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Sustainable development in the UNECE Region: Facing a Headwind in 2024

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
G⊙ALS

UNITED NATIONS

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Facing a Headwind in 2024

United Nations
Geneva, 2024

Foreword

The Sustainable Development Goals Summit of 2023 marked an essential high-level commitment to accelerate progress towards Agenda 2030. Agreeing to the United Nations Secretary-General's Rescue Plan for People and Planet, world leaders injected new confidence in the ability to deliver a better future. However, with the resounding impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, the continuous war against Ukraine, the shocks arising from climate change, the high interest rates and still-elevated inflation, efforts to advance towards the SDGs are facing strong headwinds, both globally and in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

These challenges remind us again of the pressing need for international cooperation and solidarity, as well as of the importance of scaling up action at regional and country level. With these commitments at its core, the eighth UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is being organized in 2024, bringing stakeholders together to promote action, find solutions and foster peer learning to achieve the sustainability transformation in the UNECE region.

To inform the debate, it is essential to know where the region stands in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, examining which targets are on track to be achieved and which are not. The Regional SDG Progress Report provides this information, revealing some of the adverse impacts of the crises on the prospects for achieving the SDGs. Progress remains on track for only a few targets, and the areas in which trends must be turned around have been increasing in the last years.

Looking ahead to the Summit of the Future in September 2024 – the next global opportunity to reinvigorate the SDGs – we all recognize that these Goals are our future, providing us with hope and steering our actions. This report presents stories by the United Nations country teams, international agencies, and all UNECE programme areas. Those stories keep hope alive, illustrating the actions of the countries and the international community that make change happen.

Tatiana Molcean

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United Nations Under-Secretary-General
UNECE Executive Secretary

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Introduction

Every year, all five United Nations regional commissions organize regional forums for sustainable development for international exchanges among governments and other stakeholders. In the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which comprises 56 countries of Europe, North America and Central Asia, the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be held for the eighth time on 13 and 14 March 2024 in Geneva.

The 2030 Agenda cannot be fulfilled without relevant and timely **statistics** to track progress. Data are needed to enable us to understand the overall levels of progress, to design and monitor the results and impact of policy actions, and to identify areas, groups or regions that risk being left behind.

UNECE disseminates knowledge and data on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its designated platforms – the Knowledge Hub, Dashboard and Database. Guidance for national statistical offices on how to manage a system for statistics and indicators for SDGs is contained in the UNECE Road Map[1]. Every year since 2020, the UNECE Statistical Division has prepared a report[2] on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region, to inform debates of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. This **fifth report** provides an up-to-date assessment of progress as well as stories about regional and country-level actions for sustainable development.

The **assessment** covers every goal and target for which there are data and for which it is possible to set a target value. While the assessment looks at the trends at the regional level only, it is understood that variation among countries is sizable in all areas and a trend in any individual country may differ from the general trend observed in the region. The regional assessment presented in the present 2024 report relies on the global indicator framework for SDGs[3] and the available data on UNECE countries in the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database as of 15 December 2023. Technical notes on the progress assessment at the end of this report explain the methodology used.

The agencies and United Nations country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia and all UNECE programmes provided **stories**. These 17 stories provide rich insights into the ways in which various regional and country level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes. Most of the stories pertain to the goals that are under in-depth review by the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: 1 (end poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace and justice) and 17 (partnerships for the goals). The stories show concrete ways in which progress towards SDGs is being made in the region.

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[1] UNECE (2022). Road map on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – second edition. Geneva: United Nations.

[2] UNECE (2020). Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region: a statistical portrait of progress and challenges. Geneva: United Nations
UNECE (2021). Is the UNECE region on track for 2030? Assessment, stories and insights. Geneva: United Nations.
UNECE (2022). Halfway to 2030: how many targets will be achieved in the UNECE region? Snapshot and insights in 2022. Geneva: United Nations.
UNECE (2023). Growing challenges for sustainable development: can the UNECE region turn the tide in 2024? Geneva: United Nations.

[3] United Nations (2022). Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Adopted by the General Assembly in A/RES/71/313 (Annex) in 2017. Changes and refinements 2018–2022: E/CN.3/2018/2, E/CN.3/2019/2, E/CN.3/2020/2, E/CN.3/2021/2, E/CN.3/2022/2.

Progress in the UNECE region

How is progress assessed?

The progress assessment relies on [the global indicator framework for SDGs](#) and the available data on UNECE countries in [the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#) as of 15 December 2023. **Data** collected in 2020 or later make it possible to include trends since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic for 143 out of the 160 indicators used in this assessment. For 44 of them, data are available up to the year 2022.

For each indicator, the assessment uses **desired target values** for 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly or implicitly defines target values for 77 indicators included in this progress assessment. For the others, the "champion area" approach is used to define the region's target value.

For each country and indicator, **anticipated values** were estimated for 2030, based on the pace of progress thus far. These anticipated values are considered at the regional level, based on the median across all UNECE countries. The assessment is provided by comparing the anticipated values to the desired target values.

It is acknowledged that **variation** among countries can be significant and the situation in any individual country may differ from the assessment given to the entire region. For information on the **methodology**, see Technical notes on the progress assessment.

Progress for the UNECE region can be measured towards 117 of the 169 SDG targets. The chart on the next page presents the anticipated progress towards these targets in the region. Each target is coloured according to the gap between anticipated and required progress. The colour is green if the pace of progress is sufficient to reach the target value by 2030; yellow if progress needs to accelerate to reach the target value; and red if the currently observed trend runs counter to the desired direction. If the target cannot be assessed, it is shown in grey.

How many targets are on track?

On track to achieve	20
Accelerate progress	80
Reverse trend	17
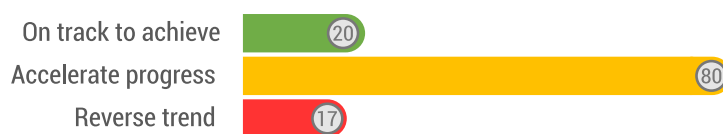
If the current path is followed, **the region will achieve only 20 targets** (17 per cent of measurable targets) by 2030. This is down from 21 targets assessed as being on track last year.

For 80 targets (up from 79 last year)**, progress needs to accelerate**, and **for 17 targets** (up from 15 last year)**, the current trend must be reversed**.

Which SDG targets are on track for 2030?

MAINTAIN progress to achieve target **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target **REVERSE** trend to achieve target Cannot be assessed

GOAL 1 — NO POVERTY
- 1.1 Extreme poverty
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.a Resources for poverty programmes
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies

GOAL 2 — ZERO HUNGER
- 2.1 Undernourishment and food security
- 2.2 Malnutrition
- 2.3 Small-scale food producers
- 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture
- 2.a Investment in agriculture
- 2.4 Sustainable agriculture
- 2.b Agricultural export subsidies
- 2.c Food price anomalies

GOAL 3 — GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.5 Substance abuse
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.d Management of health risks

GOAL 4 — QUALITY EDUCATION
- 4.a Education facilities
- 4.1 Effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 Early childhood development
- 4.3 TVET & tertiary education
- 4.4 Skills for employment
- 4.5 Equal access to education
- 4.c Qualified teachers
- 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy
- 4.7 Sustainable development education
- 4.b Scholarships

GOAL 5 — GENDER EQUALITY
- 5.b Technology for women's empowerment
- 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls
- 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work
- 5.5 Women in leadership
- 5.2 Violence against women & girls
- 5.3 Early marriage
- 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights
- 5.a Equal economic rights
- 5.c Gender equality policies

GOAL 6 — CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.
- 6.1 Safe drinking water
- 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene
- 6.4 Water-use efficiency
- 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation
- 6.3 Water quality
- 6.6 Water-related ecosystems
- 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation

GOAL 7 — AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 7.1 Access to energy services
- 7.2 Share of renewable energy
- 7.3 Energy efficiency
- 7.a Int. cooperation on energy
- 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure

GOAL 8 — DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 8.b Strategy for youth employment
- 8.3 Formalization of SMEs
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.5 Full employment & decent work
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.a Aid for Trade
- 8.1 Per capita economic growth
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism

GOAL 9 — INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
- 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
- 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries
- 9.c Access to ICT & the Internet
- 9.3 Small-scale industries access to finance
- 9.5 Research and development
- 9.b Domestic technology development
- 9.1 Infrastructure development
- 9.a Resilient infrastructure

GOAL 10 — REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 10.c Remittance costs
- 10.2 Inclusion (social, economic & political)
- 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies
- 10.5 Regulation of financial markets
- 10.7 Safe migration & mobility
- 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)
- 10.b Resource flows for development
- 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)
- 10.3 Eliminate discrimination
- 10.6 Inclusive global governance

GOAL 11 — SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 11.1 Housing & basic services
- 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
- 11.b Disaster risk management policies
- 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage
- 11.5 Resilience to disasters
- 11.2 Public transport systems
- 11.3 Sustainable urbanization
- 11.7 Urban green & public spaces
- 11.a Urban planning
- 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings

GOAL 12 — RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION
- 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
- 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes
- 12.5 Reduction in waste generation
- 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring
- 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies
- 12.1 Programmes on SCP
- 12.3 Food waste & losses
- 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices
- 12.7 Public procurement practices
- 12.8 Sustainable development awareness
- 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD

GOAL 13 — CLIMATE ACTION
- 13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity
- 13.2 Climate change policies
- 13.3 Climate change awareness
- 13.a UNFCCC commitments
- 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.

GOAL 14 — LIFE BELOW WATER
- 14.6 Fisheries subsidies
- 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
- 14.1 Marine pollution
- 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
- 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
- 14.a Research capacity & marine technology
- 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Ocean acidification
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.c Implementing UNCLOS

GOAL 15 — LIFE ON LAND
- 15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
- 15.2 Sustainable forests management
- 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.6 Utilization of genetic resources
- 15.8 Invasive alien species
- 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
- 15.b Resources for forest management
- 15.3 Desertification and land degradation
- 15.5 Loss of biodiversity
- 15.7 Protected species trafficking
- 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
- 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)

GOAL 16 — PEACE AND JUSTICE
- 16.1 Reduction of violence & related deaths
- 16.3 Justice for all
- 16.5 Corruption and bribery
- 16.7 Inclusive decision-making
- 16.10 Public access to information
- 16.a Capacity to prevent violence
- 16.2 Human trafficking
- 16.6 Effective institutions
- 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows
- 16.8 Inclusive global governance
- 16.9 Legal identity
- 16.b Non-discriminatory laws

GOAL 17 — PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
- 17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation
- 17.8 Capacity building for ICT
- 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries
- 17.4 Debt sustainability
- 17.7 Transfer of technologies
- 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs
- 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)
- 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs
- 17.17 Partnerships (public, private, CSO)
- 17.18 National statistics availability
- 17.19 Statistical capacity
- 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection
- 17.13 Global macroeconomic stability
- 17.15 Respect country's policy space
- 17.3 Additional financial resources
- 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs
- 17.11 Exports of developing countries
- 17.14 Policy coherence for SD
- 17.16 Global partnership for SD

Which targets are on track?

In recent years, the UNECE region has been shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis and surging inflation. As earlier UNECE reports[4] have shown, progress towards the SDGs was already too slow in the region before these crises. The 2023 assessment[5] indicated that the region was falling further off track. With the inclusion of the data that has become available in the past year, the present assessment reveals additional negative impacts of the crises on the prospective achievement of the SDGs, alongside a few positive developments.

The region is not on track to reduce **poverty** by half by 2030 (goal 1).

Targets	
1	On track to achieve
5	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
1	Cannot be assessed
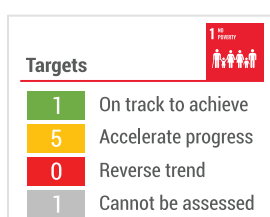
The share of people living in poverty according to national definitions (target 1.2) is decreasing in most UNECE countries, but not quickly enough to halve the level by 2030. In one third of countries with data, more than 20 per cent of the population live below the income poverty threshold (indicator 1.2.1). Measures of multidimensional poverty (indicator 1.2.2) consider various aspects of deprivation. They indicate that the share of people experiencing poverty is higher than when it is measured based on income only, and more than half of the countries with data have multidimensional poverty levels above 20 per cent. Extreme poverty according to the internationally-defined poverty line (target 1.1) remains rare in the UNECE region.

Those at the highest risk of poverty, such as persons with disabilities and families with young children, are well covered by social protection in the UNECE region (target 1.3), but not everyone who would benefit from this type of support is receiving it. While the coverage of unemployment cash benefits is expanding in most countries, less than half of unemployed persons across the region receive them (indicator 1.3.1). Access to basic drinking water services is universal, whereas access to the basic sanitation services (indicator 1.4.1) would need to improve faster to reach full coverage by 2030.

On **food security and diversity** (goal 2) no target is on track.

Targets	
0	On track to achieve
4	Accelerate progress
1	Reverse trend
3	Cannot be assessed
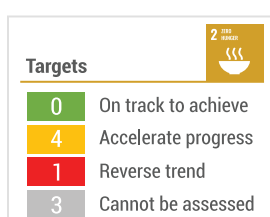
Access to sufficient and nutritious food (target 2.1) is not universal in the UNECE region. In half of the countries in the region, the share of adults experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity (indicator 2.1.2) has increased since 2015, and in one third of the countries, more than 10 per cent of all adults experience food insecurity. Undernourishment (indicator 2.2.1) is rare with only eight countries showing values above zero. Food security and good nutrition concerns both the quantity and quality of food, and efforts to reduce childhood obesity (indicator 2.2.2) and anaemia in reproductive-age women (indicator 2.2.3) need to be accelerated.

Progress is being made towards maintaining a diverse and nutritious food supply for future generations (target 2.5) as the number of animal breeds and plants for which genetic resources

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[4] UNECE (2021). Is the UNECE region on track for 2030? Assessment, stories and insights. Geneva: United Nations. UNECE (2022). Halfway to 2030: how many targets will be achieved in the UNECE region? Snapshot and insights in 2022. Geneva: United Nations.
[5] UNECE (2023). Growing challenges for sustainable development: can the UNECE region turn the tide in 2023? Geneva: United Nations

are stored (indicator 2.5.1) is growing. However, the increase in the proportion of local breeds at risk of extinction (indicator 2.5.2) must be reversed. The region has witnessed a continuous decrease in the orientation of government expenditures towards agriculture (indicator 2.a.1).

On **health** and **well-being** (goal 3), three targets on reducing premature mortality are on track while improvements must accelerate on all the other targets.

Targets	
3	On track to achieve
10	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
0	Cannot be assessed
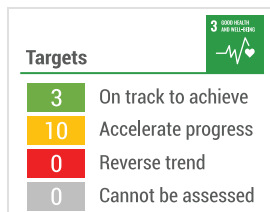
Progress assessment is possible for all the 13 targets under goal 3. The region is set to achieve targets on child and maternal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2) and non-communicable diseases and mental health (target 3.4).

The pace of progress on sexual and reproductive health (3.7) is sluggish. Across the UNECE region, one quarter of women still have an unmet need for modern methods of family planning (indicator 3.7.1). The prevalence of tobacco use (indicator 3.a.1) has been decreasing in nearly all countries, but slowly, as a quarter of all people aged 15 years and older across the region are still users. The share of the child population receiving recommended vaccinations (indicator 3.b.1) is high, but the region is not on track to achieve universal access by 2030.

Healthcare coverage (indicator 3.8.1) is slowly improving, while the relative cost of healthcare for households is on the rise (indicator 3.8.2). The pandemic put stress on health systems and highlighted gaps in public health capacities where progress has been stagnant (target 3.d).

The region must address disparities to achieve targets on **education** (goal 4).

Slow progress towards universal and quality education (target 4.1) is related to persisting inequalities between advantaged and disadvantaged students. While gender parity in proficiency in reading and mathematics (indicator 4.5.1) has been achieved, stark gaps remain between urban and rural students, the native-born and the foreign-born, and the rich and the poor. Differences across countries also impede regional progress towards education targets. Near-universal participation in early-childhood education (indicator 4.2.2) in most countries is offset by a downward trend in one third of the countries in the region.

Targets	
1	On track to achieve
6	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
3	Cannot be assessed
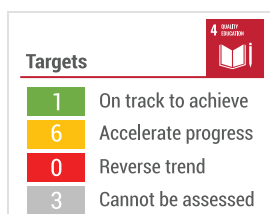
The share of youth and adults with information and communications technology skills is increasing slowly (indicator 4.4.1) and participation in education and training (indicator 4.3.1) of working age women and men has expanded only marginally since 2015. The region is on track to ensure minimum required qualifications for teachers at all levels (indicator 4.c.1) except in pre-school education.

Schools in the region are well equipped and most countries are already providing universal access to computers and the internet as well as other basic services in schools (indicator 4.a.1).

Gender equality (goal 5) is improving but at the current pace most targets will fall short by 2030.

Targets	
1	On track to achieve
3	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
5	Cannot be assessed
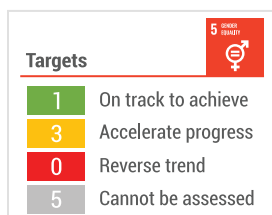
Progress on gender equality can only be measured for less than half of targets. Improvements continue to be slow on policy and legal frameworks that combat discrimination and support gender equality (target 5.1). Gender disparities at home (target 5.4) would also have to narrow a lot faster. The share of women participating in political and economic life (target 5.5.) is increasing in nearly every country in the region. The proportions of elected seats held by women in parliaments and local governments (indicator 5.5.1) have seen greater growth, which, if sustained, would lead to levels above one third by 2030, hence still short of parity. In technology, the target of women's empowerment measured through universal mobile phone ownership (indicator 5.b.1) is well on track to be achieved.

Most **water** (goal 6) and **energy** (goal 7) targets are progressing too slowly to be achieved.

Targets	
1	On track to achieve
4	Accelerate progress
1	Reverse trend
2	Cannot be assessed
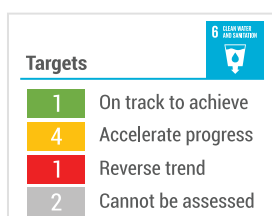
Access to safely managed drinking water (target 6.1) is widespread in the UNECE region, and 20 countries report levels above 99 per cent of the population. The recent slowdown of improvement would, if continued, nonetheless leave the region short of the desired target of universal access by 2030. Without an acceleration of progress, the region will also come up short on other sanitation and water targets. While the use of safely managed sanitation services is expanding (indicator 6.2.1), the current pace of improvement is not enough to attain their universal use by 2030. The trend on water quality needs to be reversed as the proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows is decreasing in more than half of the countries (indicator 6.3.1).

Water use across the region is becoming more efficient (indicator 6.4.1) and stress on freshwater resources is decreasing (indicator 6.4.2), but acceleration is needed to achieve the 2030 ambitions. Transboundary water cooperation is strong (indicator 6.5.2), but the rate of implementation of integrated water resources management (indicator 6.5.1) needs to increase.

The region is on track in establishing mechanisms by which individuals and communities can contribute meaningfully to decisions about water and sanitation management (target 6.b).

Targets	
1	On track to achieve
2	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
2	Cannot be assessed
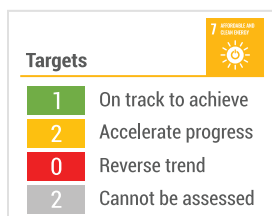
Access to electricity is universal, and nearly all people in the region use clean fuels for cooking, heating and lighting (target 7.1). Reliance on renewable energy (indicator 7.2.1) is increasing in more than three quarters of the countries and energy efficiency (indicator 7.3.1) is improving in nearly all countries. An acceleration of efforts is critical to ensure continued access to affordable and sustainable energy.

Progress on **inclusive economic growth** and **decent work** for all (goal 8) needs to accelerate.

Targets

1	On track to achieve
7	Accelerate progress
2	Reverse trend
2	Cannot be assessed
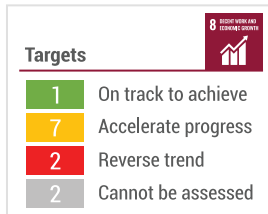
Following the immediate post-pandemic economic recovery, the rate of growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) per person (indicator 8.1.1) and per employed person (indicator 8.2.1) has been slowing across the region. Unemployment (indicator 8.5.2) has declined recently in nearly all countries, but this reduction would need to pick up pace to arrive at 2030 targets.

Most countries in the region have enacted dedicated strategies for youth employment, and this target is on track to be achieved (target 8.b). Nonetheless, the region must accelerate efforts to reduce the share of youth not in employment, education or training (target 8.6), which is still over 10 per cent in most countries. Countries must also accelerate efforts around access to financial services (target 8.1), formalization of small and medium-sized enterprises (target 8.3), resource use efficiency (target 8.4), labour rights (8.8), access to financial services (8.10) and aid for trade (target 8.a) to achieve employment and economic growth that leaves no one behind.

With three targets on track, investments are required to meet most targets on **infrastructure, industrialization and innovation** (goal 9).

Targets

3	On track to achieve
3	Accelerate progress
1	Reverse trend
1	Cannot be assessed
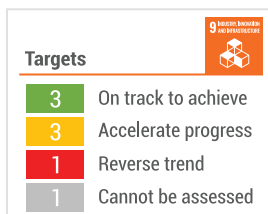
Data are available for assessing seven out of the eight targets under goal 9. The share of medium- and high-tech manufacturing value (indicator 9.b.1) has increased slowly in the UNECE region and exceeds half of total value-added in 11 countries. To accelerate progress, investments in research and development (target 9.5) need to be built up and access to finance for small-scale industries (target 9.3) needs to improve. The declining trends in the proportion of passengers and freight transported by rail (indicator 9.1.2) need to be reversed to achieve sustainable and resilient infrastructure (target 9.1).

The region has progressed well with inclusive and sustainable industrialization (target 9.2), the carbon-intensity of economic production (target 9.4) is decreasing, and access to information and communications technology (target 9.c) is widespread. If the current pace of progress can be maintained the region should achieve these three targets.

Inequalities within and between countries (goal 10) are narrowing, but not quickly enough.

Targets

1	On track to achieve
6	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
3	Cannot be assessed
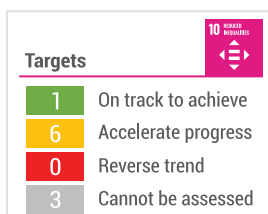
Many countries expanded the reach of social transfers during the Covid-19 pandemic, and available data point to positive impacts on income inequality. The share of individuals living at below 50 per cent of their country's median income level (indicator 10.2.1) has been decreasing in two thirds of the countries, but not quickly enough, with every tenth person across the region still in that group. Financial soundness and regulation (target 10.5) have returned to the path of improvement in 2021, albeit still falling short of 2030 ambitions. Official development assistance (target 10.b) also started to increase in 2021 and will need to pick up pace to get on track.

While more work is needed to achieve safe migration and mobility (target 10.7), the region is on track to reduce the costs of migrant remittances (target 10.c).

Progress towards **safe and sustainable cities** (goal 11) is mixed.

Targets

3	On track to achieve
2	Accelerate progress
0	Reverse trend
5	Cannot be assessed
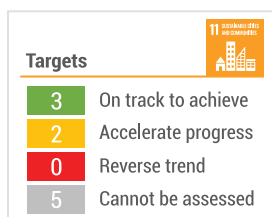
The region is set to achieve targets on access to adequate housing and basic services (target 11.1) as the proportion of urban population living in slums (indicator 11.1.1) has decreased markedly in all countries with data. Air pollution in cities (target 11.6) has gone down rapidly in nearly all countries. The region is also on track with adopting and implementing strategies for disaster risk reduction (target 11.b).

The impact of such strategies is mixed. The economic impact of disasters is becoming less severe (indicator 11.5.2), but the number of people in the region affected by disasters (indicator 11.5.1) continues to increase. The region must therefore accelerate efforts to strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Improving the preservation, protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage (target 11.4) must also accelerate.

Only two **climate** and **environmental** targets (goals 12–15) [6] are on track; for seven targets the trend must be reversed.

Targets

0	On track to achieve
3	Accelerate progress
2	Reverse trend
6	Cannot be assessed

Targets

0	On track to achieve
1	Accelerate progress
1	Reverse trend
3	Cannot be assessed
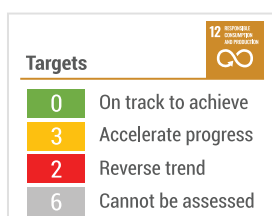
Subsidies related to the consumption and production of fossil fuels (target 12.c) have recently begun to increase in most countries. This makes it unlikely that the region can get on track with cutting greenhouse gas emissions (target 13.2). While disaster risk reduction strategies have been adopted comprehensively on national and local levels (indicators 13.1.2 and 13.1.3), the number of persons affected by disasters (indicator 13.1.1) has continued to increase. The region must accelerate progress on the sustainable use of natural resources (target 12.2) and waste reduction and treatment (targets 12.4 and 12.5).
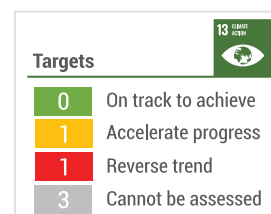
Targets

2	On track to achieve
2	Accelerate progress
2	Reverse trend
4	Cannot be assessed
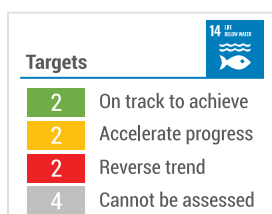
Recent data indicate that progress towards reducing marine pollution (target 14.1) and conserving coastal areas (target 14.5) requires acceleration. The region must reverse trends in sustainable fishing (target 14.7), and research and development on marine technology (target 14.a), which are moving in the wrong direction. The pace of progress is on track on combating unreported and unregulated fishing (target 14.6) and legal protections of access rights for small-scale fisheries (target 14.b).

Targets

0	On track to achieve
7	Accelerate progress
2	Reverse trend
3	Cannot be assessed
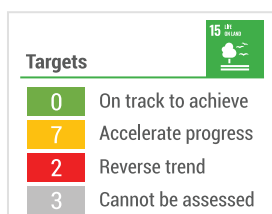
The region is progressing towards sustainable forest management, and forest area is increasing in most countries in the region (target 15.2), but not quickly enough to reach the 2030 targets. Faster improvement is also needed in protecting terrestrial biodiversity areas (indicator 15.1.2) and mountain ecosystems (target 15.4), adopting frameworks for sharing benefits and accessing genetic resources (target 15.6), reducing the impact of alien invasive species (target 15.8), and providing official development assistance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (indicator 15.a.1/15.b.1).

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[6] For a full list of climate and environment targets and indicators, see United Nations Environment Programme (2019). *Measuring progress: towards achieving the environmental dimension of the SDGs*. Nairobi: United Nations.

The region is failing to halt land degradation (target 15.3) and the loss of biodiversity (target 15.5). Only a third of countries have lowered species' extinction risk (indicator 15.5.1) since 2015.

The region must address critical issues to improve **peace and justice** (goal 16).

Targets	
0	On track to achieve
6	Accelerate progress
2	Reverse trend
4	Cannot be assessed
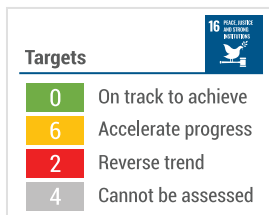
Countries in the UNECE region are getting safer. Homicide is rare in most countries (indicator 16.1.1) and robberies (indicator 16.1.3) are decreasing. Still, one quarter of people across countries with data do not feel safe walking alone after dark (indicator 16.1.4), and overall progress to reduce violence across the region is too slow (target 16.1).

The region falls short in reducing corruption and bribery (target 16.5). While previously assessed as being on track, newly available data on the prevalence of bribery (indicator 16.5.1) show an upturn in most countries with data – a trend that needs to be reversed. The region must also reverse trends to eliminate human trafficking (target 16.2) and strengthen public institutions (target 16.6).

Progress with access to justice (target 16.3) is mixed. The rate of robberies reported to the police (indicator 16.3.1) is improving slightly, whereas two thirds of countries are seeing an increase in the share of unsentenced detainees in the prison population (indicator 16.3.2).

The number of countries in the region with an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (indicator 16.a.1) remains at 31 (out of 56). Decision-making bodies across the region are becoming more reflective of the populations they represent (target 16.7) but acceleration is needed to achieve proportionate representation of women and young people in parliaments and judiciaries by 2030.

Partnerships and evidence for sustainable development (goal 17) must be strengthened to achieve targets.

Targets	
2	On track to achieve
9	Accelerate progress
3	Reverse trend
5	Cannot be assessed
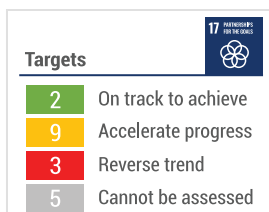
Trend needs to be reversed for three SDG targets under goal 17. Macroeconomic stability (target 17.13) has deteriorated; the share of domestic budgets funded by domestic taxes (target 17.1) declined in 2020 in nearly every country with data; and the use of country-owned results frameworks in development interventions is decreasing in the region (target 17.15).

Progress towards development assistance to least developed countries (target 17.2), technology transfer (target 17.7), more open trade (target 17.10) and improved market access for developing countries (target 17.12) is slow. As countries work on crisis recovery, they have fewer resources to commit to international cooperation and support for the implementation of the SDGs. However, recent data show that in 2021 financial and technical development assistance for SDGs (target 17.9) returned to a path of growth, which would need to pick up pace to attain the 2030 ambition.

Data availability for monitoring the SDGs is improving. The number of global SDG indicators that could not be assessed in the UNECE region because of insufficient availability of country data decreased from 77 in 2023 to 71 in this assessment. The region needs to intensify its investment in statistical capacity (targets 17.18, 17.19).

Stories

The agencies and United Nations country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia and all UNECE programmes provided **stories**. These 17 stories provide rich insights into the ways in which various regional and country level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes.

Key messages

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**Second SDG Dialogue "Towards 2030: Social and economic inclusiveness in Azerbaijan"** *UN Azerbaijan*	A new productivity push is needed in the economy that would ensure sustained growth and expansion. Addressing urban-rural disparities and minimizing the gender wage gap are important priorities to enhance inclusive economic growth. Effectively targeted social protection is key for protection and social and economic inclusion of low-income vulnerable households. Enhancing environmental sustainability, including water use efficiency, is crucial for the sustainability of economic growth and social well-being.
1 NO POVERTY	**Child poverty** *UNICEF*	Let us speed up reporting on child poverty!
1 NO POVERTY	**Filling a reporting gap on policy frameworks to eradicate poverty: methodology and data availability** *UNICEF*	Data to report on SDG indicator 1.b.1 are available but under-utilized.
2 ZERO HUNGER	**SDG indicator on overweight among children: how are countries doing with data availability?** *UNICEF*	Additional efforts need to be exerted by countries to monitor the situation of child malnutrition.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	**Promotion of result-based budgeting in healthcare sector of the Republic of Belarus to meet SDG targets and strengthening health protection** *UNFPA Belarus*	In the context of the changing market of medical services, the course towards innovation, the increasing needs of the population with the advent of new medicines, the development of technologies, and the ageing of the population, the healthcare sector concentrates its efforts on improving and expanding the practice of using result-oriented budgeting methods that ensure sustainable financing of services and the achievement of the SDGs.
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	**Artificial glacier helps mountain village in Kyrgyzstan meet water needs** *FAO Kyrgyzstan*	An innovative solution helps villagers stock up water for a dry summer.
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	**TIR Convention, the United Nations global border crossing facilitation solution** *UNECE Transport*	The TIR system with its electronic TIR procedure turns borders into bridges. It is a trade, transport and border crossings facilitation tool permitting smooth and efficient customs operations at the borders.
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**A new financing mechanism for green investments in North Macedonia** *UNDP North Macedonia*	The Green Finance Facility (GFF) UN Joint Programme has established a new financing mechanism that provides affordable finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and households of marketable but underserved target groups.
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**Adaptation of cities to climate-related extreme events** *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*	The Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative has effectively encapsulated diverse initiatives undertaken by local governments to tackle urban heat and wildfire issues. By facilitating knowledge exchange, MCR2030 fosters a shared understanding of these challenges and empowers local actors and policymakers to collaborate.
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**How UN standards and partnerships helped to unlock geothermal energy in Albania** *UNECE Sustainable Energy*	Albania assessed its geothermal resources, boosting the preparedness for low-carbon energy transitions and inspiring other countries in the region to explore their geothermal resources.

13 CLIMATE ACTION	**Urban trees for climate and SDGs: mobilizing action at the local, national and international level** *UNECE Forestry, Housing and Land Management*	We need urban trees and nature to deliver climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals in cities, where most people live.
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	**Voices heard: navigating progress through citizen-driven decision making** *UNDP North Macedonia*	UNDP in North Macedonia promotes citizens-centred decision making by engaging individuals regardless of their age, sex, place of living, ethnicity or social group to get involved, thus directly contributing towards SDG16, more specifically the target 16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	**Advancing environmental justice and good governance through the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers** *UNECE Environment*	The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) provide a solid framework for governments to engage the public effectively in implementing the SDGs, in particular SDG 16. These instruments empower people to exercise the rights to access to information, participate in decision-making and seek justice effectively, inclusively and safely.
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	**Third SDG Dialogue "Reflections on the outcome of the global SDG Summit 2023 and the role of Supreme Audit Institutions in SDGs implementation"** *UN Azerbaijan*	Under the Government leadership, all stakeholders, including Supreme Audit Institutions, international partners, private sector, civil society and academia need to work together to support the implementation of Azerbaijan's National Commitments for accelerated progress towards SDGs. Supreme Audit Institutions can be instrumental in ensuring the accountability of public institutions on SDG implementation performance. Ensuring predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance as well as its effective use are critical for the achievement of SDGs.
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**Mystery of Sary Kol – a game for change** *UN Kyrgyzstan*	A mobile game from Kyrgyzstan reached the final of the international competition Games for Change, which illustrates how effective partnerships can address empowerment of girls.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**Achieving the SDGs through public-private partnerships by promoting quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure** *UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade*	As a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, public-private partnerships (PPPs) remain essential to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**National indicators for measuring progress with SDGs** *UNECE Statistics*	Most UNECE countries have developed national indicators and reporting platforms to measure progress with SDGs on the national level and support the production of the SDG Voluntary National Reviews. The evidence base for SDGs is therefore significantly stronger than can be deducted from the availability of internationally agreed indicators alone. To improve understanding of the situation, UNECE has developed a tool for country self-assessment of SDG indicator availability.

Second SDG Dialogue "Towards 2030: Social and economic inclusiveness in Azerbaijan"

UN Azerbaijan

A new productivity push is needed in the economy that would ensure sustained growth and expansion.

Addressing urban-rural disparities and minimizing the gender wage gap are important priorities to enhance inclusive economic growth.

Effectively targeted social protection is key for protection and social and economic inclusion of low-income vulnerable households.

Enhancing environmental sustainability, including water use efficiency, is crucial for the sustainability of economic growth and social well-being.

On 14 June 2023 the second SDG Dialogue *"Towards 2030: Social and economic inclusiveness in Azerbaijan"* was held bringing together over 100 representatives from government agencies, the United Nations (UN), international financial institutions (IFIs), the diplomatic community, the private sector, civil society and academia. The event was organised by the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Economy, and the UN. Participants reviewed Azerbaijan's progress towards inclusive growth and reflected on additional

policy measures to enhance social and economic inclusiveness in the country in line with the central principle of SDGs of *leaving no one behind*.

The analysis of Azerbaijan's progress on inclusive growth and social inclusion was conducted in line with the Inclusive Growth Index (IGI) of the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which is comprised of four pillars: (i) Economy; (ii) Living conditions; (iii) Equality; and (iv) Environment; and 27 indicators across these four pillars. For the purposes of this analysis, additional indicators on expenditures on health, education, and social protection have been added under the third pillar to capture the financing aspects of these social sectors.

The analysis showed that the Government of Azerbaijan has consistently implemented a number of large-scale state programmes aimed at enhancing the well-being of the population and their social and economic inclusion, with significant results achieved. Azerbaijan's economy has seen a notable transformation in the three decades since independence in 1991. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has grown around three times between 2005 and 2021. This has resulted in the country's progress to an upper middle-income level. The most significant outcome of the efforts has been the reduction of poverty. The proportion of population living below the national poverty line decreased from nearly 30 per cent in 2005 to 4.9 per cent in 2015. After rising to 6.2 per cent in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, by 2022 the poverty level fell to 5.7 per cent (Figure 1).

Figure 1
National poverty line and the proportion of population living below it (SDG 1.2.1) in Azerbaijan, 2005–2022
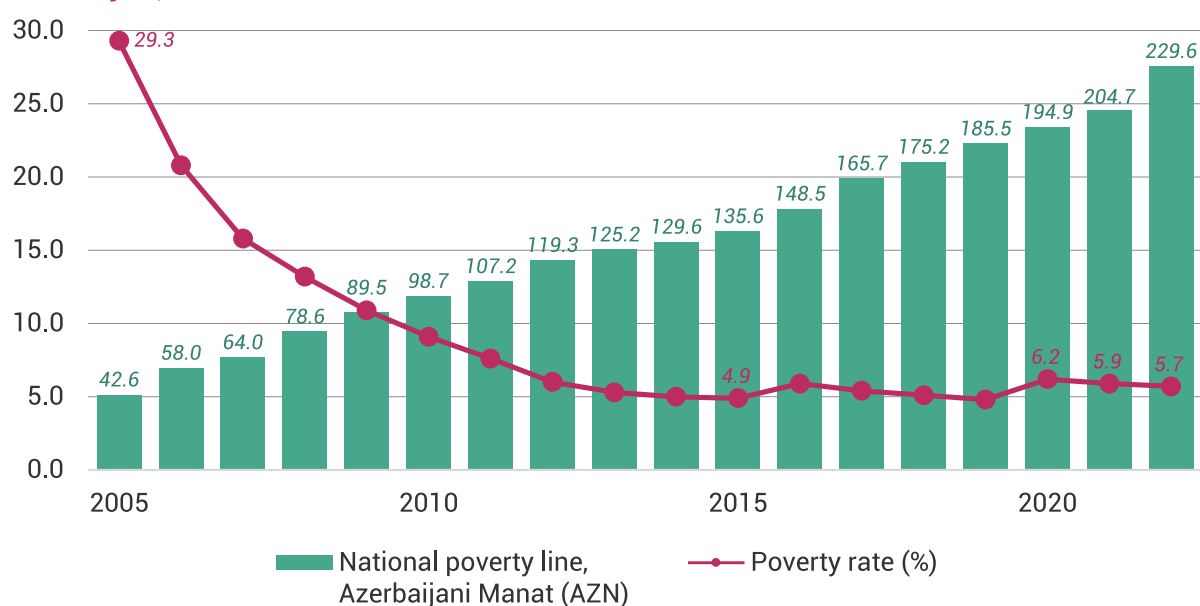
Source: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The unemployment rate was under 5 per cent since 2010, surged to 7.2 per cent in 2020 due to the pandemic and stabilized at 5.6 per cent in 2022. However, around 36 per cent of the employed work in agriculture which produces 6–7 per cent of GDP. Unleashing the productivity growth in agriculture and expansion of high-skill employment will be important in going forward. Labour productivity in Azerbaijan, measured as GDP per person employed, dropped due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020; however, a gradual increase is observed starting 2021. While output per worker remains lower than in other upper-middle income countries in Europe and Central Asia, its growth rate in recent years has been one of the highest among them.

Figure 2
Sources of household income by income quintile, Azerbaijan, 2022
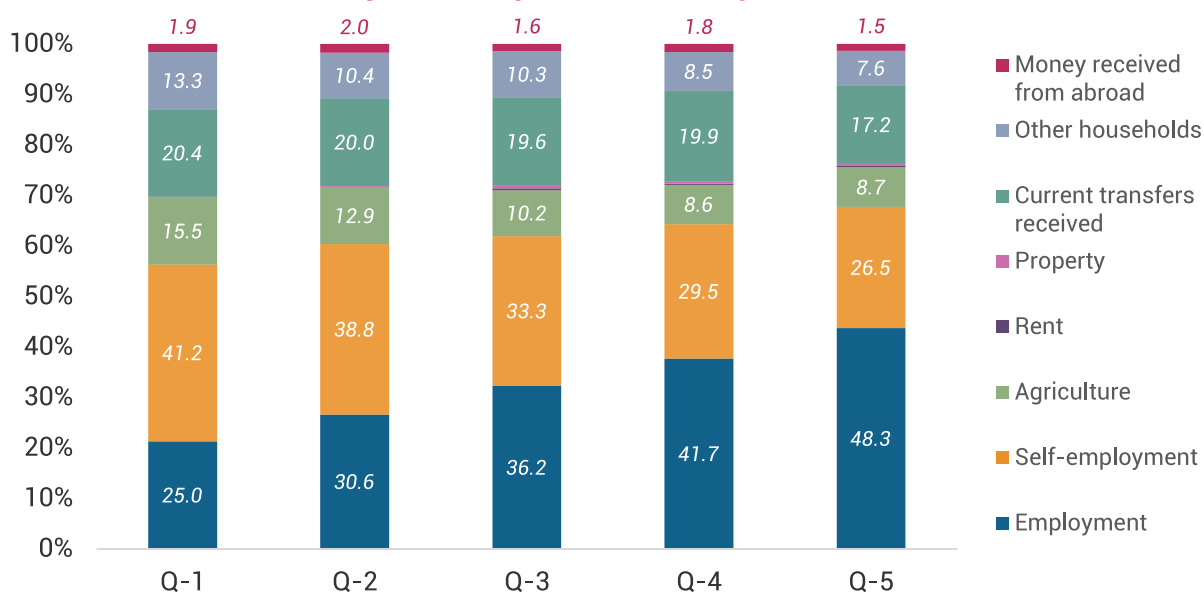
Source: State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan (2023). *Key findings of the household survey*

Breakdown of household income by quintiles shows that the main source of income for households in the lowest income quintile is self-employment, followed by employment and social transfers, while the main source in the highest income quintile is employment, suggesting that formal employment is instrumental for higher household incomes in Azerbaijan (Figure 2).

Figure 3
Account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (SDG 8.10.2), Azerbaijan, 2011–2022
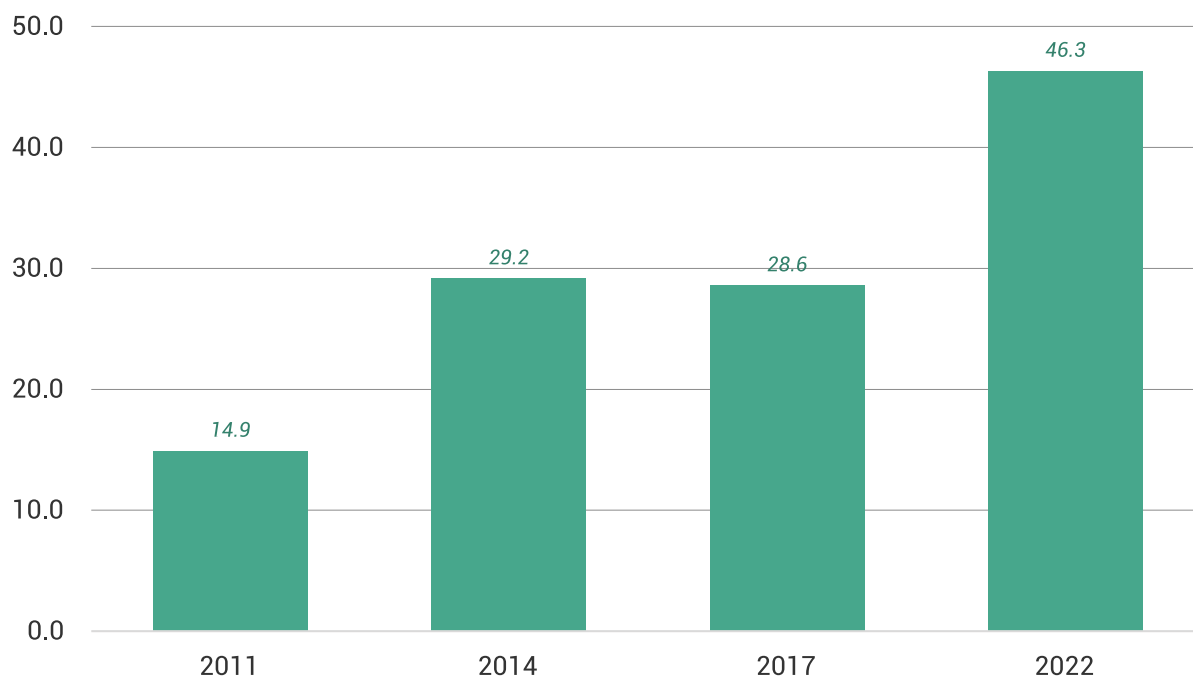
Source: Global Findex Database, World Bank

In 2021 the wages of women were on average 64.8 per cent of that of men. The gender wage gap was more significant in science and technology, financial services, transportation,

manufacturing and mining. Coverage of the unemployment benefit increased from 1.6 per cent in 2016 to 19.1 per cent in 2020, which is critical to sustain the livelihoods as well as to support upskilling and re-skilling of unemployed persons.

Recently released data by the World Bank's financial inclusion index (Findex) indicates that in 2022 bank account ownership in Azerbaijan reached to 46 per cent of the population aged 15 years and older (Figure 3). This is an important progress for expanding financial inclusion of the population. Nonetheless, Azerbaijan's performance on this indicator remains below regional average.

Figure 4
Freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (SDG 6.4.2), Azerbaijan, 2010–2022
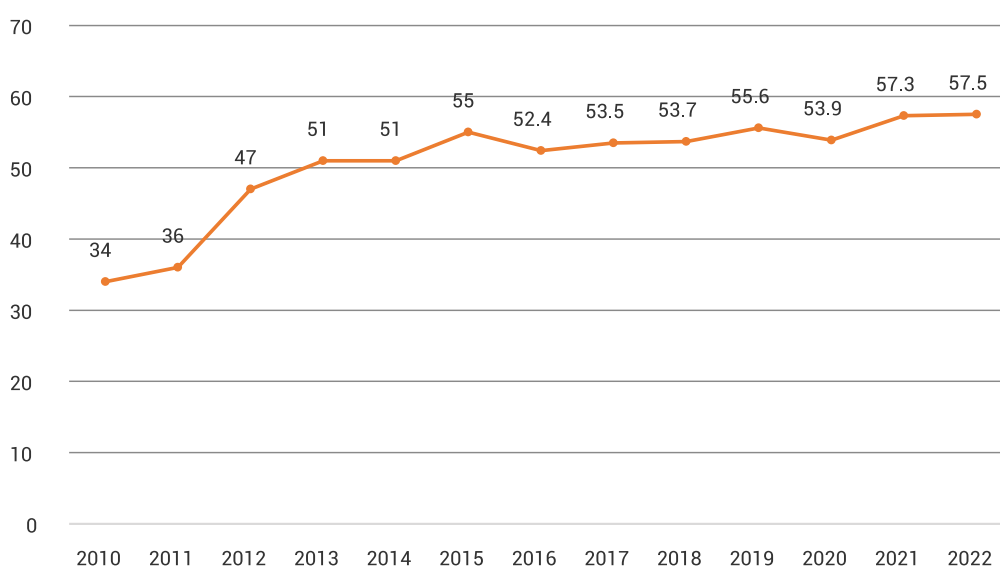
Source: Statistical Bulletin: Environment in Azerbaijan, 2023

According to the inclusive growth concept, economic growth and socially inclusive co-production associated with greater economic opportunity will be unsustainable without efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. The key is to create more economic value with fewer resources in order not to compromise people's future well-being.

Among natural assets, water resources play a critical role for the sustainable development of Azerbaijan where more than 70 per cent of water resources are generated outside the country. Given the continuing expansion of the economy, water stress, measured in terms of freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available water resources, has been steadily increasing in the past decade, reaching 57.5 per cent in 2022 (Figure 4). Water stress level is considered high when this measure is in the range from 40 to 80 per cent. The volume of water consumption has also been increasing since 2014, mainly driven by increase in irrigation and agriculture. Concerning water use efficiency, water productivity fluctuated in the past decade until falling to 3.70 United States dollars of GDP per cubic metre in 2020. However, significant improvement in water productivity has been observed in 2021 and 2022 (Figure 5), which, if continued, could be a game changer in mitigating the increasing water stress in the country.

Figure 5
Water productivity in Azerbaijan, 2010–2022
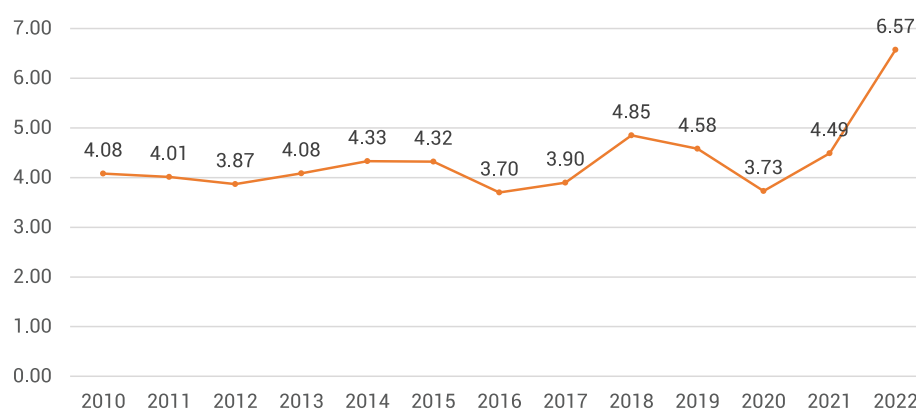
Source: Statistical Bulletin: Environment in Azerbaijan, 2023

Looking ahead

A new productivity push is needed in the economy that would ensure sustained growth and expansion. Efforts aimed at productivity enhancement should consider technological improvement and innovations in all spheres of the economy, better trade integration and diversification of exports, as well as expanded investments in skills, research and development and technology transfer. Policies that target more balanced rural-urban development would be needed to boost the productive capacities and employment opportunities in all parts of the country. It will be important to continue policies on reducing the gender wage gap with the view to increase the ratio of women's monthly average wages to men's monthly average wages to 80 per cent by 2026, in line with the Strategy of Socio-Economic Development in 2022-2026.

Effectively targeted social protection schemes need to be continued to protect the households in low-income groups from high food inflation, especially in the periods when relatively high food inflation is observed, among others due to global developments. Accordingly, shock-responsive social protection mechanisms could be introduced, that is, mechanisms for better social protection for low-income and vulnerable groups during possible emergencies such as an economic recession or a pandemic.

Considering the increasing water stress in the economy, improving water use efficiency and water productivity of GDP should be prioritized going forward. This would require boosting investments in agriculture, water supply and waste treatment to enhance the sustainable use of land and water resources and ensure sustainable waste management.

Child poverty

UNICEF

> Let us speed up reporting on child poverty!

Child poverty is distinct from adult and household poverty as children's needs and experiences of poverty are different from those of adults. For example, children's nutritional and educational requirements vary by age and are not the same as for adults. Thus, child poverty needs to be conceptualised and explicitly measured. This is important because a household-level estimation of poverty or material deprivation may misrepresent or obscure the actual situation of children's deprivation.

SDG indicator 1.2.2 explicitly mentions children, and the official reporting mechanism includes a specific line to report on the material deprivations children suffer. Thus, it requires a child-focused measure, not just the disaggregation of household estimates.

Fortunately, most of the countries in the region have data to properly report on this indicator. For example, Eurostat presents data on child-specific material deprivations[7] for children aged less

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[7] Eurostat Statistics Explained. Glossary: child deprivation.

than 16 years, which are strictly comparable across countries (based on EU SILC). While the data do not allow for intra-household disparities across children (a feature which could be improved in the future, along with more data about children across a range of other indicators and domains), they are representative for all children in each country and for some sub-national groups (by age of the child; by household composition, or by educational attainment level of their parents.). Based on EU-SILC in the European Union 13 per cent of children younger than 16 years of age were materially deprived in 2021.[8] Other countries in the European and Central Asia region also have estimated child poverty based on material deprivations using national household surveys[9].

However, despite the existence of child-specific material deprivation data it is not reported to the UN SDG Indicators Database. Only one country (Armenia) is officially reporting on child-specific material deprivation. In contrast, about 30 countries report household-level material deprivations in the SDG database.

Interestingly, not only is it possible to estimate child poverty using SILC periodically (in principle every three years), but the information can also be disaggregated. Eurostat has reported that material deprivation among children whose parents have low levels of education is about ten times higher than among children whose parents have high levels of education.[10] In Armenia, child-specific material deprivation among rural children was 50 per cent higher than among urban children in 2017[11].

An important characteristic of the situation, which underlines the need for reporting, is the gap between the child-specific estimate of material deprivation and the disaggregation of the annual household indicator on deprivation[12]. According to Eurostat, the percentage of children (less than 18 years old) in severely materially and socially deprived households[13] in 2021 was 7.5 per cent and in 2022 8.4 per cent,[14] which is just above half of the rate for the child-specific measure (Figure 6).

Moreover, SILC data can be used to assess trends. The first measurement of child-specific deprivation (using 2014 SILC data and the same indicators as in 2021) was almost twice as high as the 2021 estimates. [15]

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[8] Eurostat Statistics Explained(2023), Children – material deprivation. Eurostat data browser 2024, Material deprivation rate by age group – EU-SILC survey.

[9] For example, the Integrated Living Conditions Survey in Armenia.

[10] Eurostat Statistics Explained (2023). Children – material deprivation. Eurostat data browser 2023, Child specific material deprivation rate by educational attainment level of their parents (children aged less than 16 years)

[11] Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Armenia – poverty snapshot over 2008–2017. Part I.

[12] Eurostat Statistics Explained. Glossary: child deprivation.

[13] Eurostat Statistics Explained. Glossary: severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD)

[14] Eurostat data browser (2023). Severe material and social deprivation rate by age and sex.

[15] Guio A-C, Marlier E, Vandenbroucke F, Verbunt P (2020). Micro- and macro-drivers of child deprivation in 31 European countries. Eurostat statistical working-papers. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. While these estimates are not available in the Eurostat database, they were carried out using the same methodology, indicators, and cut-off point. Even if not strictly comparable, they provide an approximate order of magnitude for the change in child-specific material deprivation between 2014 and 2021. It is expected that the series will be available every three years starting from 2021 and the results will be fully comparable between countries and years of data collection.

Figure 6
Child material deprivation in Europe, 2021, per cent
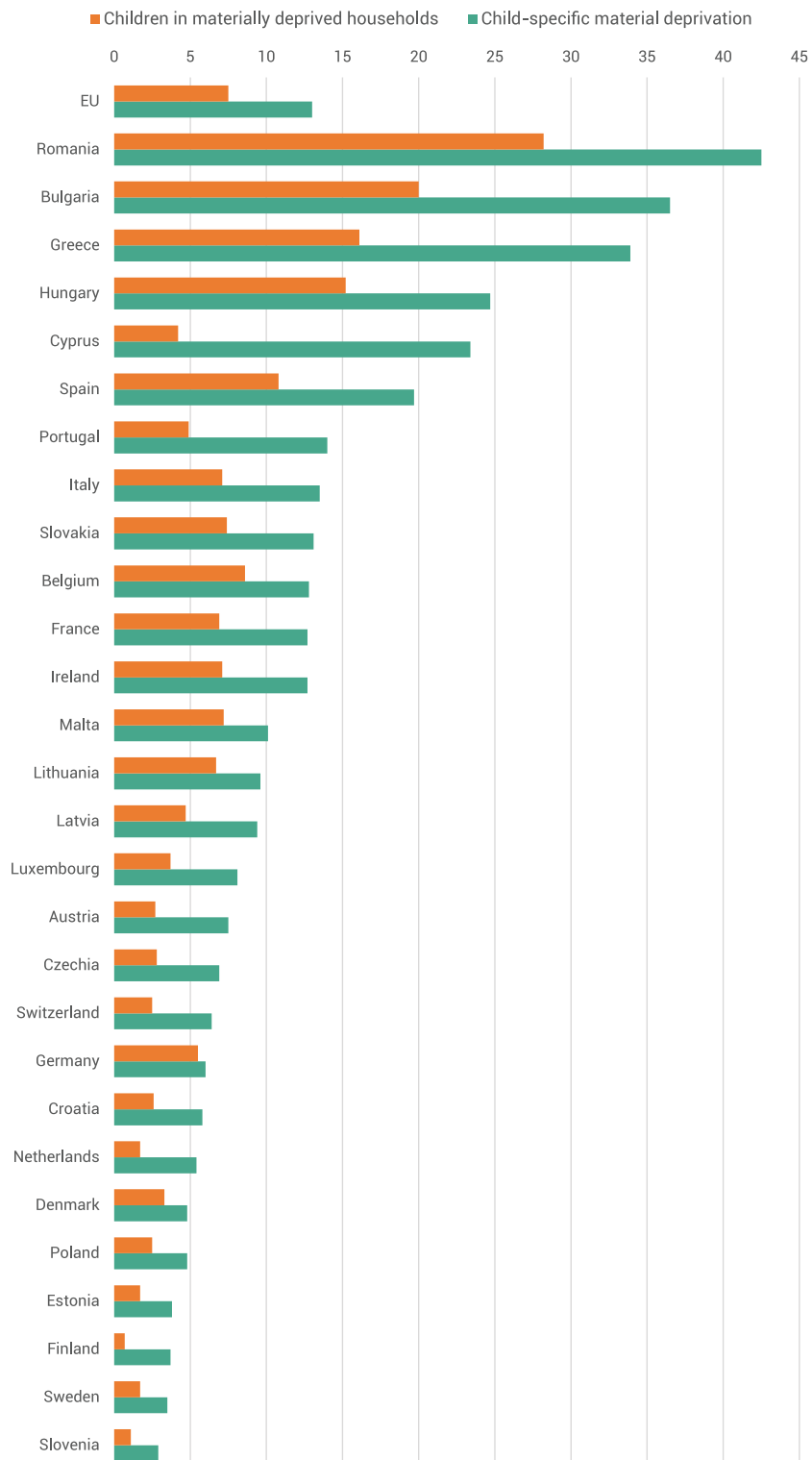
Source for child-specific material deprivation: Eurostat Statistics Explained 2023, Children – material deprivation. Source for children in materially deprived households: Eurostat data browser 2024, Severe material and social deprivation rate by sex.

There is a positive and promising story regarding child poverty in the Europe and Central Asia region, in particular the reduction in the percentage of children experiencing material deprivation. There is plenty of data to report from countries in the region based on the EUROSTAT results (which are expected to be periodically updated every three years starting from EU-SILC 2021). There is just a need to channel the information to the UN Global SDG Indicators Database properly, which is an issue that goes beyond data flows. As there is no custodian for this indicator, the World Bank, UNDP, and UNICEF have been officially entrusted to assist countries and national statistical offices in reporting and are committed to collaborate with all Governments in this regard. Moreover, the data for most countries show substantial progress in reducing child-specific material deprivation. This is a story worth telling. In addition, the data should be used to learn about which policies have contributed to this success story, for example, updating the Eurostat analysis of micro- and macro-determinants of child-specific deprivation.[16] UNICEF is ready to participate and collaborate with the national statistical offices that engage in such efforts.

[16] Guio A-C, Marlier E, Vandenbroucke F, Verbunt P. 2020. Micro- and macro-drivers of child deprivation in 31 European countries. Eurostat statistical working-papers. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Filling a reporting gap on policy frameworks to eradicate poverty: methodology and data availability

UNICEF

> Data to report on SDG indicator 1.b.1 are available but under-utilized.

The provision of public services, like health and education, is important for the realisation of child rights and crucial to children's quality of life. It is also a major determinant of poverty and inequality among children and across the whole population. Considering this, as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review, the UN Statistical Commission accepted a proposal by Save the Children and UNICEF for an indicator to measure SDG target 1.b concerning sound policy frameworks to accelerate poverty eradication, which was previously lacking any indicator. Indicator 1.b.1, Pro-poor public social spending, measures the proportion of government expenditure in direct transfers (cash and near-cash transfers) in health and in education which benefit the monetary poor. However, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic prevented progress in reporting this new indicator.

As of December 2023, information about the share of public social spending benefitting the poor was available for only ten countries in the UN SDG Indicators Database. Only one country from Europe and Central Asia, the United Kingdom, is among the ten. It is interesting to compare this situation to SDG 10.4.2 (Redistributive impact of fiscal policy) which basically uses the same underlying data – almost 40 countries in the region are reporting it.

Benefit or fiscal incidence analyses (the basis of indicator 10.4.2) are required to measure pro-poor public spending. Such analyses compute the benefits individuals or households receive from different public services by linking budget data with nationally representative household surveys. The methodology was developed and documented in the 1970s[17], based on even earlier work carried out in the US and UK as early as the 1930s and 1940s. Excellent documentation, training, and data have been produced and collected by the Commitment to Equity Institute at Tulane University (CEQ), including a manual on how to carry out benefit incidence analysis.[18]

Benefit incidence analysis attributes monetary value to in-kind transfers (for instance, in education and health services) accruing to groups or segments of the income/consumption distribution (e.g. quintiles). Although usually for simplicity and ease of calculation, average government costs are used, this is clearly an over-simplification (also, the distribution of benefits varies across sub-sectors such as primary/secondary education, preventive/curative health services, or cash transfers/old age pensions). In addition, the unit cost of services is not the same throughout each country, not even within provinces or cities.[19] While some of these differences are related to marginalised areas receiving less resources (and poorer quality services), in other cases, differential unit costs are warranted (and if the information is available, it should be used in the analysis). For cash and near-cash transfers, their monetary values are used directly.

In the context of the SDGs, indicator 1.b.1 focuses on the share of public social spending accruing to those living in monetary poverty. In a way, this is simpler than traditional benefit incidence analysis. Instead of analyzing the distribution of benefits across quartiles, quintiles, or deciles, only two groups are used (the monetary poor and the nonpoor). The rationale for using the definition of the monetary poor based on national poverty lines is that government spending should benefit poor citizens in their own country. This makes it consistent with SDG 1.2.1 (headcount of poverty based on national poverty lines) and should indeed be considered together.

International organizations have collected and disseminated data which can be used to report on 1.b.1. For instance, the Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) measures the benefits of social protection programmes (e.g. social assistance and social insurance) for more than 100 countries. However, the data are reported by income/consumption quintiles. Consequently, additional work is necessary to properly compare those with monetary poverty headcounts.

The UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti has estimated the benefit incidence of public spending on education for 42 countries[20]. The analysis is based on enrolment and expenditure data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and wealth disparities from the World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE). The latter is mostly based on Multiple Indicator and

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[17] Meerman, J (1979). Public expenditure in Malaysia: who benefits and why. Oxford University Press for the World Bank.
Selowsky M (1979). Who benefits from government expenditures? A case study of Colombia. Oxford University Press.
[18] Lustig N (ed.) (2018). Commitment to equity handbook: estimating the impact of fiscal policy on inequality and poverty. Brookings Institution Press.
[19] Mehrotra S, Delamónica E (2007). Eliminating human poverty: macroeconomic and social policies for equitable growth. Zed Books.
[20] UNICEF (2020). Addressing the learning crisis: an urgent need to better finance education for the poorest children.

Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Those surveys provide an asset-based wealth index but do not include a consumption/expenditure module. Thus, wealth quintiles from those surveys will not necessarily correlate with poverty measures based on income/consumption surveys, which means additional calculations are needed to use these data for reporting indicator 1.b.1.

In addition, the work of the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Institute provides comparable data covering at least two of the three sectors (education, health, and social transfers) for over 30 countries. Most of them are middle-income countries, and they cover more than half of the world's population. However, data for very few countries from Europe and Central Asia are available, which underlines the need to fully utilize the information countries in the region already have. Otherwise, Governments cannot assess if their financial efforts in social sectors are having the required impact to eradicate poverty.

Government spending on social sectors is a strong tool to evaluate the commitment Governments make to protect and invest in their own people, in particular children.[21] Thus, efforts are needed to combine the already existing (and reported) data on: (i) public spending in education, health and direct transfers, and (ii) the utilization of these services by different population groups (including the monetary poor); in order to (iii) assess the share of public expenditures in these sectors accruing the poor population in the country (SDG indicator 1.b.1).

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[21] UNICEF (2021). Strengthening the evidence on the correlation between fiscal equity and social outcomes for children.

SDG indicator on overweight among children: how are countries doing with data availability?

UNICEF

Additional efforts need to be exerted by countries to monitor the situation of child malnutrition.

Childhood overweight is a condition that increases the risk of diet-related noncommunicable diseases later in life. It has been prompted by industry marketing, greater access to processed foods, and inadequate physical activity levels. That is why it has been included in the SDG indicator framework as an important indicator of child malnutrition under SDG 2 (indicator 2.2.2.a).

Prevalence of overweight is the weight for height >+2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards among children under five years of age. In 2022, overweight affected 37 million children under age five worldwide, or 5.6 per cent. The prevalence is higher, at 7.1 per cent in Europe and Central Asia, representing 3.7 million

children under 5, 10 per cent of all overweight children worldwide.[22] The proportion varies greatly, the highest in Greece (15 per cent) and lowest in the Republic of Moldova (3 per cent) (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight, per cent
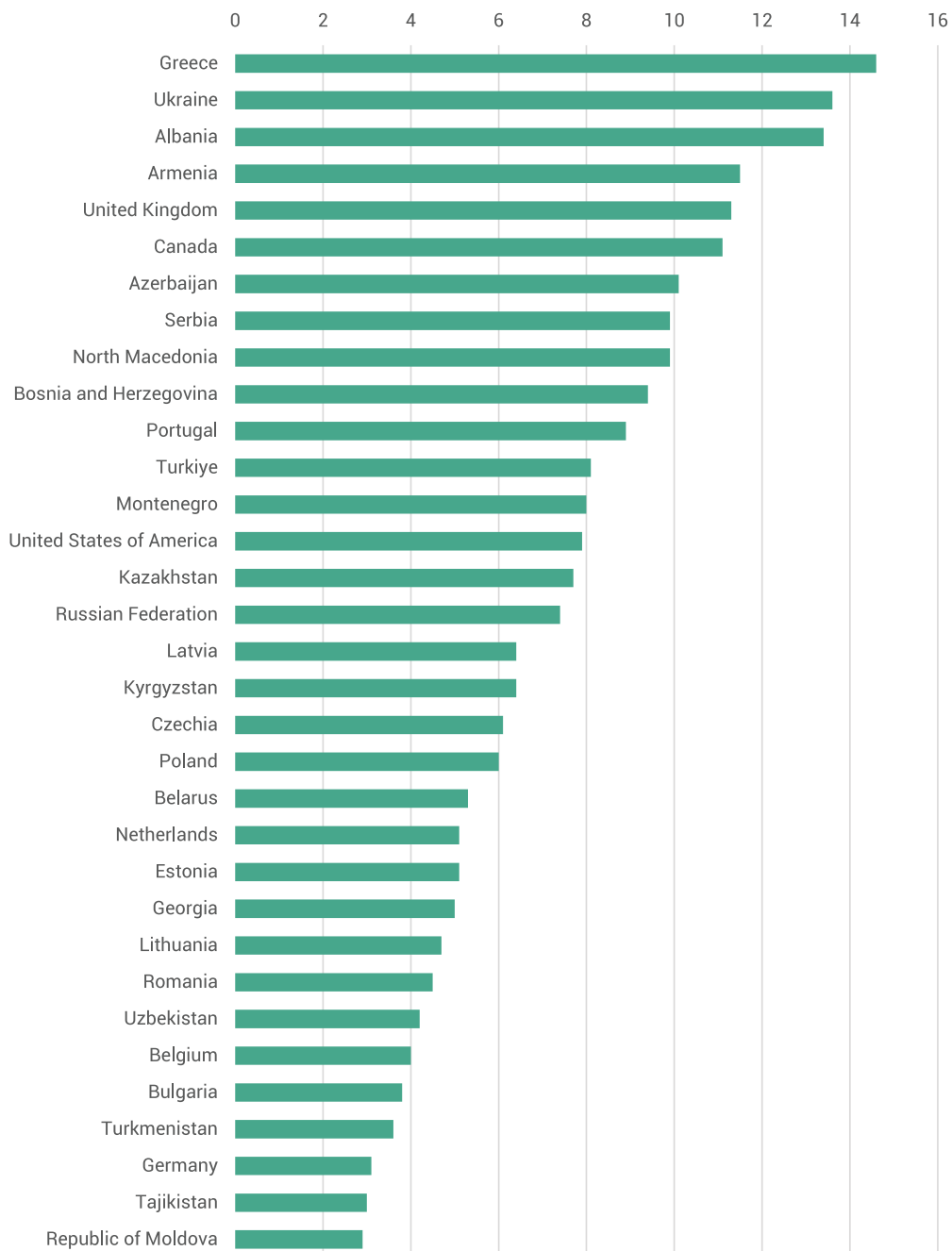
Latest available year: 2022

Source: UNECE, Dashboard for SDGs

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[22] UNICEF, WHO, World Bank: Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) – 2023 edition interactive dashboard.

There are, however, several observations that point to limitations in actual data availability on this important SDG indicator and call for action. **First**, the estimates are available for only 33 countries (59 per cent) in the UNECE region and 31 countries in UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia region. That means these countries have data for at least one year between 1990 and 2022, which was used to generate annual modelled estimates for official SDG reporting. The remaining countries do not have any data point on overweight among young children included in the global database used for SDG monitoring.[23]

Second, for many of the 33 countries with estimates included in the SDG database, the data are very sparse and old. The estimates for countries with at least one data point are all modelled in the SDG database, with the aim of providing annual estimates and a harmonized trendline for all countries, given sparse data. According to the Joint Mortality Estimates database of UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank[24], which is the basis of the SDG data for this indicator, only 18 of 33 have at least one data point on the indicator since 2015, and only 11 (18 per cent) have one data point since 2018, that is the last five years. The countries are Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, United States and Uzbekistan. Except for Lithuania (surveillance data), all other countries' sources are surveys (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys for seven countries).

Prevention of all forms of malnutrition (including wasting and overweight) is achieved through ensuring adequate maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy and lactation; optimal breastfeeding in the first two years of life; nutritious, diverse and safe foods in early childhood; and a healthy environment, including access to basic health, water, hygiene and sanitation services and opportunities for safe physical activity. All these necessary inputs for good nutrition are vulnerable to the changes wrought by conflict, climate change and the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Coordinated actions are needed across nutrition, health and social protection sectors – especially in countries most affected – to reduce child malnutrition, while data collection and analysis should be an integral part of these efforts. The nutrition situation of children should be monitored for all ages, both at the national and disaggregated levels, if the countries and international community are to deliver on the promise to fight child malnutrition while leaving no one behind in this endeavour.

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[23] UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group. Joint child malnutrition estimates, 2023 edition.
[24] UNICEF, Database on Child Malnutrition

Promotion of result-based budgeting in healthcare sector of the Republic of Belarus to meet SDG targets and strengthening health protection

UNFPA Belarus

In the context of the changing market of medical services, the course towards innovation, the increasing needs of the population with the advent of new medicines, the development of technologies, and the ageing of the population, the healthcare sector concentrates its efforts on improving and expanding the practice of using result-oriented budgeting methods that ensure sustainable financing of services and the achievement of the SDGs.
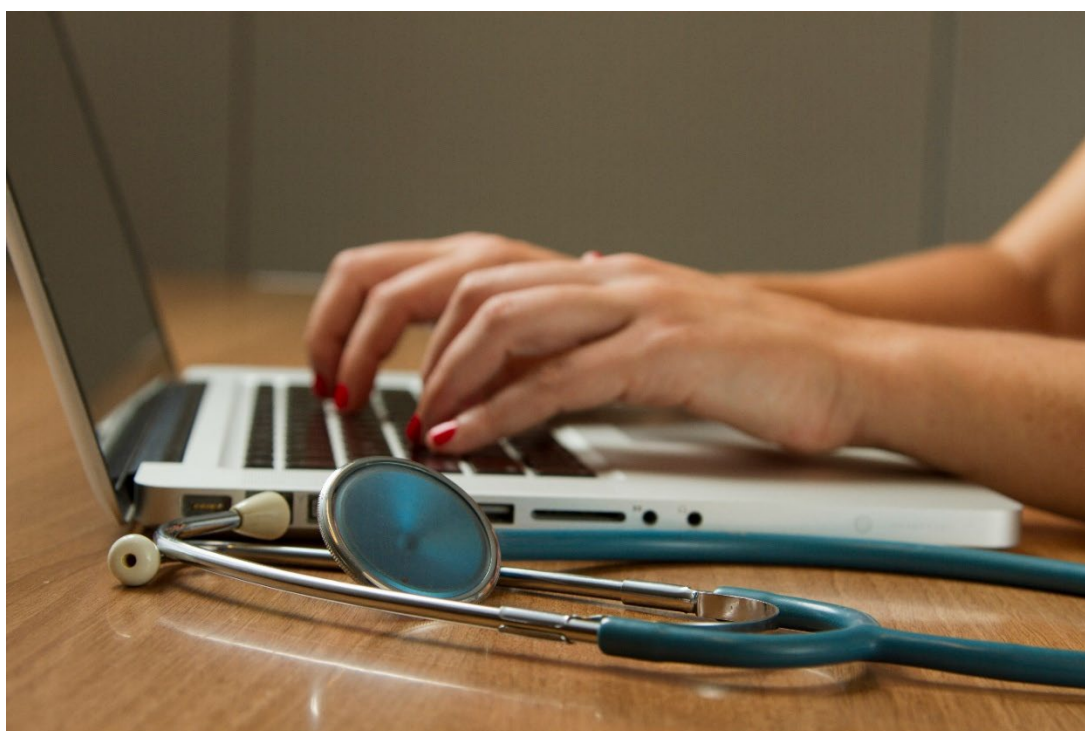
Financial planning for the implementation of the SDGs will be more successful if governments treat the 2030 Agenda as a whole and use disaggregated data (by gender, age, disability, place of residence) as much as possible in planning, monitoring and performance evaluation of investments. It is also important to ensure a gender-responsive approach when tracking spending.

This is especially significant for healthcare systems, reflected in the indicators of SDG 3, but are also critical for the implementation of other SDGs. Considering the prevalence of state financing of the healthcare system, improving the efficiency of public finance management based on result-based budgeting approaches is especially relevant for the Republic of Belarus.

UNFPA in Belarus, under the framework of the Joint Programme "Promoting new tools of sustainable development budgeting that prioritize vulnerable populations in Belarus" (Joint SDG Fund), has the leading role in the process of budgeting practices change at a local and national level during 2020–2022 by profound research and analytical work on performance-based budgeting in health financing system. The achieved result is strengthening the capacities of the healthcare facilities management through identifying their needs on results-based budgeting.

The initial survey involving 97 medical organizations of Belarus showed and identified the needs to strengthen the capacity of healthcare managers and economists on the implementation of certain strategic area of reforms – measuring costs and revenues on a diagnosis related group (DRG) basis. Proposed better financing practices in the health sector found relevant feedback due to an implemented capacity-building programme for healthcare managers and the introduction of performance-based budgeting in a permanent healthcare training programme. This ensured sustainability of the result and became the basis of an experiment on financing inpatient medical care in Grodno region.

In addition, supported and realized comprehensive analysis of the impact of the introduction of a budget expenditure planning system based on the use of expenditure standards per patient in inpatient settings by DRG on the budgets of healthcare organizations, including a Comparative analysis of model budgets and actually used budget funds of healthcare organizations in the Grodno region, led to continuation of piloting by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the Resolution No. 146 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 23 February 2023.

Implementation of the DRG model as a result-based budgeting method has made it possible to justify the needs and reallocate funds worth well over 800,000 United States dollars to cover the costs of inpatient medical care for state healthcare providers in the Grodno region for 2023. The formation of the basic standard cost per patient for inpatient care has improved the financing of the Grodno region: the minimum standard for budgetary provision of healthcare costs per inhabitant of that region for 2023 amounted to 312.2 USD[25] against 238.6 USD[26] in 2022. It has also become one of the factors improving citizens' financial protection in healthcare all over the country. Thus, the minimum standard for budget provision of healthcare costs per inhabitant in the Republic of Belarus for 2023 amounted to 408.7 USD[25] against 351.5 USD[26] in 2022.

Ongoing and supported reforms are a good example of joint efforts and resource mobilization for SDG 17. UNFPA expertise allowed the country to achieve sustainable results of health outcomes and financial allocations for social and medical care services for its population in the conditions of the geopolitical escalation, epidemiological and economic challenges. For instance, life expectancy in Belarus of 72.4 years is higher than in the neighbouring Russia (69.4 years) and Ukraine (69.6 years).[27] The Government spends almost 20 per cent of its expenditures on health[28], ensuring Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Service Coverage Index of 79 in 2021, which was similar to Estonia's and exceeds the value of Lithuania and Latvia[29].

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[25] Law of the Republic of Belarus No.231-3 on the republican budget for the year 2023. Exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus as of 1 January 2023.

[26] Law of the Republic of Belarus No.142-3 on the republican budget for the year 2022. Exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus as of 1 January 2022.

[27] The World Bank, World Bank Open Data.

[28] Bulletin on the execution of the consolidated and republican budget, 2021. Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus.

[29] World Health Organization, The Global Health Observatory. (2021) UHC Service Coverage Index (SDG 3.8.1).

Artificial glacier helps mountain village in Kyrgyzstan meet water needs

FAO Kyrgyzstan

> An innovative solution helps villagers stock up water for a dry summer.

Following the Kyrgyz tradition, Manzura Orolbaeva welcomes guests with homemade bread and a saucer of melted butter. The bread is made from grain grown on their farm and the butter from the livestock they keep.

Agriculture is the main source of income and food for a large part of the local population in this mountain village of Kara-Dobo in southern Kyrgyzstan, but due to the dry climate and lack of arable land, it is difficult to grow crops here. Water is particularly challenging to access.

For Manzura, her nearest water source is a mountain spring located two kilometres away. Every day, this 63-year-old woman and her loved ones walk there and back, not once but several times a day, to bring back enough water for the people, animals and plants on their farm.

31

"You can live without gas; you can live without the Internet, but you cannot live without water," said Manzura.

Water is scarce not only in Kara-Dobo, but also in many other villages in this region of little rainfall. In the winter, it is cold with almost no snow, and in summer, it is very hot with virtually no rain. The main water sources are mountain springs, but they are often in hard-to-reach places.

As a high-altitude country, Kyrgyzstan has been experiencing the effects of climate change acutely. Variations in temperatures are leading to unreliable precipitation patterns and more frequent peaks in temperature are causing aridity and drought, especially in mountain pastures.

To increase the communities' resilience to these weather anomalies, experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) proposed the construction of an artificial glacier in the region as part of the project "Shared prosperity through cooperation in border regions of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan".

Funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the project is implemented jointly by FAO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and is aimed at enhancing cross-border environmental and socio-economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. It also works to build confidence and trust between local governments, communities and civil society organizations. The project uses climate-smart agricultural practices to preserve and sustain common natural resources. It directly supports implementation of SDG targets 6.5 on integrated water resources management, including transboundary cooperation, 6.6 to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, and 6.b to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Many took the idea of an artificial glacier as a joke, says Manzura Orolbaeva, but the residents of the village of Kara-Dobo supported the initiative.

"If we do not water the gardens, everything dries up. We will have nothing to cover our expenses or to feed our cattle," said Manzura.

The villagers undertook the construction themselves, with FAO providing technical and financial support. Constructing the artificial glacier began with installing an underground pipeline. In just one week, 55 people manually dug a trench and laid pipes from the mountain spring to the pasture, where their livestock graze. The end of the pipe was then raised 20 metres above the ground.

While these works were going on, Manzura's house became a type of "headquarters" where the villagers planned the course of work. She treated everyone who dug the trench with tea and homemade pastries.

In the winter, the glacier was born. The water from the pipe began to freeze and slowly turn into a huge ice tower. Then in the summer months, the mountain of ice slowly melts, providing residents with regular access to fresh water for irrigation and for their own use. During the first winter, the glacier grew to more than 70,000 cubic metres of ice.

"Now our experience interested residents of other villages, who at first did not believe us," said Manzura. *"Perhaps next year in our area there will be other artificial glaciers. Because water is life,"* she added.

Local authorities plan to install one more glacier from their own funding sources and include the expenses into the local budget plan.

In Kyrgyzstan, FAO is supporting several projects to address water scarcity and help villagers use it judiciously. For example, an electronic system for measuring the volume of irrigation water has been recently introduced, with technical and financial assistance from FAO, in the Kochkor district of the Naryn region of Kyrgyzstan. Digital technologies like these have not only helped in the rational distribution of water but also eliminated conflicts among farmers over this vital resource.

TIR Convention, the United Nations global border crossing facilitation solution

UNECE Transport

> The TIR system with its electronic TIR procedure turns borders into bridges. It is a trade, transport and border crossings facilitation tool permitting smooth and efficient customs operations at the borders.

When countries around the world began closing borders and imposing lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the global supply chains were deeply affected. With customers buying in bulk out of fear, shops struggled to restock their shelves. At that moment, everyone realised that border crossing facilitation is key to our lives and economies independently of pandemics.

There are various UN conventions that govern the transport of goods across borders, ensuring a smooth and efficient transit through customs. However, when countries are obliged to implement strict border measures, these usual conditions which apply to transport were set aside. In the case of the Covid-19 pandemic, this resulted to thousands of trucks being stuck at borders, leading to shortages in food and other essential goods. It also led to inhumane conditions for truck drivers and customs officials who were stuck for days and weeks, without access to necessities and their families.

Perhaps one of the most well-known of the transport conventions is the customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnet - or the TIR Convention. You may have seen the blue TIR sign on the back of trucks all over Europe and Asia. This convention allows trucks to transit through multiple countries without being stopped and examined by the customs until they reach the destination country. This system is used by 78 countries around the world and facilitates the seamless transport of millions of tons of goods each year – anything from medicine to food and other necessities.

Everything you need to know about the TIR Convention – the TIR Handbook.

The eTIR International System was recognised as the UN tool / convention that protects people from Covid-19 while facilitating and simplifying border crossing procedures by the UN system and governments. The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's report entitled "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19", published in March 2020 mentions: "*Innovative tools such as UN eTIR/eCMR systems and other tools that allow the exchange of electronic information without physical contact and facilitate the flow of goods across borders should be used*".

Furthermore, after our initial call to implement eTIR procedure (7 April 2020), 10 countries plus the European Union have so far responded positively, to connect their National Systems to the

eTIR International System. As a result, one after the other, the contracting parties to the TIR Convention are connecting their national customs systems to the eTIR international system developed and hosted by the TIR secretariat.

The interconnection of national customs systems to the eTIR international system and the implementation of the eTIR procedure will clearly turn **borders into bridges**.
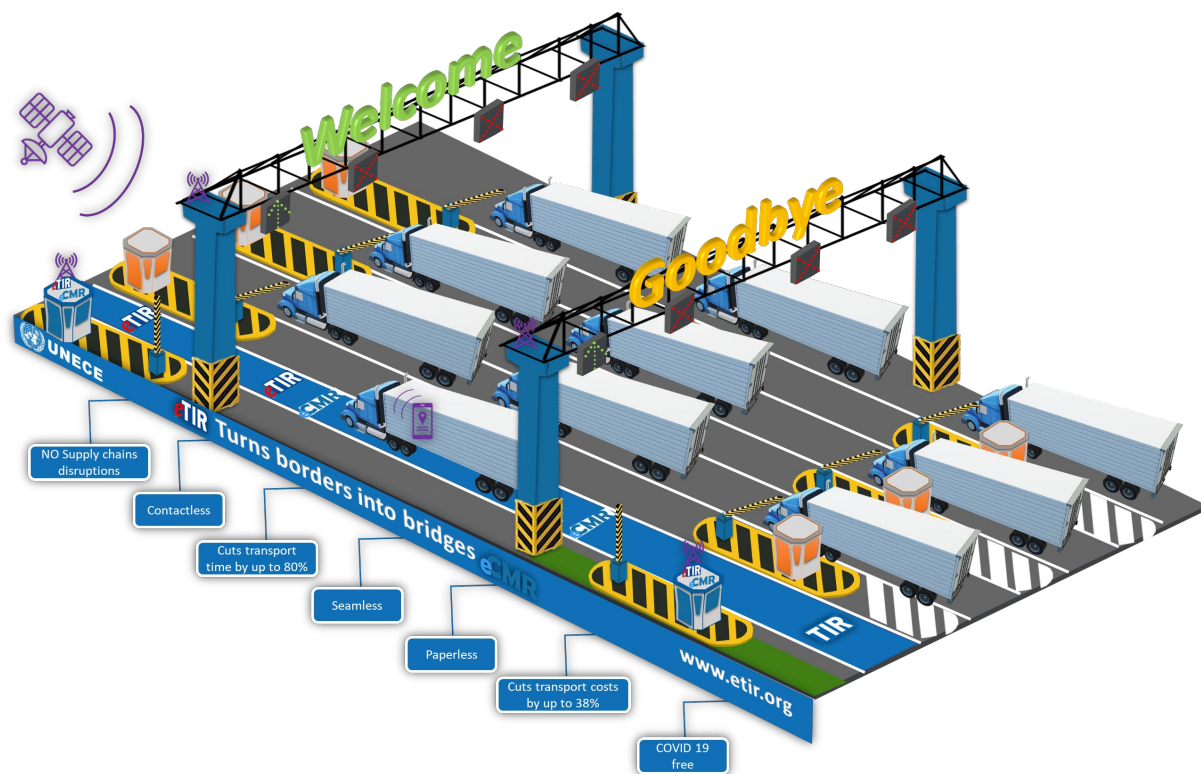
The applications that constitute the eTIR system are presented in Table 1. All applications are interconnected and have been designed to disseminate data for transport documents.

Table 1
Applications that constitute the eTIR system

Application	Description
eTIR international system	It is the main application of the eTIR. It has been developed by the TIR secretariat and it is hosted by UNECE. All customs authorities and the private sector (IRU) will be interconnected to the eTIR international system and exchange data every time a TIR event is happening.

International TIR Data bank	ITDB is developed and hosted by the TIR secretariat. All customs authorities and National Road transport associations are connected to ITDB. It is the system where customs approve new users of the TIR system and provide all information about withdrawal of users and customs seals photos. It currently includes data for more than 40,000 trucking companies using the TIR system.
eTIR National Application	The TIR secretariat developed the eTIR national application to reduce the time required for a national customs system to interconnect to the eTIR international system. It is provided at no cost to customs authorities and is interconnected already to the eTIR international system.
eTIR mobile applications for the drivers and customs officers	The TIR secretariat prepared mobile applications for the vehicles drivers and the customs officers which include the eTIR/ITDB data. The only thing that the customs officers have to do under the eTIR procedure when a commercial vehicle arrives at the borders would be to scan with their mobiles the QR Code in the mobiles of the vehicles' drivers and get all the information required.

Figure 8
Flow of data and documents in the eTIR system
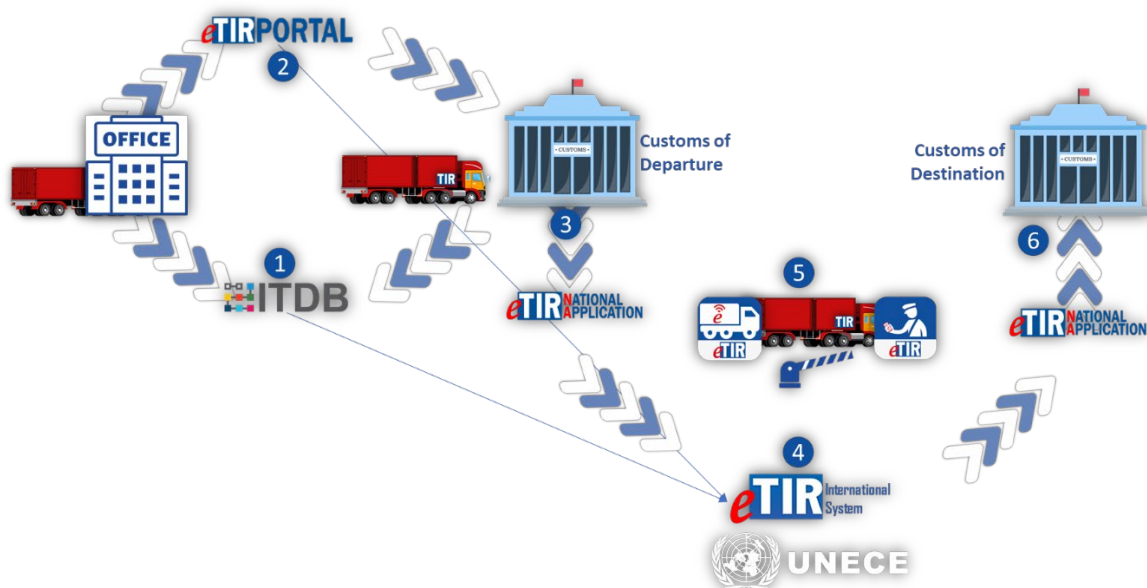
The flow of data and documents (Figure 8) is as follows:

1. National road transport associations submit data about new users in ITDB and customs approve those users.

2. The trucking industry submits the advance TIR data through the eTIR portal to the customs authorities.

3. The truck arrives at customs, is being checked and sealed. Then customs "transform" the advance TIR data received to a customs declaration by using the eTIR national application. Also, the systems check with IRU's systems about the validity of the electronic guarantee.

4. The eTIR international system receives the declaration data and automatically sends it to all customs on the way and at destination.

5. When truck arrives at borders, customs officers are scanning the QR codes in drivers' mobile phones and get all information required for them to know about the specific truck in their mobile phones.

Everything about the TIR international system can be found in the eTIR specialized website www.etir.org.

TIR system contribution to SDGs

Direct
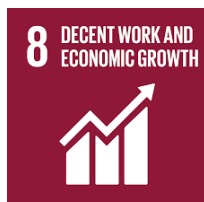
Trade and transport facilitation measures directly help informal businesses to better participate in foreign trade. General provisions, such as transparency, which is being achieved with the implementation of the electronic TIR procedure, are also critical for integrating smaller firms into global value chains (SDG target 8.3).

Digital trade and transport measures, i.e. electronic submissions of declarations, reduce the time goods spend at borders, support achieving higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (SDG target 8.2).

The deployment of digital technologies and the implementation of the computerized procedures of well-known UN Conventions (TIR) have become a positive enabler for national economies, facilitating business continuity and connecting electronically traders with the transport industry, customs authorities and border agencies.

Sharing good practices to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure that serves digitalised border crossing procedures (SDG target 9.1).

Reducing cumbersome procedure to improve the efficiency of transit, especially crucial for LDCs and LLDCs.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The TIR system is one of the very first public private partnerships in the UN system since the operations of the international guarantee of the system is mandated by the governments to be provided by the International Road Transport Union (IRU). It will also strengthen public-private coordination platforms at the national and regional levels, providing the necessary multi-stakeholder consultative mechanism for the trade and transport recovery plan.

Indirect

1 NO POVERTY

The simplification of procedures and standardisation of fees and charges applicable to trade will foster more predictable, higher levels of revenue collection for customs, ensuring significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The TIR system facilitates and speeds up the transport, transit and clearance of critical protection goods such as medicines contributing to good health and well-being targets.

A new financing mechanism for green investments in North Macedonia

UNDP North Macedonia

The Green Finance Facility (GFF) UN Joint Programme has established a new financing mechanism that provides affordable finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and households of marketable but underserved target groups.

The programme worth $46 million is financed by the Joint SDG Fund, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). It is based on strong partnerships between UN agencies, international financial institutions (IFIs), the Government and private sector, with blended finance from public and private sources for green loans and performance-based grants for renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) investments toward green transition in North Macedonia. Under coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia, UNDP is the lead implementing agency with UNECE, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and EBRD as implementing partners.

Within GFF, EBRD provides finance ($30m) to local banks (currently signed contracts with Sparkasse Bank, ProCredit Bank) and leasing companies to on-lend to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As part of the package, the GFF through the partner financial institutions will provide ex-post, performance-based payments of up to 10 per cent of the loan principal for SMEs (Figure 9).

Figure 9
Structure of the Green Finance Facility for small and medium-sized enterprises
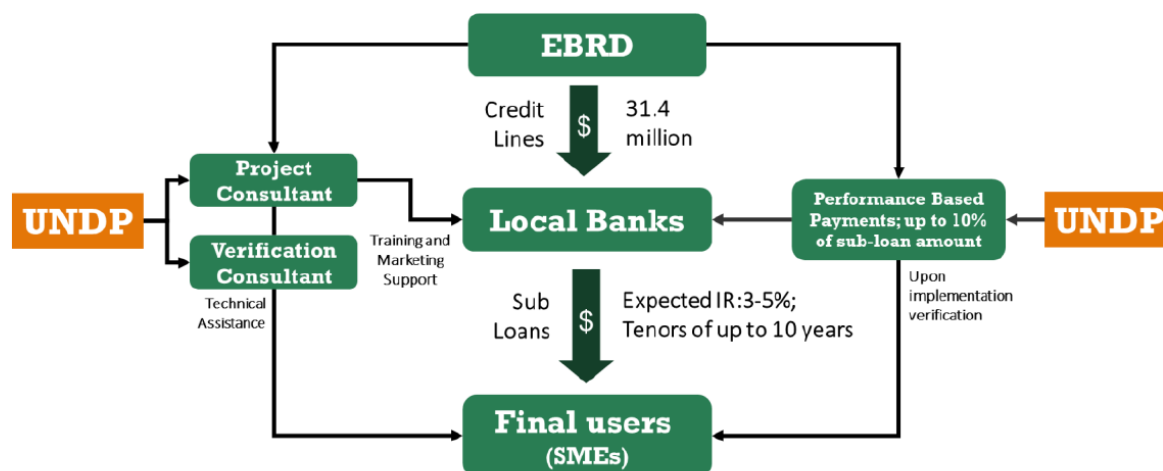
In addition, UNDP provides support to five of the target groups of creditworthy but underserved individuals or households: female-headed households, single parents, households with persons with disabilities (PWDs), Roma households and households affected by Covid-19. IOM provides supports to two additional target groups: returning migrants and remittance recipients, to invest in RE and EE. GFF will provide 30 per cent of the loan principal in ex-post, performance-based payments for target groups of households or individuals (Figure 10).

Figure 10
Structure of the Green Finance Facility for underserved individuals or households
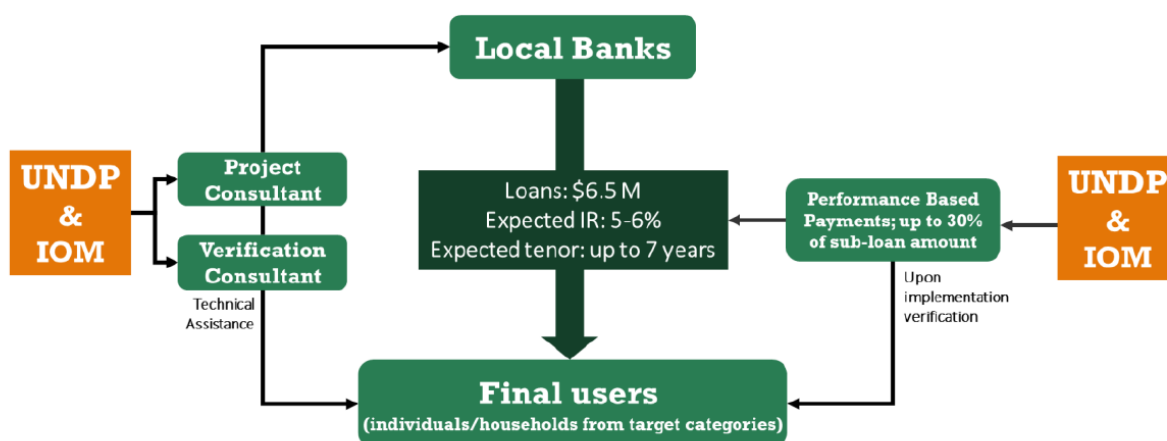
One additional specific feature of this UN joint programme is the provision of technical support. Namely, GFF has engaged teams of project consultants and verification consultants/ independent assessors, who will work with the banks and with clients. Project consultants will provide technical assistance to the banks and loan recipients supporting the project design process to ensure that projects align with the investment criteria. Verification consultants/ independent assessors will ensure that funded investments have been completed according to the original investment plans. UNECE has already provided technical assistance to the consultants' teams on design and verification of EE and RE projects.

The project is expected to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Green Finance Facility model in North Macedonia, which serves as a use-case and model to Governments, financial institutions, investors, and others in the region. GFF has been designed with the view for scaling and replicating across the Western Balkans and even to other regions, after a successful implementation.

Furthermore, the project aims to catalyse impact beyond a one-off project investment using a combination of market push and pull activities that address barriers to the adoption of renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions. Ultimately, the project should drive a paradigm shift through the establishment of a mechanism and a standard for financing and adoption of RE and EE solutions.

In North Macedonia, more than 60 per cent of electricity generation is coal-fired[30]. Furthermore, only a small percentage of the population are utilizing renewable energy and energy-efficiency solutions. Combined, these factors contribute to significant greenhouse gas emissions (7.5 million tons from the burning of fossil fuels[31]) and high levels of air pollution. Enabling access to affordable financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions in the country will significantly contribute to advancements towards SDG 7 and SDG 13.

The Green Finance Facility UN joint programme will be implemented until April 2026 and is expected to result in 70,068 megawatt hours of annual energy savings, 80,510 tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions avoided, and 10.7 megawatts in new renewable energy capacity.

The Joint SDG Fund's joint programmes are under the prestige leadership of the Resident Coordinator Office and implementing United Nations agencies. With sincere appreciation for the contributions from the European Union, Governments of Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, and our private sector funding partners, for a transformative movement towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

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[30] *SDG Voluntary National Review July 2020*
[31] *National GHG inventory, December 2020*

Adaptation of cities to climate-related extreme events

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative has effectively encapsulated diverse initiatives undertaken by local governments to tackle urban heat and wildfire issues. By facilitating knowledge exchange, MCR2030 fosters a shared understanding of these challenges and empowers local actors and policymakers to collaborate.

Context

Climate change poses a major challenge for both the environment and society, and is a pressing issue worldwide today. Amid rapid urbanization, urban areas and their residents face heightened vulnerability to climate change impacts, particularly concerning extreme heat events. [32] The

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[32] The World Bank, Analysis of heat waves and urban heat island effects in central European cities and implications for urban planning, 2020

latest statistics reveal an increase in the frequency of forest fires across most European countries compared to the previous decade.[33]

The Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative (MCR2030)[34] focuses on enhancing urban resilience against various disasters, including urban heat and wildfires. In terms of urban planning, various cities in the region are re-evaluating urban planning and design to incorporate green spaces and create more permeable surfaces to absorb heat. Acknowledging the evolving risks attributed to climate change, MCR2030 encourages cities to respond and adapt to diverse risks, fostering knowledge sharing among networked cities. Consequently, MCR2030 directly contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This initiative aligns with global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Given the escalating negative impact of climate-related hazards in the European region, MCR2030 Europe and Central Asia have prioritized climate-related extreme events in their regional work plan for 2023–2024. This focused approach, supported by the consensus among Regional Coordinating Committee members and MCR2030 Resilience Hub cities, involves organizing a series of webinars and developing a knowledge repository comprising diverse case studies from the region. Below are some of the case studies captured through UNDRR's MCR2030 knowledge product "Flames of change: innovating heat and wildfire governance for inclusive communities."

Case of Barcelona, Spain

In Barcelona, the densely populated urban landscape, coupled with its proximity to neighbouring cities in the metropolitan area, exacerbates the heat island effect, intensifying the city's vulnerability to extreme heat events. While the coastal location offers daytime relief from the sea's cooling effect, it contributes to higher night-time temperatures in seaside neighbourhoods. This thermal dynamic disproportionately affects vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children and low-income families, emphasizing the importance of considering intersecting vulnerabilities. Barcelona has implemented multifaceted strategies to address these challenges. *The Climate Shelter Network*, now comprising 230 accessible spaces, aims to provide thermal comfort within a 10-minute walk for 97 per cent of the population. Initiatives like the *Ephemeral Shadow Challenge* focus on creating temporary cooling solutions, while *Energy Advisory Points* strive to enhance energy efficiency. The *Highly Complex Buildings Program* actively supports vulnerable communities in improving their living conditions.

Recommendations underscore the significance of stakeholder engagement for successful adaptation measures, advocating for participatory processes to ensure communities' needs are heard and addressed. Urban planners are urged to adopt flexible strategies, integrating absorptive, adaptive, and transformative skills to enhance resilience amid uncertainty. A holistic approach is also emphasized, underscoring the integration and synergy of elements and disciplines within the city to foster collaboration and coordination toward a shared objective. These initiatives hold potential for replication but require adaptability and coordination across various urban landscapes to address local needs effectively.

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[33] European Commission Joint Research Centre, San-Miguel-Ayanz, J., Durrant, T., Boca, R. et al., Forest fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2022, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023.

[34] UNDRR, MCR2030 Europe and Central Asia, Flames of change: innovating heat and wildfire governance for inclusive communities, 2024.

Case of Greater Manchester, United Kingdom

In Greater Manchester, combating the escalating threat of extreme heat demands immediate collaborative action and effective governance. Acknowledging the cross-sectoral nature of heat risks, the region emphasizes governance structures like the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum and engages actively in networks like the UN's Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative. The declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 spurred initiatives such as the 5-Year Environment Plan, driving goals toward carbon neutrality by 2038 and promoting solutions like urban cooling and increased green spaces via endeavours like the City of Trees. The region showcases commitment through events like the Mayor's Green Summit and innovative partnerships like GMCA/Environment Agency/United Utilities to revolutionize water management, integrating nature-based solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems to mitigate flood risks and urban heat effects.

Figure 11
Extreme heat warning of the Met Office
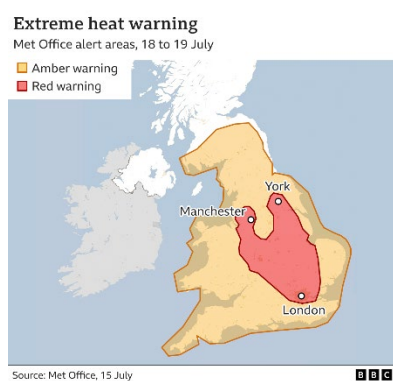
Source: Met Office, 15 July 2023

Greater Manchester's dedication to strengthening resilience is evident in initiatives like *Resilience 4 Communities*, aimed at empowering vulnerable areas through co-creating resilience solutions to future climate change risks. Collaborative projects, such as the one with the National Consortium for Societal Resilience, focus on understanding and aiding older populations during extreme heat events, fostering community support systems for these circumstances. The region advocates for proactive measures to support vulnerable groups during heatwaves, emphasizing accessible information, proactive checks, and early warnings to enhance community resilience.

In a landscape increasingly impacted by climate change, Greater Manchester champions a proactive, inclusive approach to combatting heatwaves, striving to support vulnerable populations and strengthen community resilience through accessible information dissemination, proactive assistance, and early warning systems.

Case of Athens, Greece, for an inclusive community engagement

A table-top evacuation exercise that took place in October 2023 has integrated disabled individuals into disaster preparedness strategies in Athens, Greece. The simulation showcased earthquake-induced fire incidents, emphasizing inclusive evacuation planning and the participation of disability representatives. Encouraging academic, operational and disabled community networking, the exercise highlighted the importance of early involvement of persons

with disabilities in the scenario preparation. Participants agreed on the necessity of regular exercises involving local stakeholders to bolster community resilience against multi-hazard risks amid challenges like wildfires and the Covid-19 pandemic's co-existence, or other hazards. The exercise took place under the framework of the activities' roadmap of the European Centre for Forest Fires, which belongs to the Network of the Specialised Centres of the Council of Europe EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, having as a main goal to improve the awareness and resilience to major risks within the population.

Recommendations advocate for *Universal Design* in emergency planning, stressing the importance of including disabled individuals throughout disaster management. Tailored approaches for different impairments, like *Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)*, are urged for regular testing, especially in disaster-prone areas. Standard operational procedures for rescuing disabled persons, a global training module for responders, accessible emergency messages, and certified built environments are proposed. Prioritizing risks during complex emergencies through "risk triage" and integrating multi-hazard assessments into development planning are advised for comprehensive risk reduction strategies.

Conclusion

The MCR2030 initiative has effectively encapsulated diverse initiatives undertaken by local governments to tackle urban heat and wildfire issues, disseminating these efforts among stakeholders within the network. By facilitating knowledge exchange, MCR2030 fosters a shared understanding of these challenges and empowers local actors and policymakers to collaborate based on a unified comprehension of the issues at hand, not only within the region but also beyond its borders.

How UN standards and partnerships helped to unlock geothermal energy in Albania

UNECE Sustainable Energy

Albania assessed its geothermal resources, boosting the preparedness for low-carbon energy transitions and inspiring other countries in the region to explore their geothermal resources.

Albania has abundant geothermal resources, and they were largely untapped and underexplored. UNECE helped Albania assess its geothermal potential and develop a roadmap for sustainable utilization, using the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), which are international standards for managing energy and mineral resources. The project boosted Albania's energy security and sustainability and supported SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy) and SDG 13 (Climate action). Albania also inspired other countries in the region to follow its example and explore their geothermal resources.

Albania's quest for energy security and sustainability

Albania's growing energy demand and carbon footprint reduction present a dual challenge. The country's electricity generation mainly comes from hydropower, which is vulnerable to climate variability and droughts. Fossil fuels, mostly imported from neighbouring countries, account for the remaining 10 per cent, exposing Albania to supply disruptions and price fluctuations. Albania

needs to tap into its abundant renewable energy resources, especially geothermal energy, to diversify its energy mix and enhance its energy security.

Geothermal energy is a clean, renewable and reliable source with significant potential in Albania. This potential remains largely untapped due to the lack of data, technology and investment. In 2023, Albania received support from UNECE's Regular Programme on Technical Cooperation (RPTC) to assess its geothermal potential using international standards for the classification and management of energy and mineral resources and enhance stakeholders' and public's capacity and awareness of the benefits and challenges of geothermal energy development.

Exploring Albania's geothermal diversity and potential

Albania has three major geothermal regions with different characteristics and opportunities for geothermal energy development (Figure 12). The Kruja geothermal zone, which extends 180 kilometres from the Adriatic Sea to the Greek border, has seven hot spring groups and three boreholes that produce hot, mineralized water at temperatures up to 80°C. The Ardenica geothermal zone, located in Albania's coastal area, has six boreholes that discharge waters at temperatures from 32 to 67°C from depths between 1200 and 2425 meters. The Peshkopia geothermal zone, located in the Northeast of Albania, has a group of thermal springs that flow at 43.5°C on a river slope and a significant yield of cold mineralized water springs in the riverbed.

Figure 12
Geothermal map of Albania
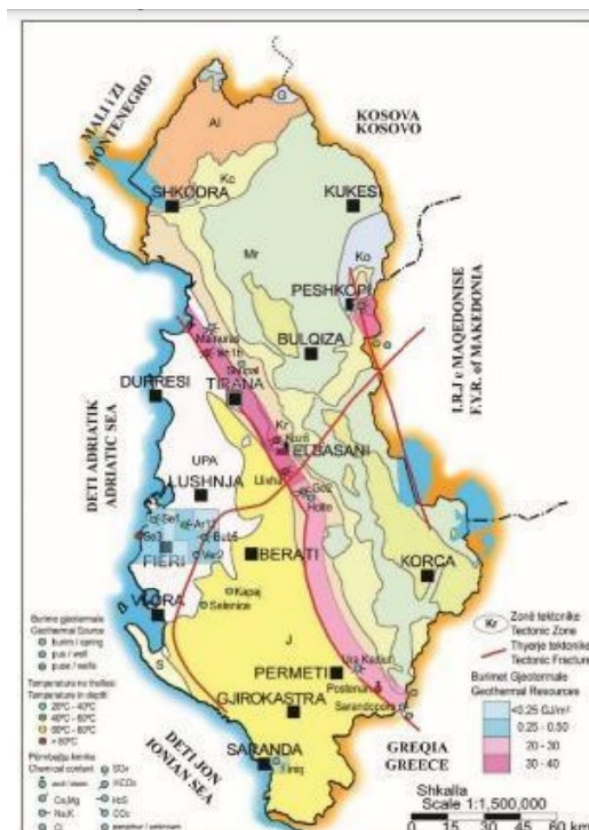
How Albania unlocked its geothermal potential with UN standards and partnerships

The project followed a systematic and participatory approach to assess and manage the geothermal resources in Albania, using the UNFC and UNRMS as the guiding frameworks. The project involved several activities, such as:

- Collected and analyzed data on the geothermal resources in Albania through a desk study and a field survey.
- Developed a geothermal resource portfolio for Albania, which classified and categorized the geothermal resources according to their feasibility and maturity using UNFC.
- Prepared a case study report, which presented the results and findings of the geothermal resource assessment and portfolio and provided recommendations for further exploration and development in alignment with the UNRMS.
- Organized a national workshop, which brought together various stakeholders to discuss and validate the case study report and to exchange knowledge and experiences on geothermal energy development.
- Developed a roadmap for geothermal energy development in Albania, which outlined the vision, goals, objectives, actions and indicators for the sustainable utilization of geothermal resources, aligned with the national and regional energy strategies and policies and the SDGs.
- Communicated and disseminated the results and outputs of the project to the relevant stakeholders and the public through various channels and platforms.

Lessons learned and best practices for geothermal energy development in Albania

The project revealed valuable lessons learned and best practices for geothermal energy development in Albania, which could also be helpful for other countries with similar geothermal potential and challenges. The project showed that:

- UNFC and UNRMS are helpful and practical tools for assessing and managing geothermal resources, as they provide a holistic and harmonized approach that considers the technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the resources and their alignment with the SDGs.
- The involvement and engagement of the stakeholders and the public throughout the project cycle is essential for the success and sustainability of the geothermal energy development, as it ensures the ownership, participation and acceptance of the project outcomes and outputs.
- Collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders at the national and regional levels is crucial for geothermal energy development, as it enables the sharing of data, knowledge, experiences and resources and creates synergies and opportunities for joint actions and initiatives.
- The communication and dissemination of the project results and outputs are essential for geothermal energy development, as they raise the stakeholders' and public's awareness and interest in geothermal resources and their potential benefits and challenges, and promote advocacy and support for geothermal energy development.

Albania's geothermal success: from assessment to action

The project achieved remarkable results and impacts regarding Albania's technical and socio-economic aspects of geothermal energy development. The project proposed various direct-use applications for geothermal resources, such as district heating, spa, greenhouse, aquaculture, and mineral salt extraction. These applications could provide economic, social and environmental benefits for the local communities and industries and contribute to achieving the SDGs. The project also:

- Provided the first comprehensive and systematic assessment of the geothermal resource potential in Albania, using the UNFC and UNRMS as the common language and framework for classifying and managing the resources.
- Increased the stakeholders and the public's knowledge of geothermal resources and their potential benefits and challenges for the energy sector and Albanian society.
- Enhanced the capacity and skills of the stakeholders to apply the UNFC and UNRMS to their geothermal resources and to plan and implement geothermal energy projects sustainably.
- Fostered dialogue and cooperation among the stakeholders at the national and regional levels and facilitated the exchange of information and best practices on geothermal energy development.
- Supported the development and implementation of the national and regional energy strategies and policies, and contributed to the achievement of SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

Urban trees for climate and SDGs: mobilizing action at the local, national and international level

UNECE Forestry, Housing and Land Management

> We need urban trees and nature to deliver climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals in cities, where most people live.

Tree-lined streets attract residents, shoppers and tourists, even on hot days.

In our urban era, cities are where most people live and where most emissions are generated. To achieve our global goals, we need effective solutions to help cities cope with their exposure to the effects of climate change and other mounting challenges such as deadly heatwaves, water scarcity, floods and strained energy systems.

Trees and forests in and around cities are efficient and cost-effective nature-based solutions that can deliver on SDGs, particularly on SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land). Importantly, they can simultaneously deliver other local, national and global goals including the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Convention on Biological Diversity and New Urban Agenda.

Urban trees and nature can cool our cities by up to eight degrees Celsius, thereby also reducing energy consumption. They increase resilience to floods and landslides, capture significant amounts of localized pollution from traffic, and their beauty and shade can attract residents, shoppers and tourists to make neighbourhoods and cities more vibrant. Greenways can provide space for pedestrians and cyclists, promoting clean transportation and healthy lifestyles.

Delivering these benefits requires the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason. Selection must be based on the desired benefits considering that trees will have to survive in a changing climate and urban context. This requires careful and inclusive city and green space planning for today as well as the future. One very important element of this panning is an urban forest master plan, which determines the ideal structure and distribution of an urban forest, green spaces and their connection though corridors, and how they complement local architecture, infrastructure and functions. The plan will need to assess data on current tree cover and should promote equitable tree cover for all, including the more vulnerable neighbourhoods. Implementing the plan will require cities sustainably manage existing tree cover and likely will also foresee establishing new tree cover.

Evidence suggests that the many benefits of planning, establishing and sustainably managing urban trees and forests are at least five times greater than the cost of doing so. However, data on canopy cover (the ground area of a city covered by tree or vegetation canopy) collected over the past 30 years suggests that rather than expanding, urban tree cover has slightly declined in most countries with available data (Figure 13).

The data on functional urban areas comprise commuting zones, which typically include less densely populated peri-urban and even rural areas. Thus, the canopy cover in urban cores is often significantly lower than the averages presented in Figure 13. Yet these are the areas where urban tree cover can deliver many of its most important benefits to the highest number of people, such as reducing the urban heat island effect. The declining trend of urban tree cover must be reversed, with concerted efforts to significantly increase tree cover in densely populated areas and cities with low canopy cover compared to their ecological potential.

There are many ways to increase tree cover in cities. For example, bringing trees near densely populated areas may be achieved by increasing the number of street trees, neighbourhood "pocket" parks, and developing green corridors. Another solution is to develop "Petite Forests," which can be planted in areas with limited square meters available for planting, such as schoolyards, courtyards and small plazas. The UN Petite Forest Network is promoting this as a solution to build dialogue between local governments and communities, increase environmental awareness, and deliver the many benefits of urban trees in even dense urban locations.

The UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge engages city mayors to make tree planting pledges and commit to sustainable urban forest management measures. At the time of writing, over 80 cities have made pledges to plant 13 million trees. The Informal Network on Urban Nature supports practitioners in participating cities as well as other experts and policymakers.

These benefits can be particularly relevant in dry cities, many of which experience heat and weather extremes. Yet cities facing water stress and scarcity also face greater challenges in sustaining and expanding urban trees and nature. This is why UNECE invited interested partners at UNFCCC COP-28 to join the Trees in Dry Cities Coalition, which supports peer exchange, technical cooperation, and city pilots that inform national policy dialogue, programmes and support.

Figure 13
Weighted average canopy cover in functional urban areas (FUA) with available data
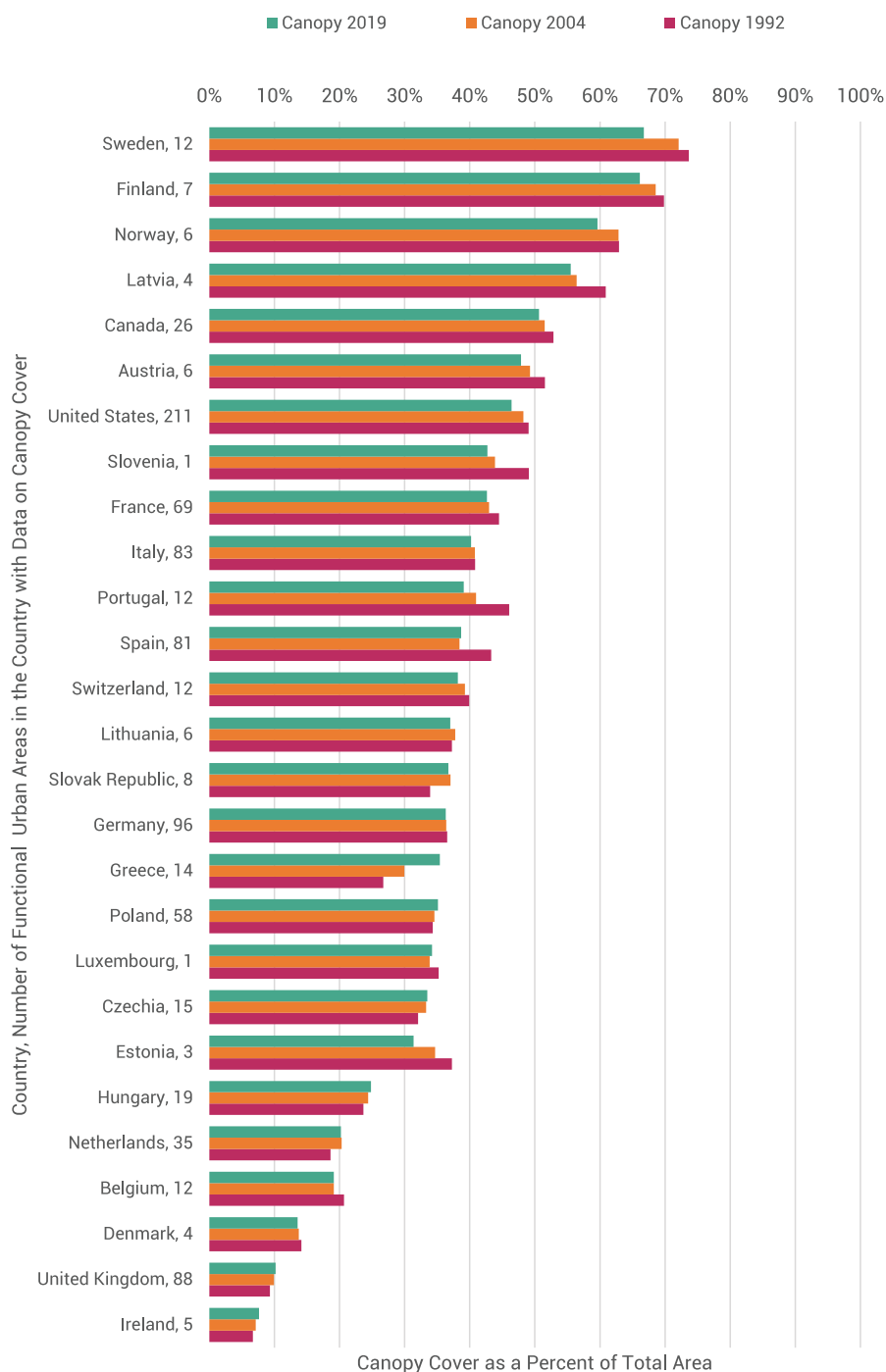
Note: "A functional urban area (or metropolitan area) is composed of a city plus its surrounding, less densely populated spatial units that make up the city's labour market, its commuting zone. This commuting zone generates a daily flow of people into a city and back (home to their dwelling)." (European Union/FAO/UN-Habitat/OECD/The World Bank. 2021. Applying the degree of urbanisation: a methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons, 2021 edition)

Source: UNECE, 2023; developed using data from OECD.Stat, 2023, Land cover in functional urban areas.

Tree cover tends to be higher around cities than it is in the urban core.

Indeed, many of the challenges and opportunities for urban trees as a nature-based solution for climate and SDGs require national action and support. National policies and programmes can enable, support and fund local efforts to sustainably manage and expand urban trees and forests. Aligning policy and action across levels of government is thus essential to efficiently deliver both local and national objectives.

The San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan, adopted by the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry in November 2023, helps guide collective efforts for a greener and more vibrant urban environment. It identifies how local and national governments can collaborate to plan and sustainably manage urban trees and forests to provide a multitude of health, biodiversity, climate and sustainable development benefits. Importantly, it also provides a framework for how businesses, communities, academics, NGOs and international organizations like the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe can also contribute based on their respective strengths.

Urban trees and forests are a systemic solution to localize the SDGs and climate action. Coordinated policy and action by local and national governments can promote this at scale. We can start today – and we must, as trees planted now will need time to mature and deliver their benefits as cities strive to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the coming decades.

Voices heard: navigating progress through citizen-driven decision making

UNDP North Macedonia

UNDP in North Macedonia promotes citizens-centred decision making by engaging individuals regardless of their age, sex, place of living, ethnicity or social group to get involved, thus directly contributing towards SDG16, more specifically the target 16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

In an era of rapid change, digitalization, and increased mobility, decision-making should not be the exclusive privilege of a select few. The decisions affecting a community must involve those directly impacted by them. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in North Macedonia has embraced a proactive approach, engaging individuals across diverse demographics to contribute to decision-making processes. UNDP implements several initiatives that go beyond the conventional decision-making models, striving to involve the citizens including youth, local community members, representatives of vulnerable groups and socially excluded.

Citizens first!

Diturim Xheladini is a young man who wants to contribute to improving the quality of life in his hometown. He is the president of the Youth Council in Bogovinje, one of the 44 municipalities in the country in which Community Forums were organized as part of the Empowering Municipal Councils project that UNDP implements with the support of the Swiss government and the Ministry of Local Self-Government. The citizens have a chance to select which priority infrastructure projects will be implemented in their local communities.

"Young people are a numerous advocacy group with great ambitions, with different culture, tradition and different experiences. This has an impact on the discussion, as we can share our unique viewpoints and perspectives, thus helping to achieve the best and most appropriate long-term solutions for the various problems in the municipalities we live in, especially the problems young people are facing with", says Diturim.

On the other side of the country, Mitko Ruskov, a pensioner who had spent numerous years working in Switzerland, was among the participants in the Community Forums in the municipality of Novo Selo.

"We took part in this forum and sought support for the cleaning and maintenance of our irrigation canals, as a majority of our municipality's residents are involved in agriculture. Additionally, we advocated for the promotion of rural tourism. I believe that we, as residents, have the best understanding of the needs of our community", explains Mitko.

To date, over 13,200 citizens, with women comprising 49 per cent of the participants, have actively engaged in establishing local priorities within the 44 partner municipalities. Looking ahead, the Community Forums will extend to an additional 20 municipalities nationwide by the year 2026.

The Community Forums' methodology has taken root and been officially embraced by municipal councils as a pivotal tool for decision-making at the local level. This institutionalization is reflected in the Statutes of 73 municipalities, constituting an impressive 90 per cent of the local governments across the country.

Creating Future Together!

In early 2021, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia started the process of drafting the National Development Strategy (NDS), with support provided within the framework of a project implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in coordination with the Office of the Resident Coordinator of UN in North Macedonia and supported by the UK Good Governance Fund as well as the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. NDS is a visionary strategic document aiming to chart country's development path for the next 20 years. This endeavour involves a broad consultation process, inclusion of all stakeholders, as well as building inter-generational, inter-ethnic, inter-party and gender consensus among key societal stakeholders. The strategic planning process is unique as its emphasis on citizens' active involvement.

The NDS extends beyond the mere creation of a strategic document; it constitutes a comprehensive process aimed at fostering societal consensus and cultivating shared vision for the future. Thus far, over 5,000 participants have actively engaged in more than 40 Dream Labs, with a noteworthy inclusion of diverse demographics — over 50 per cent were women, more than 30 per cent comprising young people, and over 20 per cent from vulnerable groups.

"As a young woman, I want to contribute my knowledge and energy to the betterment of my own country, choosing to invest in its development, rather than exploring the possibilities to go abroad. A large number of stakeholders are involved in shaping the National Development Strategy, and this gives me hope that our challenges and suggestions will be heard. The Dream Labs are a step forward, and we need to achieve the goal together", says Marija Savevska, a person with cerebral palsy and a member of the civic organization Sozvezdie.

"The involvement of all pertinent stakeholders is paramount in crafting the National Development Strategy (NDS). This method not only furnishes us with pertinent data but also affords us invaluable insights into the perspectives of the citizens. The ultimate outcome is a strategy that aligns more closely with the collective sentiments of all those engaged in the process", points out Andreja Stojkovski, Director of the PRESPA Institute.

Over 250 representatives from all the ministries and other relevant public institutions were involved in the process. More than 200 experts from various fields and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU) are among the key stakeholders in the formulation of the document. NDS is expected to enable the largest SDG push in the last years of the 2030 Agenda.

Hey youngsters! Wanna be change-makers? Go for it!

According to the latest Youth Trends Survey, conducted by the Agency for Youth and Sports in 2022, as many as 77.5 per cent of young people believe that they are not properly involved in decision-making processes at the local and national level. But this is probably not the biggest problem. The same survey shows that every third young person in the country has no interest in engaging in the public debate about the social contract. For 37.2 per cent of young people, apathy and lack of interest are the main reason for non-involvement in youth organizations and social processes, because they feel that their voice will be lost in the social noise.

These numbers may seem overwhelming, but they certainly don't mean we should "start waving the white flag." On the contrary, this call for help is an incentive for all social factors to include young people, but not only as a statistically necessary quota and not only like-minded people from whom they will receive applause. With an open approach we have included the youth originality, rebelliousness, innovativeness, creativity, knowledge and enthusiasm in the creation of the new National Youth Strategy 2023-2027, a process led by the Agency for Youth and Sports and supported by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and OSCE.

Damjan Zlatanovski is a young European ambassador whose main interests are the environment, culture and art. One of his favourite topics for discussion with his peers, but also with the adults, is how to achieve greater involvement of young people in society.

"Giving young people the compass to create their own future provides precise and valuable insights into the challenges we face, brings a fresh perspective in step with the times and effectiveness of the conclusions reached, but also has the function of stimulating self-awareness that as individuals we possess the ability to influence change, inspire and create policy. Participation in the process of creating the National Strategy for Youth, besides sowing a promising future, will also bring fruit by giving a sense of belonging, respect, improving personal development and skills and empowering us, the youth," says Damjan.

Conclusion

By fostering an environment where citizens are active participants, UNDP ensures that policies and initiatives resonate with the needs and aspirations of the people. This inclusivity not only

enhances the quality of decisions but also reinforces a sense of ownership and accountability among the community members. The specific focus on SDG 16, particularly on target 16.7, demonstrates UNDP's dedication to creating a framework for responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making. This target aligns perfectly with the organization's vision of leaving no one behind. By actively involving individuals at all levels, UNDP contributes directly to the broader global agenda of fostering peace, justice and strong institutions.

Advancing environmental justice and good governance through the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

UNECE Environment

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) provide a solid framework for governments to engage the public effectively in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its SDGs, in particular SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. These instruments empower people to exercise the rights to access to information, participate in decision-making and seek justice effectively, inclusively and safely.

The world is facing a number of fundamental environmental challenges, such as climate change, pollution from chemicals and wastes and loss of biodiversity. While everyone is affected by the current environmental challenges to some degree, those facing poverty and discrimination live usually closer to a pollution source and bear a higher burden of environmental degradation due

to their work and living conditions, limited awareness of environmental risks and inadequate healthcare.

Addressing critical environmental challenges and protecting the most vulnerable people require profound transitions towards sustainable development. The effective engagement of civil society at all levels greatly reinforces and complements the ability of Governments to address these problems. Improved access to information and public participation in decision-making contribute to public awareness of environmental issues, give the public the opportunity to express concerns without any retaliation, address inequalities and enable public authorities to take due account of such concerns, which ultimately leads to enhanced quality and the implementation of decisions.

The Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs thereby provides a solid and comprehensive framework for Governments to engage the public effectively in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With 46 UN Member States and the European Union now Parties to the Aarhus Convention and with 37 UN Member States and the European Union Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs, both instruments are widely recognized as the leading example of the implementation of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Both treaties are open for accession by any UN Member State and attract the interest of States outside the UNECE region – as instruments to which such States might eventually accede, as an inspiration for developing similar instruments in other regions or as a model for development of national legislative and policy frameworks (Figure 14).

Figure 14
Percentage of countries with legal provisions on access to information, participation, and/or access to justice in the environmental context, 2021
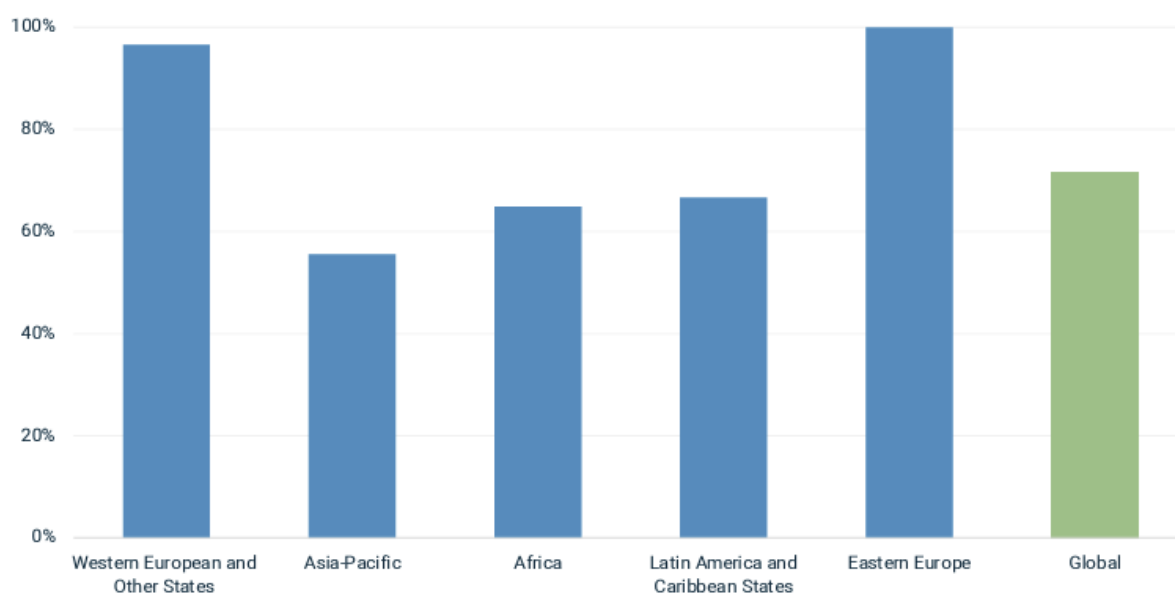
Source: UNEP 2023. Environmental rule of law: tracking progress and charting future directions, p. 63.

Based on reports by Parties and stakeholders, the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs have seen several important achievements in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16 across the region and beyond.

Laws and practices have been revised to bring them into line with the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs. There is a growing body of compliance jurisprudence based on the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs, and the legislation that implements it (Figure 15).

Figure 15
Number of findings and recommendations by the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee per sector as of October 2021
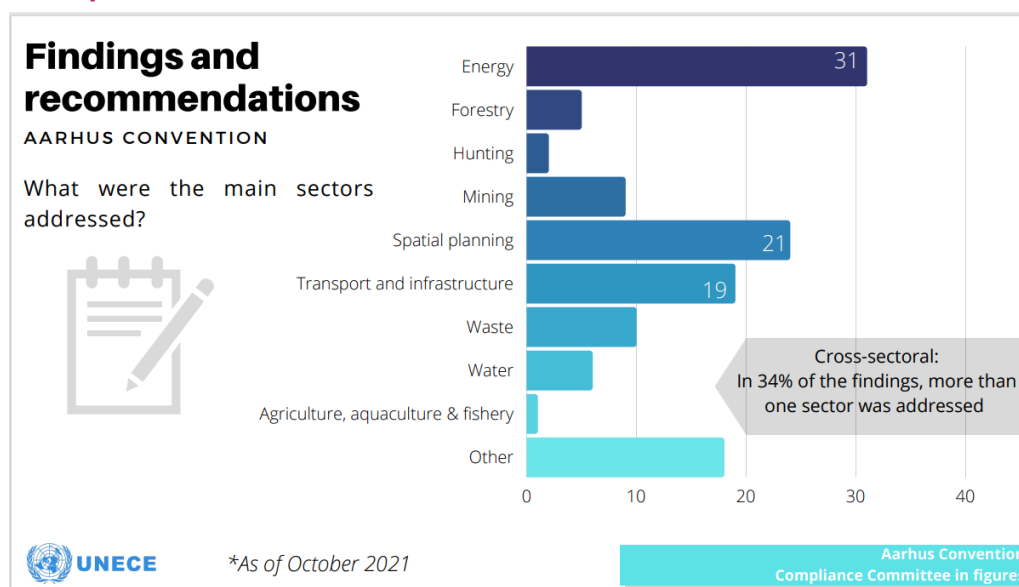
Source: UNECE. Number of findings and recommendations by the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee per sector (as of October 2021)

With respect to **protection of environment defenders** (target 16.10, indicator 16.10.1), the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention undertook a wide range of activities to assist Parties and interested Member States to ensure the safety of environmental defenders. This included in-person visits to several countries, the consideration of complaints concerning the persecution, harassment and penalization of environmental defenders, providing input on the development of new instruments and guidance to protect environmental defenders, consultations with vulnerable environmental defenders, speaking engagements, awareness raising and promotional activities.

With respect to **access to information** (target 16.10, indicator 16.10.2), the majority of Parties have already adequately addressed the Convention's provisions in this area in their national legislation.

Parties have also established and are operating a number of **special structures** facilitating implementation of access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making provisions. Many Parties have made considerable efforts to develop and further use modern digital technologies to promote e-governance and open data for environmental matters. Electronic tools (environmental portals, e-meeting tools, applications, e-notifications) are increasingly used to disseminate environmental information, including in case of emergencies, and to hold public consultations.[35]

The Protocol on PRTRs introduces a new dimension in that it implies **reporting obligations for the private sector** and may therefore be seen as a tool promoting corporate accountability in a

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[35] See UNECE. Electronic information tools case studies.

specific context as exemplified for Norway ([Figure 16](#)). PRTR reporting systems invite the public to participate in the regulatory system, both by monitoring the environmental performance of facilities and sectors and by engaging in dialogue with companies and government agencies on ways of improving such performance.

Furthermore, the Protocol on PRTRs promotes integration of different information systems breaking down the silos across the sectors in tracking emissions in air, water and soil and transfer of wastes. This is critical for achieving SDGs, energy transition and monitoring green and circular economies.

Figure 16
Example of the pollutant release and transfer register of Norway indicating the use of energy (diesel consumption) by an operator per year
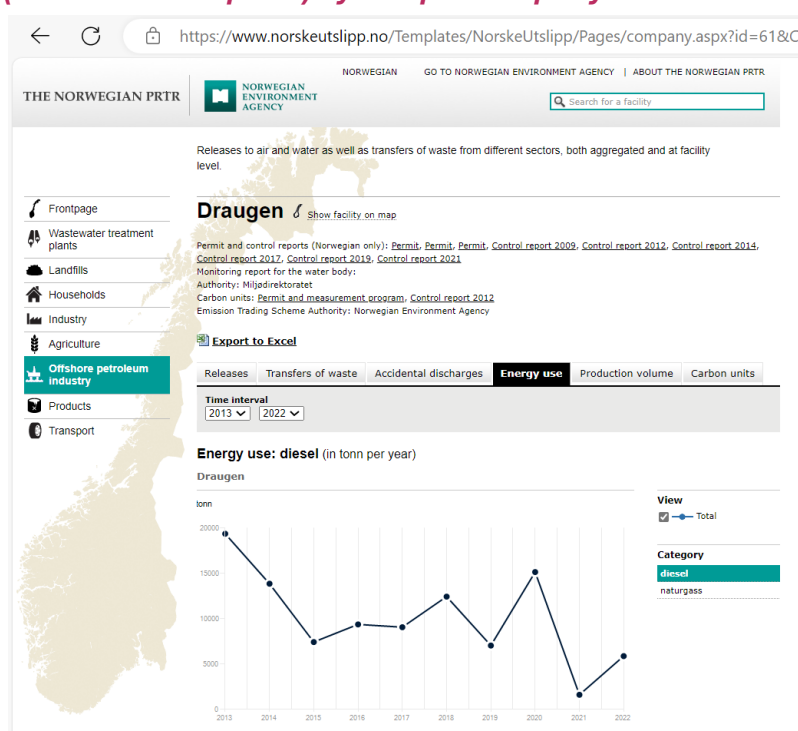
With regard to **public participation in decision-making** (target 16.6 and 16.7), Parties continue to sharpen procedures for public participation in decisions, as well as widen the scope of decisions and decision-making stages where public involvement is required. For environmental impact assessment procedures, participation is increasingly ensured by Parties in the screening procedure, at the scoping stage, and at the stage of draft environmental impact assessment decision prior to its adoption. Other types of decisions affecting the environment, where Parties made efforts to ensure public participation, include building and planning decisions, integrated environmental permits/authorisations, decisions on the environmental protection measures, decisions on authorization of projects that may have a significant impact on Natura 2000 sites, decisions on nature and landscape protection, decisions on forest management, environmental licensing, decisions on the lifetime extension, and decisions related to management of radioactive waste.

With regard to **access to justice** (target 16.3, indicator 16.3.3), Parties have made some progress in addressing challenges faced by the members of the public in this area by: (i) increasing admissibility of public interest litigation in environmental matters; (ii) increasing review by courts and other review bodies of the substantive legality of challenged decisions, acts and omissions;

(iii) measures introduced to remove or reduce financial barriers; and (iv) promotion of awareness-raising and specialization of judiciary and other legal professionals in environmental matters. The Parties are also encouraged to continue developing specific statistical arrangements to collect, coordinate, aggregate and process the information from various statistic providers needed for monitoring the implementation of article 9 of the Convention and therefore contributing to achieving the relevant target 16.3.

A special and active role in this sphere is played by Aarhus Centres, which have been established in 15 countries including South and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia with leading support by OSCE. Aarhus Centres cover both the national and local levels by offering guidance to the public, performing awareness-raising activities, facilitating access to information and public participation, and assisting Governments in the performance of their functions and in cooperating with the public.

Furthermore, **non-governmental organizations** (NGOs) have been leading actors in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the principles of the Convention throughout the UNECE region as well as in relevant international forums. They often are valuable partners in disseminating information, in raising awareness and in helping countries build the necessary capacities for greater access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice.

By promoting transparency and public participation in **international decision-making**, the Aarhus Convention is helping to improve a wide range of international processes dealing with matters relevant to environmental concerns such as climate, health, chemicals, trade, finance and biodiversity. It has been also used as reference for the review of safeguard and information policies of other agencies of the United Nations as well as international financial institutions.

The Aarhus Convention has already acted as a **model example for initiatives in other regions** and forums aimed at applying the principles contained in the Convention, namely the Escazu Agreement – Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Where requested and within available resources, the secretariat and Parties to the Convention are offering advisory support to the process in Latin America and the Caribbean and to initiatives in other regions and forums. The UNECE has also been supporting the United Nations Environment Programme in its efforts to promote the Bali guidelines on the application of Principle 10 and other relevant activities.

Third SDG Dialogue "Reflections on the outcome of the global SDG Summit 2023 and the role of Supreme Audit Institutions in SDGs implementation"

UN Azerbaijan

United efforts, political will and firm actions are needed to advance concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions towards a sustainable and resilient path that leaves no one behind by 2030.

Under the Government leadership, all stakeholders, including Supreme Audit Institutions, international partners, private sector, civil society and academia need to work together to support the implementation of Azerbaijan's National Commitments for accelerated progress towards SDGs.

Supreme Audit Institutions can be instrumental in ensuring the accountability of public institutions on SDG implementation performance.

Ensuring predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance as well as its effective use are critical for the achievement of SDGs.

On 24 October 2023 the third SDG Dialogue *"Reflections on the outcome of the global SDG Summit 2023 and the role of Supreme Audit Institutions in SDGs implementation"* was held bringing together more than 150 participants from government agencies, the United Nations (UN), Supreme Audit Institutions, international financial institutions (IFIs), the diplomatic community, the private sector, civil society and academia.

The participants of the event organised by the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Economy, and the UN, exchanged information and

discussed the outcomes of the Global SDG Summit 2023 and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

The Government of Azerbaijan extensively supported the global discussions and the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit 2023, and was one of the 32 countries in the world that submitted its National commitment to SDG Transformation, which builds on the Strategy of socio-economic development for 2022-2026, the first State Programme "The great return to the liberated territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan", the national efforts on introduction of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), the Sustainable Finance Roadmap of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, the outcome documents of the first and second SDG Dialogues on green transformation and inclusive growth, as well as the Declaration from the 2nd International Mine Action and SDGs Conference.

At the third SDG Dialogue, members of the delegation of Azerbaijan at the global SDG Summit briefed on the Summit highlights and shared the National commitment on SDG Transformation submitted by Azerbaijan. The discussions held during the SDG Dialogue touched upon the measures needed for SDG acceleration and financing in Azerbaijan.

Globally, public spending is said to carry a critical role in financing of SDGs given that state budgets are the main instruments of financing development needs. Increasing number of countries in the world are taking measures to improve the effectiveness of public spending on SDGs. Accordingly, the third SDG Dialogue also focused on reviewing the SDG financing trends in Azerbaijan and the role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) in monitoring of the performance of Government institutions in SDGs implementation as well as the effectiveness of public expenditures on SDGs. It brought together the representatives of SAIs from other countries to share their experiences in performance audits and ensuring the effectiveness of public spending on SDGs.

Given that the SAI of Azerbaijan undertook performance audit on five SDGs in 2021 and 2022, the third SDG Dialogue facilitated a platform to share the early findings of these audit exercises with stakeholders and the broader audience. Performance audits conducted by SAI of Azerbaijan included:

1. An efficiency audit of the State Service for Development and Restoration under the Ministry of Culture, focusing on the effectiveness of the "2014-2020 State Program on the restoration and protection of historical and cultural monuments".

2. An evaluation of forest management under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, which highlighted deficiencies in the legislative framework, administrative activities, and forest restoration practices impacting the national SDGs implementation.

3. An audit assessing the new subsidy mechanism in horticulture, indicating shortcomings in administrative management despite efforts to create conditions for success.

4. Performance audits evaluating chronic kidney disease activities and the improvement of surface water supply for agriculture, both revealing inefficiencies in administrative management and insufficiently organized measures in achieving desired outcomes within specified timeframes.

Detailed reports of these performance audits are provided on the INTOSAI Atlas on SDGs.

Looking ahead

A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is needed to ensure that all stakeholders, including Government institutions, Supreme Audit Institutions, UN, international partners, private sector, civil society and academia work together to implement Azerbaijan's National Commitments for accelerated progress towards SDGs. The UN Family in Azerbaijan will continue to work side-by-side with partners to achieve inclusive sustainable development. In line with the SDG Summit commitment on enhancing SDG financing, the UN looks forward to further expand the collaboration with the Ministries of Economy and Finance on implementing Integrated National Financing Framework. Azerbaijan's plan to submit the Fourth Voluntary National Review of SDG implementation in 2024 is also welcome and the UN will support this important exercise.

Mystery of Sary Kol – a game for change

UN Kyrgyzstan

A mobile game from Kyrgyzstan reached the final of the international competition Games for Change, which illustrates how effective partnerships can address empowerment of girls.

Erkinay is a young girl studying to be a seamstress in a vocational school. She lives in a small mountain village near Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Everyone around her hints that it is time to think about marriage, but she dreams of a great career as an actress. One day, on the shore of Sary Kol, a lake near the village, she meets a mysterious woman in black. This is how the game Mystery of Sary Kol begins. After this, the players are invited to make decisions for Erkinay, and her fate depends on these decisions.

"When starting this project, we wanted to give girls the opportunity to dream, make decisions and feel independent," says Munara Beknazarova, who had the idea for the game.

Munara Beknazarova runs Open Line Public Foundation, which works to prevent domestic violence and protect the rights of girls. The Foundation developed the Mystery of Sary Kol game

to help girls learn and protect their rights. The game was developed with financial support from UNICEF as part of the joint European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative.

This global and local partnership supported Kyrgyzstan to tackle a long-term serious issue of child, early and forced marriage, the elimination of which is SDG target 5.3. As of 2018 when the latest data was reported, 13 per cent of 20–24-year-old women in Kyrgyzstan had been married or in a union already before age 18, and 0.3 per cent before age 15 (United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database, indicator 5.3.1). The figures are likely an underestimate since many child marriages go unreported from fear of social stigma. The game serves as a great example of how such issues can be addressed in a multi-stakeholder partnership (SDG target 17.17).

Successful start

In two years, the mobile game has been downloaded more than 40,000 times. After its launch, the Open Line Public Foundation conducted a survey among its users. It showed that those who played the game felt significantly more strongly that child marriage is a crime and were more willing to help those who are forced into marriage.

The game also made the girls much more confident that they could, through dialogue, convince their parents to abandon the practice of forced marriage.

"We were happy to hear from users that they were able to help all the characters in the game successfully go through the challenges and feel the change," Munara rejoiced.

According to her, the game's reach is dozens of times greater than traditional lectures and meetings. Moreover, it is important to dilute traditional teaching methods with interactivity. And games, through immersion and engagement with the characters, can achieve more effective results.

International recognition

In July 2023, the game made it to the world's largest annual Games for Change festival, which celebrates games that promote positive social change. Moreover, it was a finalist in the Best Civics Game category. More than 340 games and apps from around the world were entered in this category.

Munara recalls that while researching mobile game development, she came across the Games for Change website. There was an entire section with a catalogue of digital and non-digital games addressing social issues.

"I was really inspired by the vision that Games for Change pursue. And there I was, years later, attending this festival in New York and presenting our game from Kyrgyzstan there!" Munara proudly notes.

The game's power

"Games can and should be more than just fun. They should also have a meaning. Today we are raising new players who are changing and moving towards positive change through games," says Munara.

With its educational component, the Mystery of Sary Kol also breaks the stereotype of girls who play mobile games. It is believed that games on mobile phones are a "waste of time". But thanks

to games like the Mystery of Sary-Kol, girls not only develop themselves, but also expand the limits of gender stereotypes and attitudes.

By the way, this is not Munara's first successful work. Earlier she launched the game Spring in Bishkek, which was downloaded more than 150,000 times.

For information

The game "Mystery of Sary Kol" was created by the Open Line Public Foundation with the participation of an international team of developers, and with the support of UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan as part of the Spotlight initiative, a joint initiative by the European Union and the United Nations to end violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan. The game can be downloaded from Google Play and App Store.

Achieving the SDGs through public-private partnerships by promoting quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade

As a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, public-private partnerships (PPPs) remain essential to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By providing a financing mechanism that can mobilize private funds into infrastructure development and harness the private sector innovation capabilities, PPPs aligned with the SDGs can improve people's lives and create value for society. However, not all PPP projects are aligned with the SDGs, and some may even have negative economic, social and environmental impacts. Furthermore, with infrastructure being responsible for 79 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions and 2023 set to be the warmest year on record and greenhouse gas levels continuing to increase, it is essential to evaluate PPP and infrastructure projects against the SDGs and ensure that they contribute to the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic.

While traditional PPPs present challenges and limitations to implement the 2030 Agenda, the five outcomes of the UNECE "PPP for the SDGs" approach go beyond the mere "value for money" criteria to focus infrastructure in delivering "value for people" and "value for the planet". These outcomes are:

1. Increase access to essential services and reduce social inequality and injustice

2. Improve economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability

3. Enhance resilience and environmental sustainability

4. Promote replicability and the development of further projects

5. Fully involve all stakeholders

Through this approach and its pioneering tool, the PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS), UNECE is addressing these challenges and the need for significant investments in infrastructure that is of high quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient. The PIERS methodology provides a set of criteria and indicators to evaluate infrastructure projects against these outcomes throughout the stages of the PPP process. It is an evaluation methodology that uses a scoring system based on these criteria to assess PPP and infrastructure projects against the SDGs. It also provides feedback on how to improve project performance in terms of sustainability.

The main objective of this evaluation methodology is to assist Governments in particular – but also businesses, lenders, and debt providers – in how they identify, design and implement infrastructure projects and deliver public services that comply with the SDGs. To help Governments and all stakeholders use this methodology effectively, UNECE has also developed an online platform for PIERS. This online platform enhances the accessibility and facilitates the usage of the PIERS methodology by providing guidance on how to apply the criteria and indicators in different contexts and sectors.

Since its launch in 2022, the PIERS methodology has been used for evaluating over 200 infrastructure projects in 35 developed and developing countries belonging to the UNECE region and beyond. These projects range from large-scale infrastructure such as bridges, metro rails and power stations, to small-scale community projects such as charging stations for electric vehicles, medical facilities, and school infrastructure. Many of these were submitted to the 7th edition to the UNECE International PPP Forum where 49 projects from 33 countries were presented and evaluated using the PIERS methodology, for a total capital expenditure of 38.7 billion United States dollars of investment. Some examples of these projects are:

- the 1915 Çanakkale Bridge project, the longest suspended bridge in the world across the Dardanelles in Türkiye, which improved the livelihoods of the affected communities through an extensive stakeholder engagement process and the creation of local jobs;
- an energy renovation project for public buildings in Ljubljana, Slovenia, that reduced greenhouse gas emissions by significantly reducing the energy consumption and increasing the share of renewable energy sources in public buildings; and
- a school reconstruction project in Kaunas district, Lithuania, that reduced energy consumption and CO2 emissions by renovating old buildings and increased access to education to more than 500 children by building new schools in compliance with the nearly-zero emission building (NZEB) standard.

By using the PIERS methodology, these projects demonstrate how PPPs can be an effective tool to achieve the SDGs, if they are designed and implemented with people's interest at their core. The UNECE methodology also helps these projects showcase their achievements and best practices and inspire others to follow their example.

In this regard, the PIERS methodology is best suited for projects at the early stages of development, when changes and improvements are mostly possible and less costly. By using the PIERS methodology at the onset of the project development lifecycle, Governments, at local or subnational level, can gain valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of their PPP and infrastructure projects, and in terms of creating value for people and value for planet.

As part of its PIERS programme, UNECE is providing support to its member States in assessing their PPP and infrastructure projects using the PIERS methodology. They receive recommendations from UNECE on how to improve their performance or align better with the SDGs. These recommendations help Government identify projects that are aligned with the SDGs. They could also help these projects improve their quality, efficiency and impact, as well as attract more investors, donors, or partners who are more and more committed to support the SDGs.

For example, in Ukraine, where the reconstruction and recovery needs were estimated in 2023 by the World Bank at about 411 billion United States dollars, the UNECE has been supporting the Government in applying the PIERS methodology to develop and implement reconstruction projects that are aligned with the SDGs. Kyrgyzstan has also benefited from UNECE support, where several PPP projects at the early stages of development have been evaluated using the PIERS methodology, especially small-scale PPP projects with important development impacts.

Against the backdrop of the triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss – and with the increase in man-made and natural disasters, sustainable PPPs and infrastructure with people as the main beneficiaries are key to accelerate progress towards the SDGs halfway to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNECE is scaling up the implementation of the PIERS methodology in its member States and beyond through cooperation with other UN regional commissions.

National indicators for measuring progress with SDGs

UNECE Statistics

> Most UNECE countries have developed national indicators and reporting platforms to measure progress with SDGs on the national level and support the production of the SDG Voluntary National Reviews. The evidence base for SDGs is therefore significantly stronger than can be deducted from the availability of internationally agreed indicators alone. To improve understanding of the situation, UNECE has developed a tool for country self-assessment of SDG indicator availability.

From its inception, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized the importance of strong national statistics. Building statistical capacity (especially in developing countries) and developing measurements of progress on sustainable development (targets 17.18 & 17.19) are included in the Agenda as means of implementation. Under the United Nations Statistical Commission, a global indicator set was developed for follow up and review. Furthermore, the Agenda calls for Member States to produce national statistics using the global indicator framework, and to complement these statistics with regional and national indicators.

Much has been achieved since the establishment of the global indicator set in 2016. At that time, internationally agreed methodologies existed for about 60 per cent of global indicators – a large challenge lay ahead for the international statistical community. Even more dire was the availability of data – only for about 35 per cent of indicators was data widely available (i.e., for most, but not all countries). For 25 per cent of indicators data was available in less than half of countries. No data was available for the remaining 40 per cent of indicators – they were new, without (agreed) methodologies to calculate them.

By the end of 2020, internationally agreed-on methodologies were developed for all indicators. By the end of 2023, data for two-thirds of SDG indicators are regularly produced by most countries.

Despite this progress, indicator availability remains a big challenge. As of 16 January 2024, for 42 indicators of the global set, data in the UN Global SDG Indicator Database is available for less than 25 per cent of countries.[36]

To understand how this lack of data impacts the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we need to distinguish between two use cases for SDG data: 1) for international purposes, to calculate aggregates and track the SDGs on regional and national levels, and 2) for national purposes, to track the implementation of the SDGs nationally.

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[36] UN Global SDG Indicator Database – Data Availability.

For international purposes, data availability is a critical concern. In the UNECE region, which includes many of the most statistically developed countries, only about two-thirds of all targets can be tracked on the regional level.

Arguably, the second use case is more important for the success of the SDGs, as the goals and targets are implemented nationally. An important question is therefore: *Is the SDG data on the national level enabling policymakers to track national progress and are they enabled to make informed decisions about national SDG implementation?*

Forty-nine UNECE countries (out of 56) have established a platform for national SDG data, which reveal considerable differences between national availability and the availability of SDG data in the global database. To ensure international comparability, the global database only includes indicators that were produced following the internationally agreed methodology. Many countries are, however, producing so-called proxies, that is, approximations of indicators in the global set. Forty-two UNECE countries have developed national indicators sets, designed to capture their respective targets in a way that is relevant for national implementation.

While proxy and national indicators are not useful for tracking the SDGs on a global or regional level due to issues of international comparability, they can provide critical information for the national implementation of the SDG targets. The availability of data on the national level is also important for a second international mechanism to track the implementation of the SDGs: the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). VNRs are becoming increasingly data-driven, and many countries consider relevant national indicators and proxies. In all, the evidence base for SDGs is therefore significantly stronger than can be deducted from the availability of internationally agreed indicators alone.

The UNECE Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs is currently working towards assessment of national indicator availability. The Steering Group is producing an addendum chapter on data availability to the 2nd edition of the UNECE Road Map on Statistics for SDGs and a tool for countries to self-assess their national availability of indicators and to organize their work as coordinators of the national statistical system for SDG statistics.

UNECE Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals 2.0

Strengthening statistics for the SDGs

Providing guidance on measuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#RoadMap2SDGs

A challenge is that only a few national statistical offices have been given additional resources to work on SDG indicators. This work is often done as an additional task using existing resources. Often, there are more urgent priorities on which to provide data and progress in increasing data availability for SDGs remains slow. Midway through the SDG journey, there is still time to accelerate this pace of improvement.

Technical notes on the progress assessment

Data

The progress assessment is based on the Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals [37]. The data were downloaded from the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database on 15 December 2023. For some indicators, the report relies on the UNECE Statistical Database. This is the case where the UNECE Database, through its existing data collection, has a more comprehensive coverage of countries or data on more recent years for UNECE countries, or where the UNECE Database provides more precise or consistent measurements for the UNECE region. This concerns indicators 3.6.1 on road traffic deaths and 9.1.2 on passenger and freight volumes. Indicator 3.7.1 on family planning is sourced from the United Nations Population Division, indicator 8.1.1 on annual growth rate of the gross domestic product per capita from the World Bank, and indicator 8.5.1, unemployment rate, from the International Labour Organization.

Assessment measure

The assessment uses the Anticipated Progress Index, a method developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)[38] and applied by all five United Nations regional commissions.

The Anticipated Progress Index measures whether a target will be achieved by 2030 based on the rate of change observed between 2000 and 2023. Recent data are given more weight than earlier data in estimating anticipated indicator values for 2030. For targets that will not be achieved, the index reports the anticipated gap between the target value and the projected value for 2030 relative to the progress required between 2015 and 2030.

Estimation and aggregation

The anticipated values for 2030 are estimated using the available data between 2000 and 2023. The time-weighted linear regression used for the estimation gives more importance to more recent data. The assessment uses all available indicators where at least two data points are available for at least 15 UNECE countries and for which it is possible to set a target value (see Target values). In total, the assessment uses 160 indicators across 117 targets and all 17 goals

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[37] United Nations (2017). Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 6 July 2017. A/RES/71/313 and refinements E/CN.3/2018/2 (Annex II), E/CN.3/2019/2 (Annex II), and E/CN.3/2020/2.

[38] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2023). Annex 1: Technical notes – methodology to measure progress. Pp. 37–41 in *Asia and the Pacific SDG progress report 2023: championing sustainability despite adversities*. Bangkok: United Nations.

(see Indicators used in the assessment). For 71 indicators, insufficient country data are available to assess progress for the region. Seventeen indicators are excluded because they are not measured for the UNECE countries (for example, indicators pertaining to least developed countries only) or because it is not possible to determine a desirable direction of development (for example, the indicator on the extent of water-related ecosystems).

Some indicators consist of several components. For example, indicator 1.3.1 (Proportion of population covered by social protection) consists of 11 social protection benefits, and indicator 3.c.1 (Health worker density by occupation) consists of separate measures for nurses, doctors, pharmacists and physicians. In such cases, all components with data are used in the calculations, and the progress index for the indicator is the average of the indices of its components. Altogether, 421 data series were used.

The estimation described above is carried out on the country level. For the regional level assessment, the median value is used for most indicators. For a subset of indicators, the mean provides a better summary of the distribution of values across the region.[39] For indicators with binary values, which show the existence of a certain policy in a country, the summary value for the region is the percentage of countries with such a policy.

In this report, the assessment results are presented at the level of SDG targets. In aggregation to the target level, each indicator has an equal weight (independent of its number of components) under the corresponding target.

Target values

The methodology uses target values for each indicator (or its component), which are expected to be reached by 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly or implicitly defines target values for 77 indicators included in this progress assessment. For the other indicators, the "champion area" approach is used to define the region's target value. Three variants of this approach are applied.

The most common variant identifies top performers in the region according to the rate of change. Top performers are defined as the five countries with the highest compound annual growth rate between the earliest observation available and 2015. When the earliest empirical observation is 2015 or later, the growth rate is the compound annual growth rate between this value and the next available value. The target value is set as the product of the mean growth rate of the top performers and the regional median value in 2015.

For some indicators, such as those on internet connections and use, the very rapid progress cannot reasonably be applied to the future. For these, top performers are identified as the five countries with either the highest or lowest values in 2015 depending on whether the desirable direction of change is an increase or a decrease. The target is then set as the mean value in 2015 among these top performers.

To set a reasonable target value for certain indicators, it is necessary to transform the data disseminated in the Global SDG Indicator Database into a different unit of measurement. For example, data for indicator 17.17.1 on funds committed to public-private partnerships are

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[39] The regional value represents the mean value for indicators 2.5.1, 3.6.1, 4.1.1, 10.7.2, 12.4.1, 15.2.1, and 16.1.1.

reported in total United States dollars. The size of national economies varies across the UNECE region, and it would not be appropriate to set a dollar-value target according to the largest or best performing economies. In these cases, we normalize data values based on gross domestic product for the corresponding year so that the data reflect per cent of gross domestic product. It is then possible to apply a universally appropriate target value based on per cent of gross domestic product. Data for indicators 8.a.1, 10.b.1, 15.a.1, 15.b.1, 17.7.1, 17.17.1, and 17.9.1 have been transformed in this way.

For a small group of indicators, it is not obvious whether rapid change or low or high absolute levels are desired (for example, 9.2.2, Manufacturing employment as a percentage of total employment). For such indicators, top performers are taken to be the countries with the highest gross domestic product per capita in 2015 and the target value as the average value for 2015 of these top performers.

For a few indicators, a desirable direction of change and a target value cannot be determined. This is typically the case with indicators that are meant to provide a dashboard for a qualitative overall assessment of the situation (for example, indicator 6.6.1 on changes to water-related ecosystems over time). Such indicators were left out of the assessment.

Outliers are dropped from the target-value estimation using the interquartile range method.

Indicators used in the assessment

Indicator short name	Indicator
GOAL 1 – No Poverty	
Extreme poverty	**1.1.1** - Proportion of population below international poverty line (%) - Proportion of employed population below international poverty line (%)
National poverty	**1.2.1** Proportion of population living below the national poverty line (%)
Multidimensional poverty	**1.2.2** Proportion of population living in multidimensional poverty (%)
Social protection	**1.3.1** - Proportion of population covered by social assistance programs (%) - Proportion of population covered by social assistance programs, lowest income quantile (%) - Proportion of population covered by social insurance programs (%) - Proportion of population covered by social insurance programs, lowest income quantile (%) - Proportion of unemployed persons receiving unemployment cash benefit (%) - Proportion of population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension (%) - Proportion of population with severe disabilities receiving disability cash benefit (%) - Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%) - Proportion of children/households receiving child/family cash benefit (%) - Proportion of mothers with newborns receiving maternity cash benefit (%) - Proportion of vulnerable population receiving social assistance cash benefit (%)
Access to basic water and sanitation services	**1.4.1** Proportion of population: - Using basic drinking water (%) - Basic sanitation services (%)
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	**1.5.1** - Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population - Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
Economic loss from disasters	**1.5.2** Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%)
Disaster risk reduction	**1.5.3** Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework
Disaster risk reduction	**1.5.4** Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)

Indicator short name	Indicator
ODA grants for poverty reduction	**1.a.1** Official development assistance grants for poverty reduction, by donor countries (% of GNI)
Government spending on education and health	**1.a.2** Proportion of total government spending on essential services, education (%)
GOAL 2 – Zero Hunger	
Prevalence of undernourishment	**2.1.1** Prevalence of undernourishment (%)
Moderate or severe food insecurity in the population	**2.1.2** Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population (%)
Prevalence of stunting	**2.2.1** Proportion of children moderately or severely stunted (%)
Prevalence of malnutrition	**2.2.2** - Proportion of children moderately or severely wasted (%) - Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight (%)
Prevalence of anaemia	**2.2.3** Proportion of women aged 15-49 years with anaemia (%): - Pregnant - Non-pregnant
Production per labour unit	**2.3.1** Productivity of small-scale food producers (agricultural output per labour day, constant PPP 2011 USD)
Plant and animal genetic resources in conservation facilities	**2.5.1** - Number of local breeds for which sufficient genetic resources are stored for reconstitution - Number of transboundary breeds for which sufficient genetic resources are stored for reconstitution - Plant genetic resources accessions stored ex situ (number)
Local breeds at risk of extinction	**2.5.2** Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk as a share of local breeds with known level of extinction risk (%)
Agriculture orientation index	**2.a.1** Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures
GOAL 3 – Good health and well-being	
Maternal mortality ratio	**3.1.1** Maternal mortality ratio
Births attended by skilled health personnel	**3.1.2** Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)
Under-five mortality	**3.2.1** - Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) - Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
Neonatal mortality	**3.2.2** Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
HIV infections	**3.3.1** Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population
Tuberculosis	**3.3.2** Tuberculosis incidence (per 100,000 population)
Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	**3.4.1** Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (probability)
Suicide	**3.4.2** Suicide mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 population)
Harmful use of alcohol	**3.5.2** Alcohol consumption per capita (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year (litres of pure alcohol)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Road traffic deaths[40]	**3.6.1** Road traffic fatalities, rate per million inhabitants
Modern methods for family planning[41]	**3.7.1** Women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (%)
Adolescent births	**3.7.2** - Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women aged 10-14 years) - Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years)
Universal health coverage index	**3.8.1** Universal health coverage (UHC) service coverage index
Household expenditures on health	**3.8.2** Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (%): - Greater than 10% - Greater than 25%
Unintentional poisoning	**3.9.3** Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings (deaths per 100,000 population)
Tobacco use	**3.a.1** Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older (%)
Population covered by all vaccines in national programme	**3.b.1** Proportion of the target population with access to (%): - 3 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) (%) - Measles-containing-vaccine second dose (MCV2) (%) - Pneumococcal conjugate 3rd dose (PCV3) (%) - Affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis, human papillomavirus (HPV) (%)
Health worker density and distribution	**3.c.1** Health worker density (per 10,000 population) - Dentists - Nurses - Pharmacists - Physicians - Health worker distribution, female physicians (%)
Health capacity and emergency preparedness	**3.d.1** International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity (%): - Legislation and financing - Laboratory - Surveillance - Food safety - Human resources - Points of entry - Risk communication - Health service provision - Chemical events - Radiation - National health emergency framework - IHR Coordination and National Focal Point Functions - Zoonotic events and the Human-Animal Health Interface

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[40]Data source is UNECE Statistical Database

[41]Data source is United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). *Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2020*, custom data acquired via website.

Indicator short name	Indicator
Antimicrobial-resistant bloodstream infections	**3.d.2** - Percentage of bloodstream infection due to Escherichia coli resistant to 3rd-generation cephalosporin (ESBL- E. coli) among patients seeking care and whose blood sample is taken and tested (%) - Percentage of bloodstream infection due to methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) among patients seeking care and whose blood sample is taken and tested (%)

GOAL 4 – Quality education

Minimum proficiency in reading and maths	**4.1.1** Proportion of children and young people achieving a minimum proficiency level (%): - Mathematics - Reading
Completion rate	**4.1.2** Completion rate (%): - Primary - Lower secondary - Secondary
Organised learning before primary entry age	**4.2.2** Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) (%)
Formal and non-formal education and training	**4.3.1** Participation rate in formal and non-formal education and training (%)
Youth and adults with ICT skills	**4.4.1** Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills (%): - Programming language - Transfer file - Download software - Electronic presentation - Spreadsheet arithmetic - Copy/move file/folder - Copy/paste - Email
Inequality indices for education indicators	**4.5.1** Parity status index for achievement in reading and math in lower-secondary (ratio): - Language - Immigration status - Gender - Rural to urban - Socio-economic status
Schools with access to basic services	**4.a.1** Schools with access to (%) [Primary, lower secondary, secondary]: - Computers for pedagogical purposes - Internet for pedagogical purposes - Electricity - Basic handwashing facilities - Single-sex basic sanitation - Basic drinking water
Teachers with minimum required qualifications	**4.c.1** Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications (%): - Pre-primary and primary - Secondary

Indicator short name	Indicator
GOAL 5 – Gender Equality	
Legal frameworks on non-discrimination	**5.1.1** Legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality (% of achievement): - Overarching legal frameworks and public life - Violence against women - Employment and economic benefits - Marriage and family
Gender parity in time spent on domestic tasks	**5.4.1** Male/female ratio of hours spent on domestic tasks
Seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments	**5.5.1** - Proportion of seats in national parliaments held by women (%) - Proportion of elected seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government (%)
Proportion of women in managerial positions	**5.5.2** Proportion of women in (%): - Managerial positions - Senior and middle management positions
Mobile phone ownership	**5.b.1** Proportion of females who own a mobile phone (%)
GOAL 6 – Clean water and sanitation	
Safely managed drinking water services	**6.1.1** Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)
Open defecation practice and handwashing facilities	**6.2.1** Proportion of population (%): - Practicing open defecation - Using safely managed sanitation services
Domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	**6.3.1** Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated
Bodies of water with good ambient water quality	**6.3.2** Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)
Water use efficiency	**6.4.1** Water Use Efficiency (United States dollars per cubic meter)
Water stress	**6.4.2** Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)
Degree of integrated water resources management	**6.5.1** Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (%)
Transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	**6.5.2** Proportion of transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)
Policies and procedures for participative water and sanitation management	**6.b.1** Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management
GOAL 7 – Affordable and clean energy	
Access to electricity	**7.1.1** Proportion of population with access to electricity (%)
Reliance on clean energy	**7.1.2** Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)
Renewable energy share	**7.2.1** Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%)
Energy intensity	**7.3.1** Energy intensity level of primary energy (megajoules per constant 2011 purchasing power parity GDP)

Indicator short name	Indicator
GOAL 8 – Decent work and economic growth	
Real GDP per capita growth rate	**8.1.1** Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (%)
Real GDP per employed person growth rate	**8.2.1** Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%)
Informal employment	**8.3.1** Proportion of informal employment in total employment
Domestic material consumption	**8.4.2** Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (kilograms per constant 2015 United States dollars): - Biomass - Fossil fuels - Metal ores - Non-metallic minerals - Coal - Crop residues - Crops - Ferrous ores - Natural gas - Grazed biomass and fodder crops - Non-ferrous ores - Non-metallic minerals, industrial or agricultural dominant - Non-metallic minerals, construction dominant - Petroleum - Wild catch and harvest - Wood - Oil shale and tar sands - Total
Unemployment rate	**8.5.2** Unemployment rate (%)
Youth not in education, employment or training	**8.6.1** Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training (%)
Occupational injuries	**8.8.1** Occupational injuries among employees per 100,000 employees: - Fatal - Non-fatal
National compliance to labour rights	**8.8.2** Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation
Commercial bank branches and automated teller machines	**8.10.1** Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults
Adults with a bank account	**8.10.2** Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider (%)
Aid for trade commitments and disbursements	**8.a.1** Total official flows (disbursement) for Aid for Trade, by donor countries (millions of constant 2020 United States dollars, transformed to per cent of GDP)
Strategy for youth employment	**8.b.1** Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

Indicator short name	Indicator
GOAL 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure	
Passenger and freight volumes[42]	**9.1.2** - Non-road freight as proportion of total (%) - Rail passengers, thousand passenger-km per capita
Manufacturing value added	**9.2.1** Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (%)
Manufacturing employment	**9.2.2** Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (%)
Small-scale industries as share of total	**9.3.1** Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added (%)
Small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	**9.3.2** Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit (%)
CO2 emission intensity	**9.4.1** Carbon dioxide emissions (kilogrammes of CO_2 per constant 2010 United States dollars): - Per unit of GDP - Per unit of manufacturing value added
Research and development expenditure	**9.5.1** Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (%)
Number of researchers	**9.5.2** Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants (per 1,000,000 population)
Medium and high-tech industry value added	**9.b.1** Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added (%)
Population covered by mobile phone network	**9.c.1** Proportion of population covered by mobile network (%): - At least a 2G - At least a 3G - At least a 4G
GOAL 10 – Reduced inequalities	
Population living below 50 percent of median income	**10.2.1** Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income (%)
Labour income share of GDP	**10.4.1** Labour share of GDP (%)
Redistributive impact of fiscal policy	**10.4.2** Redistributive impact of fiscal policy, Gini index (%): - Pre-fiscal income - Post-fiscal income
Financial soundness indicators	**10.5.1** - Non-performing loans net of provisions to capital (%) - Non-performing loans to total gross loans (%) - Return on assets (%) - Regulatory capital to assets (%) - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets (%) - Liquid assets to short-term liabilities (%) - Net open position in foreign exchange to capital (%)
Migration policies	**10.7.2** Countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people [All domains]
Migrant deaths and disappearances	**10.7.3** Total deaths and disappearances recorded during migration (number)

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[42] Data source is [UNECE Statistical Database.](#)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Refugees	**10.7.4** Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin (%)
Zero tariff imports	**10.a.1** Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports with zero-tariff (%), all products
Total resource flows for development	**10.b.1** Net official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of OECD-DAC donors' GNI, by donor countries (%)
Remittance costs	**10.c.1** - Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted (%) - Average remittance costs of sending $200 for a sending country as a proportion of the amount remitted (%)

GOAL 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

Indicator short name	Indicator
Slums	**11.1.1** Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)
Expenditure cultural and natural heritage	**11.4.1** Total expenditure per capita spent on cultural and natural heritage, public funding (PPP, constant 2017 United States dollars)
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	**11.5.1** - Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (number) - Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (number)
Economic loss and affected infrastructure & services from disasters	**11.5.2** Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%)
Mean levels of fine particulate matter in cities	**11.6.2** Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (population-weighted, micrograms per cubic meter)
Disaster risk reduction	**11.b.1** Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework
Disaster risk reduction, local governments	**11.b.2** Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)

Indicator short name	Indicator
GOAL 12 – Responsible consumption and production	
Domestic material consumption	**12.2.2** Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (kilograms per constant 2015 United States dollars): - Biomass - Fossil fuels - Metal ores - Non-metallic minerals - Coal - Crop residues - Crops - Ferrous ores - Natural gas - Grazed biomass and fodder crops - Non-ferrous ores - Non-metallic minerals, industrial or agricultural dominant - Non-metallic minerals, construction dominant - Petroleum - Wild catch and harvest - Wood - Oil shale and tar sands - Total
Handling of hazardous waste	**12.4.1** Parties meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information on hazardous waste and other chemicals, as required by: - Basel Convention - Montreal Protocol - Rotterdam Convention - Stockholm Convention
Hazardous waste generated	**12.4.2** - Hazardous waste treated or disposed (%) - Hazardous waste generated, per capita (kg)
National recycling rate	**12.5.1** Electronic waste recycling, per capita (kg)
Economic and environmental aspects of tourism	**12.b.1** Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism: - Number of tables - SEEA tables - Tourism Satellite Account tables
Fossil fuel subsidies	**12.c.1** - Fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) as a proportion of total GDP (%) - Fossil-fuel subsidies (consumption and production) per capita (constant US dollars)
GOAL 13 – Climate action	
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	**13.1.1** - Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population - Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
Disaster risk reduction	**13.1.2** Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework

Indicator short name	Indicator
Disaster risk reduction, local governments	**13.1.3** Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)
Greenhouse gas emissions	**13.2.2** Total greenhouse gas emissions without LULUCF (Mt CO_2, equivalent): - Annex I Parties - Non-Annex I Parties

GOAL 14 – Life below water

Indicator short name	Indicator

Coastal eutrophication and plastic debris density	**14.1.1**
	- Chlorophyll-a anomaly, remote sensing (%)
	    - Moderate
	    - High
	- Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that ends in the beach (%)
	- Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that ends in the ocean (%)

Protected marine areas	**14.5.1** Average proportion of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)
Combatting illegal fishing	**14.6.1** Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (level of implementation)
Sustainable fisheries	**14.7.1** Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP (%)
Research budget for marine technology	**14.a.1** National ocean science expenditure as a share of total research and development funding (%)
Legal frameworks to protect small-scale fisheries	**14.b.1** Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries (level of implementation: 1 lowest to 5 highest)

GOAL 15 – Life on land

Indicator short name	Indicator
Forest area	**15.1.1** Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)
Sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity	**15.1.2** Average proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) - Freshwater - Terrestrial
Sustainable forest management	**15.2.1** - Above-ground biomass in forest (tonnes per hectare) - Forest area net change rate (%) - Proportion of forest area with a long-term management plan (%) - Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas (%)
Degraded land	**15.3.1** Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area
Sites for mountain biodiversity	**15.4.1** Average proportion of Mountain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)
Mountain Green Cover Index	**15.4.2** Mountain Green Cover Index
Red List Index	**15.5.1** Red List Index

Indicator short name	Indicator
Plant genetic resources for good and agriculture	**15.6.1** - Countries that have legislative, administrative and policy framework or measures reported through the Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) - Countries that are contracting Parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA)
Management of invasive alien species	**15.8.1** - Legislation, Regulation, Act related to the prevention of introduction and management of Invasive Alien Species - Countries with an allocation from the national budget to manage the threat of invasive alien species - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets alignment to Aichi Biodiversity target 9 set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
ODA for biodiversity	**15.a.1** Total official development assistance for biodiversity (millions of constant 2017 United States dollars) by: - Donor countries - Recipient countries

GOAL 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

Indicator short name	Indicator
Intentional homicides	**16.1.1** Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population
Robbery	**16.1.3** Proportion of population subjected to robbery in the previous 12 months (%)
Safety walking alone	**16.1.4** Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark (%)
Detected victims of human trafficking	**16.2.2** Detected victims of human trafficking (number)
Robbery reporting rate	**16.3.1** Police reporting rate for robbery (%)
Unsentenced detainees	**16.3.2** Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (%)
Individuals paying bribes	**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
Bribery	**16.5.2** Bribery incidence (% of firms experiencing at least one bribe payment request)
Government expenditure	**16.6.1** Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget (%)

Representation in national and local institutions	**16.7.1**
	- Ratio of judges compared to national population distributions
	- Ratio of registrars compared to national population distributions
	- Ratio of members of parliament to eligible national population, lower chamber or unicameral
	- Ratio of members of parliament to eligible national population, upper chamber
	      - Persons aged 45 or under
	      - Females

Indicator short name	Indicator
Public access to information	**16.10.2** Countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
Human Rights, Paris Principles	**16.a.1** Countries with National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles, A status
GOAL 17 – Partnerships for goals	
Tax revenue	**17.1.1** Total government revenue (budgetary central government) as a proportion of GDP (%)
Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	**17.1.2** Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (% of GDP)
ODA from OECD-DAC	**17.2.1** Net official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of OECD-DAC donors' GNI, by donor countries to (%): - Landlocked developing countries - Small island states (SIDS) - Least developed countries (LDCs)
Debt service	**17.4.1** Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)
Fixed Internet broadband subscription by speed	**17.6.1** Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: - 10 MPBS - Any speed
Internet users	**17.8.1** Internet users per 100 inhabitants

Worldwide weighted tariff-average	**17.10.1**
	- Worldwide weighted tariff-average, most-favoured-nation status (%):
	  - Agricultural products
	  - Clothing
	  - Industrial products
	  - Oil
	  - Textiles
	  - All products
	- Worldwide weighted tariff-average, preferential status (%)
	  - Agricultural products
	  - Clothing
	  - Industrial products
	  - Oil
	  - Textiles
	  - All products

Indicator short name	Indicator

Average tariffs faced by developing countries	**17.12.1**
	- Average tariff applied by developed countries, most-favoured nation status (%):
	  - Agricultural products
	  - Arms
	  - Clothing
	  - Industrial products
	  - Oil
	  - Textiles
	  - All products
	- Average tariff applied by developed countries, preferential status (%):
	  - Agricultural products
	  - Arms
	  - Clothing
	  - Industrial products
	  - Oil
	  - Textiles
	  - All products

Macroeconomic dashboard	**17.13.1** - Gross public sector debt, Central Government, as a proportion of GDP (%) - Annual inflation, consumer prices (%) - Annual growth of households and NPISHs final consumption expenditure (%) - Annual GDP growth (%)
Country-owned results frameworks and planning tools	**17.15.1** - Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation, data by provider (%) - Proportion of project objectives of new development interventions drawn from country-led result frameworks, data by provider (%) - Proportion of results indicators drawn from country-led results frameworks, data by provider (%) - Proportion of results indicators which will be monitored using government sources and monitoring systems, data by provider (%)
Funding for environmentally sound technologies	**17.7.1** - Amount of tracked exported Environmentally Sound Technologies (current United States dollars) - Amount of tracked exported Environmentally Sound Technologies (current United States dollars)
Official development assistance for technical cooperation	**17.9.1** Total official development assistance (gross disbursement) for technical cooperation (millions of 2020 United States dollars)
Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring	**17.18.1** - Data Sources performance index (Statistical Performance Indicators Pillar 4) (Index) - Data Infrastructure performance index (Statistical Performance Indicators Pillar 5) (Index)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	**17.18.2** Countries with national statistical legislation exists that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
National statistical plan	**17.18.3** - Countries with national statistical plans with funding from Government - Countries with national statistical plans that are fully funded - Countries with national statistical plans that are under implementation
Census, birth and death registration	**17.19.2** - Countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years - Countries with birth registration data that are at least 90 percent complete - Countries with death registration data that are at least 75 percent complete

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