

# The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2025

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2025

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**Note:** This unedited ‘Extended Report’ includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2025. 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. Storylines presented in this document may slightly differ from figures cited in the SDG Report 2025 text due to the timing of the submission and the subsequent updates received upon finalizing the Report.

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Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Global reduction in the rate of intentional homicide since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, although this remains short of the target of “significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the global intentional homicide rate has steadily declined from 5.9 per 100,000 people in 2015 to 5.2 in 2023. The only exception was a spike in 2021, partly due to COVID-19's economic impact and increased organized crime and gang-related violence, and sociopolitical unrest in various countries. This decrease in the global intentional homicide rate represents about 250,000 lives saved between 2015 and 2023. Projecting the trend in the homicide rate from the period of 2015-2023 to 2030 suggests that if this pattern of violence persists, the global homicide rate could decrease to 4.5 victims per 100,000 population in 2030, representing a 25% decrease in the rate since 2015. While this is a positive development, it still falls short of the target to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” by 2030, which can be translated as a minimum 50% decrease in the global homicide rate.

Homicidal violence has a disproportionate impact in Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa

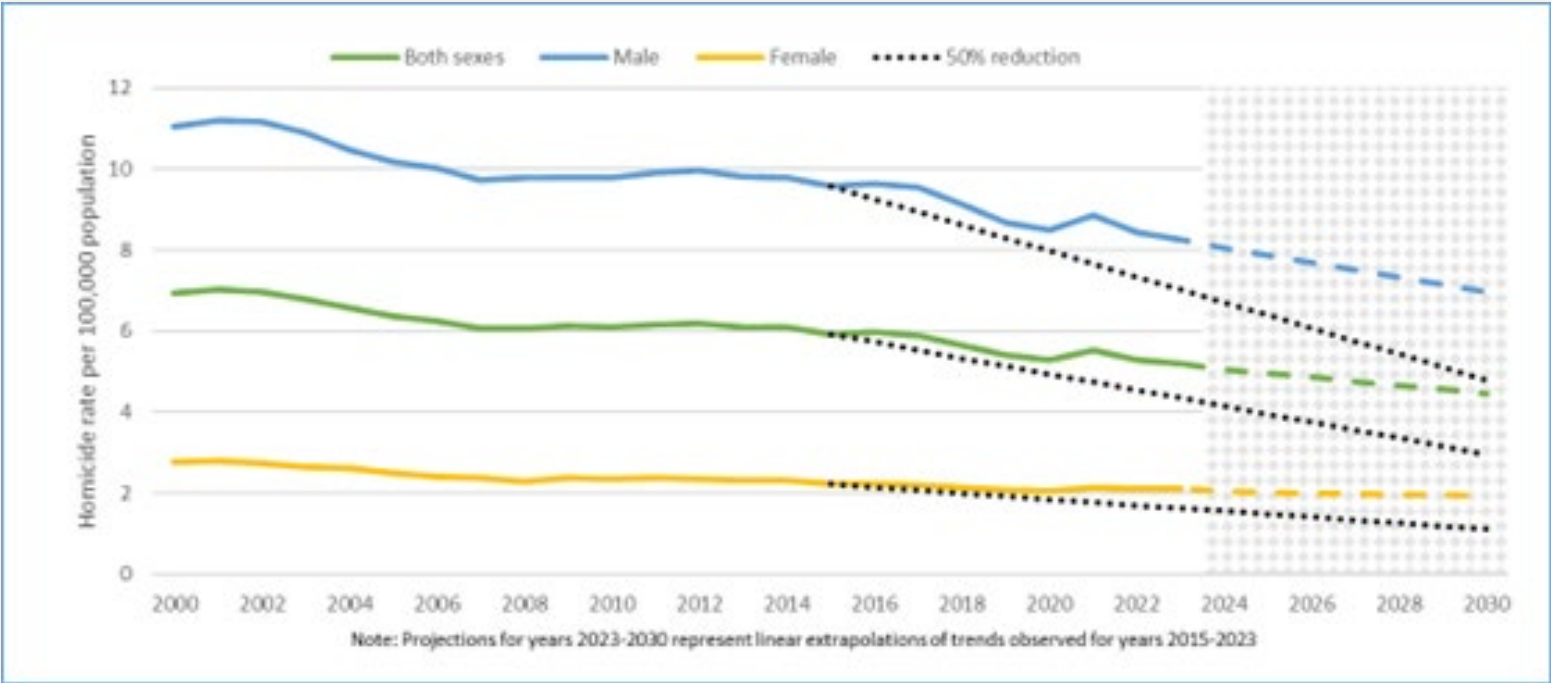
Homicide rates vary significantly by region. Latin America and the Caribbean, which is more impacted by organized crime and gang-related homicidal violence than any other region, continues to have the highest homicide rate globally, at 19.7 victims per 100,000 population in 2023. Sub-Saharan Africa, with its growing young population (aged 15-29) had an estimated 11.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2023, although the lack of data in this region makes this figure uncertain. In 2023, these two regions together accounted for almost two third of all victims of intentional homicide globally. By contrast, the rate of intentional homicide in other regions of the world ranged from 0.8 victims per 100,000 population in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia to 5.0 in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

Although men constitute the majority of victims of intentional homicide, progress in reducing the homicide rate of women and girls is much slower

In 2023, men represented about 4 in 5 victims of intentional homicide globally. Furthermore, close to 90% of male homicides took place outside the home, notably due to organized crime and gang-related violence. However, lethal violence within the family takes a much higher toll on women than men. Almost 60% of all women who were killed intentionally in 2023 were killed by their intimate partners or family members compared to 12% of all male homicides. This represents some 51,000 women and girls killed at home by people closely related to them, meaning that, in 2023, roughly one woman was killed every 10 minutes by an intimate partner or other family member.

Long-term trends in subregions with sufficient data availability show that the rate of these killings has been relatively stable from 2015 to 2023. Given this stability and the preponderance of domestic killings amongst all female homicides, the overall female homicide rate has decreased by only 5% between 2015 and 2023. By contrast, the homicide rate for men decreased by 14% over the same period.

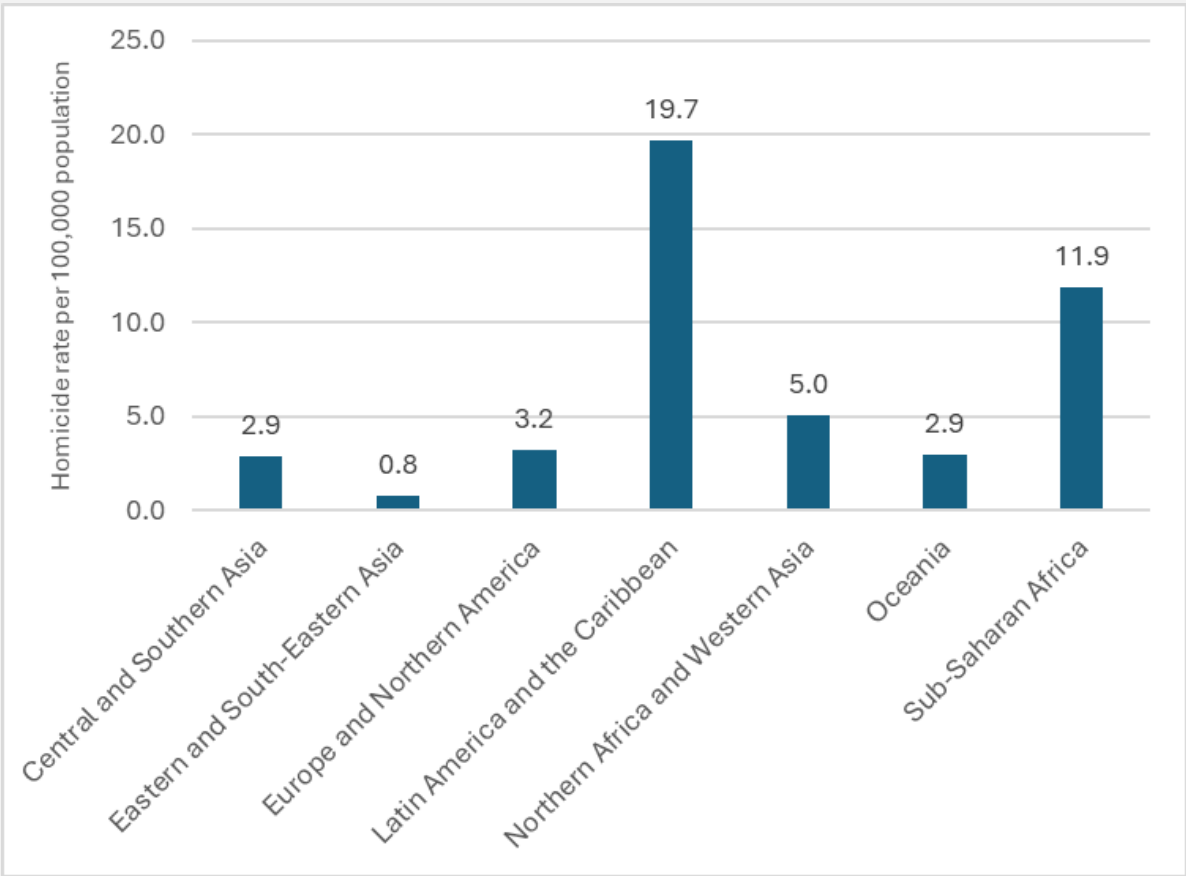
Figure 1: Trends in and projections of the global homicide rate (per 100,000 population) by sex, 2000–2030



Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources, such as the WHO Mortality Database, reviewed by Member States.

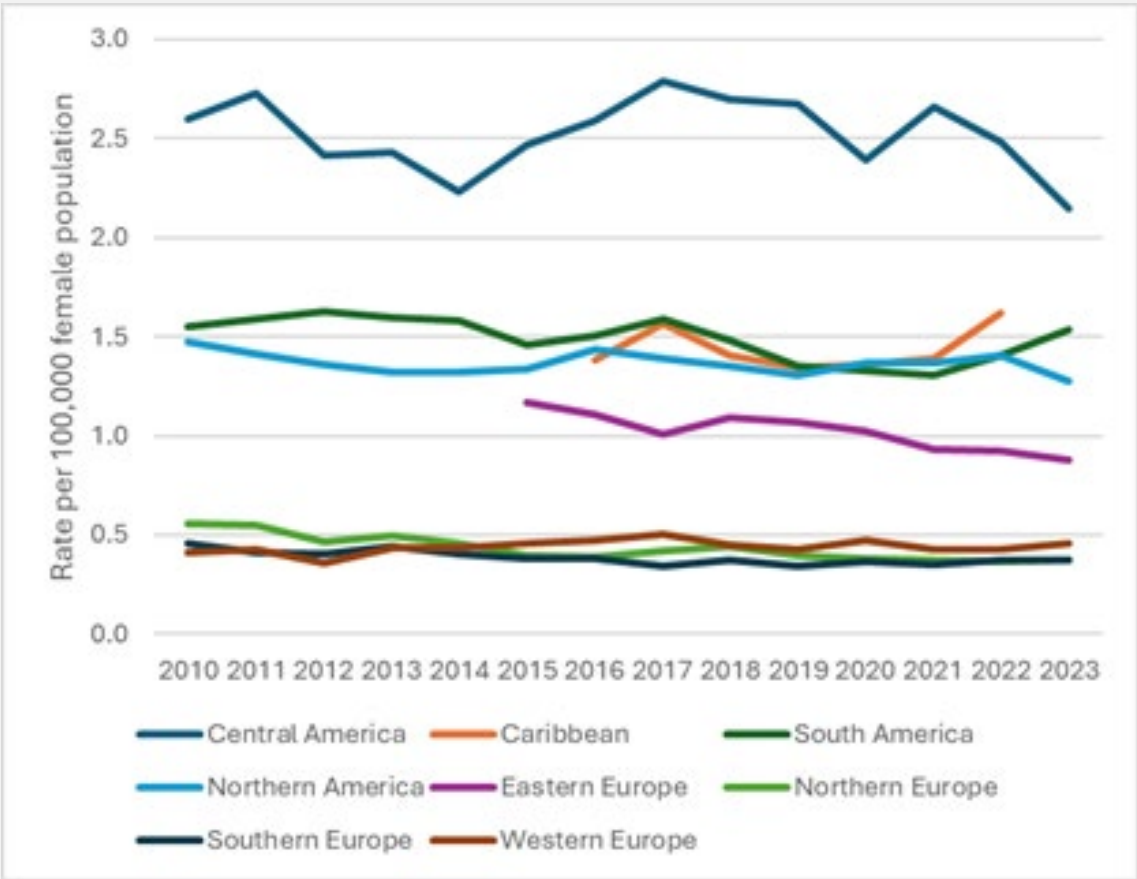
Note: Projections for the years 2024 to 2030 represent linear extrapolations of trends observed for the years 2015-2023.

Figure 2: Rate of intentional homicide per 100,000 population by regions, 2023



Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources, such as the WHO Mortality Database, reviewed by Member States.

Figure 3: Rate of female victims of intentional homicide committed by intimate partners/family members per 100,000 female population in subregions with sufficient available data, 2017-2023



Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Femicides in 2023 – Global estimates of intimate partner/family member femicides [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide\\_Brief\\_2024.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide_Brief_2024.pdf)

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC, WHO

Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

Loss of lives amid armed conflicts continues to surge dramatically; casualties among children and women quadrupled in just two years

In 2024, at least one life was lost every 12 minutes amid armed conflicts. With a growth of 40 per cent compared to the previous year, 2024 marked the third consecutive year of steep rises in conflict-related deaths of civilians and persons of undetermined status, claiming at least 48,384 lives.<sup>1</sup>

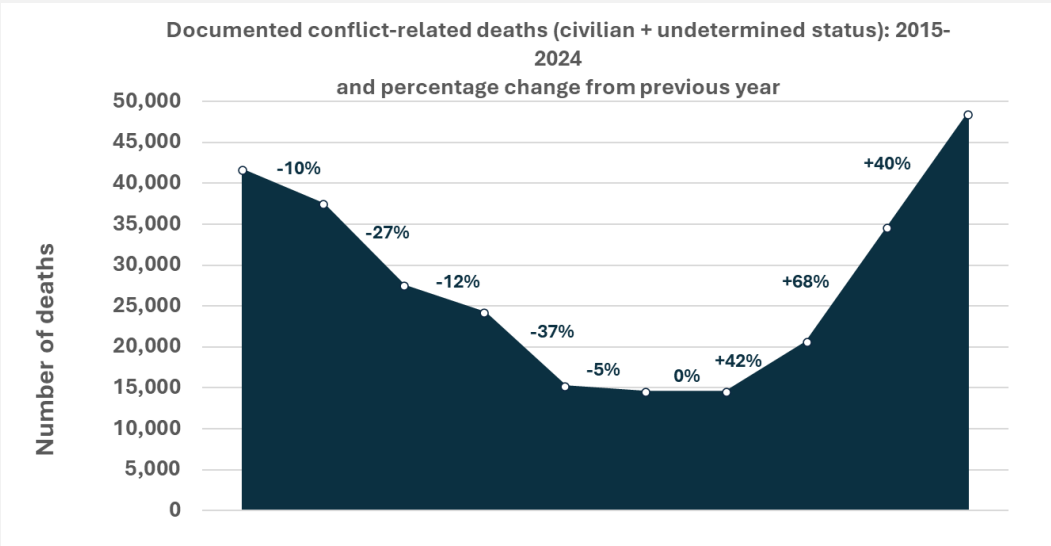
About four times more children (+337%) and women (+258%) were killed in 2023-2024 than in the previous biennium. Of those, 8 in 10 children and 7 in 10 women fatalities happened in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These distressing figures reveal a stark deviation from the trajectory towards global peace, security and sustainable development. Immediate and concerted efforts are imperative to reverse this trend.

While it was not possible to classify the primary cause of half of the deaths in 2024, heavy weapons and explosive munitions were the foremost tool of lethal violence in Northern America and Europe and in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia. In Central and Southern Asia, planted explosives and unexploded ordnance (UXO) continued to pose significant threats, underscoring the long-term dangers of past conflicts.

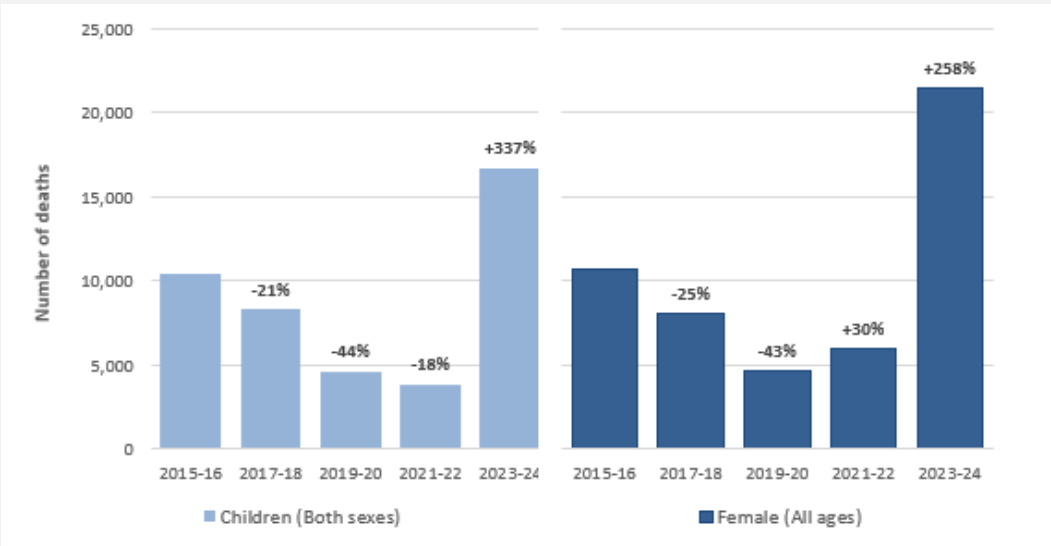
Available data on 16 of the world’s deadliest conflicts underscore the urgency for stronger protection measures and sustainable peace efforts. Conflicts must be brought to an immediate end, and all parties involved must adhere rigorously to international humanitarian and human rights laws to protect the lives of civilians, including women and children.

Footnote 1- Although most recorded deaths are of civilians, determining the victims’ status is not always possible, especially during intense hostilities. Between 2015 and 2022, the proportion of conflict-related deaths with undetermined status fluctuated between 4 and 8 per cent. However, this figure surged to nearly 30 per cent in 2023 and 2024

Documented conflict-related deaths (civilian + undetermined status): 2015-2024 and percentage change from previous year



Documented conflict-related deaths of children and women (2015-2024) and percentage change from previous biennium



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Ana Devezza, OHCHR; Nicolas Fasel, OHCHR

Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR



**Indicator 16.1.3** Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

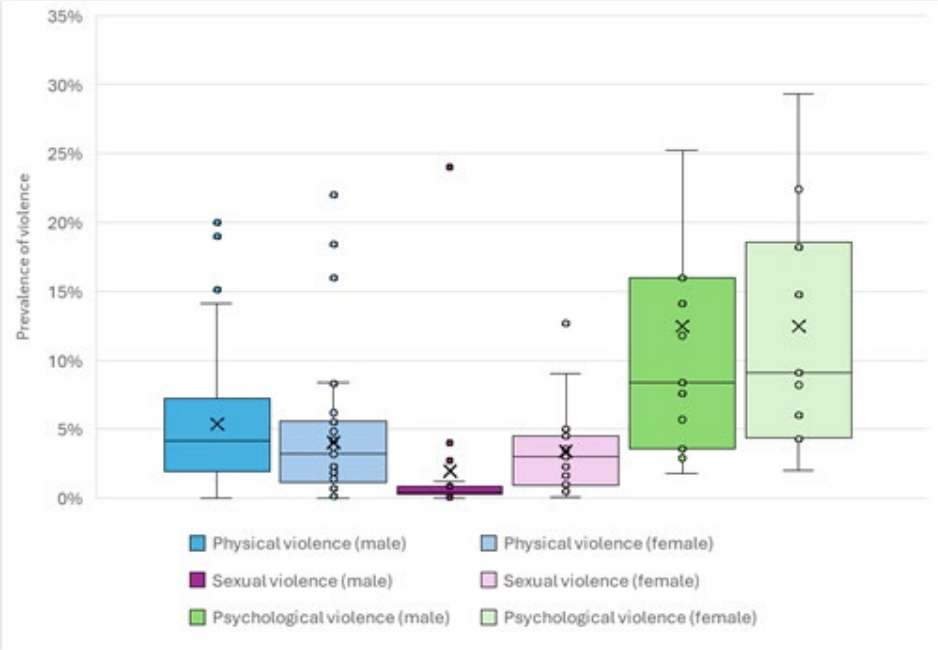
**The prevalence of robbery is significantly higher in Latin America and the Caribbean compared with other world regions**

Measuring the prevalence of non-lethal violence is challenging because victims of such violence do not always report their experience to the authorities. For example, the median proportion of victims of sexual assault that reported their victimization to the authorities was 15 per cent in countries with data in the period 2010-2024. To accurately measure the prevalence of physical, sexual, and psychological violence in the population, is it therefore necessary to conduct victimization surveys or household surveys that include a victimization module. However, even surveys suffer from underreporting, notably for stigmatized events such as rape or sexual assault. Since 2010, 101 countries have reported at least one data point on the proportion of the population subjected to any form of non-lethal violence (that is physical<sup>1</sup>, psychological, or sexual violence).

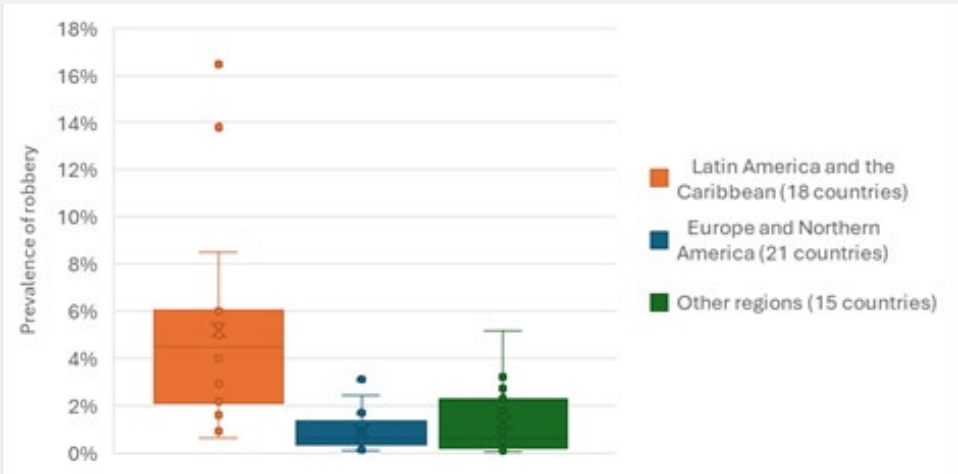
Available data show differences in the violence experienced by women and men. Looking at countries with data for at least one year between 2010 and 2024, the median proportion of men experiencing physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is somewhat higher than for women, at 4.1 percent for men as compared to 3.2 percent for women. By contrast, the median proportion of women subjected to sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is higher than for men, at respectively 3.0 percent and 0.4 percent. Just eight countries have data on the prevalence of psychological violence, making it difficult to draw conclusions at global level. In this sample of countries, the median prevalence rate for psychological violence amongst women and men is higher than for other types of violence.

Most acts of physical violence correspond to robbery or physical assault. Data on robbery are more widely available globally, with 54 countries reporting data for 2024 or the most recent year available since 2010. The median prevalence rate of robbery in the 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with available data, at 4.5 percent, was much higher than in the other regions, at 0.6 percent in Europe and Northern America, and 0.6 percent in other regions.

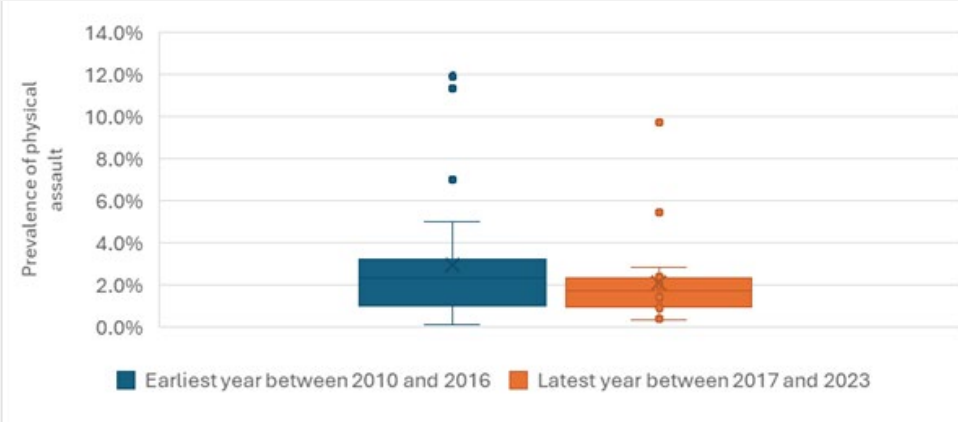
**Figure 1: Proportion of the population subject to violence in the previous 12 months, by sex, selected countries, latest available (2010-2024)**



**Figure 2: Proportion of population subjected to robbery in the previous 12 months, by region, latest available year since 2010**



**Figure 3: Proportion of the population subjected to physical assault in the previous 12 months, 29 countries with available data for 2010 or earliest year before 2016 and 2024 or latest year after 2017**



Trend data on the proportion of the population subjected to physical assault in the 12 months before the survey with at least one observation for both the periods 2010–2016 and 2017–2024 is available in 29 countries. They show a decrease in the prevalence of physical assault going from a median annual prevalence rate of 2.3 percent for 2010–2016 to 1.7 percent for 2017-2024. Of those 29 countries, 19 had a lower proportion of population subjected to physical assault in the period 2017–2024. While the data available for a small number of countries show some progress, they are not sufficient to draw conclusions on progress towards target 16.1 on reducing violence.

[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#) UNODC

**Indicator 16.1.4** Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark

[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#) UNODC

<sup>1</sup> Physical violence includes physical assault and robbery.

Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

**Indicator 16.2.1** Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF

**Indicator 16.2.2** Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

Globally, 38 per cent of all victims of trafficking detected in 2022 were children - a significantly larger share compared with the 13 per cent detected in 2004

After a brief reduction in the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic (2020), the total number of victims of trafficking detected globally has been increasing steadily. Globally, 25 per cent more victims of trafficking were recorded in 2022 compared to the pre-pandemic period, and 43 per cent more victims were recorded compared to 2020.

This upward trend can be partly attributed to a marked increase in detected child victims. Since 2019, there has been an increase of approximately 31 per cent in recorded child victims. The upward trend is the result of: (1) a larger share of girls among female victims trafficked for sexual exploitation identified in many regions, (2) an increase in trafficked boys detected in Europe and, to a lesser extent, in North America, and (3) a large increase of detected victims in Africa where generally more child than adult victims are detected.

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2004-2022

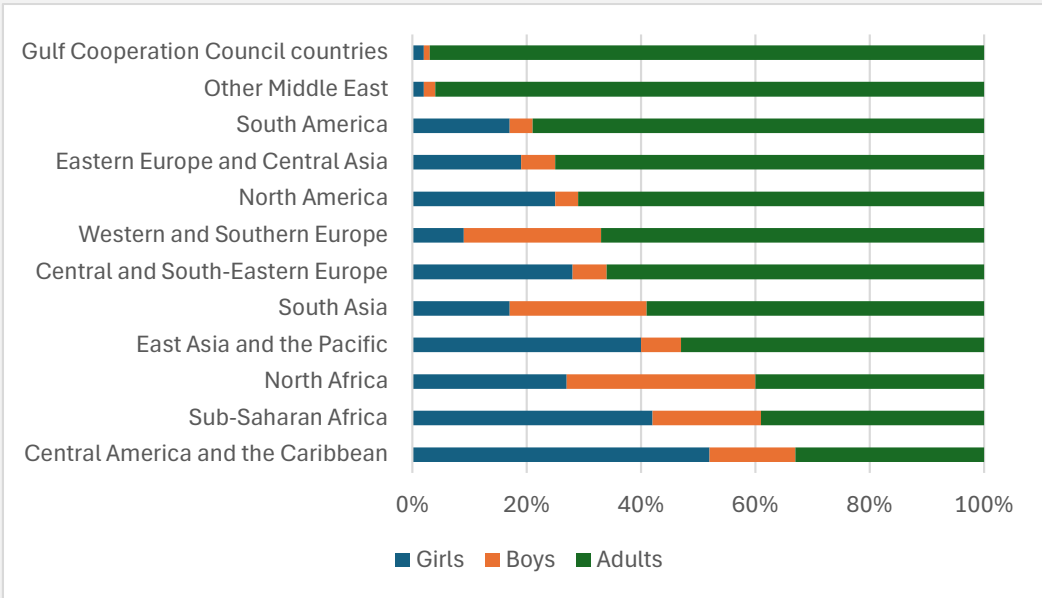


Figure 2: Share of detected child victims of trafficking, by form of exploitation, 2022 or most recent



Note: Based on a total of 8,749 boy and 9,323 girl victims detected in 81 countries and territories in 2022 (or most recent).

Figure 3: Share of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, by region 2022 (or most recent)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- 2024 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. See also: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

**Indicator 16.2.3** Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF

Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

**Indicator 16.3.1** Proportion of victims of (a) physical, (b) psychological and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

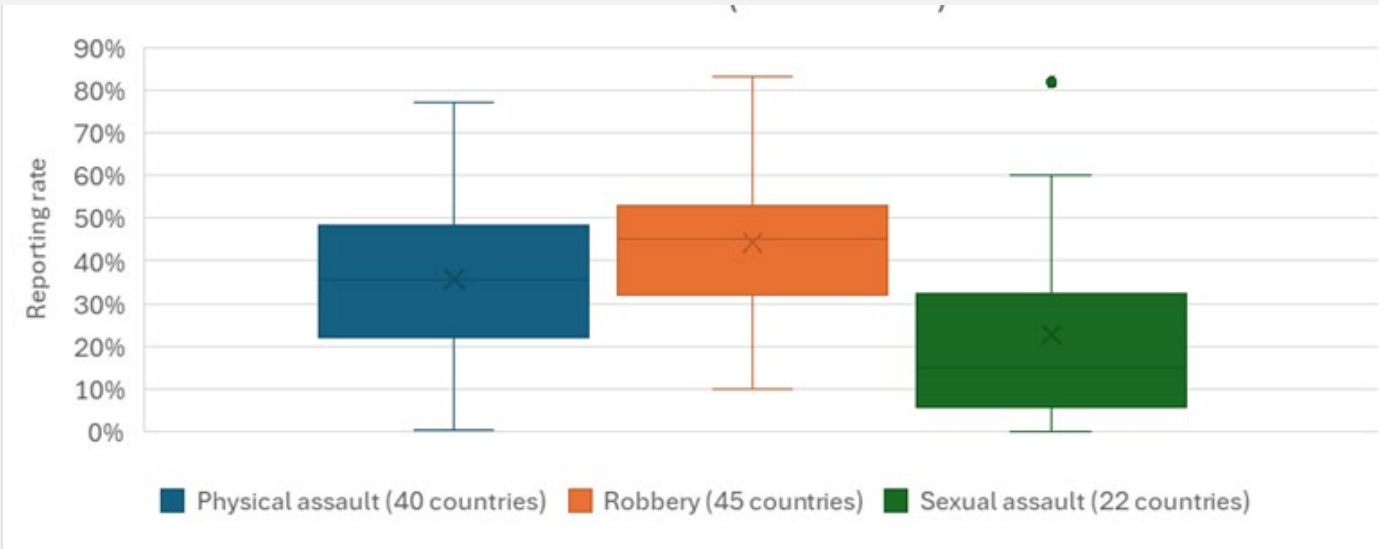
Reporting rates for sexual assault are, on average, lower than reporting rates for physical assault and robbery

Reporting to competent authorities is the first step for crime victims to seek justice. Without knowledge of the crime, authorities will not conduct investigations and administer justice. In addition to reflecting the confidence of crime victims in the ability of the police or other authorities to provide effective redress, and the safety of doing so, reporting rates also provide a measure of the “hidden figure” of crime, meaning the proportion of crimes that are not reported to the police.

As of early 2025, 92 countries have at least one data point on the reporting of any type of violence covered by indicator 16.3.1 since 2010.<sup>2</sup> Indicator 16.3.1 focuses on the reporting of physical, sexual and psychological violence. Physical violence includes physical assault and robbery, while sexual violence includes, among others, sexual assault. Data availability in the period 2010–2024, though limited, is higher for reporting of physical assault (40 countries) and robbery (45 countries) than for physical violence (29 countries). Data availability for reporting of sexual assault (22 countries) is in turn higher than for reporting of sexual violence (16 countries).

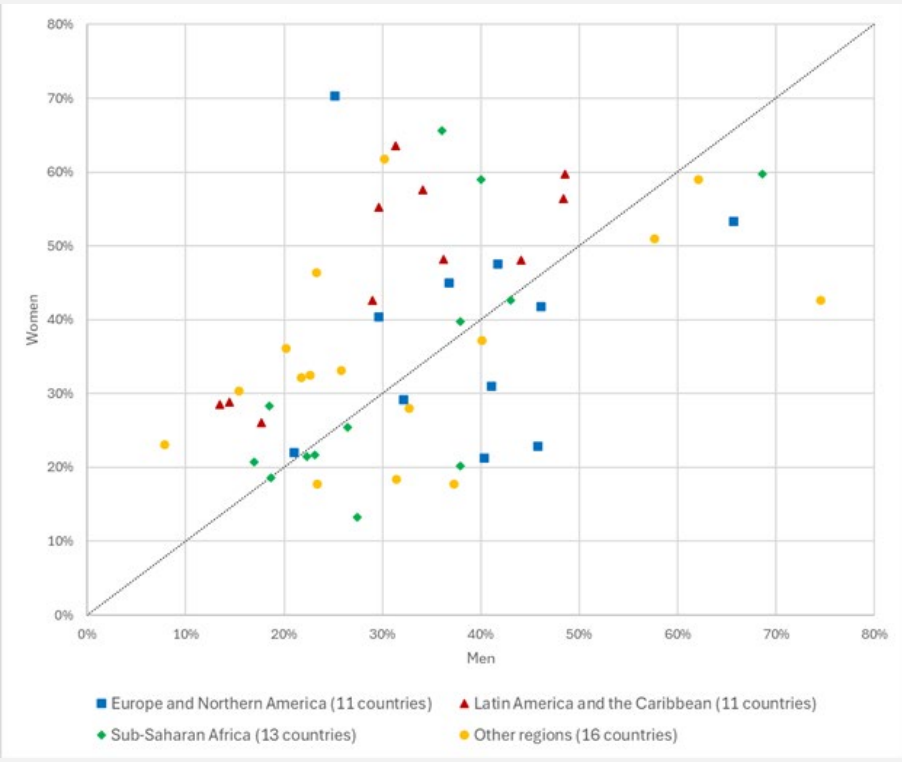
The proportion of victims of physical assault and robbery that reported their victimization to the police or other authorities, with a median proportion in countries with data of respectively 35 percent and 45 percent, is higher than for sexual assault, for which the median in countries with available data was 15 percent. The nature of the crime, especially stigmatized forms of violence such as rape or sexual assault, and previous experiences victims had in interacting with the authorities may impact how willing they become to report their victimization.

Figure 1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms, by type of crime, selected countries, latest available (2010-2024)



Sex-disaggregated data on the reporting of violence remain limited. Physical assault is the form of violence with the highest number of countries having sex-disaggregated data on the proportion of victims in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities. These data for the period 2014–2023<sup>3</sup> suggest some region-specific patterns: In all 11 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with data, a greater proportion of female victims of physical assault reported their victimization compared to male victims. By contrast, such a consistent gap in the reporting rate between the sexes is not evident in the other regions.

Figure 2: Proportion of victims of physical assault in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities, selected countries, latest available year, by sex and region



Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

<sup>2</sup> This includes male and female reporting rates for physical violence, physical assault (a specific type of physical violence), physical or sexual violence (measured together), rape, robbery, sexual violence, sexual assault rape (a specific type of sexual violence).  
<sup>3</sup> No data on male and female reporting rates for physical assault are available for the year 2024.



Indicator 16.3.2 Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

One out of three prisoners remains in pre-trial detention, masking wide regional disparities

In 2023, an estimated 11.7 million people were held in detention worldwide, 5.0 per cent more than a decade ago. While the global prison population was growing over the last decades, the increase was slower than that of the world population: Between 2015 and 2023, as the result, the prisoner-to-population rate decreased from 149 to 145 prisoners per 100,000 population.

The prisoner-to-population rate varies across SDG regions and the lowest rate of 54 prisoners per 100,000 population was observed in Central Asia and Southern Asia, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (82 prisoners per 100,000 population). The highest rate of 305 prisoners per 100,000 population was observed in the Latin America and the Caribbean followed by Europe and Northern America (257 prisoners per 100,000 population).

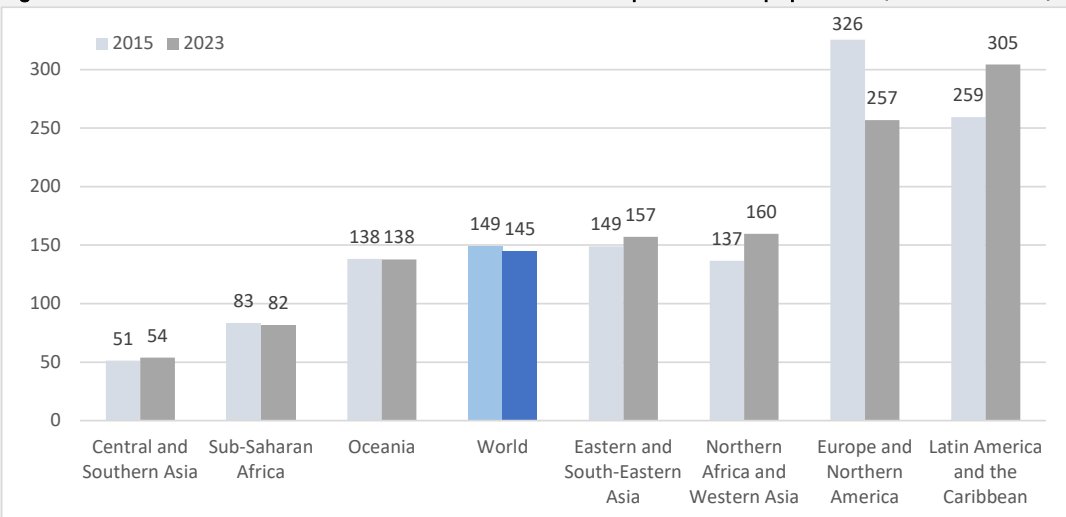
Between 2015 and 2023, in some SDG regions imprisonment rates increased significantly, from 259 to 305 prisoners per 100,000 population in Latin America and the Caribbean and from 137 to 160 per 100,000 population in Northern Africa and Western Asia. The opposite trend was observed in Europe and Northern America, where the prisoner-to-population rate decreased from 326 to 257 prisoners per 100,000 population over the same period, still remaining much higher than the global average.

Men make up over 94 per cent of the prison population, or 11.0 million prisoners in 2023, while less than a million (760,000) women were held in prison. The share of women among all prisoners has remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2023, staying below 7 per cent during the entire period. Though, the share of female prisoners shows some regional variations, ranging from 3.3% in Northern Africa and Western Asia to 8.3 per cent in Europe and Northern America, in 2023.

Access to justice is a fundamental human right. Monitoring progress towards reducing the number of unsented detainees remains critical and little progress has been made in recent years. In 2023, nearly a third (3.7 million) of the global prison population was being held in pre-trial detention and their share increased slightly between 2015 and 2023 (from 29 to 31 per cent). Nevertheless, in some SDG regions significant progress can be observed. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the proportion of incarcerated individuals awaiting trial or sentencing decreased from 41% in 2015 to 30% in 2023. However, in many other SDG regions the opposite trend was observed. For instance, in Oceania, the share of unsented increased from 27 to 37 per cent between 2015 and 2023. Central and Southern Asia half of prisoners were unsented in 2015 and the situation has deteriorated further during recent years: In 2023, some 60% of prisoners were unsented.

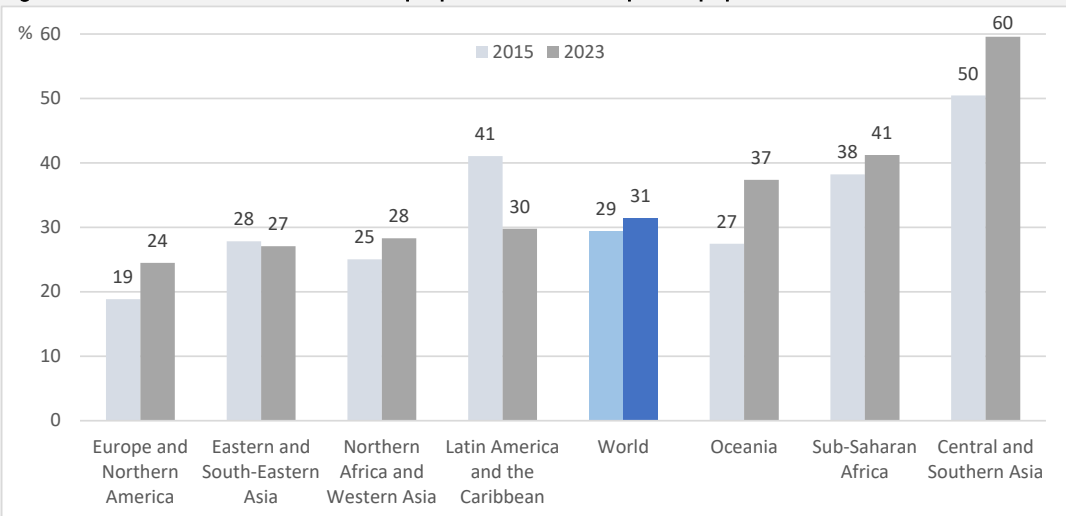
In 2023, a total of 3.5 million men and 0.2 million women were held in pre-trial detention worldwide. The proportions of men and women held in prison without a sentence are very similar and amount to 30 per cent of women, and 32 of men held in prison. Although there is no significant global gender gap in unsented detention rates, in some regions, such as in Northern Africa and Western Asia, Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa, higher percentages of women in pre-trial detention, a difference of more than 5 percentage points are observed. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest gender gap, with 50 per cent of women compared to 41 per cent of men held without a sentence.

Figure 1: Number of sentenced and unsented detainees per 100.000 population (2015 and 2023)



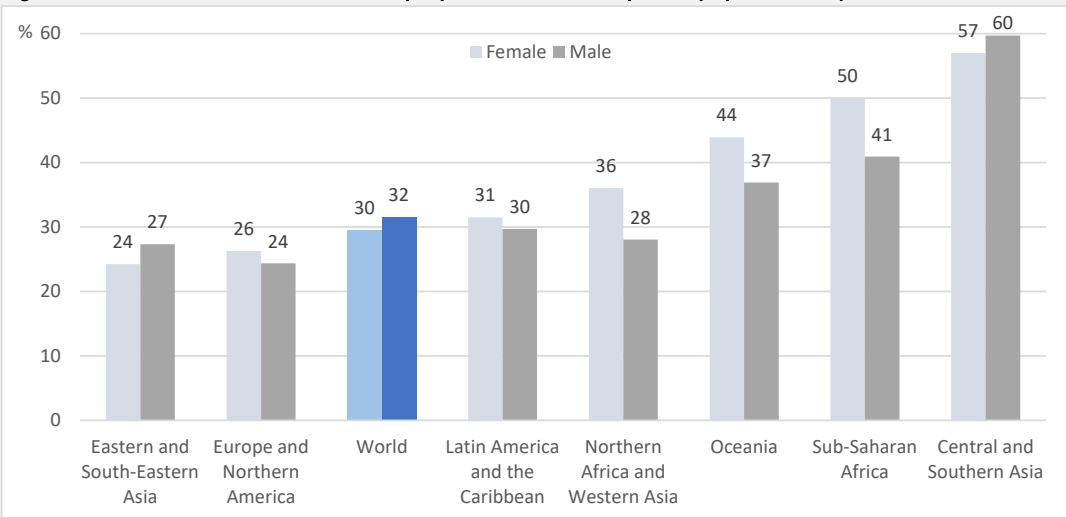
Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the rate of detainees per 100,000 population in 2023.  
Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey.

Figure 2: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (2015 and 2023)



Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the proportion of unsented detainees of the overall prison population in 2023.  
Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey.

Figure 3: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population, by sex (2023)



Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the proportion of female unsented detainees of the overall prison population in 2023.  
Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UNODC (2024); 2024 Prison Matters; Global prison population and trends - A focus on rehabilitation; [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Prison\\_brief\\_2024.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Prison_brief_2024.pdf)

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

Indicator 16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

Custodian agency(ies): UNDP, OECD, UNODC



Target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

Indicator 16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

<a href="#">Custodian agency(ies):</a> UNODC, UNCTAD
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Indicator 16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

Countries still face significant challenges when establishing the illicit origin of firearms

Establishing the illicit origin of weapons seized, found, and surrendered in the context of conflict, armed violence and crime is crucial in preventing and combatting the illicit trade in small arms and constitutes a key step towards reducing illicit arms flows. National authorities undertake tracing of these weapons to identify their origin as well as their point of diversion to the illicit market. However, tracing remains a challenge for many Member States due to the lack of resources and capacity, and of effective international cooperation.

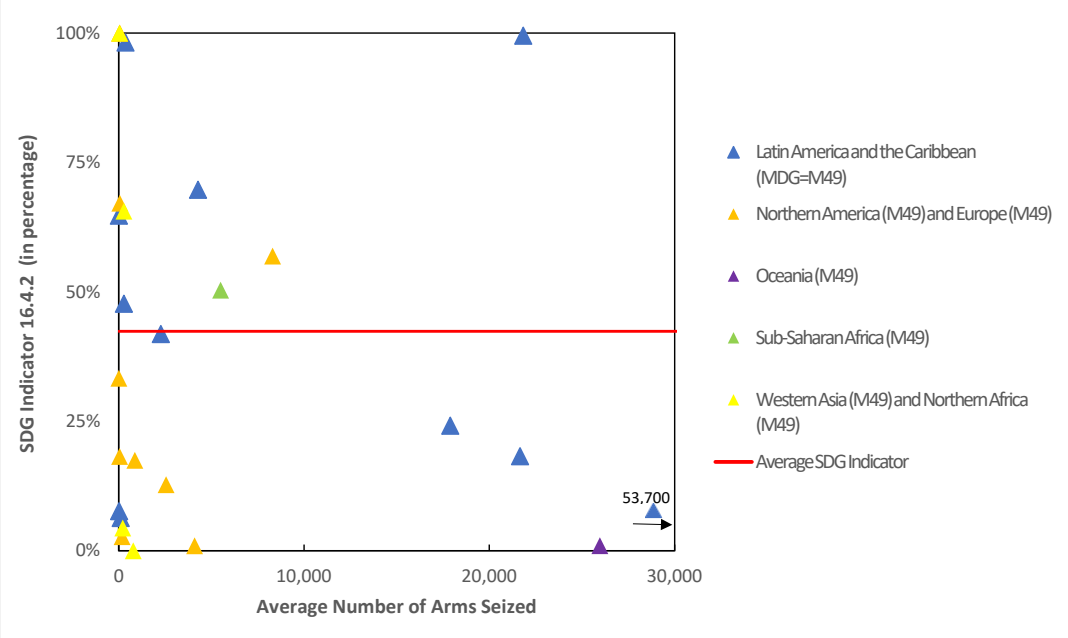
Based on data from 55 Member States, on average around three fourth of firearms seized are potentially traceable<sup>4</sup>, consisting mainly of firearms that have unique markings that can be used for identifying their illicit origin. Levels of successful tracing (SDG indicator) vary widely between and within regions and are partly influenced by the volume of arms seized. In Member States where the yearly average number of firearm seizures exceed 10.000 - the majority of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean - the indicator value falls below the global average of 42 per cent, potentially highlighting the burden of establishing the illicit context of seized arms. By contrast, countries with low levels of arms seized exhibit great variability in the proportion of their successful tracing. In Northern America and Europe, a relatively low success rate<sup>5</sup> of firearms tracing was reported for seven out of thirteen countries.

In the majority of successful tracing cases, firearms are traced domestically to a national registry (24 out of 42 per cent) but a significant share are traced internationally to a foreign registry (9 out of 42 per cent), meaning that cooperative practices at the international level are very important, even if improvements in this area are still needed.

While the destruction of weapons<sup>6</sup> constitutes an effective method of reducing the number of small arms on the illicit market (more than 1.7 million weapons destroyed between 2018 and 2023<sup>7</sup>), States can implement several actions to prevent potential diversion of weapons to the illicit market. Marking and recordkeeping are the prerequisites for effective tracing operations. As such, efforts taken by States to mark and record the weapons collected constitute key measures to reducing illicit arms flows in accordance with SDG Target 16.4. In 2022-2023, national authorities collected<sup>8</sup> 860,598 weapons, of which 50% was subsequently marked, 66% was recorded, 65% was destroyed and 41% was traced.<sup>9</sup>, highlighting significant increases in the per centage of subsequently destroyed and traced weapons, compared to 2020-2021<sup>10</sup>.

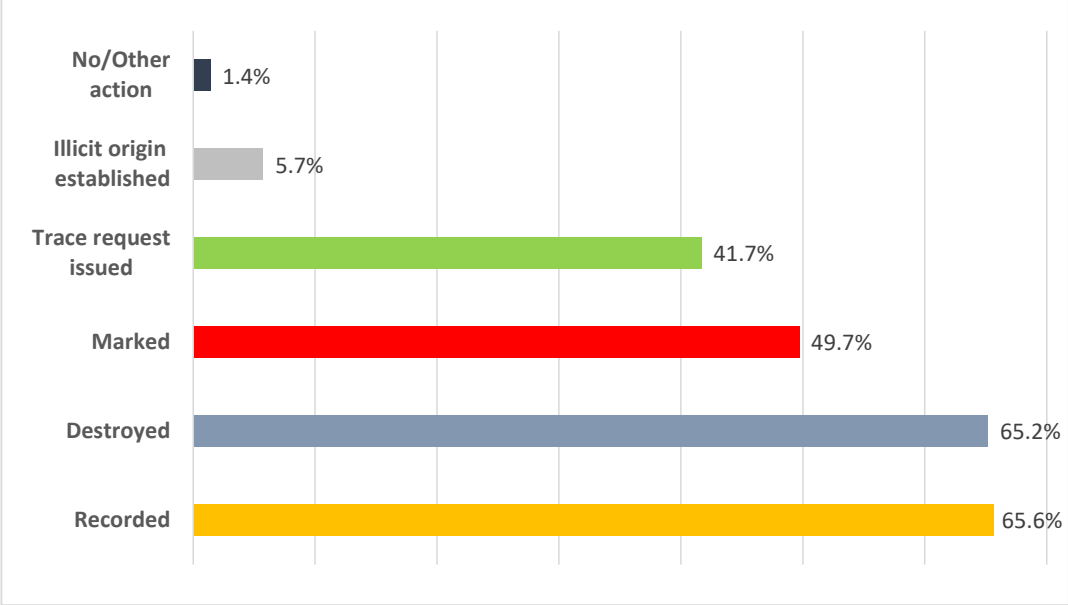
In order to reduce illicit arms flows, information on specific cases and incidents, in which weapons are diverted to illicit markets also needs to be collected and shared by national authorities. The two main sources of weapons diversion are 'diversion during international transfers' and 'diversion from national stockpile'. In 2022-2023, 36 Member States reported relevant information on incidents of weapons diversion through international transfers or from national stockpiles, including the details on 6 incidents.<sup>11</sup>Also in 2022-2023, among 100 submitted national reports, 21 countries reported the number of tracing requests submitted or received. Where such tracing requests were submitted to another country, 81% of the requests were responded by the received countries (counterparts) and 62% of matching (successfully traced) cases were found. Where such tracing requests were received from another country, 70% of the requests were responded by the received countries (themselves) and 12% of matching (successfully traced) cases were found<sup>12</sup>.

Figure 1: Average value (2016-2023) of SDG Indicator 16.4.2, in comparison with average arms seized (2016 – 2023), by country



Source : Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (IAFQ). Simple averages calculated based on data submitted by 33 Member States between 2016 and 2024.

Figure 2: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (2015 and 2023)



Source : 2024 national reports of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (PoA). Simple averages calculated based on data submitted by 35 Member States for the period 2022-2023.

<sup>4</sup> Potentially traceable firearms exclude firearms seized from their legitimate owners. Firearms whose marking status was not recorded are also included and considered as “unsuccessful” instances of the efforts to identify the illicit origin. Based on data for 2016 to 2023 reported through the Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (UN-IAFQ).

<sup>5</sup> Below the average of 42 per cent.

<sup>6</sup> The terms “arms” and “weapons” refer to small arms and light weapons and can be used interchangeably.

<sup>7</sup> Overall, considering also weapons collected in previous years and obsolete weapons from national stockpiles, more than 1,763,000 weapons were destroyed between 2018 and 2023. Based on data from 96 countries for the 2020 national reports, 90 countries for the 2022 national reports and 100 countries for the 2024 national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

<sup>8</sup> Weapons collected include those seized, surrendered or found and brought under the control or custody of relevant public authorities.

<sup>9</sup> Average based on data from 67 Member States reported through the 2024 national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

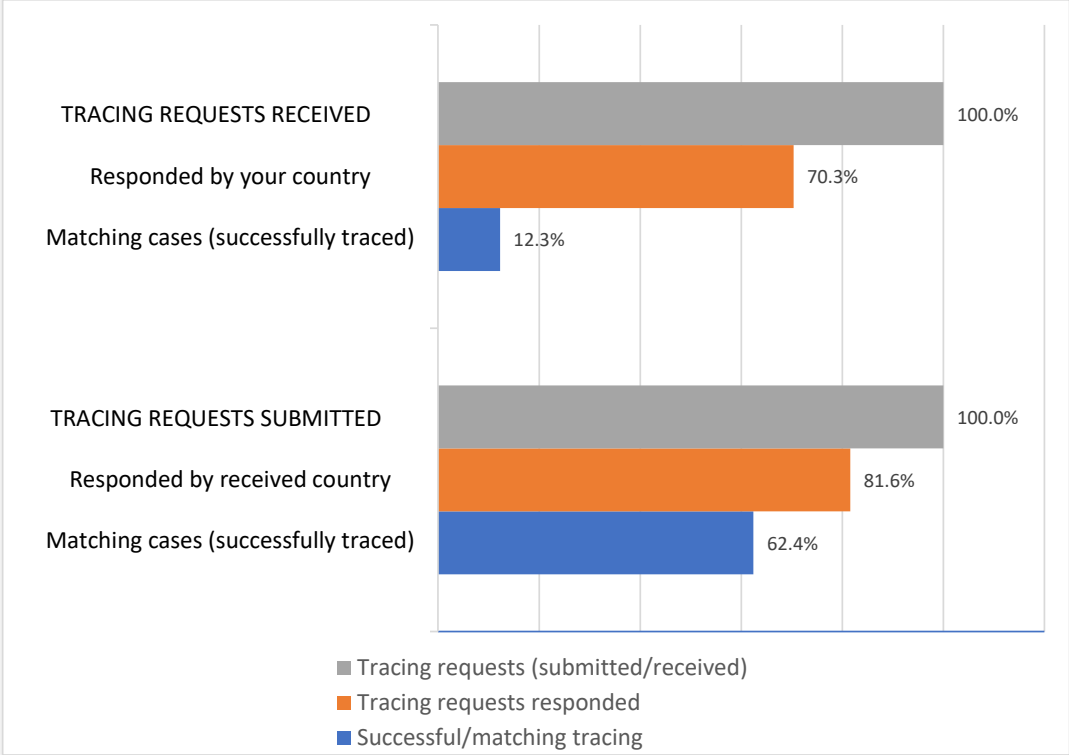
<sup>10</sup> In 2020-2021, national authorities marked on average 63% of the weapons collected, recorded 75% of the weapons collected, destroyed 45% of weapons collected and traced 9% of weapons.

Simple average based on data from 29 Member States reported through the 2020 national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

<sup>11</sup> Among 100 States which submitted PoA/ITI national reports 2024, 36 States provided information on diversion incidents related to international transfers or national stockpile management, including details on 6 incidents.

<sup>12</sup> The total of tracing requests submitted and received amounted to 819 and 466 respectively in 2022, whereas 921 and 333 respectively in 2023, according to the 2024 PoA national reports.

Figure 3: International tracing requests (2022-2023)



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): UNODC, UNODA

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC, UNODA

Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**Indicator 16.5.1** Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

**Indicator 16.5.2** Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank, UNODC

Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Indicator 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

Budget Reliability is on track of improvement after COVID-19

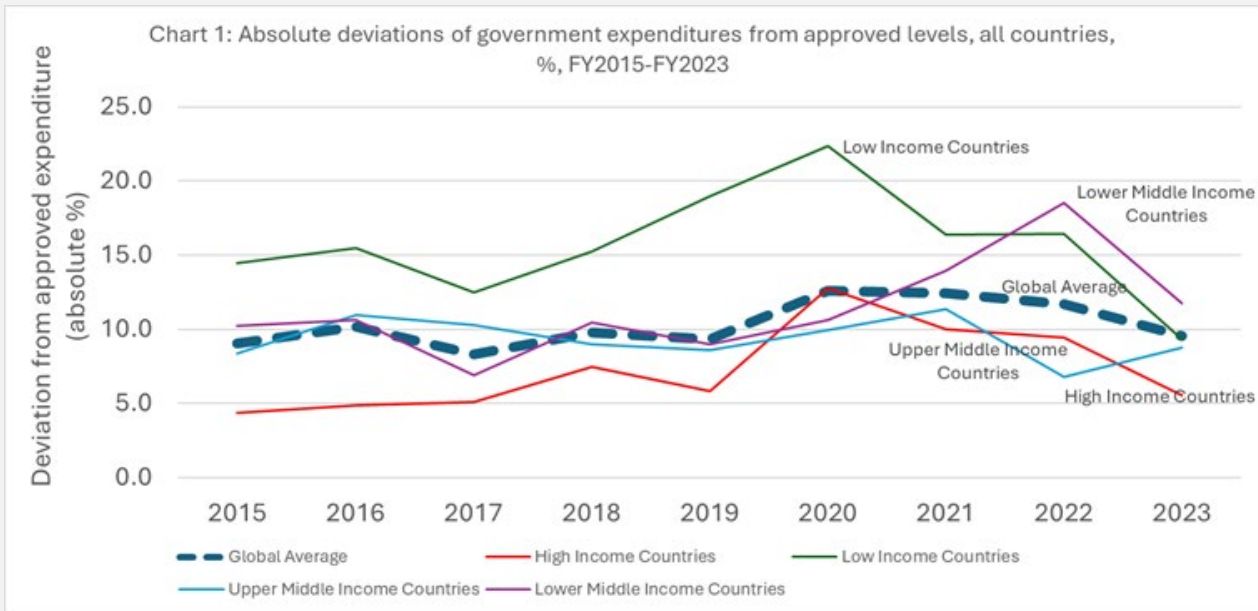
Budget reliability across different country income groups vary significantly<sup>13</sup>. In terms of average absolute deviation (how much the executed expenditure deviated from approved, regardless of over or under), low-income countries have deviated more than 15% in 3 out of the 9 years (Chart 1) whereas high income countries have deviated by more than 10% only in one year (2020).

Low-income countries’ budget deviations were further exacerbated during the global pandemic, reaching a peak of 22.4% in 2020. These countries faced significant difficulties in aligning their budget execution with approved expenditures, exacerbating their financial management issues during times of crisis.

Lower-middle income countries’ absolute budget deviation reached a high of 18.5% in 2021. Upper-middle income countries have fared better, with their budget deviations mostly staying under global averages, but within the 7-12% range. In contrast, high income countries had budget deviations going beyond 10% only during the COVID-19 pandemic year, and for the rest of the years they largely demonstrated lower deviations. While shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic put an impact on budget reliability globally, the budget deviations were affected for lower-income countries more.

It is reassuring to see improvements in budget reliability in 2022 and 2023 globally. Reliable budgets contribute to the three budgetary outcomes of aggregate fiscal discipline, efficient allocation of resources and improved service delivery. They facilitate strengthening institutions contributing to progress on SDG 16.6.1.

Absolute deviations of government expenditures from approved levels, all countries, %, FY2015-FY2023



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Bank Group Country and Lending Groups: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Ashikur Rahman, Srinivas Gurazada, Lewis Hawke, Victor Boakye-Bonsu, MartinJan Jimenez Guzel

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Indicator 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

While most people around the world express satisfaction with public services, a substantial proportion of the population remains dissatisfied highlighting the need for targeted improvements across sectors and among population groups

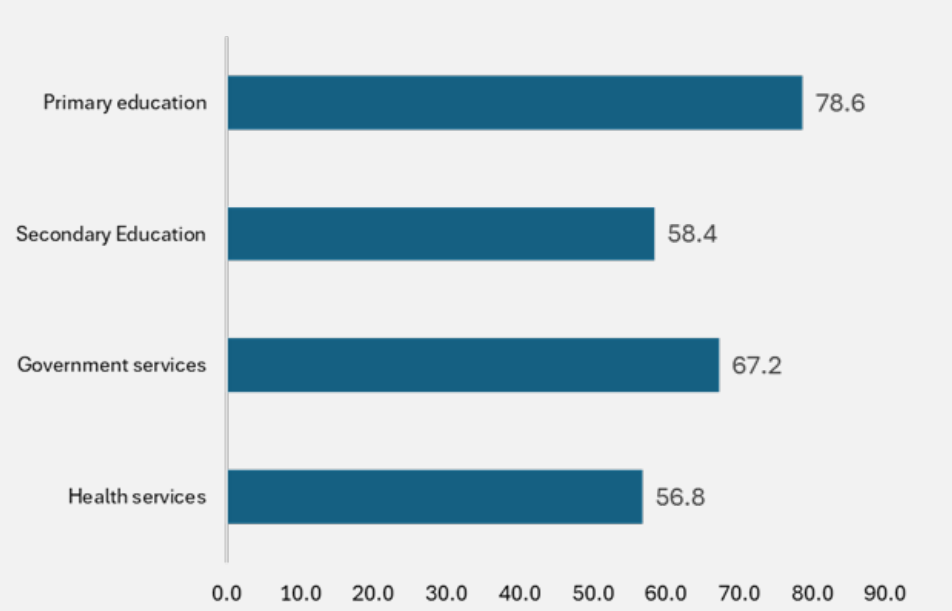
Delivering public services is a core responsibility of governments, and accessing those services often represents the primary interaction between people and public institutions. As such, the quality of service delivery plays a crucial role in shaping public trust and attitudes towards governments and institutions. To meet people’s evolving needs and expectations, governments must consistently provide accessible, reliable, responsive, and high-quality services. Measuring public satisfaction with these services is essential, as it enables institutions to continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness while adapting to public needs.

Globally, in countries where data are available, the majority of people express satisfaction with public services, with no significant differences observed between men and women. Administrative services such as obtaining a passport, a national ID, marriage, birth or death certificates, receive the highest satisfaction with an average of 64 per cent. Education services also score relatively high, with more than 58 per cent expressing satisfaction with their country’s educational system. Healthcare services have an average satisfaction rate of 57 per cent, but this sector also has the greatest variation across countries, with satisfaction ranging from as low as 9 percent to as high as 93 percent. Despite these generally positive perceptions, a considerable share of the population remains dissatisfied with the delivery public services, highlighting the need for targeted improvements across sectors and among population groups.

Data on satisfaction with health services across many countries allows for a deeper exploration of regional patterns and time trends. Regions such as Asia, Northern Africa, along with Northern America and Europe, report average satisfaction levels above the global average, while Oceania, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean score below it.

To track how these perceptions have changed over time, the analysis compares data from 2015 with the latest available data from 2023-2024<sup>14</sup>. Globally, satisfaction with the availability of quality health services has increased from 53.8 percent in 2015 to 57.3 percent in 2023/2024. Such increase is evident across all income groups, with the exception of high income countries, where satisfaction level has remained roughly the same or even slightly decreased from 66.9 percent to

Figure 1: Proportion of population who say that overall they are satisfied with the quality of healthcare services, primary education services, secondary education services, government services, (2024 or latest data available)



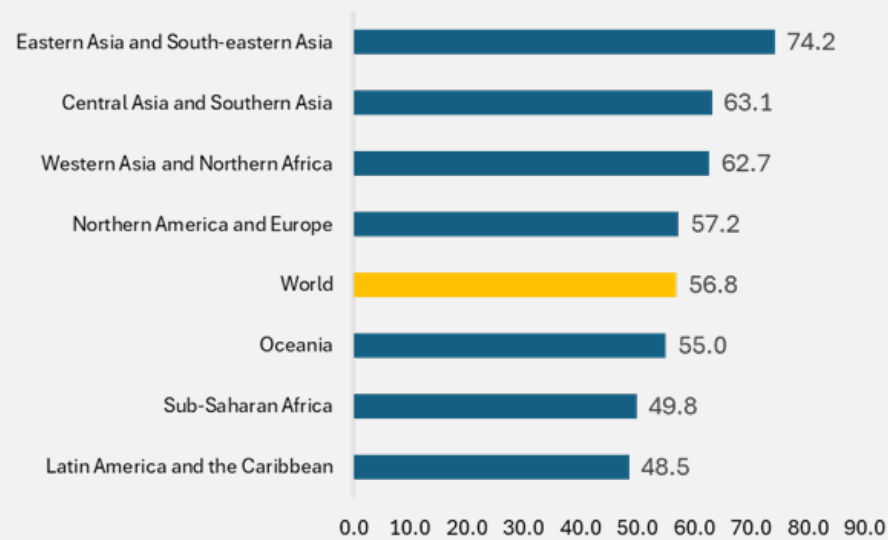
Source: UNDP, Gallup World Poll  
Note: Estimates are based on the latest available year of survey data between 2015 and 2024 for 148 countries (health services), 11 countries (primary education services), 43 countries (secondary education services) and 44 countries (government services). Education and government services are primarily based on data from high and middle-income countries.

<sup>13</sup> World Bank Group Country and Lending Groups: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

<sup>14</sup> There are 8 countries for which earliest available data is 2016 (2 countries), 2017 (4 countries) and 2018 (2 countries). There are also 3 countries for which latest data available are for 2022.

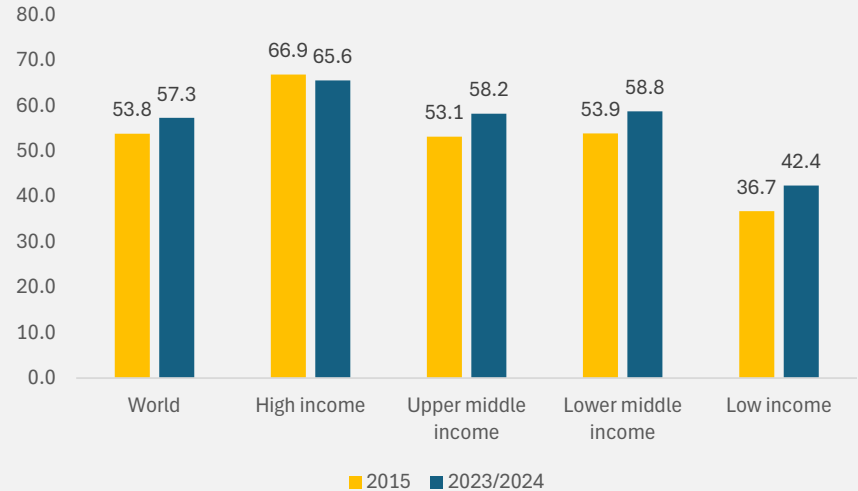
65.6 percent. Low income countries not only report the lowest satisfaction levels overall but they have also experienced the largest increase – from 36.7 percent in 2015 to 42.4 percent in 2023/2024.

Figure 1: Proportion of the population who say that they are satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare, (2024 or latest data available)



Source: UNDP, Gallup World Poll  
Note: Estimates are based on the latest available year of survey data between 2015 and 2024 for 148 countries (health services). Regional estimates for 16.6.2 are based on the following number of countries respectively: Northern America and Europe (40), Latin America and the Caribbean (21), Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (13), Sub-Saharan Africa (38), Oceania (2), Western Asia and Northern Africa (21), Central Asia and Southern Asia (13). Gallup World Poll asks the question: “In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the availability of quality healthcare?”

Figure 2: Proportion of the population who say that they are satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare, by income, changes between 2015 and 2023/2024.



Source: UNDP, Gallup World Poll  
Note: Estimates are based on the earliest available year of survey data between 2015 and 2019 and latest available year of survey data between 2020 and 2024 for 99 countries (health services). Estimates for indicator 16.6.2 are based on the following number of countries respectively: High income (22), Upper middle income (27), Lower middle income (34), Low income (15). There are 8 countries for which earliest available data is for 2016 (2 countries), 2017 (4 countries) and 2018 (2 countries). There are also 3 countries for which latest available data are for 2022. Gallup World Poll asks the question: “In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the availability of quality healthcare?”

**Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s):** Global Policy Centre for Governance, UNDP  
**Custodian agency(ies):** UNDP



Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

**Indicator 16.7.1** Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

What did a super-election year change in the composition of parliament?

Despite the turnover of more than 12,000 parliamentary seats in 2024 – affecting nearly half the world’s population -- the so-called “super election” year failed to spark meaningful change in parliamentary representation. Progress toward gender parity and more proportionate representation of youth in parliaments remains incremental, moving at a slow, steady pace – and, in the case of women parliamentarians, shows signs of deceleration.

Among leadership positions in parliament, women’s representation among Speakers declined by 0.1 percentage points compared to a year ago, running counter to the average annual rise of .64 points over the past 5 years (Table 1). Of the 81 Speakers elected or appointed in 2024, only 22 were women, all in the Americas (4), Europe (13) and Sub-Saharan Africa (5). No new women Speakers were elected or appointed in Asia, MENA, or the Pacific regions, where efforts to enable equal representation have been relatively limited. Currently, MENA is the only region in the world without any woman Speaker of parliament. Meanwhile, growth in women’s share of parliamentary seats continues to slow down, with a gain of only 0.3 points in 2024 (up 2.3 points over five years).

Growth in women’s share of committee leadership positions remains slow and uneven, with a net gain of 1.6 percentage points over five years and an average annual increase of 0.32 points (Table 1). Women chair 27.9% of parliamentary committees, but they overwhelmingly lead those with a gender equality portfolio (68.8%). At the same time, their leadership is disproportionately absent in the areas that shape security, economic policy, and global diplomacy. In 2024, women chaired between 14.5 - 20.7% of committees on foreign affairs, defence, and finance with negligible improvement from year to year.

Parliamentarians aged 45 and under now make up 32.6% of MPs – growing by 0.72 percentage points per year – yet these gains have done little to reshape the distribution of leadership roles (Table 2). They account for 9.6% of Speakers and chair 15.8% of parliamentary committees, a figure that is declining annually by 1.2 percentage points. Following an amendment to the IPU Statutes, the IPU definition of a “young parliament” is now aged 40 or younger at the time of election, and future reporting will also track this metric.

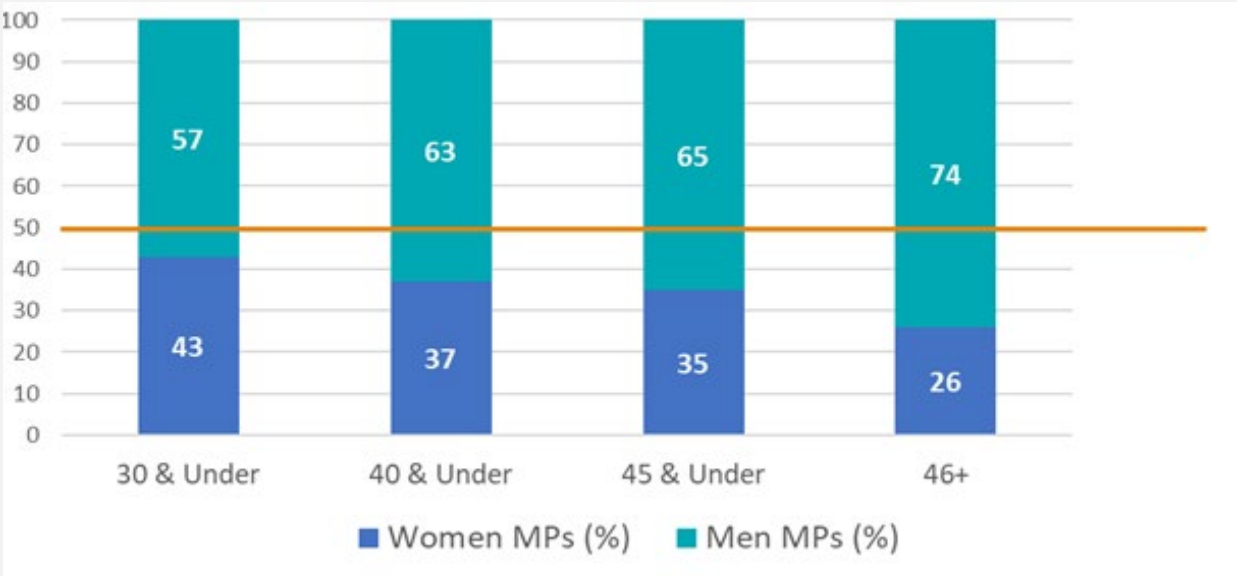
Nonetheless, the ratio of men to women among younger cohorts skews closer to parity 57:43 (for MPs age 30 and under), suggesting potential for a more gender-balanced future if younger members advance into leadership (Chart 1).

Overall, these results underscore that incumbents - typically older and male - maintain a tight grip on leadership positions, and large numbers of elections do not automatically translate into greater representation of underrepresented groups in parliament.

Achieving quicker and enduring progress requires fundamental reforms to the institutional and cultural norms that govern who runs for parliament and who ultimately wields influence and power.

Political parties often play a salient role as gatekeepers to candidacy and leadership, giving them the power to determine who rises to top positions. Thus, proactive measures to enhance leadership opportunities for women and youth can be a game-changer. This can include amending internal parliamentary and party rules to put in place quotas for women and youth in leadership positions, rotating positions between men and women, introducing dual leadership structures, and promoting proportional and equitable distribution of parliamentarians across all committee subject areas. Well-designed quotas have repeatedly proven effective, sometimes nearly doubling women’s representation over an election cycle where duly implemented. Greater diversity can also be achieved by shifting decisions about leadership roles from parties to the full parliament membership (creating open competition) and by holding secret ballots for leadership roles (reducing pressure to toe the party line). In conclusion, accelerating diversity in parliamentary leadership hinges on bold, deliberate action.

The Future of Politics? Greater Gender Balance among Younger MPs



Women’s representation in parliament 2020-2025

Women’s representation in parliament 2020-2025						
Year	Women Speakers	Annual change - Speakers	Women committee chairs	Annual change - Chairs	Women members	Annual change - Members
2020	20.5%	-	26.3%	-	24.9%	-
2021	20.9%	▲ 0.4	26.8%	▲ 0.5	25.5%	▲ 0.6
2022	22.0%	▲ 1.1	26.2%	▼ -0.6	26.1%	▲ 0.6
2023	22.7%	▲ 0.7	25.7%	▼ -0.5	26.5%	▲ 0.4
2024	23.8%	▲ 1.1	27.2%	▲ 1.5	26.9%	▲ 0.4
2025	23.7%	▼ -0.1	27.9%	▲ 0.7	27.2%	▲ 0.3
Average rate of change		▲0.64		▲0.32		▲0.46
Total change in 5 years		▲3.2%		▲1.6%		▲2.3%

Representation of parliamentarians aged 45 and under - 2020-2025

Representation of parliamentarians aged 45 and under - 2020-2025						
Year	Young Speakers (≤ 45)	Annual change - Speakers	Young committee chairs (≤ 45)	Annual change - Chairs	Young members (≤ 45)	Annual change - Members
2020	6.2%	-	21.8%	-	29.0%	-
2021	10.0%	▲ 3.8	19.3%	▼ -2.5	29.9%	▲ 0.9
2022	8.5%	▼ -1.5	19.8%	▲ 0.5	30.3%	▲ 0.4
2023	8.8%	▲ 0.3	18.5%	▼ -1.3	29.9%	▼ -0.4
2024	9.3%	▲ 0.5	17.3%	▼ -1.2	32.0%	▲ 2.1
2025	9.6%	▲ 0.3	15.8%	▼ -1.5	32.6%	▲ 0.6
Average rate of change		▲0.68		▼-1.20		▲0.72
Total change in 5 years		▲3.4%		▼6.0%		▲3.6%

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- IPU (2025), Parline database on national parliaments, <https://data.ipu.org>
- IPU (2025), Women in Parliament 1995-2025: 30 years in review, <https://ipu.org/knowledge>

- United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2024), *General Recommendation No. 40 (CEDAW/C/GC/40)* “on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems,” <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/GC/40>
- IPU (2024), « Super election year sees few gains for women MPs so far,” <https://www.ipu.org/news/press-releases/2024-09/super-election-year-sees-few-gains-women-mps-so-far>
- IPU (2022), *Kigali Declaration: Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world*, <https://www.ipu.org/file/15355/download>
- IPU (2022), *IPU Member parliaments commit to accelerating gender equality*, <https://www.ipu.org/news/press-releases/2022-10/ipu-member-parliaments-commit-accelerating-gender-equality>
- IPU (2017), Plan of Action for Gender Sensitive Parliaments, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reference/2016-07/plan-action-gender-sensitive-parliaments>
- IPU (2017), Global Parliamentary Report - Parliamentary Oversight: Parliament’s Power to Hold Government to Account, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2017-10/global-parliamentary-report-2017-parliamentary-oversight-parliaments-power-hold-government-account>
- IPU (2010), Youth Participation in the Democratic Process, <http://archive.ipu.org/conf-e/122/res-3.htm>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Addie Erwin, Data Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Custodian agency(ies): IPU, UNDP

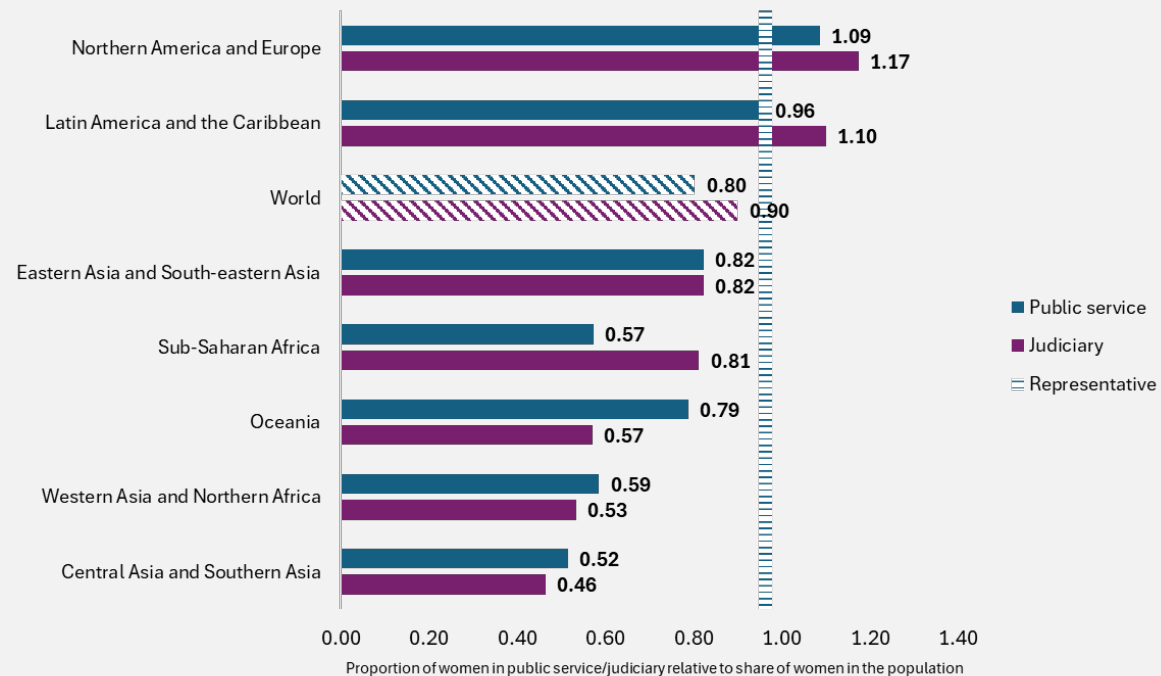
### Women remain underrepresented in top decision-making positions in the public service and the judiciary

Inclusive representation in public service and the judiciary is a fundamental pillar for building fair, just, and effective governance systems. Institutions that truly reflect the diverse populations they serve enhance public trust and promote equitable decision-making. They signal a fair distribution of power, and decision-making processes that are participatory and representative, ensuring that all voices in society – especially those of marginalized groups - are included.

Yet, the latest data highlights a grim reality. Globally, women remain underrepresented across public service and the judiciary. Current women representation ratios stand at just 0.80 and 0.90, respectively, both falling short of reaching parity (1). This gap is especially pronounced in some regions of the world. Regions such as Central, Southern and Western Asia and Northern Africa have very low representation of women. In contrast, Europe and North America have achieved parity, or even a slight overrepresentation. Furthermore, analysis by income level reveals that gender parity is primarily achieved in high-income countries while middle and low-income countries continue to struggle with unequal representation.<sup>15</sup>

Disaggregated data by level of court and public service position from select countries with available data provide invaluable insights and understanding of the career advancement challenges and leadership roadblocks women may face within these institutions. Women are disproportionately concentrated in clerical and administrative positions in public service and in low-level courts within the judiciary. However, they remain notably underrepresented in senior government positions and in high-level, constitutional and supreme courts. This trend suggests the possible presence of a persistent glass ceiling that prevents career advancement for women. Addressing these disparities is critical. It requires targeted, evidence-based policy interventions designed to dismantle these barriers and pave the way for more inclusive policies and decision making.

Figure 3: Ratio of women’s representation in public service and the judiciary relative to their share of the working age population, by region (2024 or latest data available)

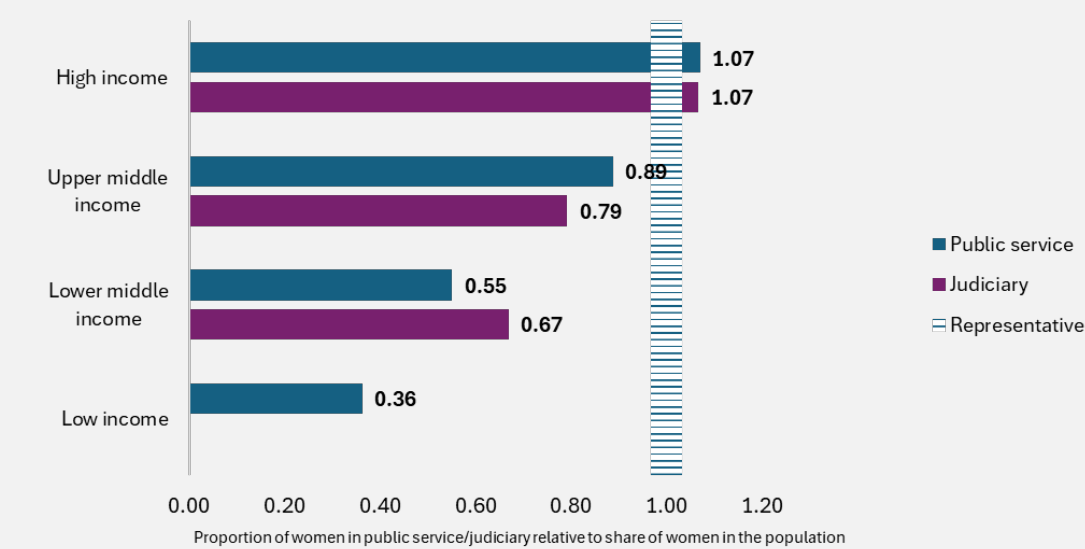


Source: UNDP

Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b), and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on 155 countries for the public service institutions and 105 countries for the judiciary using the latest available data in the period 2015-2024. Previously published estimates were based on 126 countries for public service and 78 countries for the judiciary. Regional estimates for 16.7.1b and 16.7.1c are based on the following number of countries respectively: Northern America and Europe (43 and 45), Latin America and the Caribbean (19 and 9), Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (15 and 6), Sub-Saharan Africa (36 and 12), Oceania (14 and 10), Western Asia and Northern Africa (16 and 17), Central Asia and Southern Asia (12 and 7).

<sup>15</sup> There are only few countries with available data for the judiciary from low-income countries and an estimate was not produced.

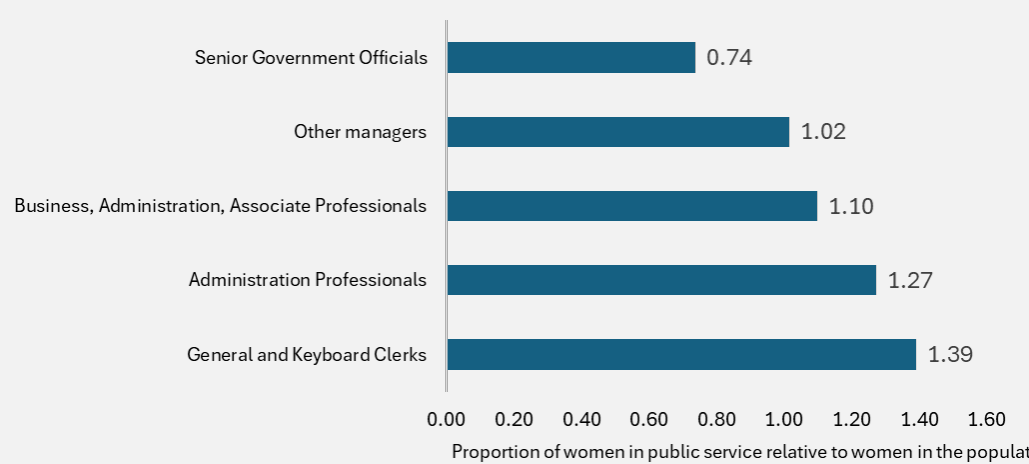
Figure 4: Ratio of women’s representation in public service and the judiciary relative to their share of the working age population, by income (2024 or latest data available)



Source: UNDP

Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b), and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on 155 countries for the public service institutions and 105 countries for the judiciary using the latest available data in the period 2015-2024. Previously published estimates were based on 126 countries for public service and 78 countries for the judiciary. Data for the judiciary from low-income countries are not sufficient to produce an estimate. Estimates by country’s income level for 16.7.1b and 16.7.1c are based on the following number of countries respectively: High income (53 and 55), Upper middle

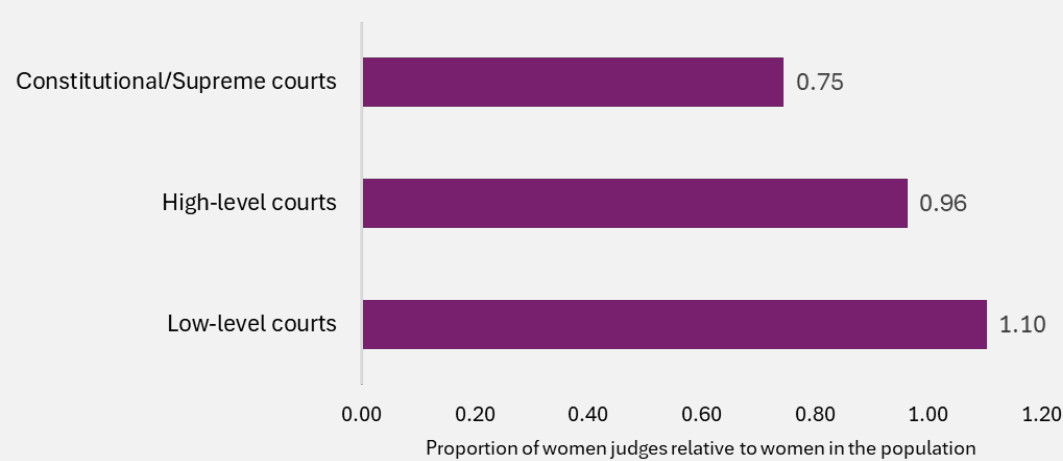
Figure 5: Ratio of women’s representation in public service and the judiciary relative to their share of the working age population, by occupation (2024 or latest data available)



Source: UNDP

Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b), and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on General and Keyboard Clerks (30 countries), Administration Professionals (30 countries), Business, Administration, Associate Professionals (29 countries), Other Managers (33 countries), Senior Government Officials (36 countries) using the latest available data in the period 2015-2024. Data are mainly from high and upper-middle income countries.

Figure 6: Ratio of women’s representation in public service and the judiciary relative to their share of the working age population, by level of court (2024 or latest data available)



Source: UNDP

Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b), and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Global estimates are based on 80 countries for constitutional/Supreme courts and 70 countries for high-level and low-level courts using the latest available data in the period 2015-2025. Data are mainly from high and upper-middle income countries.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Global Policy Centre for Governance, United Nations Development Programme

Custodian agency(ies): IPU, UNDP



**Indicator 16.7.2** Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

**There is an urgent need to restore the ability of institutions to deliver inclusive and responsive governance**

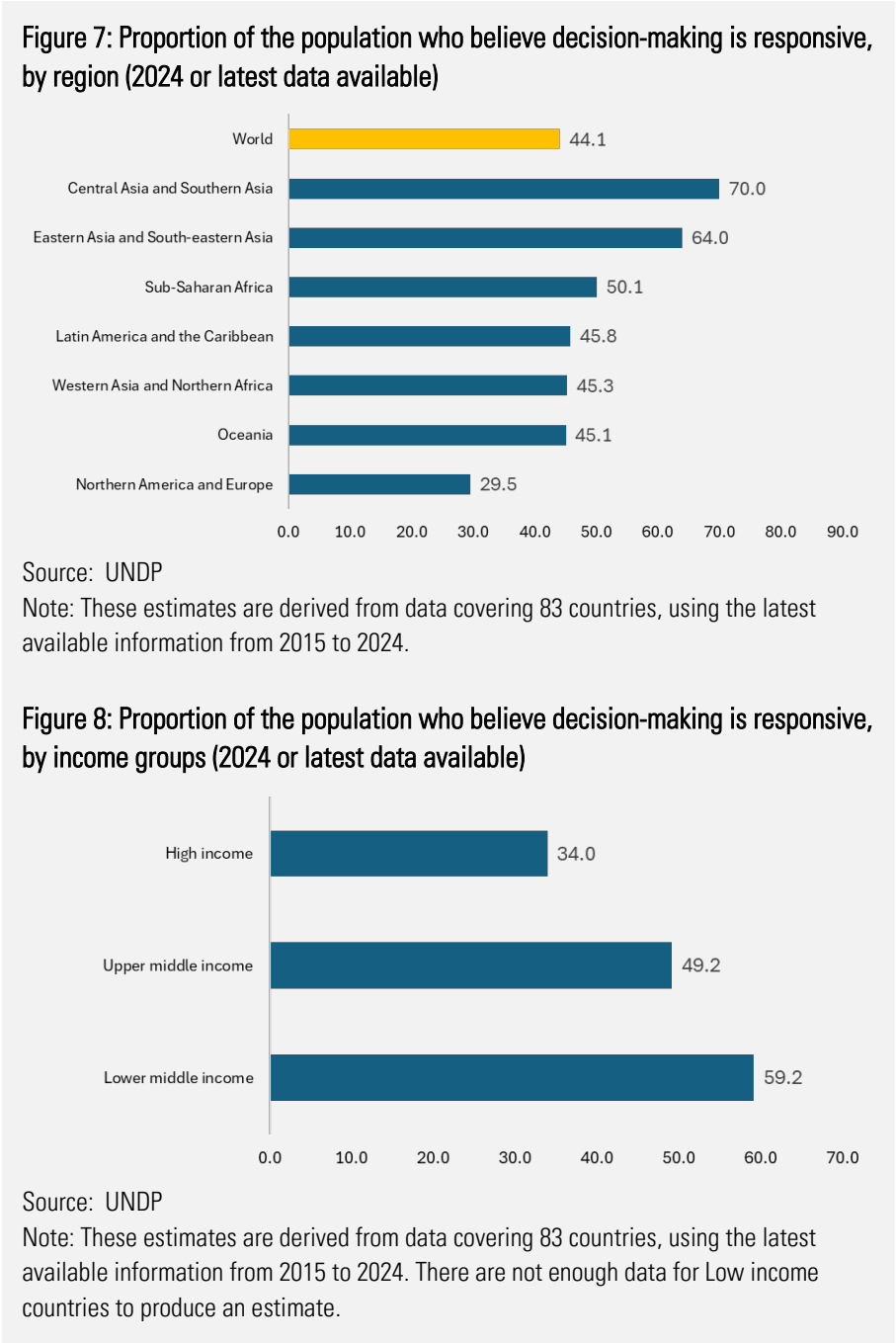
The year 2024 presented an unprecedented opportunity to (re)build and strengthen inclusive governance systems. Referred to as the “Super Year” of elections, approximately 3.7 billion individuals – representing half of the world’s population across 72 countries - had the opportunity to shape the global political, social and economic landscape through voting, many for the first time.<sup>16</sup>

Yet, while voting is a fundamental part of political participation, meaningful engagement in public life goes beyond the ballot box. People’s perceptions of how responsive political institutions are to their needs play a pivotal role in shaping the extent and nature of citizens’ engagement in political and public life. An important driver of this engagement is people’s belief in their ability to influence government decisions – referred to as external political efficacy.<sup>17</sup> This is measured by asking “How much would you say the political system in your country allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?”.

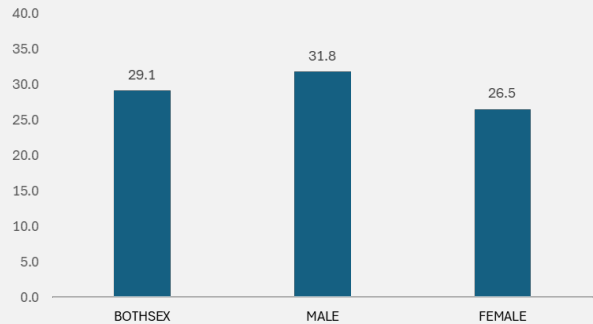
The latest data show that, globally, less than half of people, on average, believe that their political systems are responsive and their voices matter in decision-making outcomes. At the regional level, North America and Europe report the lowest level of political efficacy, with fewer than 30 per cent of people believing they have a say in decision-making. Similar trends are seen in Oceania, Western Asia and Northern Africa, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, each scoring below the global average. There is a negative correlation<sup>18</sup> between external political efficacy and economic development (as measured by country’s GDP per capita): more affluent countries tend to report lower levels of political efficacy.

Available sex disaggregated data show that, on average, women have lower perceptions of political efficacy. European and OECD countries show a large gender gap in perceived political voice with only 26.5 per cent of women feeling they have a say in what the government does compared with 31.8 per cent of men.

Understanding these attitudes and perceptions is essential to identifying gaps and weaknesses in public engagement, supporting greater political participation and achieving more inclusive representation of diverse population groups in political institutions and decision-making processes.

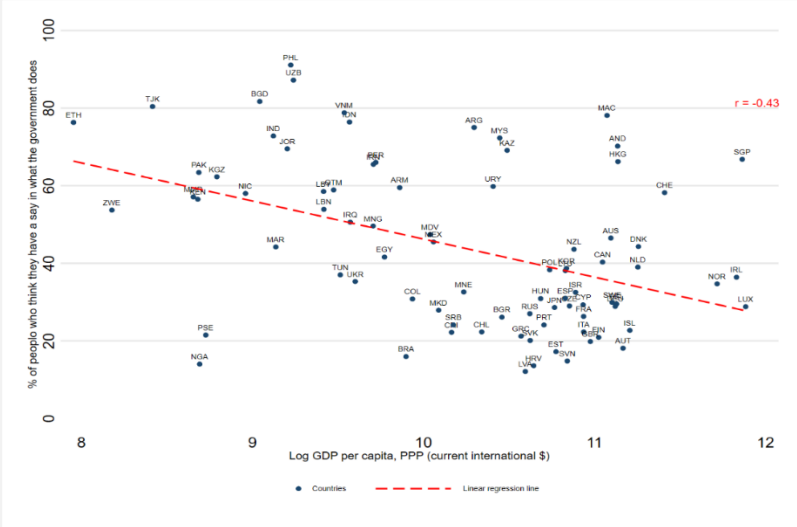


**Figure 9: Proportion of the population who believe decision-making is responsive, by sex (2024 or latest data available). Select countries with available sex-disaggregated data.**



Source: UNDP  
Note: These estimates are derived from data covering 46 countries, using the latest available information from 2015 to 2024.

**Figure 10: Correlation between the proportion of the population who believe decision-making is inclusive and GDP per Capita, PPP (current international \$), (2024 or latest data available)**



Source: UNDP and International Comparison Program, World Bank | World Development Indicators database, World Bank | Eurostat-OECD PPP Programme.  
Note: These estimates are derived from data covering 83 countries, using the latest available information from 2015 to 2024. GDP data was downloaded from World Development Indicators database, World Bank. The Pearson correlation coefficient is - 0.43, indicating a moderate negative correlation. This does not imply causation, and other factors beyond GDP may also contribute to differences in political efficacy across countries.

**Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s):** Global Policy Centre for Governance, United Nations Development Programme  
**Custodian agency(ies):** UNDP

**Target 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance**

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

**Custodian agency(ies):** DESA/FFDO

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.undp.org/super-year-elections>  
<sup>17</sup> “External political efficacy” refers to people’s feeling of having a say in what their government does. This concept is used to measure beliefs regarding system’s inclusiveness to people’s demands.” Internal political efficacy instead refers to confidence of the individual in his or her own abilities to understand politics and to act politically.  
<sup>18</sup> Correlation coefficient is equal to -0.43.



Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Indicator 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Custodian agency(ies): UNSD, UNICEF

Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Indicator 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

Killings and disappearances of human rights defenders and journalists remain high, primarily fueled by conflict; 1 in 10 countries recorded at least 10 new detentions

In 2024, the global incidence of killings and disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists, remained alarmingly high, with at least 426 and 86 verified cases, respectively. While this represents a 6 per cent and 23 per cent decline from 2023, persistent human rights abuses continue to undermine progress toward peace, justice and accountability.

Conflict remains a key driver. Western Asia and Northern Africa saw a 15 per cent rise in killings, while Sub-Saharan Africa recorded an 11 per cent increase in disappearances.

The prevalence of detention also remains concerning. In 2024, 21 countries recorded at least 10 new cases, namely more than one state in ten. Regional concentration is increasing, with Central and Southern Asia, and Western Asia and Northern Africa now having approximately 4 in 10 countries with at least 10 new cases of detention (36 and 38 per cent, respectively).

**Killings:** The killings of journalists and media workers (82) increased by 38% compared to 2023 (74). This increase was driven by the rise in the numbers of journalists killed in countries in conflict. More than 60% of journalist killings took place in countries in conflict, the highest percentage in more than ten years. This continues an alarming trend established in 2023: more journalists have died in conflict over the past two years than in any two-year period since 2016-2017. Western Asia and Northern Africa continue to be the most fatal region for journalists, reflecting the extreme risks they face in relation to their work in conflict zones.

Latin America and the Caribbean remain the deadliest for human rights defenders. In most intentional homicides in this region and globally, firearms are the main weapon.

In 2023-2024, 17 to 19 per cent of all targeted killings occurred while the victims were actively engaged in human rights, trade union, or journalistic work. In 2023, at least one documented killing was carried out in direct reprisal for engagement with the United Nations. The proportion of defenders killed in detention or shortly after more than doubled in 2024, reaching 7 per cent of all cases. Additionally, at least three per cent of victims were subjected to torture prior to their death.

The use of **disappearance** as a short-term tool of intimidation by State actors is on the rise. Increasingly, human rights defenders and their families and associates are targeted before, during, or alongside detentions. The share of disappearances linked to such intimidation tactics surged from 38 per cent to 63 per cent. Furthermore, at least 6 per cent of disappearance cases involved torture or other inhumane treatment.

The proportion of **detentions** occurring while individuals were involved in human rights-, trade union-related, or journalistic activities more than doubled, rising from 9 per cent in 2023 to 21 per cent in 2024. Release rates improved slightly, with 38 per cent of detainees freed by year-end, compared to 31 per cent in 2023. However, judicial harassment remained widespread, affecting 86 per cent of those released. Breaches to due process also persisted, with 8 per cent of detainees released without ever being charged.

For those detained in 2023 and 2024, 10 and 8 per cent, respectively, have been sentenced or are facing sentence terms of at least five years, including life imprisonment and the death penalty. Cases involving torture or other inhumane treatment in detention increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent.

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Indicator 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

SDG 16.10.2 Oversight Bodies, Access to Data and Digital Tools as Essential Elements for Enhancing Access to Information

As the custodian UN agency for SDG 16.10 Indicator 2, collected data on the indicator for 2024 and is in the process of publishing its 2025 report titled “Oversight Bodies, Access to Data and Digital Tools as Essential Elements for Enhancing Access to Information,” highlighting global progress on legal guarantees for public access to information. By late 2024, 139 countries had adopted constitutional, statutory, or policy frameworks for access to information, with Cabo Verde, Namibia, Qatar (2022), and Zambia (2023) as recent adopters. Despite this progress, practical implementation gaps persist, particularly in oversight mechanisms and digital infrastructure.

The 2024 UNESCO survey, which included 125 participating countries and territories, revealed that 95% (118) of respondents have legal guarantees for access to information. However, disparities in implementation remain stark. Countries with dedicated oversight bodies scored an average of 7.5/9 on compliance, compared to 3.7/9 for those without such institutions. Oversight bodies—primarily information commissions—are critical for monitoring compliance, handling appeals, and enforcing transparency. Yet only 35% of these institutions are mandated to mediate disputes, signalling the untapped potential for resolving conflicts out of court.

Digital tools are increasingly central to improving access. By 2024, 50 countries reported deploying ICT systems to manage information requests, such as Qatar’s Open Data Portal, Albania’s Electronic Register, and Mexico’s National Transparency Platform. These systems streamline request processing, enhance data visualization, and improve accountability. Despite these advances, 61% of countries still lack disaggregated data on refused requests, hampering efforts to address systemic barriers.

Regional progress varied in 2024:

- Europe and North America: Average score of 6.6/9
- Latin America and Caribbean: 6.8/9
- Asia-Pacific: 6.8/9
- Africa and Arab States: 6.2/9

The 2024 Accra Statement adopted by the participants of the Global Conference aimed to commemorate the International Day of Universal Access to Information, held in Accra, Ghana. 1-2 October 2024 and resolutions by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights underscored the need for open data and inclusive digital solutions. Meanwhile, UNESCO’s collaborations with oversight networks and its online training course (now available in five languages with over 6,373 participants) continue strengthening institutional capacities.

While 75% of information requests were granted globally in 2024, stagnant reporting rates and uneven digital adoption highlight the urgency of scaling robust implementation frameworks. With the 2030 SDG deadline approaching, UNESCO’s report calls for stronger oversight bodies, ICT investments, and data-driven policies to accelerate transparency and accountability.

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

- SDG 16.10.2 national data of the Report of 2024: <https://www.unesco.org/en/right-access-information/report-national-data-regions-2024>
- SDG 16.10.2 Report of 2023: UNESDOC SDG 16.10.2 Report
- SDG 16.10.2 Report of 2022: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383160>
- SDG 16.10.2 Report of 2019, 2020, 2021 reports: <https://www.unesco.org/reports/access-to-information/2021/en/resources>
- Metadata for SDG 16.10.2: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-10-02.pdf>

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Target 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Indicator 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

More than half of the world’s population is covered by independent National Human Rights Institutions, but acceleration is needed for 2030

Independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are crucial for advancing SDG progress in line with human rights standards. Since 2015, the number of countries with fully compliant NHRIs with the Paris Principles (A status) has grown from 70 to 89, covering 46 per cent of UN member states and observers. Notably, 55 per cent of the world’s population now lives in a country with an independent NHRI, marking significant progress for SDG 16.

An additional 25 countries hold NHRIs partially compliant with the Paris Principles (B status), bringing the total to 114 countries with accredited NHRIs worldwide, covering 58 per cent of countries and 61 per cent of the global population.

However, despite this steady growth, the current pace remains insufficient. The decline in B-status institutions over time has not systematically translated into more A-status, indicating that some NHRIs lost accreditation rather than achieved full compliance. Accelerated progress is needed for 2030.

Uneven regional progress in NHRI compliance

Northern America and Europe lead with a **59 per cent** rate of fully compliant NHRIs (27 institutions), the highest globally. In the region, five additional countries hold B status, bringing the percentage of accredited NHRIs to 70 per cent.

Sub-Saharan Africa has shown the most progress, increasing from 16 fully compliant institutions in 2015 to 25 in 2024, bringing the fully compliant rate to **52 per cent**. Two other countries hold B status, bringing the total percentage of accredited NHRI to 56 per cent.

Eastern and South-Eastern Asia has seen only one additional fully compliant NHRIs since 2015, bringing a full compliance rate of **44 per cent** in 2024 (7 institutions with A status). It is the only region with no partially compliant institutions.

Latin America and the Caribbean have stagnated at a rate of full compliance of **42 per cent** since 2015 (14 NHRIs). Three other countries remain at B status, bringing the total percentage of accredited NHRIs to 52 per cent.

Western Asia and Northern Africa have seen slow progress, with only one new fully compliant NHRIs since 2015, bringing the overall full compliance rate to **38 per cent** in 2024. Seven additional countries in this region continue to hold B status, translating in an overall accreditation rate of 67 per cent.

Central Asia and Southern Asia have the lowest A-status compliance rate, namely **29 per cent**, with only four fully compliant NHRIs in 2024. However, seven countries hold B status, bringing the total percentage of accredited NHRIs to 79 per cent, which is higher than all other regions.

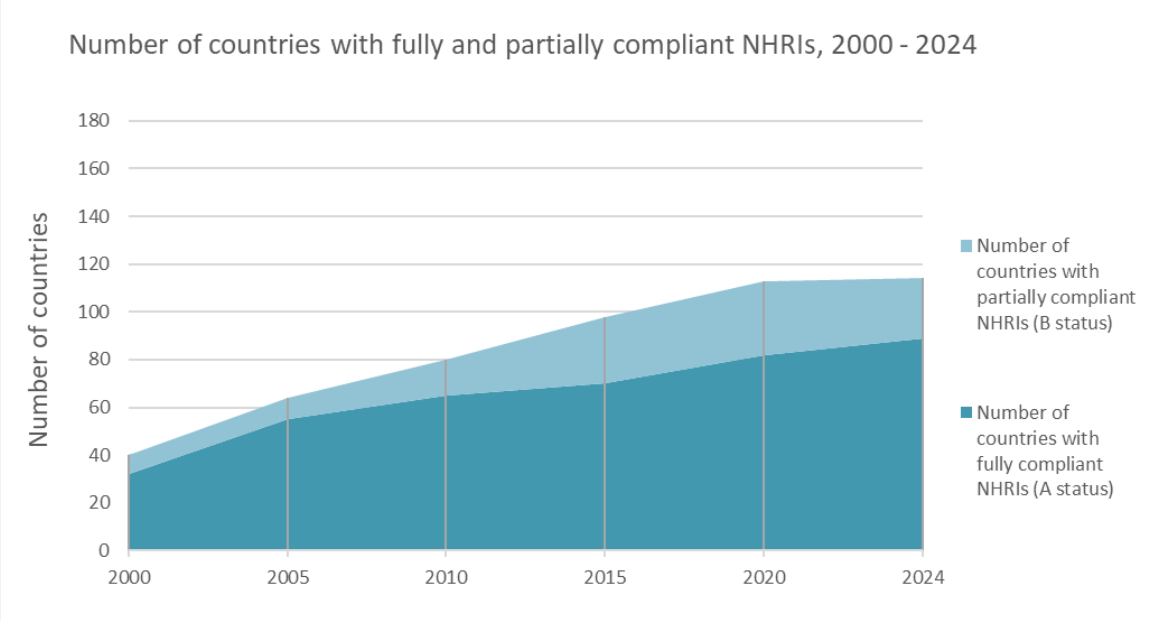
Oceania continues to lag behind, with a full compliance rate of only **21 per cent** (3 NHRI with A status). Since 2020, no new accreditations have occurred in the region, although one additional country maintains B status, bringing the overall accreditation rate to 29 per cent.

Progress was recorded in LDCs, where the percentage of full compliance reached **43 per cent** in 2024 (19 NHRIs with A status). The percentage reached **44 per cent** for LLDCs, and only **11 per cent** for SIDS, where no new A status accreditations have occurred since 2016.

On the right track, but the pace must be accelerated

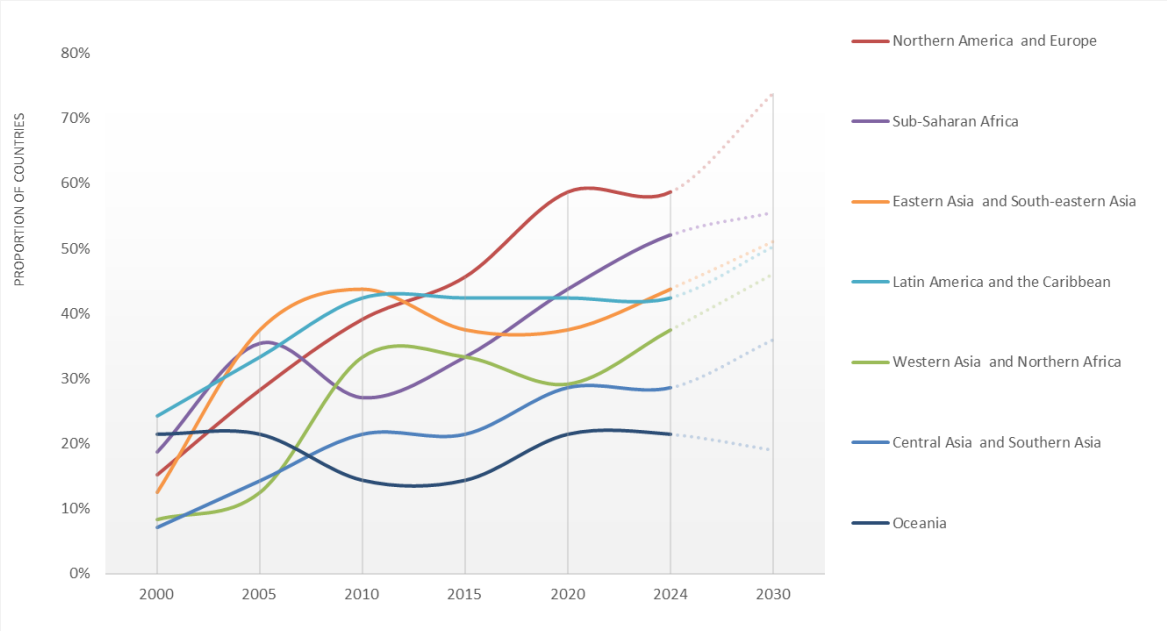
Global NHRI compliance has grown at an annual rate of nearly 3 per cent since 2015. While the direction has been right, the progress is too slow. An annual growth of at least 12 per cent is needed to achieve full compliance by 2030.

Number of countries with fully and partially compliant NHRIs, 2000 – 2024



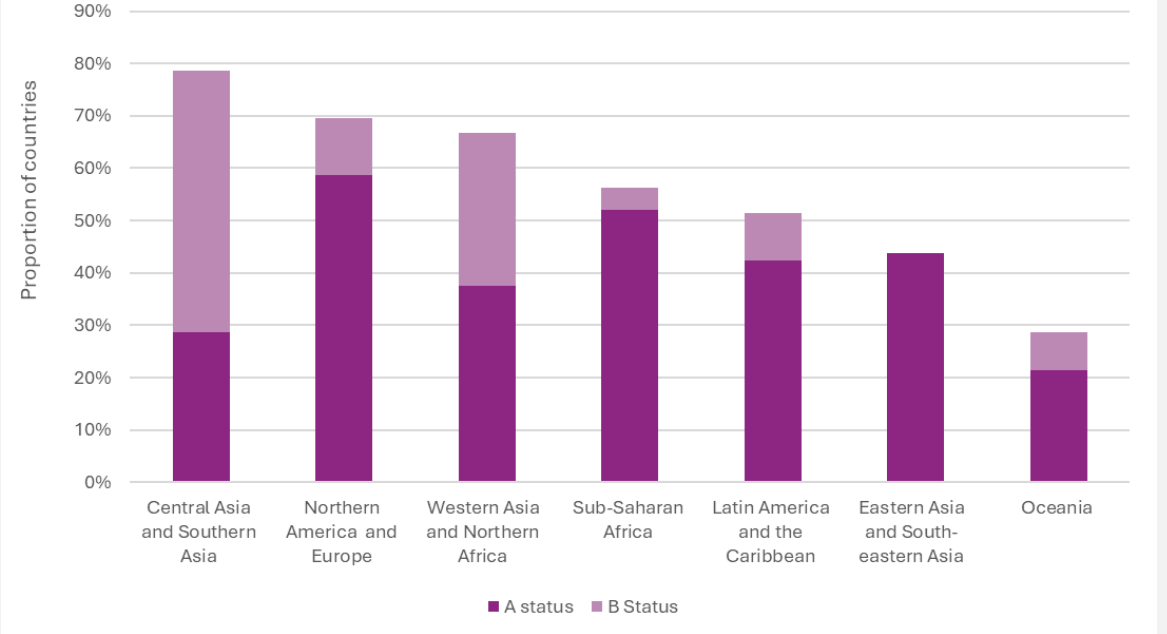
Source: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

Proportion of countries with fully compliant NHRIs 2000 - 2030, per region



Source: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

Proportion of countries with fully and partially compliant NHRIs in 2024 (A and B status), per region



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Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

**Indicator 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

A Global Look at Discrimination New evidence from 119 countries reveals both who is being left behind - and a clear upward trend in global discrimination

New evidence from 119 countries reveals both who is being left behind - and a clear upward trend in global discrimination.

**In countries with repeated survey rounds, average discrimination on any ground rose from 14.8% to 17.1%.** Backsliding nations (averaging +4 percentage points) are outnumbering success stories (-2 points) by two-to-one.

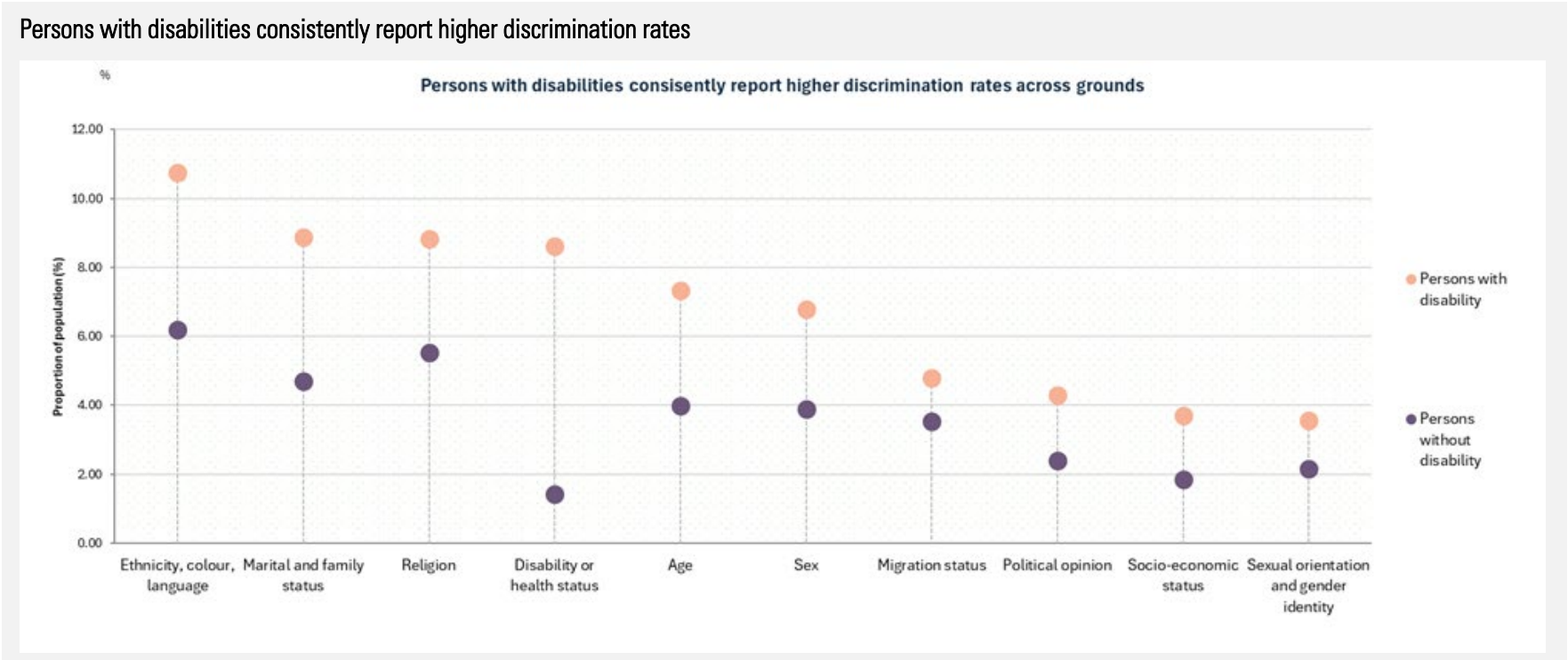
Yet this is only part of the story. **Discrimination is neither rare nor random.** It is a widespread and patterned experience, rooted in social identity and status. This year’s data from 119 countries provides a clearer picture than ever before, thanks to expanded disaggregation by income, age, and education.

**On average, one in five individuals globally report having been discriminated against** on at least one ground prohibited by international law in the past 12 months, with most countries reporting prevalence rates between 13 and 26 per cent. Least Developed Countries report significantly higher rates on average (24.3%) compared to other country groupings.

**Urban residents report higher rates of discrimination than their rural counterparts:** for every rural resident who experienced discrimination, nearly two urban residents did.

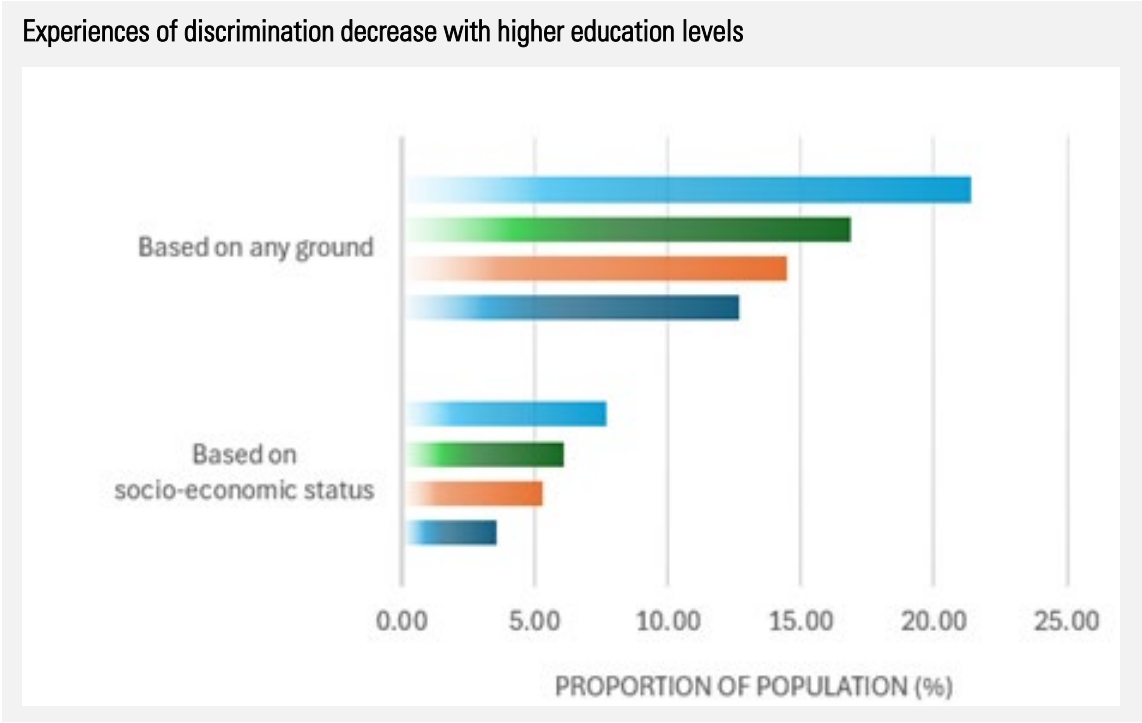
**Gender disparities remain pronounced.** Women are more than twice as likely to experience gender-based discrimination, and they face higher rates on grounds such as marital or family status.

**Persons with disabilities face persistently higher rates of discrimination.** On average, almost 1 in three (28 per cent) of persons with disabilities report experiencing discrimination — compared to 17 per cent among persons without disabilities. Disparities are reported across all grounds, but are most pronounced in relation to disability and health status, and socio-economic status.



**Income and wealth correlate strongly with discrimination.** In all countries where data on income or wealth quintiles are available, discrimination rates are highest among those in the poorest quintile (17.3%), and decrease consistently with each higher quintile, down to 10.3% in the richest quintile.

**Discrimination decreases as education levels increase.** There is a strong and consistent inverse relationship between education level and reported experiences of discrimination. Individuals with no formal education report an average discrimination rate of 21.4%, nearly double (nine percentage points higher) than those with higher education (12.7%). This pattern holds across nearly all grounds, especially in relation to age, religion, and socio-economic status.



**Age influences the grounds — not just the frequency — of discrimination.** The reasons people report being discriminated against shift markedly with age. Migration status, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation or gender identity are more often cited among younger respondents (15-29). In contrast, among older adults (60+), discrimination is more commonly reported on grounds of age, and disability and health status.

**Data collection is expanding — but gaps remain.** Fewer than half of all countries provide data disaggregated by income, education, or migration status. Only one in five countries conduct repeated surveys, further limiting the ability to assess progress or trends over time.

**Discrimination is measurable — and it must be addressed.** Tackling it requires targeted policies informed by detailed data — and backed by real accountability. If not, the promise to leave no one behind will remain unmet.

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