The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2025

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2025

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Contents

Indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

Inadequate housing and overburden rate is increasing amidst increasing levels of global urban population in developing countries

Housing affordability remains one of the most pressing challenges of rapid urbanization, with between 1.6 billion and 3 billion people affected by various forms of housing inadequacy today. This includes an estimated 1.12 billion people living in slums and informal settlements and those facing issues ranging from homelessness and overcrowding to lack of basic services.

Overall, the global average housing cost burden stands at 31.0%, based on data from 124 countries. The data further highlights stark regional disparities, with Sub-Saharan Africa exhibiting the highest average at 43.5%, followed by Western Asia and Northern Africa (36.9%), and parts of Asia exceeding 35%. In contrast, Northern America and Europe report significantly lower burdens at 21.4%, reflecting stronger regulatory frameworks, housing finance systems, and public support structures. These findings signal the urgency of addressing affordability through inclusive approaches that consider the full housing continuum from informal dwellings to subsidized and market-based housing.

	Average of Housing Cost Burden (%)	Number of Countries
Central Asia and Southern Asia	35.2	9
Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia	35.9	15
Latin America and the Caribbean	30.0	20
Northern America and Europe	21.4	42
Sub-Saharan Africa	43.5	14
Western Asia and Northern Africa	36.9	24
World	31.0	124

Addressing the affordability crisis requires a fundamental rethinking of urban housing systems. This means recognizing and upgrading informal and public housing, which are currently the only viable options for millions, while also enabling private markets to serve lower-income segments more effectively. Key enablers include maintaining accessible land on the urban periphery, ensuring strong transport connectivity, streamlining land and housing regulations, improving tenure security, and expanding access to both mortgage and micro-finance options. Reliable and disaggregated data on housing affordability is equally critical to inform responsive policies. Without it, efforts to ensure access to adequate, affordable housing and by extension, to achieve inclusive and sustainable urban development will fall short of the global commitment to leave no one and no place behind.

Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Target 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Indicator 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Indicator 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Cities are sprawling faster than they are densifying

<u>Custodian agency(ies):</u> UN-Habitat

Indicator 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

Limited civil society participation negatively impacts inclusive urban planning and management

A key prerequisite for achieving sustainable urbanisation, where no one and no place is left behind is the active engagement of citizens in urban planning, management, budgeting, and decision-making processes. When cities create inclusive systems that involve stakeholders from government, the private sector, civil society, academia, and diverse population groups, urban development strategies are more likely to reflect the real needs of communities. This, in turn, leads to more inclusive and sustainable solutions.

However, data collected in 2024 on SDG indicator 11.3.2 reveals that only 29 cities (19%) out of 152 cities in 50 countries demonstrated a high level of direct civil society participation in urban planning and management through regular and democratic mechanisms . A significant proportion of cities (35%) fall within the low participation category, followed by 20% in the very limited participation category. 18% exhibit a medium level of participation, while 9% of cities report no participation at all.

The observed limited level of participation has serious implications for urban equity, service delivery, and trust in institutions. It also risks leaving behind the very communities that sustainable development aims to uplift such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, informal settlement dwellers, and other marginalized groups. To advance inclusive urban development, a cornerstone of sustainable urbanization, cities must invest in robust systems that empower all population groups to participate meaningfully in planning, management, budgeting, and decision-making processes.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links: • https://ourcityplans.org/sdg-11-indicator/survey   **Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s):** Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat; Dennis Mwaniki, UN-Habitat   <u>Custodian agency(ies):</u> UN-Habitat

Indicator 11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

Little Improvement but still contrasting patterns in the financing of world's heritage preservation

After the fifth data collection cycle, data for SDG 11.4.1 or at least one of its disaggregation is available for 82 countries. This represents a threefold increase in the number of countries reporting over a five-year period. This demonstrates the tremendous and ongoing commitment and investment by Member States to produce the data to monitor SDG target 11.4. This effort is particularly striking in the developing world, where all SDG regions are now represented. Three years ago, Europe and Northern America represented more than two-thirds of all reporting countries, but this has now dropped to 40 per cent.

As a first step, countries mostly report data on public expenditure on heritage. Figure 1(Map) shows public expenditure on heritage for 67 countries from all SDG regions, showing that 82% report this disaggregation of SDG 11.4.1.

In the period 2019-2023, the median value of public expenditure on cultural and natural heritage per capita was 21.22 PPP$ (constant 2017 USD) for all countries available. This figure hides a wide range of reported values on public expenditure on heritage per capita, from less than 1 PPP$ (constant 2017 USD) to 365.9 PPP$ (constant 2017 USD). The median value of public

Figure 1: Public expenditure on heritage, per capita PPP$ Constant, latest available year 2020-2024

expenditure per capita on cultural and natural heritage for Europe and North America, representing developed countries, was 83.3 PPP$ (constant 2017 USD), while the median value for developing countries was 3.86PPP$ (constant 2017 USD).
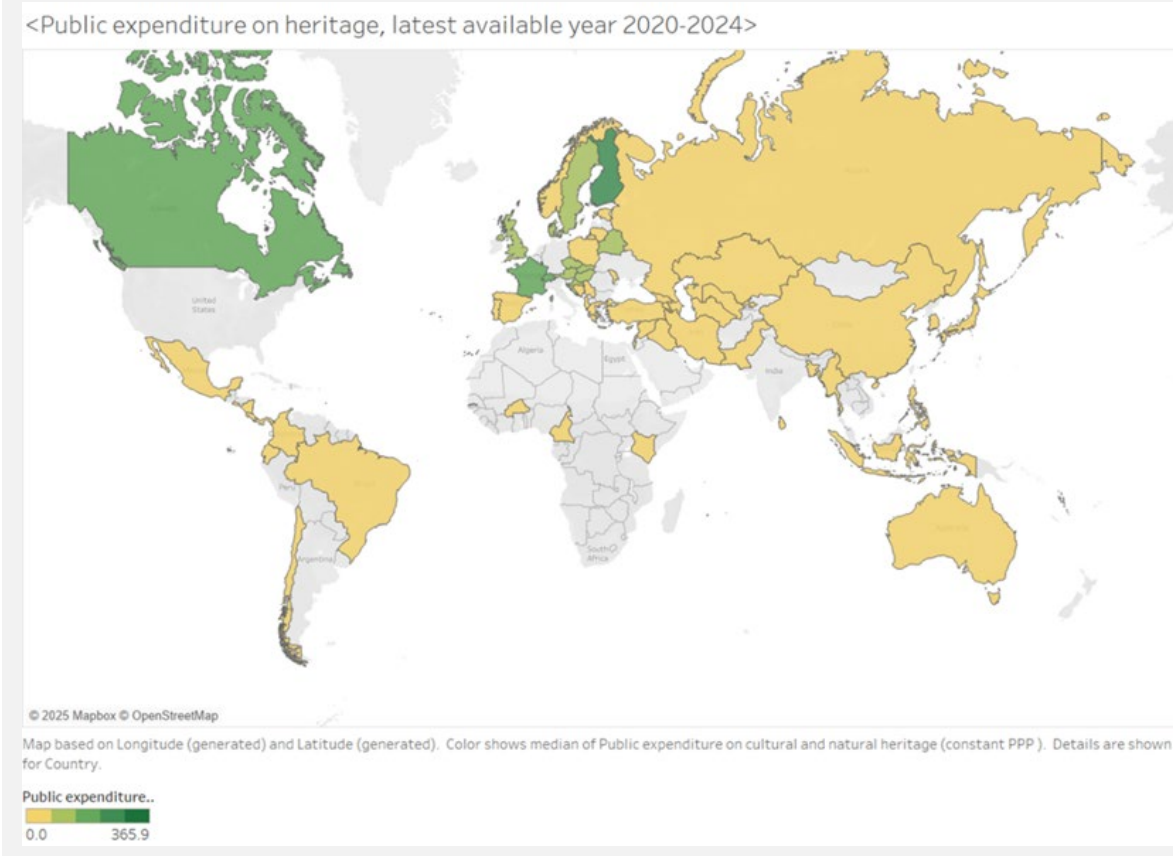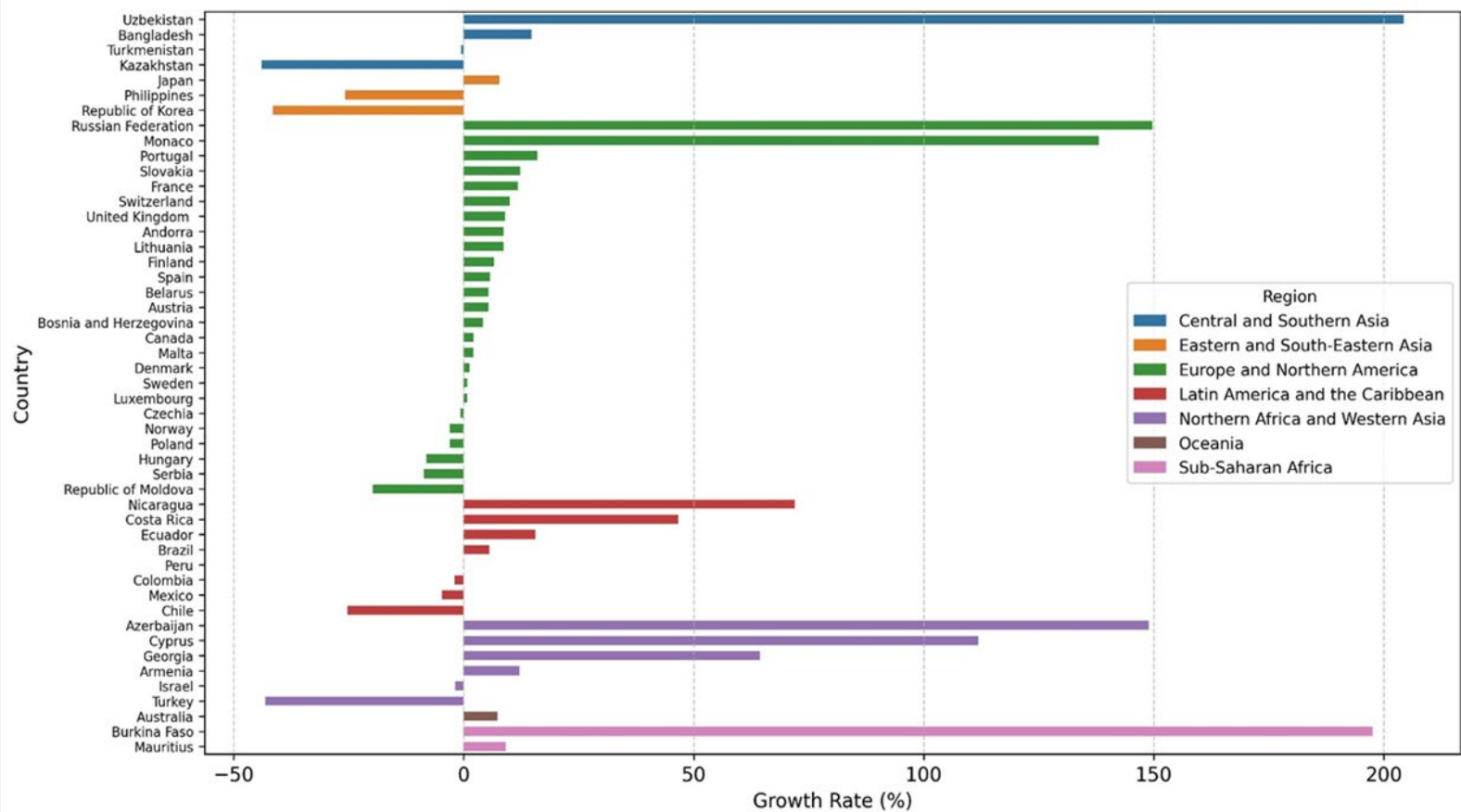
Figure 2: Public expenditure on heritage, growth rate (%) by country and by region (2017-2023)tries, was 83.3 PPP$ (constant 2017 USD), while the median value for developing countries was 3.86PPP$ (constant 2017 USD).

When examining progress towards the target, it is important to look at the trend in the data rather than specific percentage or figure. Has spending per capita fallen, risen or remained stable over the past five years? Progress towards the target at the global level cannot be made at the regional level due to data availability. However, an analysis of the sub-indicator of public expenditure on cultural and natural heritage provides some interesting results.

Figure 2 shows the growth rate of public expenditure on cultural and natural heritage for 49 countries from all SDG regions between 2017 and 2023. During this period, public investment increased for most countries. However, there are some contrasting patterns in each SDG region, where the highest increase was more than 100% (204% in Uzbekistan), while the decrease never reached 50% (-43% in Kazakhstan) of public funding for the conservation and protection of the world's heritage.

In some cases, the growth rate does not indicate an increase in public investment, but reflects the improved methodology and coverage developed in the country to be able to calculate SDG indicator 11.4.1. This is the case for Burkina Faso or Uzbekistan.

UIS will continue to support countries' capacity to report SDG 11.4.1 data, to achieve a complete data set and an increased number of countries reporting SDG 11.4.1 total. To this end, UIS will continue to support countries by providing technical assistance, documentation on methodology land exploring estimation techniques to work towards the calculation of regional averages.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Custodian agency(ies): UNESCO-UIS

Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

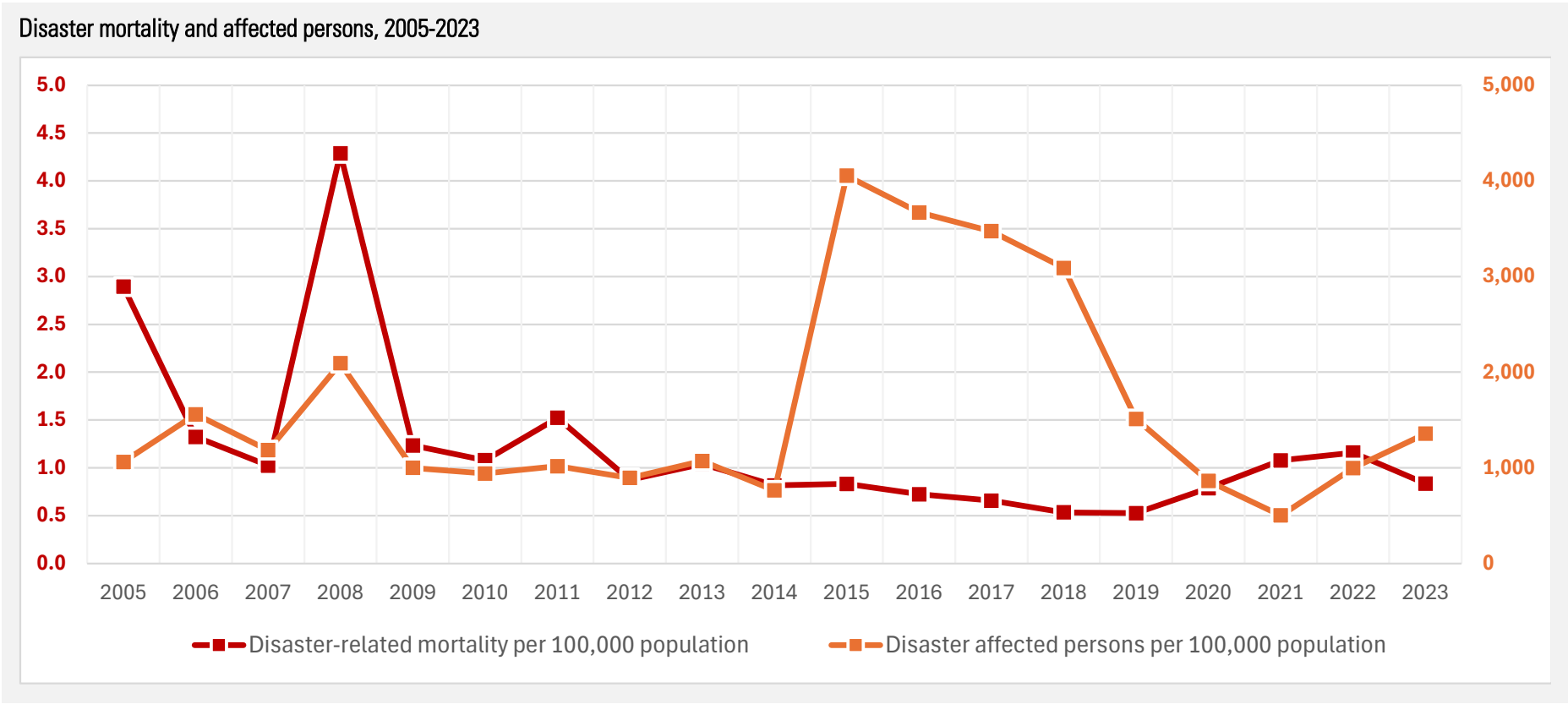### Rising disaster impacts despite decreasing mortality.

Member States report on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets 1.5, 11.5, and 13.1 through the Sendai Framework Monitor Targets A and B. Recent data indicates encouraging progress in reducing disaster-related deaths worldwide despite the increasing total number of people impacted by disasters. The global disaster mortality rate per 100,000 population fell from 1.61 in the period of 2005–2014 to 0.79 in 2014–2023 (excluding COVID-19-related cases). This represents a significant improvement of more than 50 per cent in reducing mortality notwithstanding global population growth. In absolute terms, this translates to an average of 41,647 disaster-related deaths per year between 2014 and 2023, a 36% decrease from the 65,597 annual deaths reported in 2005–2014.

However, while disaster-related deaths have declined, the number of people affected by disasters has surged. The rate of persons affected per 100,000 population increased by 75 per cent, from 1,158 in 2005–2014 to 2,028 in 2014–2023. In absolute numbers, 124 million people were affected by disasters annually between 2015 and 2023. This mixed picture of declining mortality but rising affected populations underscores both progress and persistent challenges. Investments in early warning systems and evacuation measures have saved lives, but long-term resilience-building efforts are essential to reduce the overall human cost of disasters.

Countries in special situations, such as Least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) continue to bear the brunt of disasters, suffering impacts more than twice the global average. Between 2014 and 2023:

• LDCs accounted for 25.9 per cent of global disaster-related mortality, despite representing only 11.9 per cent of the reporting countries' populations.

• LLDCs reported 13.0 per cent of global disaster mortality, while comprising just 4.9 per cent of the total population.

• SIDS recorded 0.5 per cent of global mortality, despite making up only 0.3 per cent of the global population.

These figures highlight the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation, targeted investments, and strengthened resilience efforts to ensure that the most vulnerable nations are not left behind in disaster risk reduction efforts.

Disaster mortality and affected persons, 2005-2023

Disaster-related mortality per 100,000 population   Disaster affected persons per 100,000 population

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, Raidan Alsaqqaf, Xuan Che. UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

Economic losses due to disasters remained stubbornly high, and disproportionately affecting LDCs and LLDCs

Despite significant efforts undertaken to reduce disaster impacts, economic loss associated with disaster remains stubbornly and consistently high. As reported against Sendai Framework global target C, aligned with SDG targets 1.5 and 11.5, between 2015 and 2023, direct economic loss exceeds 122 billion USD annually worldwide, amounting to 0.30 per cent of the GDP of the reporting countries.

LDCs and LLDCs bear a disproportionately high burden of disaster-related economic losses. LDCs suffer over ten times higher disaster-related economic loss compared to global average: they accounted for 10.36 per cent of globally reported economic losses during 2015-2023, despite having only 1.06 per cent of total GDP of reporting countries. Similarly, LLDCs reported 5.61 per cent of economic loss while having only 1 per cent of GDP, a five-fold higher burden.

Direct disaster economic loss (billions USD) and share of direct economic loss to GDP (per cent)
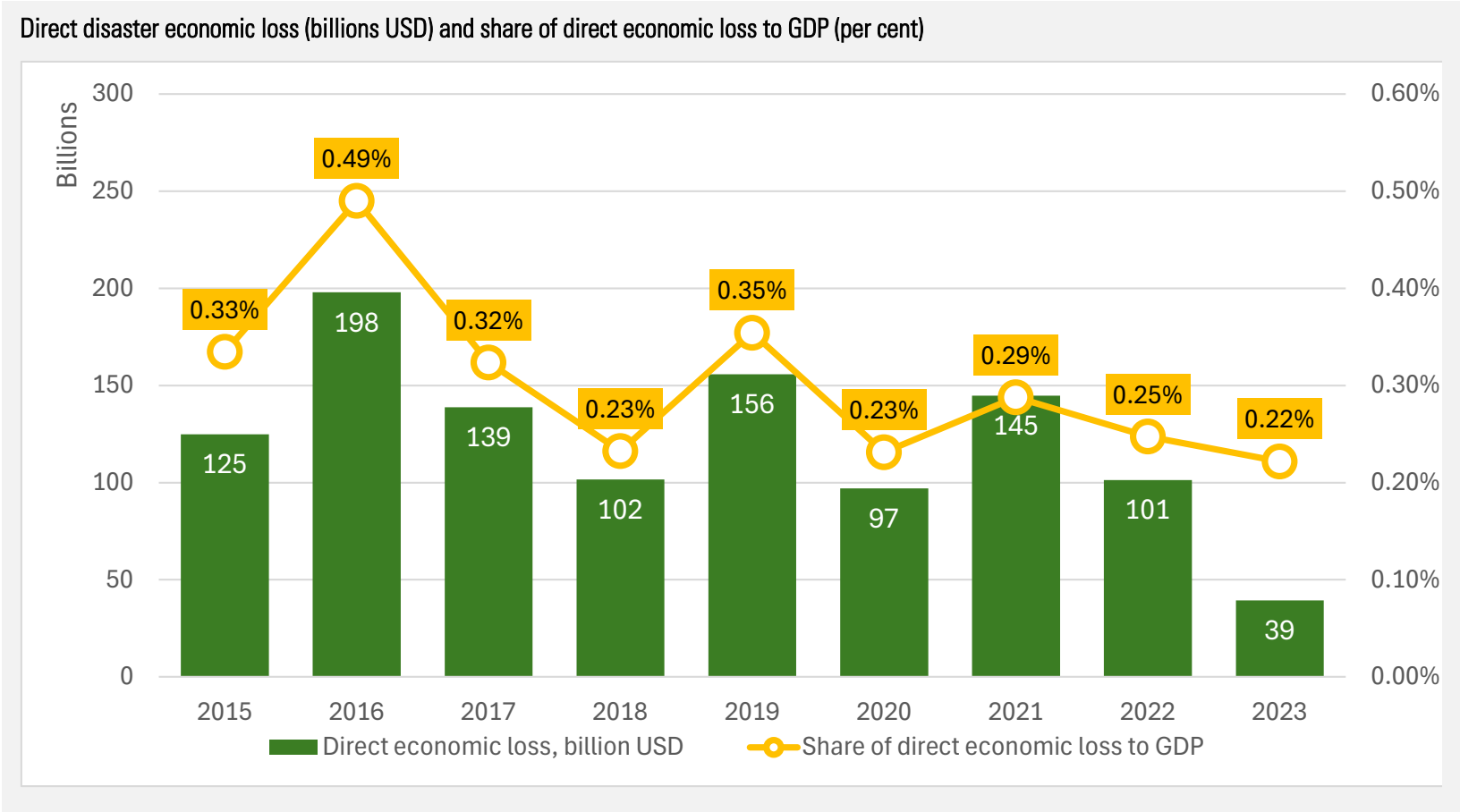
Given the complex nature of measuring economic loss, a considerable number of countries face difficulties in compiling and reporting to this indicator. Therefore, the true magnitude of losses is expected to be significantly higher than reported. UNDRR hopes to remedy some of the associated issues through an enhanced Disaster Tracking System (DTS) [Link 1] that builds on the success of the current disaster loss database system used in 112 countries (DesInventar Sendai [Link 2]). In addition to DTS, UNDRR is working on a technical assistance and capacity development package for countries to accompany the launch of DTS and improve disaster impact statistics.

[Link 1] https://www.undrr.org/disaster-losses-and-damages-tracking-system

[Link 2] https://desinventar.net

Share of direct disaster economic loss vs. share of GDP for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
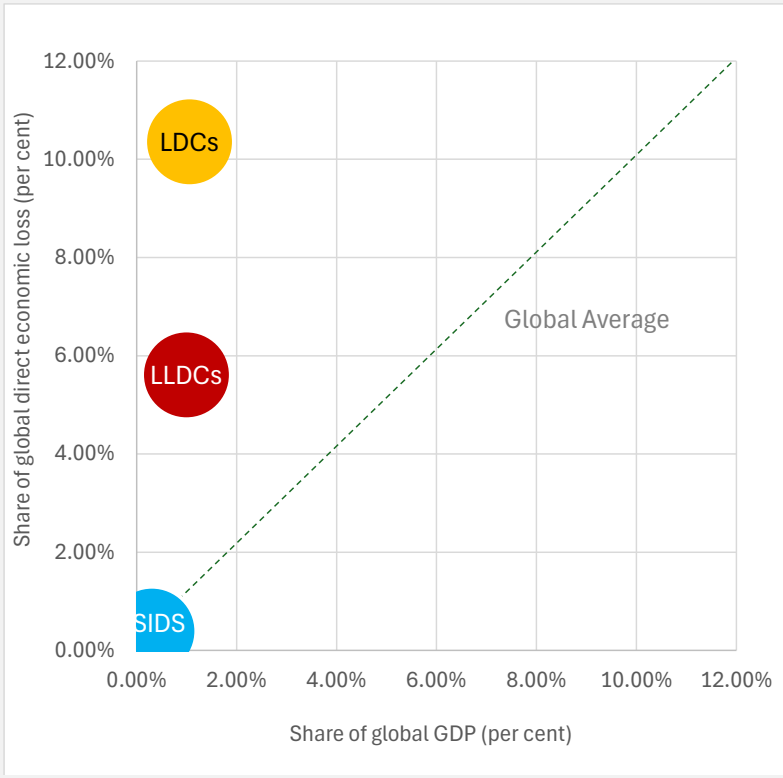
Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, Raidan Alsaqqaf, Xuan Che. UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 11.5.3 (a) Damage to critical infrastructure and (b) number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters

Disasters destroy or damage 92,199 critical infrastructure units and facilities each year

Despite investments in resilience and preparedness, disasters continue to pose substantial threats to critical infrastructure and basic services. Between 2015 and 2023, disasters caused extensive damage, with an annual average of 92,199 critical infrastructure units and facilities experiencing destruction or impairment, as measured under Sendai Framework global target D, which corresponds to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 11.5. The impact on basic services was equally significant, with more than 1.6 million disruptions to essential services annually, particularly affecting education and healthcare delivery. The development of infrastructure resilient to disasters and climate change remains a strategic priority for Member States, requiring sustained investment and commitment.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Raidan Alsaqqaf, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Indicator 11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities

Disparities in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) collection coverage across regions persist

As cities continue to grow at unprecedented rates, managing the waste they generate has become one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is an unavoidable byproduct of urban life, and how cities handle it reflects not only their environmental responsibility but also their commitment to public health, quality of life, and sustainability. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.6.1 tracks the proportion of MSW that is collected and managed in controlled facilities, offering a critical lens into how well urban areas are coping with the mounting pressure of waste.

Despite growing awareness and global efforts, wide disparities persist in waste collection coverage across different regions. These disparities expose inequalities in infrastructure, governance, and access to basic urban services. Addressing them is essential to achieving cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable cities for all.

Data collected from 4,383 cities over the period 2010 to 2024 revealed significant regional differences in MSW collection coverage. Northern America and Europe lead with an average coverage of 99.42%, followed closely by Australia and New Zealand at 98.89%. Western Asia and Northern Africa (94.81%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (90.64%) also demonstrate strong performance. Moderate coverage is observed in Central Asia and Southern Asia (84.18%), while Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) trails behind at 71.10%. The lowest rates are found in Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (64.65%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (62.63), highlighting disparities in waste management infrastructure across different regions.

Average Municipal solid waste collection coverage (2010 – 2024)

M49 Regions	Average Municipal solid waste collection coverage (2010 – 2024)
Northern America and Europe	99.42
Australia and New Zealand	98.89
Western Asia and Northern Africa	94.81
Latin America and the Caribbean	90.64
Central Asia and Southern Asia	84.18
Oceania excluding Australia and Ne	71.1
Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia	64.65
Sub-Saharan Africa	62.63

Improving municipal solid waste collection coverage requires investment in infrastructure, effective policies, financial support, community engagement, and technological innovation. Expanding waste collection services to underserved areas and enforcing regulations can enhance efficiency. Financial strategies, such as government funding and public-private partnerships, ensure sustainability. Public awareness campaigns and community participation play a crucial role in promoting proper waste disposal. Additionally, leveraging digital tools, smart bins, and waste-to-energy technologies can optimize collection processes. To achieve a cleaner environment, improved public health, and sustainable urban development a multi-stakeholder approach is essential.

Indicator 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Indicator 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Indicator 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of non-sexual or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

Indicator 11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space

Sustaining and leveraging National Urban Policies remains key for delivering SDG 11 from plans to impact

National Urban Policies (NUPs) are powerful instruments for guiding sustainable urban development. However, their success depends not only on sound formulation but also on how effectively they are implemented, monitored, and translated into meaningful improvements in people's lives. Financing urban policies and robust urban-scale data are essential to ensure that NUPs support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), and other global urban development frameworks.

SDG Indicator 11.a.1 focuses on supporting positive economic, social, and environmental links between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas through strengthened national and regional development planning. In the 2023 global review of national urban policies, 68 countries reported having NUPs or regional development plans that meet at least one of the indicator's three core qualifiers: (1) responding to population dynamics, (2) ensuring balanced territorial development, and (3) increasing local fiscal space.

The findings reveal both progress and persistent gaps. For example, the number of countries with NUPs addressing population dynamics increased from 54 in 2021 to 59 in 2023, covering 87 per cent of responding countries. While the number meeting the balanced territorial development criterion remained unchanged at 55 countries (81 per cent). Encouragingly, there was a significant increase in countries addressing local fiscal space, rising from 26 in 2021 to 33 in 2023—a jump from 45 per cent to 49 per cent. While the upward trend is promising, the comparatively low fulfilment of the third qualifier on enhancing local fiscal space remains a critical concern. This points to a need for more decisive efforts by national governments to embed decentralization reforms within their urban policies. Specifically, there must be greater clarity and commitment around fiscal decentralization, including defining the financial relationships between national and local governments and enabling local authorities to mobilize their own resources. Increasing fiscal autonomy is essential not only for reducing dependence on central transfers but also for fostering innovation and responsiveness at the local level.

The latest data reaffirms the pivotal role of NUPs in addressing population shifts, reducing territorial inequalities, and promoting more inclusive and resilient urban and regional systems. To fully unlock their transformative potential, however, NUPs must be grounded in data, aligned with national reform agendas, and supported by real financial empowerment at the local level.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://unhabitat.org/programme/national-urban-policy

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat; Remy Sietchiping, UN-Habitat; Antonio Kipyegon, UN-Habitat

Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Indicator 11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

More than two-thirds of the world's countries now have national disaster risk reduction strategies

More governments have focused on establishing national disaster risk reduction strategies as the main governance framework aimed at preventing the creation of disaster risk, reduction of existing risk and strengthening resilience. Concrete progress was made in the establishment of national DRR strategies worldwide, as 131 countries, or 67 per cent of the world, have reported in Sendai Framework Monitor global target E the adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies by 2024, doubled the 57 countries in 2015.

While reporting the existence of such strategies, countries also assess its implantation against ten-point scoring criteria. 126 countries have reported that "promoting policy coherence and compliance with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement" is a key element in their national DRR strategies that requires further attention. This underlines the importance of integrating climate resilience and sustainable development. Furthermore, given the ongoing efforts relating to the Global Goal on Adaptation, efforts are being made to leverage the presence of DRR strategies to build the basis for national adaptation plans through a comprehensive risk management approach [Link 3].

The quality of national DRR strategies also positively enhances multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS). Published as part of the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative [Link 4], the latest 2024 Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Report [Link 5] showed that countries with more comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies tend to also have more comprehensive Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. A holistic approach to DRR strategies and preparedness and action plans for early warning systems enhances countries' resilience to disasters, helping them to build empowering, resilient and sustainable communities, and enabling better preparedness and responses.

[Link 3] www.undrr.org/crm

[Link 4] https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all

[Link 5] https://www.undrr.org/reports/global-status-MHEWS-2024

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, Raidan Alsaqqaf, Xuan Che. UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

110 countries have local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the national strategies

Localizing disaster risk knowledge and strategies is critical for managing and reducing disasters losses and damages. This approach serves as a safety net to ensure that no one is left behind in disasters' harmful ways, especially for women, young girls and the marginalized populations. Local-level DRR strategies can also promote inclusive, and gender-responsive risk governance, and strengthen the integration of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) into the national strategies.

Furthermore, local-level risk governance manifested by the 110 countries which have reported the existence of local DRR strategies in place, guided by their national strategies as of 2024. On average, 73 per cent of the local governments in the reporting countries have specified having local DRR strategies.

UNDRR's Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) Initiative [Link 6] is a cross-stakeholder approach to strengthen the local-level risk knowledge management and to improve local disaster resilience through advocacy, knowledge sharing and experiences. The initiative is establishing mutually reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government and building partnerships, in an effort to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

[Link 6] https://mcr2030.undrr.org/

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, Raidan Alsaqqaf, Xuan Che. UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 11.c.1 Total official development assistance and other official flows in support of urban infrastructure or urban infrastructure projects, by sector

Custodian agency(ies):