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Indicator 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Two out of three countries have reduced inequality

Since 2000, of the 148 countries with at least two estimates on the share living on less than half of median income, nearly two-thirds have lowered this share, suggesting inequality has fallen. Across all regions, this share has fallen. Most notably, all nineteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and all seven countries in Oceania (excl. Australia and New Zealand) have reduced inequality. Progress has been slower in Northern American and Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where 51% and 57% of countries, respectively, lowered inequality over this time.

Share of countries with reductions in inequality since 2000

This largely encouraging trend continued even during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the 53 countries with data in 2020 or 2021 – most of whom are in North America and Europe or Latin America and the Caribbean – 60% lowered inequality. Again, this was particularly the case in Latin America and the Caribbean where 10 out of 14 countries with data lowered inequality. Despite the positive trend over the past two decades and during the pandemic, the share of people living below half the median remains worryingly high in many countries. On average 13% live below half the national median, and in 10% of countries, this number is greater than 20%. The countries topping the list tend to be in Southern Africa and Latin America, whereas most of the best performers are in Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, and Central Asia. On average across Latin America, 19% live below half the national median, while this number is 9% in Central Asia and Southern Asia.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Daniel Gerszon Mahler, World Bank; Christoph Lakner, World Bank; Samuel Kofi Tetteh Baah, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank
Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Racial discrimination is one of the most common grounds of discrimination

Globally, close to one in six people experience discrimination based on any grounds, according to the latest available data. For both women and men, racial discrimination, based on ethnicity, colour or language, is among the most common grounds of discrimination. When racial discrimination is combined with discrimination based on individuals’ socioeconomic status, one in eight people report having experienced discrimination.

Women continue to be more discriminated against than men. Simply because of their sex, women are twice as likely to be discriminated against as men.

One in three people with disabilities experience discrimination, which is twice more than persons without disability. These data, although related to a limited number of countries, point to the need to do more to assess discrimination worldwide. Despite the commitment to leave no one behind and to eliminate discrimination as part of the 2030 Agenda, less than a third of countries have measured the prevalence of discrimination.

Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and sex, 2015–2022 (percentage)

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Guilherme Leonardo Dutra, OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights); Nicolas Fasel, OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR
Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Indicator 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Indicator 10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Indicator 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Phousnith Khay, IMF
Custodian agency(ies): IMF

Target 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Indicator 10.6.1/16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Custodian agency(ies): DESA/FFDO
Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination

**Custodian agency(ies): ILO, World Bank**

Indicator 10.7.2 Proportion of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

**Custodian agency(ies): DESA Population Division, IOM**

Indicator 10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination

**Nearly 6,000 deaths during migration worldwide in 2022 indicate little substantive progress to ensure safe migration.**

IOM’s Missing Migrants Project has recorded 47,756 deaths on migratory routes worldwide since 2015, of which 5,909 were recorded in 2022. Between 2015 and 2022, more than 5,000 deaths have been documented during migration each year except for 2020. However, the real number of lives lost is certainly higher. The highest number of fatalities was recorded in 2016, due to the large number of people who attempted the often-deadly crossing of the Mediterranean Sea. In 2020, the lowest number of fatalities was recorded, reflecting the decline in migration movements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Behind every one of these figures are lives lost needlessly, and a family who must mourn.

In 2022, at least 3,166 people died on maritime and land routes to and through Europe, making up more than half of the fatalities recorded worldwide that year. More fatalities were recorded in the Western Mediterranean in 2022 than in any year since 2018. At least 611 people lost their lives on that route, and 75% of the victims’ remains were never recovered from the sea. On the overseas route to Spain’s Canary Islands there was a decrease in deaths: 561 fatalities were recorded in 2022, roughly half of 2021’s total death toll. Routes to Spain accounted for one in five migrant deaths recorded worldwide in 2022. In 2022, 74 deaths were recorded at Türkiye-Europe land borders, out of which 44 were reportedly related to violent pushbacks.

2022 was the deadliest year in the Americas since IOM began collecting data in 2013, with 1,338 deaths during migration recorded. At least 668 men, women, and children lost their lives on the United States-Mexico border. Additionally, 348 fatalities were recorded in the Caribbean, including 70 women and 28 children, significantly surpassing the death toll recorded in all previous years. Of these, 256 people were attempting to reach the United States. Another 41 people died while crossing the Darien from South America toward North America, 12 of whom were minors.

2022 was also the deadliest year in Asia since IOM started counting. At least 1,093 people lost their lives on migration routes throughout the region, of whom 64% were Afghans. 444 of the deaths of Afghans recorded were during attempts to leave their home country. Moreover, 242 deaths of Afghans were recorded during transit in Iran.

In 2022, 310 people lost their lives during migration on land routes in Africa. Of these, 176 fatalities were in the Sahara Desert. Considering dangers and inaccessibility of this desert, it is likely that the deaths of many more people occurred without being recorded, meaning that, it is not possible to compare the figures on fatalities in the Sahara across the years. Also in Africa, 73 deaths were recorded on the overseas route from the Horn of Africa to Yemen.

Missing Migrants Project data show that there has been little to no progress across the world on the reduction of migrant deaths since 2015. The first year of the pandemic saw a decline in deaths of people on the move, but the numbers have gone back to pre-pandemic levels and in many cases even surpassed them. The continuation of these deaths shows the urgent need for safe, orderly and regular migration avenues.

**Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:**
- All data to support SDG Target 10.7.3 is compiled by IOM’s [Missing Migrants Project](https://missingmigrants.iom.int/). The anonymized dataset can be downloaded from [missingmigrants.iom.int/downloads](https://missingmigrants.iom.int/downloads). Analysis of this data and related thematic issues can be found at [missingmigrants.iom.int/publications](https://missingmigrants.iom.int/publications).

**Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s):** Andrea García Borja, International Organization for Migration

**Custodian agency(ies):** IOM
The number of refugees globally has increased year-on-year for more than a decade, reaching 32 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate by June 2022, the highest number of refugees ever recorded. Measured as a proportion of the global population, 398 out of 100,000 people, or 1 in 251, had fled their countries of origin due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violation and events seriously disturbing public order and became refugees. This figure represents an 87 per cent increase compared to 2015, when 213 out of 100,000 people in the world were refugees under the mandate of UNHCR.

The proportion of refugees relative to the populations of their region of origin has increased in almost all regions since 2015. For example, the Western Asia and Northern Africa region has the highest proportion of refugees relative to their population, growing from 1,215 per 100,000 in 2015 to 1,516 per 100,000 in 2022. The increase is largely due to the number of refugees fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic, which had reached more than 6.8 million in mid-2022, hosted by 130 countries. At mid-2022 Syria remained the largest refugee origin country, with more than 1 in 5 refugees globally being Syrian. The largest relative increase occurred in the Latin American and Caribbean region, driven by the displacement of 5.6 million Venezuelans primarily to neighbouring countries within the region. In Sub-Saharan Africa the proportion of the population who are refugees increased from 465 to 601 people per 100,000. The number of refugees originating from several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa grew during the period, notably in South Sudan, whose refugee population increased to 2.4 million people. Refugees within the region are very likely to have been displaced for many years, as situations remain unresolved and become protracted, hindering opportunities for refugees to return to their country of origin. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 created the fastest and one of the largest displacements of people since the second world war. The number of Ukrainian refugees grew 200-fold from some 27,300 at the end of 2021 to more than 5.4 million by mid-2022. The impact of the displacement from Ukraine is visible in the proportion of the population who are refugees in the North America and Europe region, which has increased more than ten-fold between 2015 and 2022.

The three durable solutions: return, resettlement and local integration represent pathways from precarious refugee situations. In 2022, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on opportunities for durable solutions has greatly diminished and the number of refugees benefiting from solutions has returned to or even exceeded pre-pandemic levels. Nevertheless, given the continued increase in the number of refugees globally, these solutions continue to remain available to very few people.

The most recent available demographic data indicates that 42 per cent of all refugees at the end of 2021 are estimated to be children. There are significant regional variations in the demographics of refugees. For example, the percentage of refugees estimated to be children varies from 55 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa to 38 per cent in Europe and just 26 per cent in the Americas. Some 48 per cent of refugees are estimated to be women and girls. There are proportionally more women and girls among refugee populations living in West and Central Africa (54 per cent), while in Europe, this is estimated to be lower, at 44 per cent. Given the demographic composition of Ukrainian refugees, the share of women and children among the global refugee population has likely increased.

### Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UNHCR, Global Trends report [https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html](https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html)

**Storyline authors/contributor(s):** Janis Kreuder, UNHCR; Edgar Scrase, UNHCR

**Custodian agency(ies):** UNHCR
Target 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

**Custodian agency(ies):** ITC,UNCTAD,WTO

Target 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Indicator 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

**Custodian agency(ies):** OECD

Target 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Indicator 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

**Custodian agency(ies):** World Bank