

UNECE

Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region: Trends and Actions in 2026



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



Sustainable Development
in the UNECE Region:
Trends and Actions in 2026



United Nations
Geneva, 2026

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United Nations publication issued by the Economic Commission for Europe

Print ISSN 0069-8458

Online ISSN 2959-4170

PRINT ISBN 9789211593990

PDF ISBN 9789211548631

Sales no. E.26.II.E.10

ECE/CES/STAT/2026/1

Foreword

At the World Social Summit of 2025, world leaders reaffirmed the full, timely and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This renewed political momentum underscores a shared recognition: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires bold action, innovation within governments, strengthened institutions and a genuine whole-of-society approach. Partnerships across sectors and communities remain indispensable for accelerating progress.

International cooperation and solidarity are essential to these efforts. In this spirit, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) convenes focused exchanges and peer-learning initiatives that promote concrete action and advance sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions. Our flagship platform is the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which will bring together a broad range of stakeholders for the tenth time in 2026.

A clear understanding of where the region stands is essential for shaping effective policy dialogue and action at the Forum and beyond. The assessment prepared by the UNECE Statistics and Data Division provides an overview of regional progress. It identifies the targets where the UNECE region is on track to meet the ambitions set out in the 2030 Agenda – whether directly measured or estimated based on best practice benchmarks.

As we enter the final third of the path toward 2030, it is increasingly evident that many targets may not be reached in time. The rising number of indicators showing movement away from the desired direction highlights areas where urgent and intensified action is required. Yet the overall picture also contains important signs of resilience: most targets still show forward momentum, reflecting substantial development gains achieved despite crises, conflict and other pressures.

This report also looks separately at the group of 17 UNECE member States in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia that participate in United Nations technical cooperation programmes. In addition, United Nations country teams and international agencies contribute encouraging examples of how working together can make change happen.

We hope that the 2026 UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development – and the global High-Level Political Forum that will follow – create further momentum for action and inspire further cooperation to bring more SDG targets back on track.



Tatiana Molcean
*United Nations Under-Secretary-General
UNECE Executive Secretary*

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Introduction

Regional commissions of the United Nations organize regional forums on 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 tenth time on 21 and 22 April 2026 in Geneva.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be fulfilled without relevant and timely [data and statistics](#) to track progress. 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. Since 2020, the UNECE Division for Statistics and Data has prepared annual reports on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region, to inform debates of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. This [seventh 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 this 2026 report relies on [the global indicator framework for SDGs](#)² and the available data on UNECE countries in [the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#) as of 24 December 2025. In this report, the assessment is provided for the UNECE region as a whole (56 countries) as well as for the group of 17 UNECE countries participating in technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations, denoted as “[programme countries](#)”³. [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 UNECE programmes contributed [stories](#). These 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 2026 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: 6 – Clean water and sanitation; 7 – Affordable and clean energy; 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 11 – Sustainable cities and communities; and 17 – Partnerships for the goals.

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

² United Nations (2025). [Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). A/RES/71/313, 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, E/CN.3/2023/2, E/CN.3/2024/4, E/CN.3/2025/6.

³ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

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 24 December 2025.

For each indicator, the assessment uses **desired target values** for 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly or implicitly defines target values for 87 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.

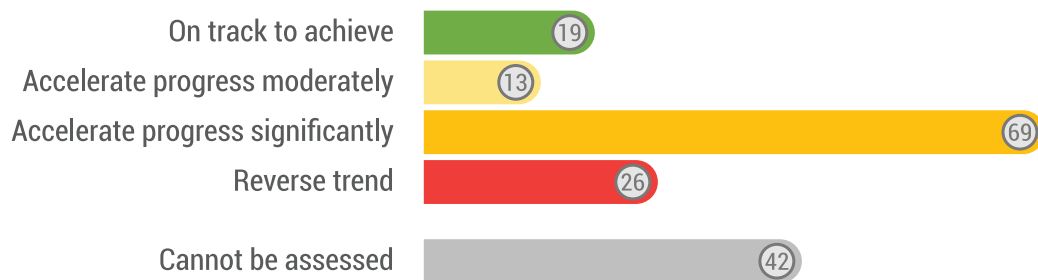
A separate progress assessment is made for the group of **17 programme countries**⁴ of the UNECE region. In the section [Which targets are on track?](#) the description of the assessment results for the programme countries focuses on the features that are different from the results for the entire region.

For information on the methodology, see [Technical notes on the progress assessment](#).

Out of the total of 169 SDG targets, progress for the UNECE region can be measured towards **127** and for the programme countries towards 115 targets. In the charts, each target is coloured according to the gap between anticipated and desired progress. The colour is **green** if the pace of progress is sufficient to reach the target value by 2030; **light yellow** if the pace of progress is at least at two thirds of the rate needed to reach the target; **dark yellow** if the pace of progress is slower than two thirds of the necessary rate; and **red** if the trend observed so far runs counter to the desired direction. If the target cannot be assessed, it is shown in **grey**.

⁴ Seventeen UNECE countries participating in technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations, denoted in the report as “programme countries”: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

How many targets are on track?



UNECE region

If the current path is followed, **the UNECE region will achieve only 19 targets** by 2030. This is 15 per cent of the assessed targets, and a decline by two targets compared to the estimation from last year.

For 13 targets (10 per cent), progress is heading in the right direction and requires a moderate acceleration, and for 69 targets (54 per cent), progress is insufficient, requiring a significant acceleration to close the gap by 2030.

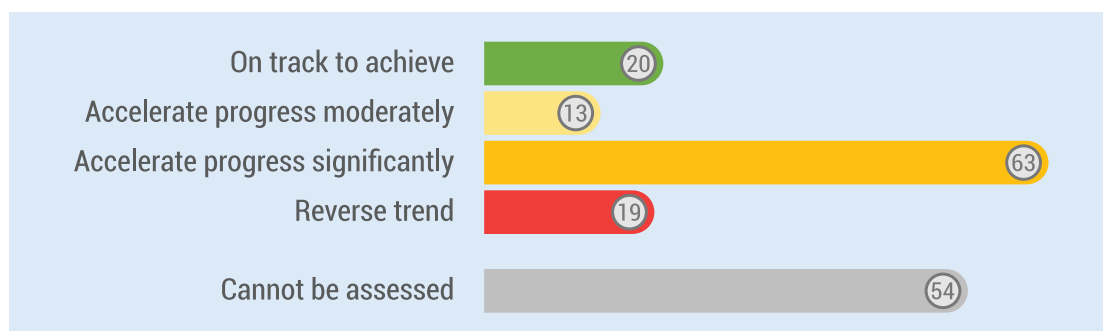
The current trend is in reverse for 26 targets (20 per cent), which is up by 6 targets compared to the estimation from last year.

Data availability has improved and allows assessing 2 more targets than last year.

Programme countries in the UNECE region

The progress assessment of the group of 17 programme countries was possible on 115 out of the 169 targets.

In that group of countries, progress is on track for 20 targets (17 per cent); 13 targets (11 per cent) require moderate acceleration; 63 targets (55 per cent) require significant acceleration; and for 19 targets (17 per cent) the trend is in reverse.



Which SDG targets are on track for 2030?

■ **MAINTAIN PROGRESS** to achieve target
 ■ **MODERATE ACCELERATION NEEDED** to achieve target
 ■ **SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION NEEDED** 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 ■ 2.4 Sustainable agriculture ■ 2.a Investment in 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 ■ 3.6 Road traffic accidents ■ 3.3 Communicable diseases ■ 3.5 Substance abuse ■ 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 ■ 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy ■ 4.a Education facilities ■ 4.c Qualified teachers ■ 4.4 Skills for employment ■ 4.1 Effective learning outcomes ■ 4.2 Early childhood development ■ 4.3 TVET & tertiary education ■ 4.5 Equal access to education ■ 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 ■ 6.3 Water quality ■ 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation ■ 6.6 Water-related ecosystems ■ 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
GOAL 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY ■ 7.1 Access to energy services ■ 7.3 Energy efficiency ■ 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure ■ 7.2 Share of renewable energy ■ 7.a Int. cooperation on energy	GOAL 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ■ 8.b Strategy for youth employment ■ 8.3 Formalization of SMEs ■ 8.4 Material resource efficiency ■ 8.1 Per capita economic growth ■ 8.5 Full employment & decent work ■ 8.6 Youth NEET ■ 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env. ■ 8.10 Access to financial services ■ 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation ■ 8.a Aid for Trade ■ 8.7 Child & forced labour ■ 8.9 Sustainable tourism	GOAL 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE ■ 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization ■ 9.c Access to ICT & the Internet ■ 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries ■ 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 ■ 10.4 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 ■ 10.2 Inclusion (social, economic & political) ■ 10.3 Eliminate discrimination ■ 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%) ■ 10.6 Inclusive global governance	GOAL 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ■ 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt. ■ 11.b Disaster risk management policies ■ 11.1 Housing & basic services ■ 11.5 Resilience to disasters ■ 11.a Urban planning ■ 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage ■ 11.2 Public transport systems ■ 11.3 Sustainable urbanization ■ 11.7 Urban green & public spaces ■ 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings	GOAL 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION ■ 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources ■ 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD ■ 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes ■ 12.5 Reduction in waste generation ■ 12.3 Food waste & losses ■ 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring ■ 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies ■ 12.1 Programmes on SCP ■ 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices ■ 12.7 Public procurement practices ■ 12.8 Sustainable development awareness
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 ■ 15.7 Protected species trafficking ■ 15.8 Invasive alien species ■ 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems ■ 15.b Resources for forest management ■ 15.c Protected species trafficking (global) ■ 15.3 Desertification and land degradation ■ 15.5 Loss of biodiversity ■ 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
GOAL 16 PEACE AND JUSTICE ■ 16.1 Reduction of violence & related deaths ■ 16.5 Corruption and bribery ■ 16.10 Public access to information ■ 16.a Capacity to prevent violence ■ 16.2 Human trafficking ■ 16.3 Justice for all ■ 16.6 Effective institutions ■ 16.7 Inclusive decision-making ■ 16.b Non-discriminatory laws ■ 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows ■ 16.8 Inclusive global governance ■ 16.9 Legal identity	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 SDG targets are on track for 2030?

MAINTAIN PROGRESS to achieve target **MODERATE ACCELERATION NEEDED** to achieve target **SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION NEEDED** to achieve target **REVERSE TREND** to achieve target **Cannot be assessed**

GOAL 1	NO POVERTY	GOAL 2	ZERO HUNGER	GOAL 3	GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
1.1	Extreme poverty	2.1	Undernourishment and food security	3.1	Maternal mortality
1.2	National poverty	2.2	Malnutrition	3.2	Child mortality
1.4	Access to basic services	2.4	Sustainable agriculture	3.9	Health impact of pollution
1.3	Social protection	2.a	Investment in agriculture	3.4	NCD & mental health
1.5	Resilience to disasters	2.5	Genetic resources for agriculture	3.3	Communicable diseases
1.a	Resources for poverty programmes	2.3	Small-scale food producers	3.5	Substance abuse
1.b	Poverty eradication policies	2.b	Agricultural export subsidies	3.6	Road traffic accidents
		2.c	Food price anomalies	3.7	Sexual & reproductive health
				3.8	Universal health coverage
				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	GOAL 5	GENDER EQUALITY	GOAL 6	CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
4.6	Adult literacy & numeracy	5.b	Technology for women's empowerment	6.b	Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.
4.a	Education facilities	5.1	Discrimination against women & girls	6.2	Access to sanitation & hygiene
4.c	Qualified teachers	5.5	Women in leadership	6.1	Safe drinking water
4.1	Effective learning outcomes	5.2	Violence against women & girls	6.3	Water quality
4.2	Early childhood development	5.3	Early marriage	6.4	Water-use efficiency
4.3	TVET & tertiary education	5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work	6.5	Transboundary water cooperation
4.4	Skills for employment	5.6	Reproductive health access & rights	6.6	Water-related ecosystems
4.5	Equal access to education	5.a	Equal economic rights	6.a	Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
4.7	Sustainable development education	5.c	Gender equality policies		
4.b	Scholarships				
GOAL 7	AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	GOAL 8	DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	GOAL 9	INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
7.1	Access to energy services	8.1	Per capita economic growth	9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
7.3	Energy efficiency	8.b	Strategy for youth employment	9.4	Sustainable & clean industries
7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure	8.4	Material resource efficiency	9.c	Access to ICT & the Internet
7.2	Share of renewable energy	8.5	Full employment & decent work	9.3	Small-scale industries access to finance
7.a	Int. cooperation on energy	8.6	Youth NEET	9.b	Domestic technology development
		8.3	Formalization of SMEs	9.1	Infrastructure development
		8.8	Labour rights & safe working env.	9.5	Research and development
		8.10	Access to financial services	9.a	Resilient infrastructure
		8.2	Economic productivity & innovation		
		8.7	Child & forced labour		
		8.9	Sustainable tourism		
		8.a	Aid for Trade		
GOAL 10	REDUCED INEQUALITIES	GOAL 11	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	GOAL 12	RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION
10.5	Regulation of financial markets	11.1	Housing & basic services	12.2	Sustainable use of natural resources
10.7	Safe migration & mobility	11.6	Urban air quality & waste mgmt.	12.3	Food waste & losses
10.a	Special & differential treatment (WTO)	11.b	Disaster risk management policies	12.4	Managing chemicals & wastes
10.c	Remittance costs	11.4	Cultural & natural heritage	12.5	Reduction in waste generation
10.2	Inclusion (social, economic & political)	11.5	Resilience to disasters	12.a	Support for R&D capacity for SD
10.4	Fiscal & social protection policies	11.a	Urban planning	12.b	Sustainable tourism monitoring
10.1	Income growth (bottom 40%)	11.2	Public transport systems	12.c	Fossil-fuel subsidies
10.3	Eliminate discrimination	11.3	Sustainable urbanization	12.1	Programmes on SCP
10.6	Inclusive global governance	11.7	Urban green & public spaces	12.6	Corporate sustainable practices
10.b	Resource flows for development	11.c	Sustainable & resilient buildings	12.7	Public procurement practices
				12.8	Sustainable development awareness
GOAL 13	CLIMATE ACTION	GOAL 14	LIFE BELOW WATER	GOAL 15	LIFE ON LAND
13.2	Climate change policies	14.1	Marine pollution	15.a	Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
13.1	Resilience & adaptive capacity	14.5	Conservation of coastal areas	15.b	Resources for forest management
13.3	Climate change awareness	14.6	Fisheries subsidies	15.1	Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
13.a	UNFCCC commitments	14.b	Small-scale artisanal fishing	15.2	Sustainable forests management
13.b	Climate change planning & mgmt.	14.2	Marine & coastal ecosystems	15.3	Desertification and land degradation
		14.3	Ocean acidification	15.4	Conservation of mountain ecosystems
		14.4	Sustainable fishing	15.6	Utilization of genetic resource
		14.7	Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs	15.8	Invasive alien species
		14.a	Research capacity & marine technology	15.5	Loss of biodiversity
		14.c	Implementing UNCLOS	15.7	Protected species trafficking
				15.9	Biodiversity in national & local planning
				15.c	Protected species trafficking (global)
GOAL 16	PEACE AND JUSTICE	GOAL 17	PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS		
16.1	Reduction of violence & related deaths	17.8	Capacity building for ICT	17.2	ODA commitment by dev. countries
16.2	Human trafficking	17.6	Science and tech int. cooperation	17.3	Additional financial resources
16.5	Corruption and bribery	17.4	Debt sustainability	17.5	Investment promotion for LDCs
16.7	Inclusive decision-making	17.9	Capacity building for SDGs	17.11	Exports of developing countries
16.10	Public access to information	17.10	Multilateral trading system (WTO)	17.14	Policy coherence for SD
16.a	Capacity to prevent violence	17.12	Duty-free market access for LDCs	17.15	Respect country's policy space
16.3	Justice for all	17.17	Partnerships (public, private, CSO)	17.16	Global partnership for SD
16.6	Effective institutions	17.18	National statistics availability		
16.4	Illicit financial & arms flows	17.19	Statistical capacity		
16.8	Inclusive global governance	17.1	Tax & other revenue collection		
16.9	Legal identity	17.7	Transfer of technologies		
16.b	Non-discriminatory laws	17.13	Global macroeconomic stability		

Which targets are on track?

The region has strong **social protection coverage** but is not on track with reducing **poverty** (goal 1)



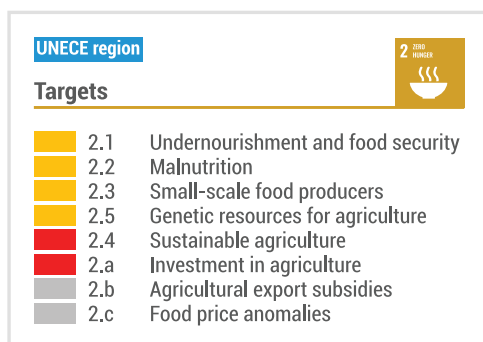
The UNECE region is on track to achieve the target of eradicating extreme poverty, measured by the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line (indicator 1.1.1). Most countries have also seen a reduction in the poverty rate based on the national poverty line (indicator 1.2.1) as well as in multidimensional poverty (indicator 1.2.2) that considers various aspects of deprivation beyond income. However, the reduction is not quick enough to attain the ambition of halving these poverty rates in the period from 2015 to 2030 in the region.

The region has strong social protection coverage overall (indicator 1.3), but support for the unemployed remains insufficient. In a quarter of UNECE countries, less than 10 per cent of unemployed are provided with cash benefits. The region is nearing universal access to sanitation, and especially on basic drinking water service but requires focused efforts on the few who still lack access (indicator 1.4.1). The region made progress on reducing damage from natural hazards in the number of deaths, the number of people affected (indicator 1.5.1), as well as in direct economic losses (indicator 1.5.2). Nearly half of the donor countries have reduced their official development assistance for poverty reduction since 2015 (indicator 1.a.1).

The 17 **programme countries** have made good progress in providing basic drinking water services (indicator 1.4.1) and sanitation services (indicator 1.4.2), with only moderate acceleration needed. Marked progress has also been achieved in reducing poverty according to the national poverty line (indicator 1.2.1), and only moderate acceleration would be needed to attain the target of halving the level from 2015 to 2030. The reduction of multidimensional poverty (indicator 1.2.2) is already on track for this. The programme countries have to reverse the decline in the proportion of government budget on essential services, especially on health and social protection (indicator 1.a.2).



Progress on food security and diversity (goal 2) is not on track



Whereas the number of countries with persisting undernourishment has decreased by a third (indicator 2.1.1), prevalence of food insecurity (indicator 2.1.2) has increased. Amongst children, the prevalence of stunting (indicator 2.2.1) and acute malnutrition (indicator 2.2.2) both decreased by over 10 per cent. However, the region saw over 20 per cent increase in the prevalence of overweight children (indicator 2.2.2). To achieve healthy population growth through food security and quality, the slight increase in anaemia (a condition where a lack of iron leads to low energy and poor health) in reproductive-

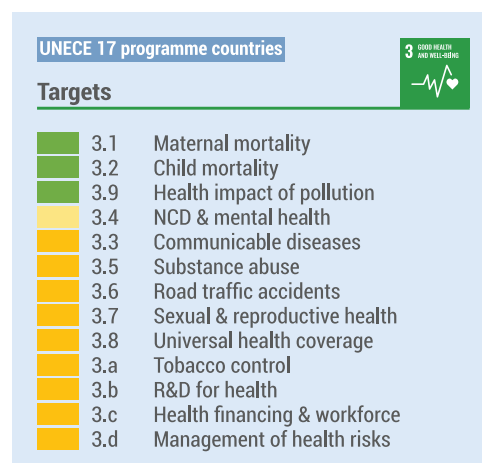
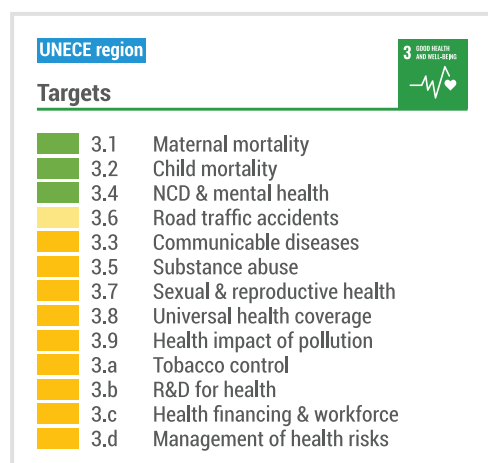
age women (indicator 2.2.3) would need to be reversed.

Progress is being made towards maintaining a diverse and nutritious food supply for future generations as the number of animal breeds and plants for which genetic resources are stored is growing (indicator 2.5.1). To preserve the local produce diversity in the region, increasing proportion of local breeds at risk of extinction must be reversed (indicator 2.5.2). The proportion of agriculture area under productive and sustainable practice (indicator 2.4.1) is declining and government expenditures have become less oriented towards agriculture (indicator 2.a.1).



Differently from the rest of the region, governments in the **programme countries** are orienting their expenditures more towards agriculture (indicator 2.a.1) and the productive agriculture area is expanding (indicator 2.4.1), whereas the decrease in the genetic diversity of plants in seed banks to protect future food supplies has to be reversed (indicator 2.5.1).

All health and well-being (goal 3) targets can be assessed and three targets on reducing premature mortality are on track

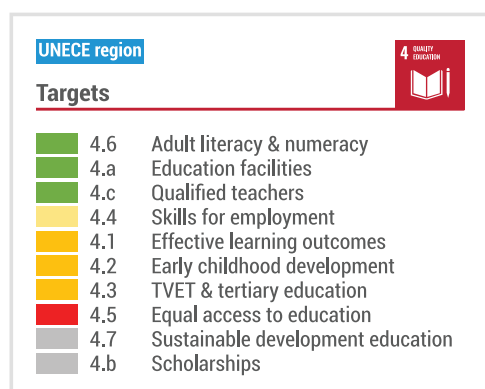


Progress assessment is possible for all the 13 targets under goal 3 and all of them are moving in the desired direction for the region as a whole as well as for the programme countries. The region is on track to achieve targets on the reduction of child and maternal mortality as well as mortality from non-communicable diseases (targets 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4).

The coverage of treatment for substance use disorders (indicator 3.5.1) has improved; however, progress needs to accelerate, as current coverage on average still excludes nearly three quarters of the population. Improvements were also observed across several physical and mental health indicators, such as maternal mortality (indicator 3.1.1), under-five mortality (indicator 3.2.1), tuberculosis incidence (indicator 3.3.2) and suicide mortality (indicator 3.4.2). Nevertheless, affordable access to healthcare remains a challenge in the region: in more than half of reporting countries, over one in ten people face excessive out-of-pocket health expenditures (indicator 3.8.2).

The **programme countries** lag behind other countries of the region in reducing deaths from non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (indicator 3.4.1). Mortality rates from road traffic accidents (indicator 3.6.1) have also been improving at a slower pace in the programme countries than in the rest of the region. However, the programme countries have been reducing mortality from suicides (indicator 3.4.2) and unintentional poisonings (indicator 3.9.3) faster, with both being on track for achieving the 2030 targets.

Disparities in education (goal 4) are narrowing slowly



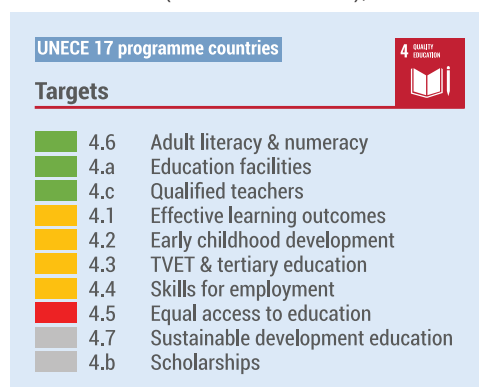
In the region, school completion rate is high but not universal, especially for lower and upper secondary schools (indicator 4.1.2). Near-universal preschool enrolment (indicator 4.2.2) in most countries is at risk, as a downward enrolment trend has been observed in over one third of countries in the region. Slow and uneven 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 mathematics and reading (indicator 4.5.1) has been achieved, immigration status and socio-economic disparity continue to impact the

achievement of minimum proficiency in both reading and mathematics. For youth and adult population, the region is on track to achieve universal literacy (indicator 4.6.1).

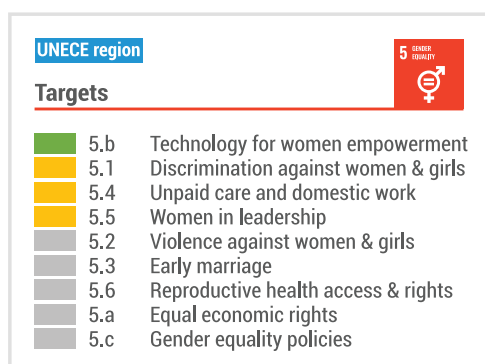
Compared with last year, the number of data series measuring the youth information and communications technology (ICT) skills increased by over 40 per cent, highlighting the growing importance of digital skills and the need to track progress in the region (indicator 4.4.1). Participation in education and training (indicator 4.3.1) among the population aged 55 to 64 (indicator 4.3.1) increased significantly for both women and men in many countries, putting the region on track to meet targets for this age group. Participation in education and training also increased among working-age adults aged 25 to 54, although the average increase for men was twice that observed for women. Across all age groups, participation rates for women in education and training remained higher than for men. Most countries in the region are on track to ensure that teachers meet minimum required qualifications at all levels (indicator 4.c.1); however, substantial differences persist between countries, particularly for pre-primary education teachers.

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). New data series for this indicator include the availability of adapted infrastructure and learning materials for students with disabilities, disaggregated by education level; these are now reported by over one-quarter of countries in the region. Overall, accessibility for children with disabilities is relatively high at the regional level, although significant differences remain between countries.

In the **programme countries**, schools fare comparably with the rest of the region on offering basic services and access, but lag on the proportion of youth and adults with information and communication skills (indicator 4.4.1).



Gender equality (goal 5) is improving too slowly to be achieved by 2030



Progress on gender equality can only be measured for less than half of targets. Improvements in policy and legal frameworks to combat discrimination and promote gender equality remain slow, although some advances have been reported in overarching legal frameworks and participation in public life. Significant variation persists across countries, particularly in legal frameworks related to employment and economic benefits (target 5.1). Progress in the distribution of unpaid domestic care work between women and men (target 5.4) is also insufficient and would need to accelerate much faster. In addition, more countries need to collect these data on a regular

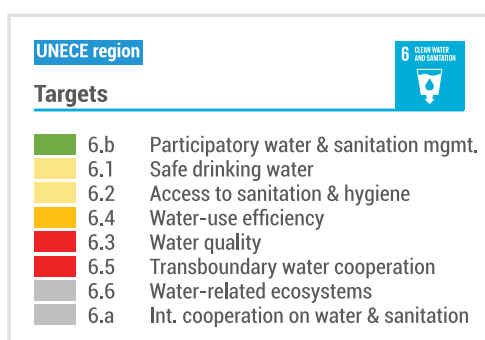
basis to support effective monitoring and targeted policymaking.

Trends in women's participation in elected bodies show mixed results: while representation has increased at the local governments level, this has been offset by a slight decline in national parliaments (indicator 5.5.1). Of particular concern, negative trends are accelerating in countries that are already furthest behind. In economic life, the share of women in managerial positions has declined, especially in senior and middle management roles (indicator 5.5.2). Progress toward women's empowerment in technology, which is measured by mobile phone ownership (indicator 5.b.1), remains on track to be achieved.



The assessment for the **programme countries** aligns with that for the region in total, with the exception that there is not enough data on unpaid care and domestic work (target 5.4) to assess progress in the programme countries.

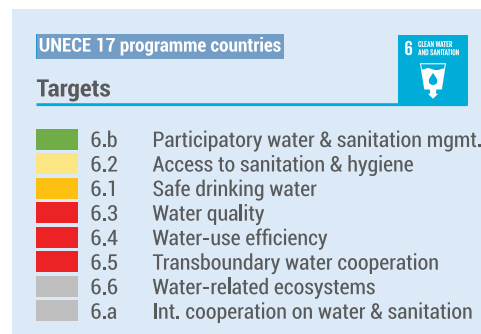
Progress on most **water** (goal 6) and **energy** (goal 7) targets will fall short by 2030



Access to safe drinking water (indicator 6.1.1) is widespread in the UNECE region; however, a slight relapse was observed in over one third of countries. Progress has also been made in sanitation services, but faster improvement is needed, particularly in the one third of countries where less than 80 per cent of the population has access to safely managed sanitation (indicator 6.2.1). Improvement in water quality also needs to accelerate: currently, half of the countries in the region fall short of safely treating at least 80 per cent of their domestic wastewater (indicator 6.3.1).

Water use efficiency is improving across the region, although progress remains uneven and insufficient (indicator 6.4.1). Stress on freshwater resources has declined in only half of the countries with data (indicator 6.4.2). Continued monitoring is also required for integrated water resources management, including transboundary cooperation, as measured by the share of transboundary basin area covered by operational water cooperation arrangements (indicator 6.5.1). The region demonstrates strong participation of local communities in water and sanitation management (indicator 6.b.1).

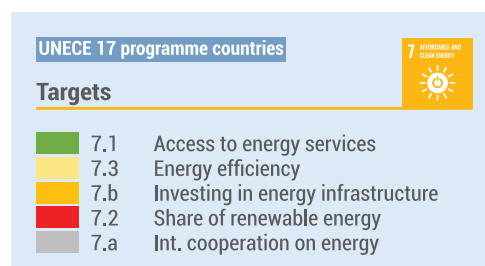
In the **programme countries**, progress has to accelerate in providing access to safely managed drinking water services (indicator 6.1.1) as nearly 20 per cent of people are still lacking them. The increase in water stress levels (indicator 6.4.2) in the programme countries needs to be reversed.



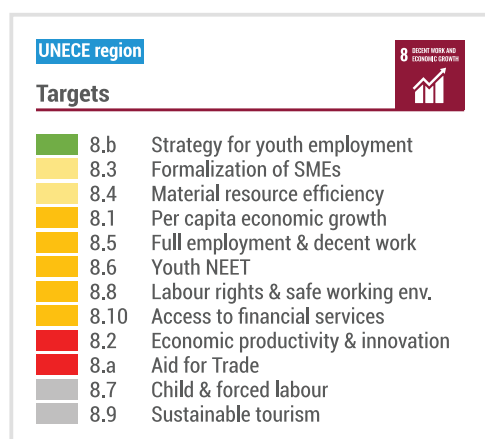
Access to electricity is universal across the region and nearly everyone uses clean fuels for cooking, heating and lighting (target 7.1). Investments and prioritisation of clean energy and energy efficiency are reflected in declining energy intensity, which fell by over 20 per cent, indicating reduced energy use per unit of economic output (indicator 7.3.1), alongside with a nearly 20 per cent increase in regional renewable energy capacity (indicator

7.b.1). To ensure clean and sustainable energy for all, the negative trend in the share of renewable energy in the total energy consumption observed in over a quarter of countries in the region must be reversed (indicator 7.2.1).

In the **programme countries**, renewable energy generation capacity is in need of improvement as it stands at the level of about half the regional average (indicator 7.b.1). The decline in the share of renewables in the total energy mix (indicator 7.2.1) needs to be reversed.



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



Economic growth in the UNECE region remains positive, with average growth in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita above 2 per cent (indicator 8.1.1). However, in most countries, the growth rate declined compared with last year. Increase in labour productivity, measured as the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (indicator 8.2.1), has been declining below the target level of 2 per cent. Informal employment has continued to decline across the region (indicator 8.3.1), and with sustained policy efforts, the region may reach its targets. Unemployment rates have continued to decrease (indicator 8.5.2), but progress would need to accelerate to meet the 2030 targets.

Most countries in the region have adopted dedicated strategies for youth employment, putting this target on track to be achieved (target 8.b). The proportion of youth not in employment, education

or training continues to decline in the region; however, sustained efforts are required, particularly in nearly one quarter of countries where the trend remains upward (target 8.6).

The downward trend in occupational injuries observed last year has reversed, with increase in both fatal and non-fatal injuries, raising concerns and underscoring the need for renewed action on workplace safety (indicator 8.8.1). While national compliance with labour rights has improved, current progress is insufficient to meet the target unless accelerated (indicator 8.8.2). To ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth, countries will also need to intensify efforts to improve resource use efficiency (target 8.4), continue to expand access to financial services (8.10) and reverse the significant decline in aid for trade (target 8.a).

The share of informal employment in the **programme countries** remains significantly higher compared to the regional average, although the trend is in decline in most countries. The programme countries are faring better than the region on per capita GDP growth (indicator 8.1.1). The pace of reduction in the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (indicator 8.6.1) in the programme countries has been faster than in other countries of the region.

UNECE 17 programme countries		8 RECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
Targets		
8.1	Per capita economic growth	
8.b	Strategy for youth employment	
8.4	Material resource efficiency	
8.5	Full employment & decent work	
8.6	Youth NEET	
8.3	Formalization of SMEs	
8.8	Labour rights & safe working env.	
8.10	Access to financial services	
8.2	Economic productivity & innovation	
8.7	Child & forced labour	
8.9	Sustainable tourism	
8.a	Aid for Trade	

Progress continues, but targeted investments are needed to advance sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation (goal 9)

UNECE region		9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Targets		
9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrialization	
9.c	Access to ICT & the Internet	
9.4	Sustainable & clean industries	
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	

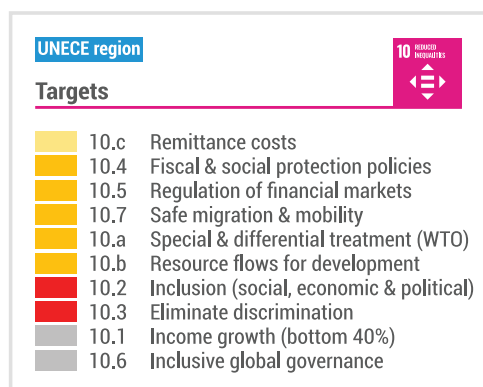
UNECE 17 programme countries		9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Targets		
9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrialization	
9.4	Sustainable & clean industries	
9.c	Access to ICT & the Internet	
9.3	Small-scale industries access to finance	
9.b	Domestic technology development	
9.1	Infrastructure development	
9.5	Research and development	
9.a	Resilient infrastructure	

Data is available for assessing seven out of the eight targets under goal 9. It is important to ensure that small scale industries have access to finance; however, no progress has yet been observed for this indicator (indicator 9.3.2). The region's commitment to reduce carbon emissions is reflected in declining carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP (PPP) and emissions from manufacturing industries (indicator 9.4.1). The region shows encouraging progress in target 9.5, with sustained growth in investment in research and development alongside an increasing number of full-time researchers.

At the same time, targeted investments are needed to expand medium- and high-technology manufacturing, as its share remains below half of the regional target on average (indicator 9.b.1). The declining trend in the proportion of freight transported by rail (indicator 9.1.2) and in rail passengers (Indicator 9.1.1) need to be reversed to achieve the target on sustainable and resilient infrastructure (target 9.1). Finally, the region has achieved widespread access to information and communications technology, and new data on 5G mobile network coverage highlights continued momentum toward digital connectivity for all (indicator 9.c.1).

In the **programme countries**, the decline in investment and capital in research and development measured by the expenditure as a proportion of GDP (indicator 9.5.1) and the proportion of researchers (indicator 9.5.2) has to be reversed.

Addressing inequality requires renewed policy momentum amid growing pressures (goal 10)



Progress toward reducing inequalities remains uneven across the region. The proportion of people living below 50 per cent of the national median income (indicator 10.2.1) continued to increase in nearly one third of the countries. Furthermore, in roughly one out of six countries, the relative income poverty rate is more than double the regional target.

Discrimination and harassment remain widespread: in most countries with recent data, close to 20 per cent of the population reported experiencing discrimination or harassment in the last 12 months (indicator 10.3.1). At the same time, the growing number of countries

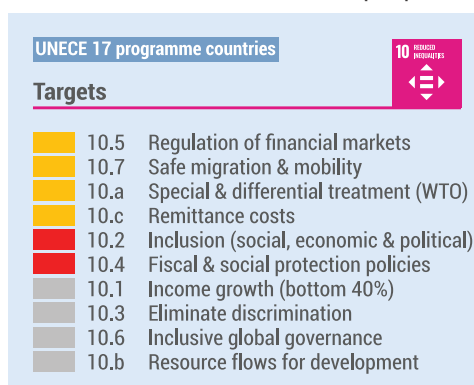
reporting on this indicator reflects increasing regional commitment to monitoring and addressing these challenges.

Progress on policies aimed at reducing inequality has weakened slightly. Both the labour share of GDP (indicator 10.4.1) and the redistributive impact of fiscal policy (indicator 10.4.2) registered modest relapses at the regional level. In contrast, financial soundness and regulation (target 10.5) have improved (target 10.5), particularly in terms of regulatory tier 1 capital relative to risk-weighted assets, indicating stronger bank capitalization and resilience. Return on assets has also improved, with two out of every five countries already meeting the regional target (indicator 10.5.1).

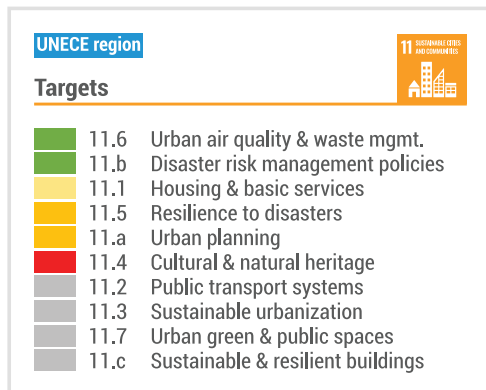
The region recorded an overall reduction in deaths and disappearances during migration (indicator 10.7.3) while an upward trend still persists in nearly half of the countries with data. The proportion of refugees (indicator 10.7.4) more than doubled compared with the previous year, with increases observed in nearly three-quarters of countries, reflecting the continued impact of geopolitical conflicts on displacement. More work is needed to reduce costs of migrant remittances (target 10.c).

These same geopolitical tensions have also contributed to a sharp decline in official development assistance (target 10.b), which fell by half compared with the previous year, with reductions recorded in three out of five countries in the region.

In many **programme countries**, the share of labour in GDP (indicator 10.4.1) is declining and needs to be reversed. This is accompanied by a broader data deficit, notably there is no data for the programme countries on discrimination under target 10.3.



Strengthening resilience and investment is key to achieving sustainable cities (Goal 11)



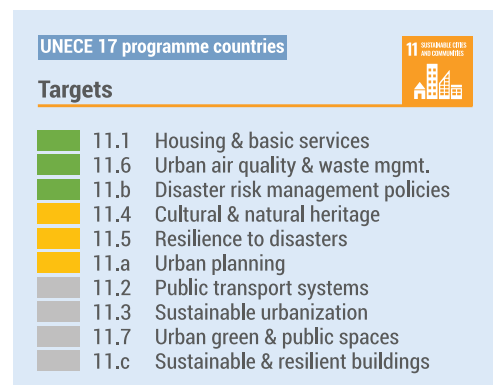
Data is available to assess six out of ten targets under goal 11. The region is gradually alleviating challenges related to inadequate housing; nearly three in four countries with data report a decline in the proportion of urban population living in inadequate housing (target 11.1). While the overall air pollution levels in the region remain relatively low, continued monitoring of fine particulate matter concentrations is essential, as elevated levels in certain locations and periods—particularly in urban centres—may still require policy intervention to ensure public health (indicator 11.6.2).

Many countries in the region have adopted national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework, and local governments are increasingly adopting and implementing subnational disaster risk reduction strategies (target 11.b). In addition, a large number of countries have national development policies and plans to respond to population dynamics and that if implemented, promote balanced territorial development.

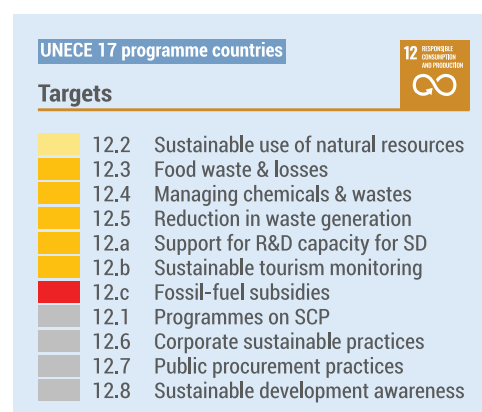
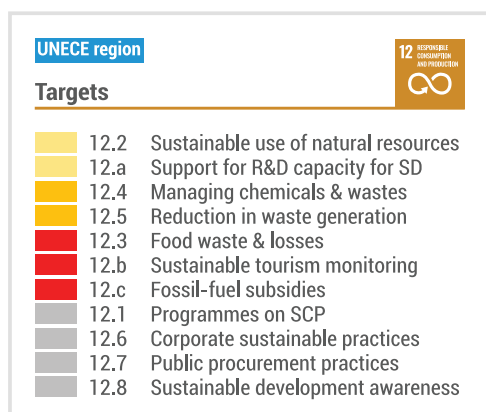
These efforts are reflected in outcomes: the region recorded significant reductions in both the number of people affected by natural hazards (indicator 11.5.1) and the economic losses associated with disasters (indicator 11.5.2). However, as natural hazard statistics are driven by large-scale and cascading disaster events, becoming increasingly more frequent due to climate change, continued investment in resilience remains critical to saving lives and reducing loss and damage.

Investment in the protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage, measured by per capita expenditure, showed mixed results. Increases in public spending have been more than offset by steep declines in private expenditure (indicator 11.4.1).

The **programme countries** are progressing well in the alleviation of inadequate housing (indicator 11.1.1).



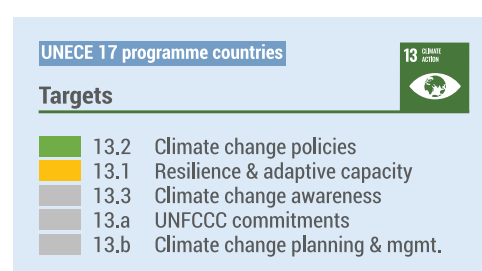
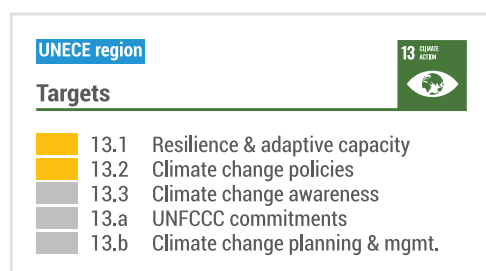
Mixed progress highlights the need to accelerate action on climate and environmental sustainability (Goals 12–15)



Progress must accelerate on sustainable consumption and production. The region needs to intensify efforts to improve sustainable use of natural resources (target 12.2), strengthen waste treatment and recycling systems and reduce waste (targets 12.4 and 12.5). The region is not on track to meet its targets on hazardous waste generation and treatment nor on collection of electronic waste (indicator 12.4.2). Particularly concerning is the increase in food waste generated in the region (indicator 12.3.1) and the low level of municipal waste recycling where most countries reported recycling less than half of their municipal waste (indicator 12.5.1).

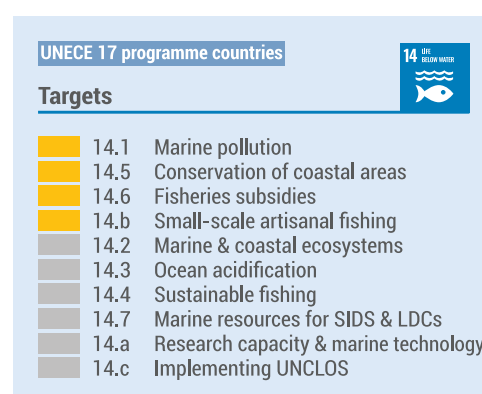
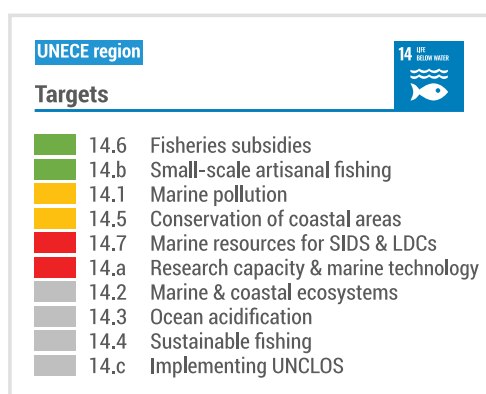
In the energy sector, renewable energy generation capacity continues to expand (indicator 12.a.1). However, this progress risks being undermined by increasing fossil fuel subsidies, which were observed in three out of five countries (indicator 12.c.1). Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism is weakening (indicator 12.b.1).

The **programme countries** are slower than the rest of the region in installing renewable electricity-generating capacity (indicator 12.a.1), which has improved little. Better than the rest of the region, the generation of food waste (indicator 12.3.1) in the programme countries is going down and the monitoring of the economic and environmental aspects of tourism (indicator 12.b.1) is improving albeit at a slower pace than needed to attain the targets by 2030.



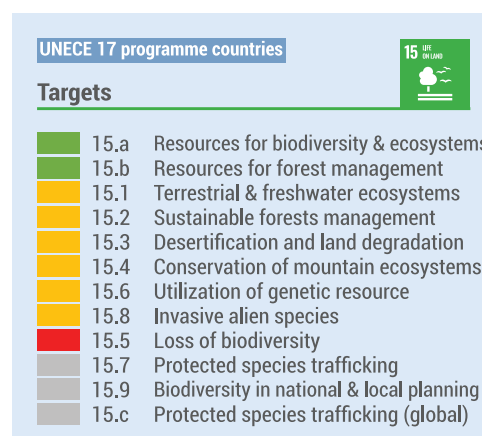
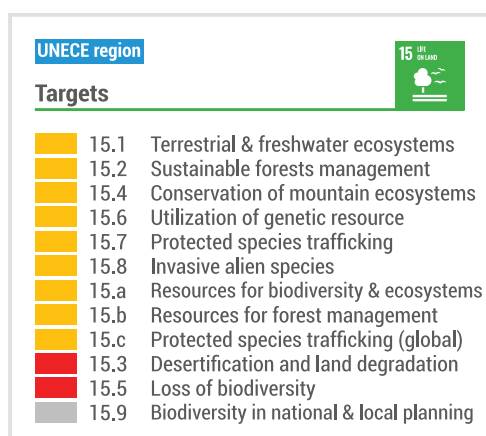
Total greenhouse emissions including land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) are lower than emissions excluding LULUCF (indicator 13.2.2), indicating that land use in the region acts as a net carbon sink. The declining emissions trend observed in nearly two-thirds of countries is encouraging, yet the pace of reduction must accelerate significantly to align with climate mitigation goals. The adoption of disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework has continued to increase at both national and local levels (indicators 13.1.2 and 13.1.3).

In the **programme countries**, greenhouse gas emissions (target 13.2) have been going down faster than in the rest of the region and are on track for attaining the target for 2030.



Recent data indicate that progress in curbing marine pollution, specifically land-based waste reaching coastal environments, is falling short of the pace required to meet conservation goals (target 14.1). Progress is also slow with expanding marine protected areas (indicator 14.5.1), although nearly all countries with data are moving in the right direction. The region is on track to meet targets related to protecting access rights for small-scale fisheries (indicator 14.b.1), whereas the value added of sustainable fisheries as proportion of GDP (indicator 14.7.1) and the share of ocean science expenditure in research and development funding (indicator 14.a.1) are declining.

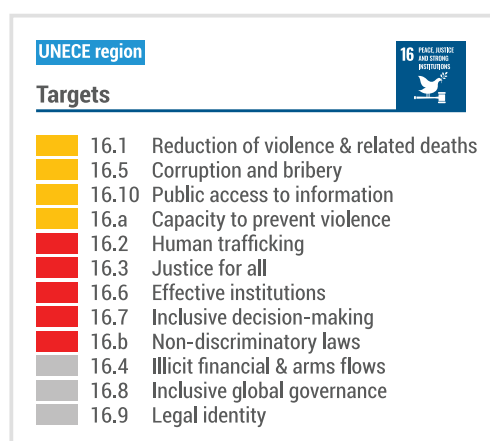
The trends in the **programme countries** fall behind the rest of the region in reducing marine pollution (target 14.1) and protecting access rights for small-scale fisheries (target 14.b).



On land, gains in the coverage of freshwater key biodiversity areas have been offset by declines in terrestrial protected areas (indicator 15.1.2). The region is not on track to achieve sustainable forest management, and more regular monitoring and reporting under indicator 15.2.1 will be essential to restore the momentum. While protected areas in mountain key biodiversity areas are increasing, faster progress is needed to reach levels sufficient to ensure sustainable mountain ecosystems (indicator 15.4.1). Encouragingly, institutional frameworks for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources have strengthened (indicator 15.6.1).

The index measuring extinction risk across groups of species shows further loss of biodiversity (indicator 15.5.1). Land degradation (indicator 15.3.1) has been on the rise. In the **programme countries**, this is improving, but slowly. Official development assistance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (indicator 15.a.1) and forest management (indicator 15.b.1) has increased. When considering only the assistance received, which is the case in the 17 programme countries, the increase is on track for the 2030 ambition.

Mixed trends in peace, safety and institutional effectiveness (goal 16)



Countries in the UNECE region are facing challenging conditions with respect to peace and safety. Intentional homicide remains rare in most countries (indicator 16.1.1); however, nearly two-fifth of countries have experienced rising homicide rates in recent years.

Statistics on personal safety and non-lethal violence are known to be substantially underreported to authorities and are therefore best measured through population-based surveys rather than through administrative records. Yet survey-based indicators, such as the proportion of people subjected to robbery (indicator 16.1.3) and the share of people who feel safe walking alone at night (indicator 16.1.4) are not regularly

collected or reported by most countries in the region. This underscores the need for sustained investment in regular survey data collection to better understand local conditions and design targeted interventions.

In contrast, indicators based on administrative data sources, such as from law enforcement and prison authorities, are reported more regularly in the region. While some decline was observed in recorded cases of human trafficking (indicator 16.2.2), this progress was more than offset by a rising share of unsentenced detainees in the prison population (indicator 16.3.2), raising concerns about access to justice and due process.

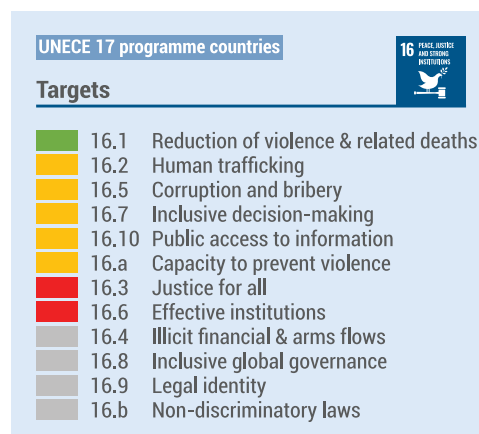
Corruption remains a significant challenge. In over half the countries, the prevalence of bribery experienced by individuals exceeds three times the regional target of 3.2 per cent (indicator 16.5.1). More encouragingly, bribery in business practices shows a downward trend in a majority of countries (indicator 16.5.2).

The introduction of a new data source for indicator 16.6.2 has made it possible to assess public satisfaction with essential services (indicator 16.6.2), which shows that close to 60 per cent of the population in the region report being satisfied with services such as healthcare and education.

Progress toward inclusive institutions remains mixed. The region recorded a slight improvement in compliance with the Paris Principles, reflected in a modest increase in the number of countries whose national human rights institutions hold accredited status (indicator 16.a.1). Decision-making bodies overall are attracting more women and younger members; however, the opposite trend has been observed in judicial institutions (indicator 16.7.1). Newly available data for indicator 16.7.2 indicate that, on average, only one in three people in the region believes that decision-making processes are inclusive. The region is set to meet its targets on having constitutional, statutory or policy guarantees to ensure access to information (indicator 16.10.2).

Finally, while the regional discrimination barometer has shown little change, the growing number of countries collecting this data through surveys highlights the continued importance placed on monitoring discrimination and equal treatment (indicator 16.b.1).

The average number of detected victims of human trafficking in the **programme countries** was far below the levels observed in the rest of the region and has been decreasing further (indicator 16.2.2). The programme countries have also experienced a faster reduction in intentional homicides than the rest of the region (indicator 16.1.1).



Stronger **partnerships** and inclusive growth are needed for sustainable development (goal 17)



Domestic resource mobilisation showed mixed progress across the region. Government revenue relative to the size of the economy increased in more than half of countries (indicator 17.1.1), signalling a more extensive role of the state in national economies. However, an even larger share of countries reported declines in the proportion of domestic budgets funded through taxation, pointing to the growing reliance on alternative financing sources, including sovereign debt. This trend is consistent with a deterioration in debt sustainability: under indicator 17.4.1, a growing share of export income is being used for external debt service, increasing balance-of-payments pressures in around half of the countries with available trend data.

Official development assistance (ODA) as a share of gross national income (GNI) declined sharply for landlocked developing countries, small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs), reflecting a broader regional shift toward

increased public spending on other priorities, such as military capacity (indicator 17.2.1). At the same time, commitments of development assistance to developing countries showed an increasing trend in nearly half of countries with data, indicating uneven patterns in international support (indicator 17.9.1).

Trade and macroeconomic conditions have become less supportive of development cooperation, with exports of environmentally sound technologies going down and imports increasing very little (indicator 17.7.1). In addition, worldwide weighted tariff averages increased, particularly for industrial and agricultural products, and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and trade policy volatility are likely to continue influencing these trends in the coming years (indicator 17.10.1).

Although inflation declined across the region, household consumption weakened, with negative real consumption growth observed in a quarter of countries. Average GDP growth also weakened (indicator 17.13.1).

Total official development assistance for technical cooperation shows renewed momentum, with almost half the countries with data recording increases (target 17.9).

Connectivity continues to support cooperation and more even development outcomes. Fixed broadband subscriptions and internet access are nearly universal across the region, and the region remains on track to meet targets on technology and information access by 2030 (targets 17.6 and 17.8). However, recent data on public–private partnerships for infrastructure are lacking, limiting the ability to monitor progress under target 17.17.

The region continues to demonstrate strong statistical capacity. Almost all countries have national statistical legislation and government-funded statistical plans, although not all plans are fully financed (target 17.18). Nearly all countries have conducted at least one population and housing census in the past decade and meet minimum standards for birth and death registration, supporting the availability of core demographic data (indicator 17.19.2).

The fixed broadband subscription in the [programme countries](#) remains lower compared to the region (indicator 17.6.1) and is slightly behind the improvement targeted for 2030. Both exports and imports of environmentally sound technologies have been falling in the programme countries (indicator 17.7.1)

Data availability for monitoring the SDGs is improving. The number of global SDG indicators that could be assessed in the UNECE region rose from 171 in 2025 to 176 in the present assessment.

UNECE 17 programme countries		17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Targets		
	17.8 Capacity building for ICT	
	17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation	
	17.4 Debt sustainability	
	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	
	17.7 Transfer of technologies	
	17.13 Global macroeconomic stability	
	17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries	
	17.3 Additional financial resources	
	17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs	
	17.11 Exports of developing countries	
	17.14 Policy coherence for SD	
	17.15 Respect country's policy space	
	17.16 Global partnership for SD	

Stories

The agencies and United Nations country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia and 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



On track for basic access, off track for safety: WASH progress and inequalities

UNICEF

Despite strong progress on basic services, current rates of improvement in safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene are insufficient to reach universal access by 2030, particularly for disadvantaged groups.



Meeting energy needs through electrification: a pathway for efficiency, green transition and affordable energy

UNECE Sustainable Energy

Artificial intelligence can unlock systemic efficiency and accelerate transition to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, but only if governance, cybersecurity and inclusivity keep pace with technological change



Energy-efficient building retrofits breathe new life into communities: civil society perspectives from Syunik (Armenia)

UNDP

Energy-efficient initiatives in Syunik (Armenia) have improved comfort, reduced costs and strengthened local capacity through civil society engagement.



Transforming innovation policy: a new charter for SDG 9

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade

Rethinking innovation policy



Empowering inclusive employment and workforce transformation in Armenia to ensure that no one is left behind

UNDP

UNDP in Armenia is advancing demand-driven end-to-end labour market solutions that support the integration of vulnerable groups into decent and sustainable jobs. By coupling employer-linked training with pay-for-success financing and robust public-private partnerships, it helps translate skills development into concrete employment outcomes.

	Leveraging partnerships as a driver for transformation: building robust data and increasing trust in education <i>UNESCO</i>	Partnerships serve as a driver by enabling shared data, building trust and shaping data-driven policies and strategies in education.
	Strengthening Ukraine's future: UNFPA's contribution to demographic resilience <i>UNFPA Ukraine</i>	UNFPA is helping Ukraine confront a severe demographic crisis by modernising national data systems, advancing long-term demographic planning and supporting gender equality during wartime.
	Co-designed multifunctional public spaces strengthen social cohesion and resilience in Armenia <i>UNDP</i>	Inclusive and gender-sensitive public spaces strengthen social cohesion, empower women and youth and support refugee integration in Armenian host communities.
	Data-driven communities: how Moldova's local authorities are using demographic insights and civic participation to build a better future <i>UNFPA Moldova</i>	As Moldova advances on its path toward European integration, communities across the country are embracing a transformative shift: using reliable demographic data to inform governance, engaging citizens more meaningfully and ensuring that no one is left behind.
	Connecting communities: accessible cities and partnerships for sustainable development in Belarus <i>UN Belarus</i>	In Belarus, multi-stakeholder partnerships are strengthening the accessibility and safety of urban spaces by translating official SDG data and commitments into local action
	MoveSafe+: strengthening sustainable urban mobility in South-Eastern, Eastern Europe and Central Asia <i>UN Habitat</i>	MoveSafe+ supports five cities in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to build safer, low-carbon and more inclusive urban mobility systems through long-term planning and investment strategies.
	Cities driving change: local action for global impact <i>UN Habitat, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</i>	Strengthening multilevel governance and advancing SDG localization through integrated urban development and sustainable agrifood systems transformation at national and local levels.
	Rebuilding heritage, building resilience: Albania's journey toward SDG 11 through EU4Culture <i>UN Habitat</i>	EU4Culture turned post-earthquake heritage recovery into a long-term driver of resilience, inclusion and sustainable urban development in Albania.



Missing data, missed opportunities: tracking child progress toward 2030

UNICEF

In Europe and Central Asia, progress towards child-related SDG targets is limited: on average, only 26 per cent of indicator series related to children are on track to meet the targets. Data availability leaves nearly half of 47 indicators without sufficient information for assessment: 36 per cent have no data and 14 per cent have insufficient trend data.



Strengthening partnerships to improve the evidence base for human rights

UN Human Rights (OHCHR)

Formal agreements between national statistical offices and national human rights institutions, established with the support of OHCHR, institutionalize collaboration that strengthens the evidence base for human rights, advances SDG monitoring, and puts “leave no one behind” into practice.



Acting for change: from real stories to powerful stage performances on

UNFPA Georgia

To address the ever-evolving nature of gender-based violence, UNFPA in Georgia partners with an independent theatre company to foster social dialogue, bringing stories of violence, resilience and survival to the creative stage.



Reimagining public-private partnerships: from cost efficiency to sustainable impact

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade

The UNECE PIERS methodology helps design Public-Private Partnerships with sustainability and inclusiveness at their core and drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals



On track for basic access, off track for safety: WASH progress and inequalities

UNICEF

Despite strong progress on basic services, current rates of improvement in safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene are insufficient to reach universal access by 2030, particularly for disadvantaged groups.



The 2030 Agenda established ambitious global targets to ensure universal access to basic services (target 1.4), including to safe drinking water (target 6.1) and sanitation and hygiene (target 6.2). To produce internationally comparable estimates of progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) established standardized service ladders⁵. The drinking water ladder (Figure 1) defines five levels of service, ranging from 'surface water' (no service) to 'safely managed,' which is the global indicator for SDG target 6.1. Similarly, the SDG service ladder for sanitation (Figure 2) defines five levels of service, ranging from 'open defecation' (no service) to 'safely managed' which is the global indicator on sanitation for SDG target 6.2. The focus of global hygiene monitoring is on hand hygiene and the

⁵ For more details, visit <https://washdata.org/>.

SDG service ladder for hygiene (Figure 3) defines three levels of service ranging from ‘no facility’ to ‘basic’, which is the global indicator on hygiene for SDG target 6.2.

Figure 1
SDG ladder for drinking water services

Service level	Definition
Safely managed	Drinking water from an improved source that is accessible on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination
Basic service	Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing
Limited service	Drinking water from an improved source, for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing
Unimproved	Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring
Surface water	Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal

Note: Improved sources include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater and packaged or delivered water.

Figure 2
SDG ladder for sanitation services

Service level	Definition
Safely managed	Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households and in which excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated off-site
Basic service	Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households
Limited service	Use of improved facilities that are shared with other households
Unimproved	Use of pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines
Open defecation	Disposal of human faeces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open places, or with solid waste

Note: Improved facilities include flush/pour flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems; septic tanks or pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs (including ventilated pit latrines); and composting toilets.

Figure 3
SDG ladder for hygiene services

Service level	Definition
Basic service	Availability of a handwashing facility with soap and water at home
Limited service	Availability of a handwashing facility lacking soap and/or water at home
No service	No handwashing facility at home

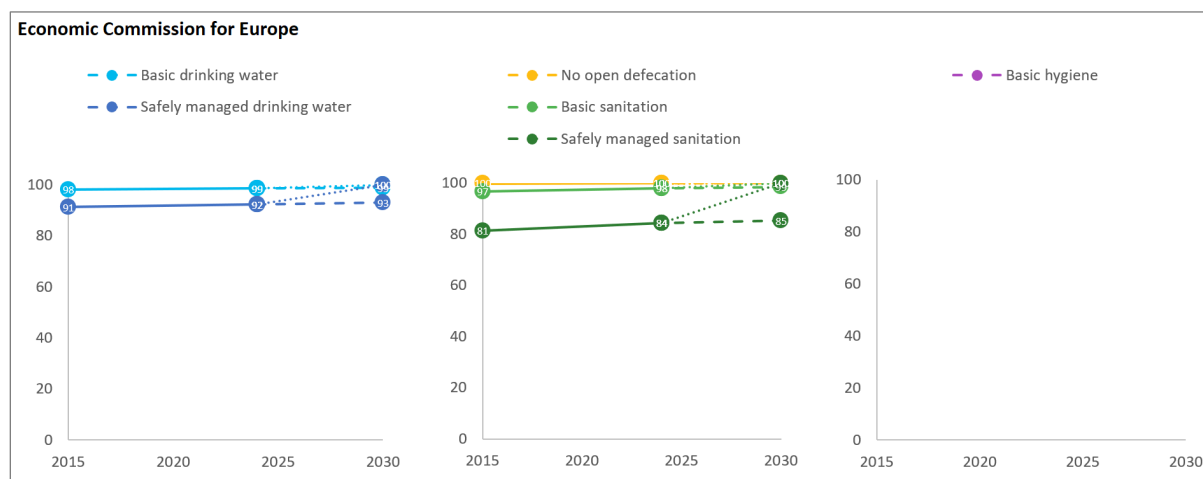
Note: Handwashing facilities may be located within the dwelling, yard or plot. They may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy-taps and jugs or basins designated for handwashing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent and soapy water but does not include ash, soil, sand or other handwashing agents.

Data for the corresponding global drinking water and sanitation indicators are now available for approximately 50 per cent of the population in the UNECE region, whereas data for hygiene are very limited (covering only 8 per cent of the regional population) for assessing progress. Based on these available data, the region is on track to achieve almost universal coverage (>99 per cent)

of basic drinking water and basic sanitation services⁶. The region has also increased coverage of safely managed services, but achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a 10-fold increase in progress rates for safely managed drinking water (SDG 6.1) and a 17-fold increase for safely managed sanitation (SDG 6.2). Regional progress on basic hygiene services (SDG 6.2 and 1.4) is unknown due to lack of national data sources on coverage of handwashing.

Figure 4

Achieving SDG targets for safely managed drinking water and sanitation in the region will require acceleration in current rates of progress



Since 2015, 55 million people have gained access to safely managed drinking water services⁷. Coverage has increased from 91 to 92 per cent, rising from 80 to 81 per cent in rural areas and from 95 to 96 per cent in urban areas (Figure 5). By 2024, the number of people who still lacked even a basic drinking water service had decreased by 4.4 million and the number of people using surface water for drinking had decreased by 1.5 million.

Similarly, 78 million people have gained access to safely managed sanitation services since 2015. Coverage has increased from 81 to 84 per cent, rising from 71 to 75 per cent in rural areas and from 85 to 87 per cent in urban areas (Figure 5). By 2024, the number of people who still lacked even a basic sanitation service had decreased by 6 million.

In 2024, among 55 UNECE countries with safely managed drinking water estimates⁸, 18 had already achieved universal access (>99 per cent) to safely managed drinking water services (Figure 6). There were 5 countries with less than 75 per cent coverage, including one country below 60 per cent.

Although overall coverage of WASH services was high in the region, there were disparities especially in safely managed sanitation coverage. In 2024, among 49 UNECE countries with safely managed sanitation estimates⁹, only 4 had already achieved universal access (>99 per cent) to safely managed sanitation services (Figure 7). There were 11 countries with less than 75 per cent

⁶ All estimates in this regional summary are based on JMP 2025 WASH in households global update estimates: “Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2024: special focus on inequalities”. Link: <https://washdata.org/reports/jmp-2025-wash-households>.

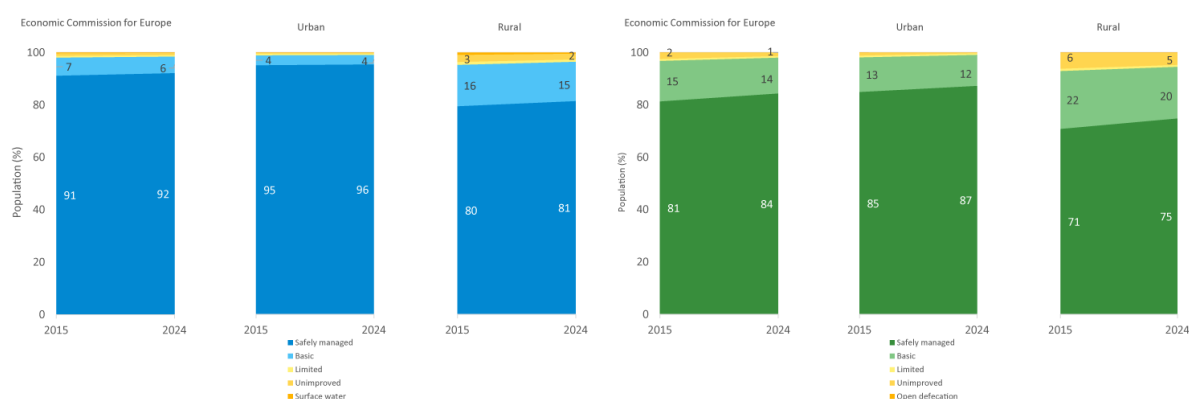
⁷ For regional estimates, refer to JMP 2025 WASH in households regional snapshots (<<https://washdata.org/how-we-work/country-and-regional-engagement/regional-analysis-2025-household-update>>). For figures presented in this regional summary, refer to the JMP 2025 ECE Regional Snapshot. Link: <https://washdata.org/files/JMP-2025-RC-ECE-ALL-Economic-Commission-for-Europe.xlsx>.

⁸ Türkiye is the only one country in the region without safely managed estimates as there is no information on water quality to produce the estimates.

⁹ There are 4 countries with only basic sanitation estimates (meaning the information required to generate the indicator is missing) and 3 countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Tajikistan) without safely managed or basic sanitation estimates.

coverage, including five countries below 60 per cent and 3 countries with less than 25 per cent coverage.

Figure 5
Progress towards universal coverage with water and sanitation services by type of settlement



Moreover, the disparities within countries are particularly pronounced for certain groups. For example, although the proportion of Roma living in households without tap water inside the dwelling declined in most countries between 2016 and 2021, Roma are still 10 times more likely than the general population to lack tap water in their homes.¹⁰

Conclusion

As the UNECE region enters the last five years of the 2030 Agenda, progress on household water and sanitation presents a mixed picture. The region is on track to achieve near-universal coverage of basic drinking water and basic sanitation services, reflecting sustained investments and strong service infrastructure in most countries.

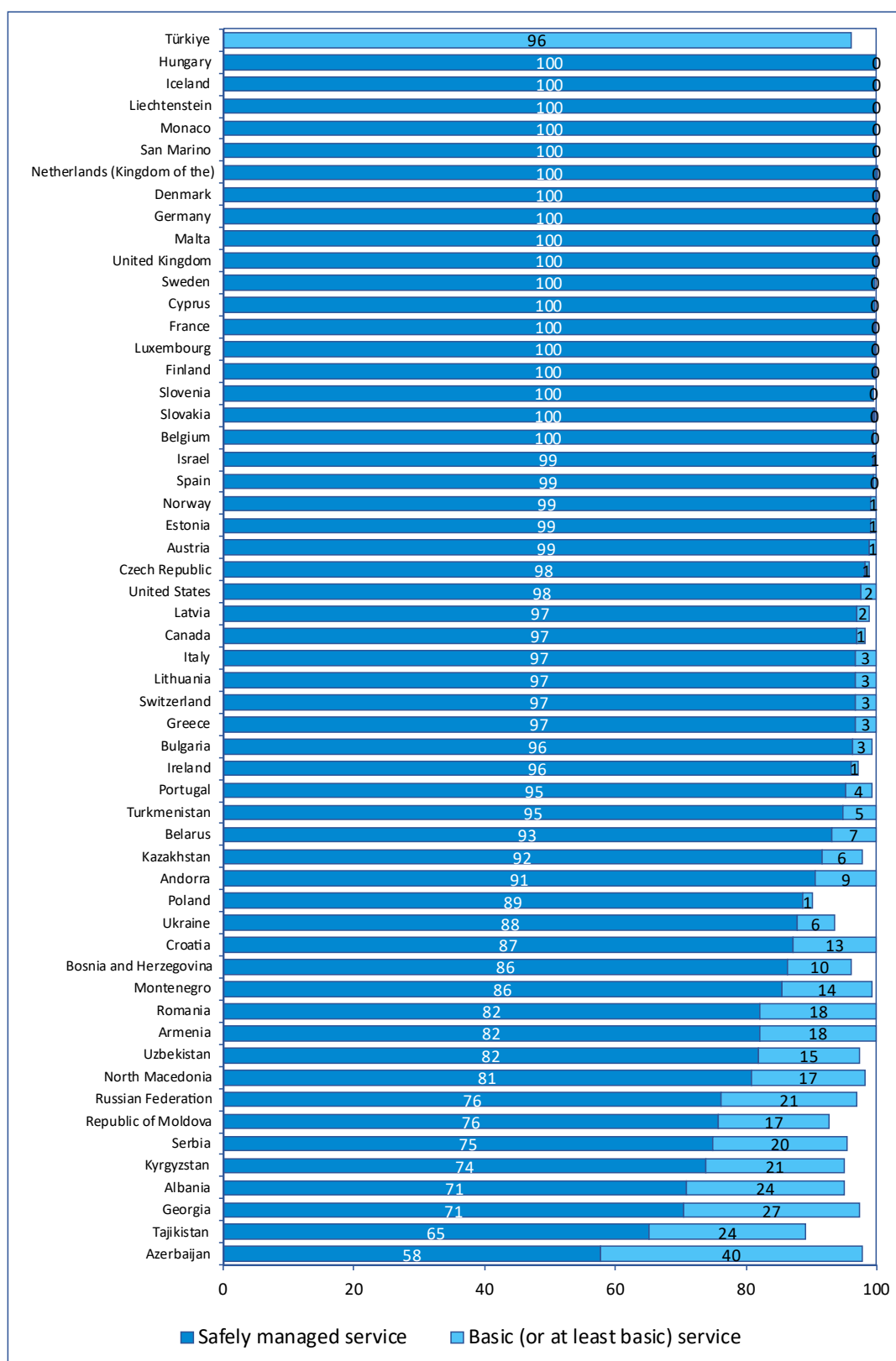
However, this overall success masks significant challenges. Progress in SDG indicators for targets 6.1 and 6.2, is far too slow to achieve universal coverage by 2030. Current rates of progress would need to increase ten-fold for drinking water and seventeen-fold for sanitation. Moreover, large disparities persist between countries and within countries, particularly in safely managed sanitation, where only a small number of countries have reached universal coverage.

Data gaps further constrain effective monitoring and policy action. While drinking water and sanitation data are available for around half of the region's population, information on hygiene services remains extremely limited, preventing an assessment of progress towards universal access to basic handwashing facilities. Persistent inequalities affecting disadvantaged groups, such as Roma communities, highlight that access to WASH services is not only a technical challenge, but also a question of equity, inclusion and human rights.

Without accelerated action, targeted investments and improved data systems, the region risks falling short of its commitment to ensure safe, equitable and sustainable WASH services for all by 2030.

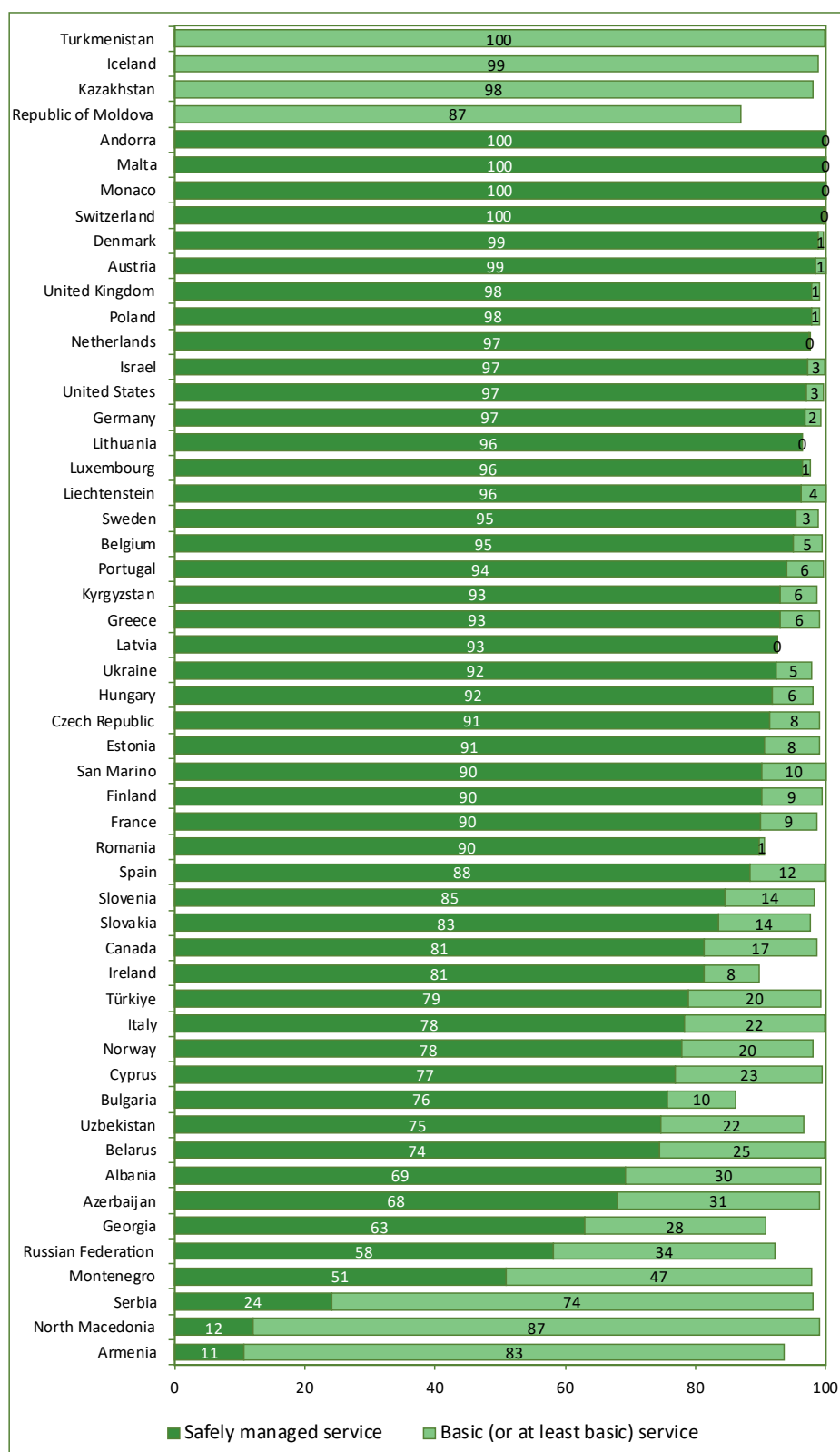
¹⁰ WHO and UNICEF, [Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2024: special focus on inequalities](#). Geneva, 2025.

Figure 6
Progress towards universal coverage with water services by country¹¹



¹¹ Safely managed is the highest level of service. The lighter colour area shows people who do not have safely managed services.

Figure 7
Progress towards universal coverage with sanitation services by country¹²



¹² Safely managed is the highest level of service. The lighter colour area shows people who do not have safely managed services.



Meeting energy needs through electrification: a pathway for efficiency, green transition and affordable energy

UNECE Sustainable Energy

Artificial intelligence can unlock systemic efficiency and accelerate transition to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, but only if governance, cybersecurity and inclusivity keep pace with technological change



Electrification is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone of green transition, providing an effective pathway to meet the growing energy demand while ensuring affordability, reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency and integrating renewables. In so doing, it establishes a solid foundation for deep decarbonization across all sectors to successfully meet climate and sustainability objectives.

The global transformation of energy systems is reshaping the electricity sector. Rising shares of renewables, electrification of transport and heating, along with the proliferation of distributed energy resources (DER), are creating new complexities in operations, especially at the grid edge. SDG 7 calls for “access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. Amid the current digital transformation trend, its targets 7.1 (universal access), 7.2 (increase renewable

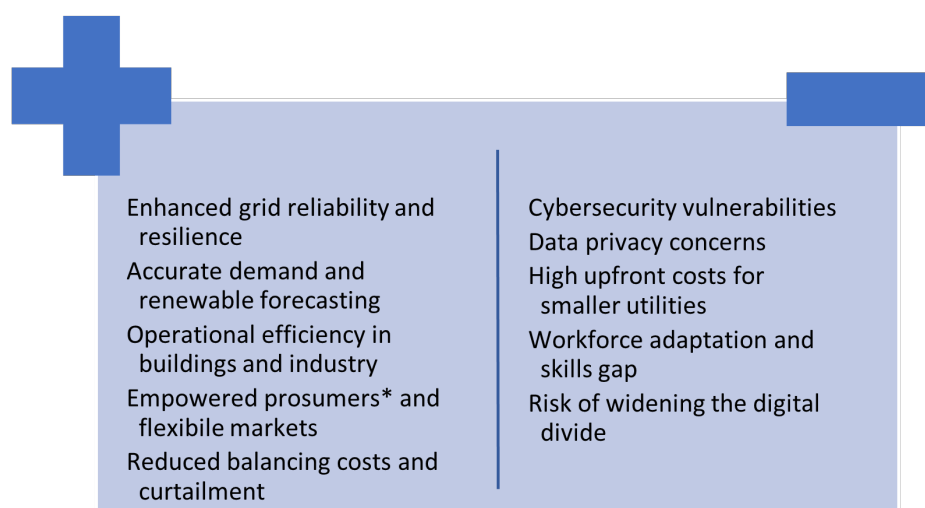
share) and 7.3 (improve energy efficiency) often hinge on systems that can anticipate variability and optimize operations in real time.

By enabling real-time monitoring and innovative solutions, digital transformation supports developing necessary capacity and intelligence to manage and harness electrification for achieving SDG-aligned green transition:

1. Efficiency and cost reduction: digital technologies enable predictive maintenance, decentralized energy management, including hybrid systems and low-emissions mini-grids. These technologies allow creating tailored applications that reduce energy losses, enhance reliability, increase durability and improve access and affordability of energy services, especially in underserved areas and fragile settings.
2. Evidence-based policymaking: availability of high-quality, reliable and accessible online data monitoring platforms supports policymakers plan, implement and track policy interventions more effectively. Digitalization also strengthens coordination across sectors, increases transparency and supports investment by building trust and accountability.
3. ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) frameworks: digitalization opens avenues for ESG participatory governance, integrated service delivery and institutional strengthening across the three pillars of sustainability. It facilitates harmonized data collection and management among enterprises as well as across government agencies. This ensures that transparency is anchored in principles of cybersecurity, data privacy and interoperability as well as alignment with the SDGs.

To unlock the full potential of digitalization, it must be systematically integrated into national energy strategies. Digitalization should also be anchored in regulatory harmonization to ensure alignment with emerging international regulatory trends shaping electricity trade in the energy system transformation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers powerful tools to meet challenges in the broader electricity access context. By leveraging big data, machine learning and predictive analytics, AI can improve forecast demand and renewable output as well as address threats, such as cybersecurity risks, enabling grids to integrate clean energy reliably and affordably. However, these benefits come with risks, including data privacy concerns and exacerbating digital divide, which could undermine trust and equity if left unaddressed.

Figure 8
AI for energy: opportunities and trade-offs



*Prosumer is an organization or an individual that both produces and consumes energy

Baseline situation and remaining challenges

Power grid operators historically relied on deterministic models which were built and evolved over decades. These legacy infrastructures—both hardware and software—performed well under stable

conditions. However, in today's volatile environment with changing consumption patterns—such as EV charging, rising data center demand and telecommuting—combined with unpredictable climate events, such as heatwaves and storms, place growing pressure on electricity systems. At the same time, increasing renewables, integration of DERs and emergence of prosumers adds complexity to grid balancing, causing existing infrastructures to struggle.

Maintaining reliability under these conditions often requires costly operational reserves and curtailment of renewables, contradicting the emissions-reducing goals. Smaller utilities and emerging markets face additional barriers, such as limited digital infrastructure, lack of skilled workforce and relatively high upfront costs.

International and national actions taken

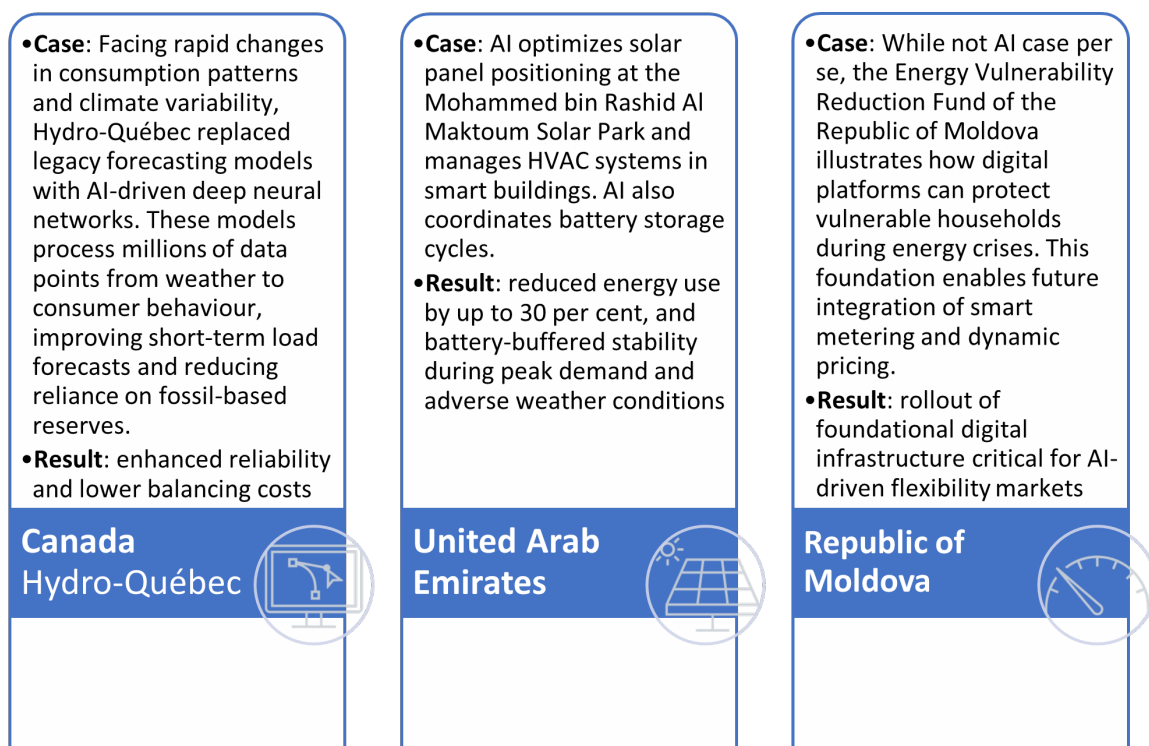
UNECE has positioned systemic efficiency, defined as coordinated optimization of energy production, distribution and consumption, as the key organizing principle for energy systems digital transformation.

Key actions include:

- Policy and governance frameworks: recommendations on digital, particularly AI governance, interoperability and cybersecurity for critical energy infrastructure.
- Case studies and cutting-edge research: AI applications analysis, including in load forecasting and short-term demand prediction for optimizing renewable-based DER and smart building management.
- Capacity building: workshops and dialogues connecting policymakers, industry and academia to share best practices on digital transformation, optimization and bridging gaps between research, innovation and policy needs.
- Regional and global platforms: UNECE leads the UN-Energy Priority on Digitalization, creating multi-stakeholder partnerships and knowledge-sharing mechanisms to scale AI solutions across regions.
- Transformative innovation policy and AI: UNECE identified key actions to harness AI for energy systems: (1) promote open-source data and modelling to boost collaboration and transparency; (2) establish strong governance frameworks to build trust and accelerate AI adoption; and (3) mandate reporting and disclosure of energy use in data centers.

These efforts are complemented by projects such as the one from the 18th tranche of the United Nations Development Account (2026–2029), which will develop approaches to digital governance frameworks for inclusive, AI-enabled power grids in countries with special needs.

Figure 9
AI-driven energy solutions: lessons from practice



What has improved

AI-driven forecasting and optimization deliver tangible benefits:

- Enhanced reliability: reduced forecasting errors and improved scheduling;
- Higher integration of renewable-based DER: more accurate prediction of solar and wind patterns, reducing curtailment;
- Operational efficiency: smart building systems lower energy use and emissions taking account of user behaviour patterns.

However, challenges remain: workforce adaptation and cybersecurity are critical bottlenecks, and smaller utilities risk being left behind without targeted support. Digitalization must be inclusive, interoperable and cybersecure to avoid further reinforcing digital divide. Moreover, AI models demand massive computational power, increasing energy use and emissions. Improving energy efficiency in AI is essential, while data centres' need for reliable access to electricity calls for innovations that better integrate intermittent renewables and leverage waste-heat recovery and other industrial symbiosis solutions.

Conclusion

AI is one of the strategic technological choices to support systemic efficiency. By anticipating energy needs and optimizing flows, it reduces costs, enhances resilience and accelerates decarbonization. UNECE facilitates the sharing of these benefits across the region, fostering cooperation, innovation and inclusivity. As digital and green transitions converge, AI-driven energy systems exemplify how technology can serve people and the planet, turning complexity into opportunity for a sustainable energy future.



Energy-efficient building retrofits breathe new life into communities: civil society perspectives from Syunik (Armenia)

UNDP

Energy-efficient initiatives in Syunik (Armenia) have improved comfort, reduced costs and strengthened local capacity through civil society engagement.



Armenia has been implementing various programs to advance energy efficiency. While technical improvements are important, incorporating community perspectives is critical to ensure long-term sustainability. Civil society organizations play a key role in promoting awareness, training and adopting energy-efficient solutions, contributing to SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

Baseline situation and challenges

- Identifying active community NGOs working on energy efficiency proved challenging.
- Information dissemination and awareness-raising were necessary to engage local residents.
- Remote communities like Kapan and surrounding areas had limited access to trained specialists and information.

Actions taken

- Civil society engagement: Sustainable Development NGO, founded in 2011, organized seminars and training sessions in rural areas on climate change, economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient technologies, targeting students, educators and entrepreneurs.
- Technical awareness and visits: in 2015, the NGO conducted a four-day study tour with fifteen professors, engineers and NGO representatives to examine energy-efficient buildings and renewable energy technologies across Armenia.
- Local capacity development: in 2014, the NGO established an energy efficiency and renewable energy laboratory at the Kapan branch of the National Polytechnic University of Armenia, equipped with resources, equipment and specialized literature.
- Market support: local stores adapted to the growing demand, providing energy-efficient building materials, consultations and guidance for retrofitting houses and apartments.
- Practical solutions adopted: residents implemented measures such as replacing windows and light bulbs, insulating walls, improving basements, selecting efficient heating boilers and installing solar panels.

Improvements observed

- Residential buildings retrofitted for energy efficiency show improved comfort, thermal conditions and utility cost reductions
- Communities experienced more active social life and economic benefits.
- Local specialists are trained to continue energy efficiency work, ensuring long-term results.
- Knowledge and practices from temporary international projects remain within the community.

Breakdown by population groups

- Students, educators and entrepreneurs are key agents of change in their communities.
- Residents across settlements increasingly integrate energy-efficient solutions in home renovations.
- Businesses, including mining enterprises, have potential for significant energy savings when consulted and engaged

Conclusion

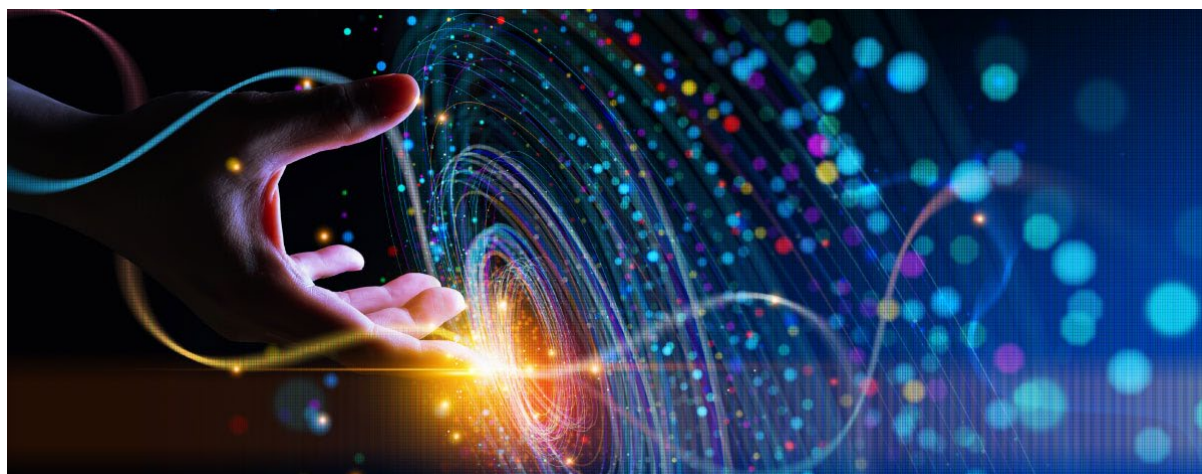
Projects focusing on energy efficiency in Syunik have revitalized communities, delivered economic and environmental benefits and strengthened local capacity. Continued engagement, awareness-raising and emphasis on energy efficiency are essential to maintain and expand these positive changes.



Transforming innovation policy: a new charter for SDG 9

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade

Rethinking innovation policy



Innovation is central to advancing the 2030 Agenda. Yet, in today's environment of rapid technological change, intense competition and uncertainty, traditional approaches to innovation policy are no longer sufficient. The linear model, focused on incremental improvements and rigid planning, has struggled to keep pace with the scale and complexity of global challenges. Recognizing this, UNECE member States have embarked on a journey to rethink how public policies can more effectively enable and incentivize innovation.

The new approach to innovation policy emphasizes a holistic perspective, a clear focus on transformative innovation and a mission-oriented framework that prioritizes directionality over detailed planning. It also creates space for experimentation and strategic learning, acknowledging that innovation thrives when risks are managed collectively and lessons are shared openly. This ambition was at the heart of the UNECE Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN), a platform that brought together policymakers, experts and practitioners from across the region.

Through several years of analytical work, policy dialogue and capacity building, ETIN laid the foundation for a new normative instrument: the UNECE Transformative Innovation Charter ("the Charter"). The Charter provides a coherent set of principles, guidelines and practices to help governments and stakeholders, enabling and promoting effective and transformative innovation.

A milestone achievement

On 25 June 2025, during the 18th Session of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public Private Partnerships, member States formally adopted the Charter. This was a milestone achievement: the first unified, forward-looking normative framework designed to support and guide member States in putting transformative innovation policy into practice. Its adoption signaled a collective commitment to harness innovation not just for economic growth but for sustainable development and resilience.

The Charter also reflects the shared challenges and opportunities faced by both developed countries and economies in transition in the ECE region. By bridging diverse contexts, it ensures that innovation policy is inclusive, adaptable and responsive to varying national circumstances.

From principles to practice

Following the adoption, member States began taking steps to implement and further develop the Charter. At the 17th session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, member States decided to establish two drafting teams to develop policy guidelines and codes of practice to operationalize the Charter and ensure that the Charter's principles could be applied in practical, context-sensitive ways. The first two teams will pilot the development of policy guides on innovation-enhancing procurement and innovation ecosystem development. Work will continue in 2027 on artificial intelligence and transformative innovation and on location-based innovation. This collaborative process will not only strengthen the Charter's utility but also foster a culture of shared learning and experimentation across the UNECE region.

Equally important, the Charter has created a platform for cross border cooperation. Member States are working together to exchange experience, pilot new approaches and co-develop scalable solutions. This spirit of collaboration ensures that transformative innovation is not confined to national boundaries but becomes a shared asset for sustainable development.

Putting the Charter into action: the experience of Montenegro

The UNECE project, Innovation for Development and Economic Advancement in Montenegro, has shown how the Charter can support from principle to practice, shaping real policy change and strengthening national innovation governance. Montenegro has not only endorsed the Charter; it has positioned it as a central pillar of its new Smart Specialization Strategy, ensuring that future innovation priorities are grounded in transformation oriented, mission-driven thinking.

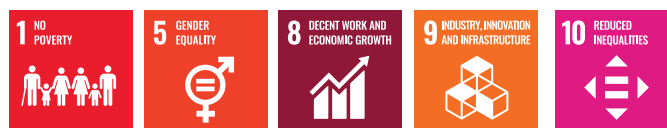
This ambition is already reflected in the government's decision to select innovation enhancing procurement (IEP) and innovation infrastructure as elective chapters for its forthcoming Innovation for Sustainable Development Review, two areas drawn directly from the Charter's principles on-demand creation and capability-building. Building on this momentum, the project has delivered two hands-on national seminars which equipped ministries, agencies and innovation institutions with practical tools to operationalize these instruments. The seminars have generated strong ownership across the government, which now sees IEP and innovation infrastructure as practical levers for productivity, competitiveness and regional integration.

Montenegro's proactive uptake of the Charter, cross-strategy development, institutional coordination and capacity building demonstrate how a normative UNECE instrument can catalyze tangible policy reforms and help forge a shared national vision for transformative innovation.

Looking ahead

The UNECE Transformative Innovation Charter represents a new chapter in innovation policy. It moves beyond incremental change to embrace bold and mission-driven approaches that can tackle the most pressing challenges of our time. By fostering experimentation, learning and cooperation, it empowers member States to harness innovation as a driver of resilience, inclusivity and sustainability.

As drafting teams continue to develop sector-specific guidelines, the Charter will evolve into a dynamic framework, one that grows with the needs of societies and economies. Its success will be measured not only by the policies it inspires but by the tangible improvements it brings to people's lives across the UNECE region.



Empowering inclusive employment and workforce transformation in Armenia to ensure that no one is left behind

UNDP

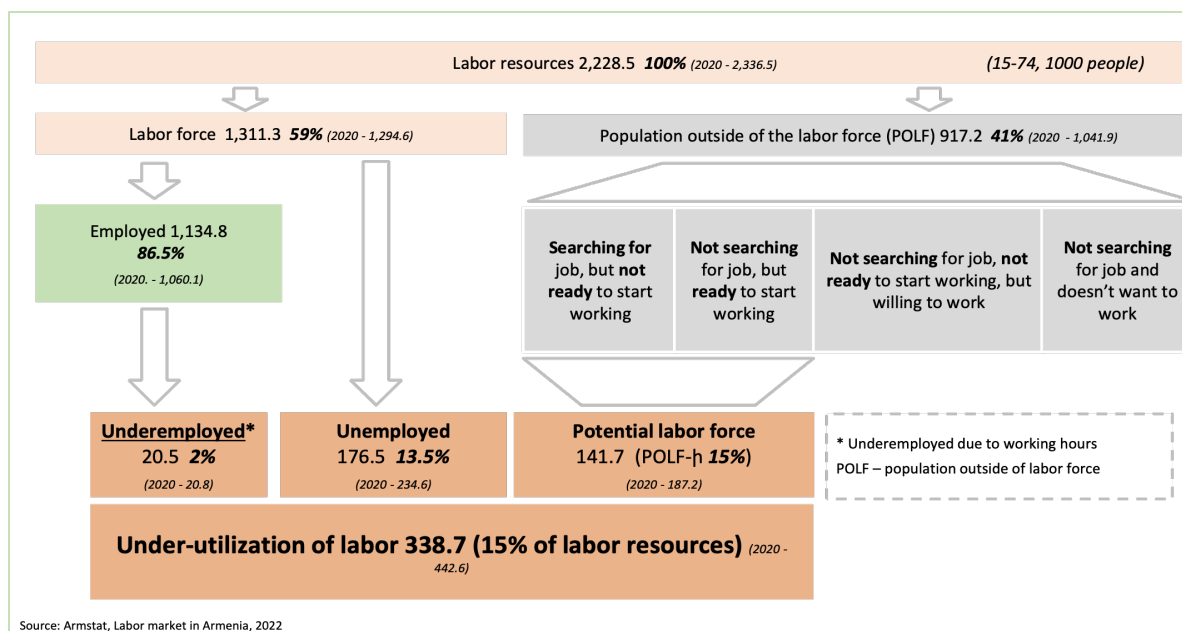
UNDP in Armenia is advancing demand-driven end-to-end labour market solutions that support the integration of vulnerable groups into decent and sustainable jobs. By coupling employer-linked training with pay-for-success financing and robust public-private partnerships, it helps translate skills development into concrete employment outcomes.



In 2023, UNDP Armenia began cooperating with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA) to develop Armenia's new employment strategy to address persistent mismatch between labor supply and demand, labor underutilization (approximately 15 per cent of the labor force in 2022) and low labor competitiveness, particularly in regional towns. As a result, the new Employment Strategy

2025-2031 entered into force, setting an ambitious vision to build a competitive workforce and to expand highly-productive, non-agricultural jobs to reduce regional¹³ unemployment by 2031.

Figure 10
The structure of labour resources in Armenia



To support the Employment Strategy, the Innovation and SDG Finance Portfolio of UNDP Armenia, in cooperation with the MLSA and with funding from the Austrian Development Agency and the European Union, designed and piloted the “Result-Based Financed Active Labor Market Policy” (RBF ALMP) project in 2024. The project is a comprehensive initiative that leverages public-private partnerships to deliver end-to-end training-to-employment solutions. It targets groups facing high unemployment, including NEET youth, women aged 30–40, recipients of social and family benefits and displaced individuals from Nagorno-Karabakh. “We need consistent, targeted and long-term efforts to implement the strategic objectives set in the employment sector. And in this context, continued constructive and coordinated cooperation with partner organizations is of particular importance” – said the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Arsen Torosyan.

To incentivize market-tailored and demand-driven solutions, RBF ALMP introduced a result-based financing mechanism grounded in the pay-for-success principle. The new result-based financing mechanism shifted funding from inputs to outcomes, providing phased funding based on employment results.

Actions taken internationally and nationally

Ten competitively selected private companies, educational centers and CSOs designed and operationalized innovative employment-integration models encompassing participant identification, orientation, skills training, direct job placement and job security (four months and longer on the job). Around 600 participants from target groups were identified and enrolled in the program. Strong participation was recorded in the regions of Armenia, accounting for over 82 per cent of total enrollment – advancing the “leaving no one behind” commitment of the initiative.

The partners adopted agile, context-specific approaches to analyze local labor markets, assess demand, conduct outreach and select participants. Individual yet holistic approaches were applied

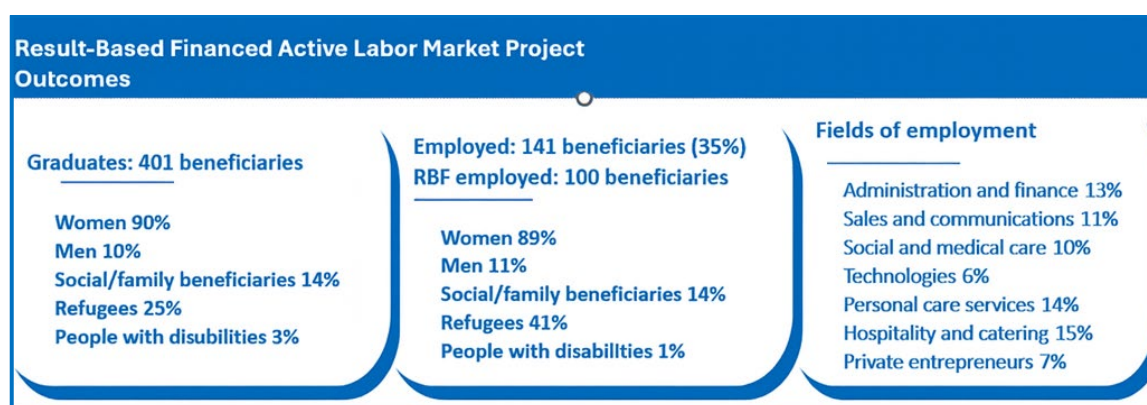
¹³ Regions refer to the marzes, the country's 10 administrative provinces (excluding Yerevan)

for identifying career interests and existing skillsets and to deliver tailored orientation, reskilling and upskilling, as well as psychosocial support. Finally, job-liaison services were provided to support job placement and security.

These approaches aimed not only to build technical competencies but also transversal skills and strengthening foundations for sustainable job integration. Ten high-demand occupational areas were identified—including ICT, sales and communications, and catering. Zhaneta Ayvazyan, a displaced woman settled in a rural area shared, “The program was not just about technical skills, it transformed my mindset, I understood that career can be built even in the most difficult life situations. This opportunity restored my confidence and brought stability to my family—they see that I move forward and that gives them strength.”

To support the continuous improvement and sustainability, a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework was established to facilitate data-driven decision-making, scaling-up of RBF ALMP models and foster continuous policy enhancement. Moreover, a set of evaluation instruments have been developed to support process optimization, including a complex formula to assess ALMP partner proposals and financing distribution.

Figure 11
Project outcomes



By November 2025, 401 participants had successfully completed reskilling and upskilling programmes, with many also receiving individualized and needs-tailored psychosocial assistance, auxiliary skills training, and career counseling. Within one to five months, 141 long-term unemployed graduates (35 per cent of total graduates) secured registered employment, with nearly 10 per cent establishing their own microenterprises. Among the employed, there was an outstanding representation of women (89 per cent) and displaced individuals from Nagorno-Karabakh (41 per cent). Moreover, verified monthly salaries of beneficiaries in rural areas, were more than twice the minimum wage, indicating that achieving competitive earnings across different geographies is feasible with holistic market-tailored models. Manya Shermazanyan, a mother of a child with special needs shared, “I rediscovered myself, built a new profession and now have a growing business that helps me support my child. This program didn’t just change my life—it gave it back to me. My wonderful daughter says that when she grows up, she wants to be like me – and that is the greatest success for me”

Figure 12
Salaries of job-placed beneficiaries

Result-Based Financed Active Labor Market Policy Project

Salaries of Job-Placed Beneficiaries

All Beneficiaries

Total salary

14,643,642

AMD

Average

157,458

AMD

Median

120,000

AMD

Beneficiaries from Marzes

Total salary

10,454,020

AMD

Average

145,194

AMD

Median

104,000

AMD

Beneficiaries from Rural Areas

Total salary

3,887,269

AMD

Average

155,490

AMD

Median

104,000

AMD

Importantly, MEL analysis generated insights to further refine the models. For example, on-the-job training delivered immediate employment outcomes for over 71 per cent of participants, compared with approximately 2.9 per cent for classroom-only training, confirming the effectiveness of employer-linked models. Flexible hybrid training formats expanded access for rural women and caregivers as well as strengthened motivation, group dynamics and the overall engagement. As Sirun Melkumyan—a displaced beneficiary—explained, “This program opened doors to a new environment, helped me overcome displacement-related trauma and allowed me to support others in need.”

Building on these and other findings, UNDP Armenia and MLSA are working to adjust and optimize the models through targeted policy and operational improvements. This joint effort is laying the groundwork for embedding these approaches in the Employment Strategy action plan and the national MEL system, enabling national scalability. “The RBF ALMP has demonstrated an exceptional promise,” said Ruben Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, “not only in the innovation of models but in the lessons, we are already gathering data on how to make employment interventions more efficient and policies more effective. This is a unique initiative that brings together UNDP and the Government around a shared mission: improving Armenia’s labor market through evidence-driven, scalable solutions”.

To further strengthen digital readiness and employability, UNDP has developed Digital Upskilling (DU) 1.0 and 2.0 training courses grounded in European Commission’s DigComp 2.2 framework, which offer foundational and intermediate-level digital skills. Since 2023, more than 1,800 women, predominantly from the regions of Armenia, have completed the digital literacy courses and received certifications. Collectively, these initiatives have helped beneficiaries acquire the competencies needed to participate in today’s digital economy. A displaced woman, Arpine, shared, “The program helped me restore my ability to learn, improved my memory and confidence and gave me the skills to use digital tools without fear.”

The strong demand for and success of DU 1.0 and 2.0 led to a more ambitious plan—creating a nationwide ecosystem of digital and AI literacy to support workforce transformation, enhance competitiveness and enable all citizens to contribute to Armenia’s digital future. Building on the momentum, UNDP Armenia is now developing an operational AI course to be integrated into a nationwide learning platform and plans to further expand it with AI literacy for entrepreneurs and SMEs. As Ruben Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs mentioned, “UNDP is unparalleled in its ability to design and operationalize complex pilot initiatives—from RBF ALMP to Digital Upskilling—starting from zero. We highly value that the Digital Upskilling initiative is now expanding into AI literacy, equipping unemployed individuals with the skills needed for an increasingly digital labor market.”



Leveraging partnerships as a driver for transformation: building robust data and increasing trust in education

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Partnerships serve as a driver by enabling shared data, building trust and shaping data-driven policies and strategies in education.



Three years of evolving trends and insights: a data journey

Since 2022, the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe has collected and analysed UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) data to systematically monitor SDG 4 indicators across 14 countries in South-East Europe and parts of the Mediterranean.¹⁴ This undertaking focuses on key dimensions of access, equity, relevance, quality, cost and financing in education. Through comparative analysis across education systems in these 14 countries, the Bureau identifies trends, highlights data gaps and assesses the impact of investments in education.

Over time, the quality and consistency of data across the region have steadily improved. Countries have updated indicators and addressed data gaps, enabling a more comprehensive view of both the achievements and challenges. These improvements reflect closer alignment among national stakeholders and growing trust in data generation and use.

Leveraging partnerships, a core principle of SDG 17, has proved essential in transforming education systems across South-East Europe. This summary illustrates how partnerships have shaped progress, strengthened policy dialogue and generated impact across the region.

¹⁴ List of 14 countries under purview of the Regional Bureau: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye.

Key findings from comparative data analysis

High-performing education systems continue to produce steady results in the region; higher investment is associated with better learning outcomes and greater trust in education systems; and improved data informs both progress and remaining gaps.

- High-performing education systems continue to demonstrate strong performance: Croatia, Malta, Serbia, Slovenia and Türkiye perform well academically, according to OECD PISA 2022 results. This reflects strong policy alignment and institutional reliability.
- Investment matters: in countries with data availability, higher investment in education correlates with better learning outcomes and greater trust in education systems, reinforcing the link between investment, outcome and trust.
- Data availability is improving: Albania and the Republic of Moldova have strengthened net enrollment data and tracking government expenditure on education as a share of GDP.

Factors enabling an effective education system

These key findings point to an underlying enabling factor for an effective education system: public trust. Across the region, high-performing education systems are not only well-resourced but are also perceived as being competent, fair and transparent about outcomes, in line with the OECD's trust framework.¹⁵

- Slovenia: the legislative framework and the National Programme for Children embed principles of quality, fairness and inclusiveness, alongside strong safeguards for supportive, safe and non-discriminatory school environments.
- Malta: the 2024–2030 National Education Strategy was developed through more than 200 stakeholder consultations and places equity and quality at its core.

The landscape of partnerships in South-East Europe: a foundation for trust

In the context of South-East Europe, education partnerships take the form of structured, multi-stakeholder collaborations grounded in integrity, transparency and shared values. Through inclusive decision-making and open use of evidence, partnerships function as a key mechanism for building and maintaining trust in education systems.

Yet, SDG 17 indicators largely overlook this dimension and tend to focus more on formal arrangements and financing, rather than on the quality of partnerships and their role in building trust.

Leveraging partnerships: the key to building trust

Partnerships provide a structured way to bring actors together, create a shared responsibility and promote greater transparency in decision-making. This reflects the underlying rationale of SDG 17, which highlights multi-stakeholder partnerships as vehicles to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise and resources to support the SDGs.

Factors that enhance trust in building partnerships include:

1. Integrity and clear strategic frameworks: partnerships with aligned objectives ensure that stakeholders act with commitment towards implementation.
2. Ownership and transparency: partnerships with transparent and regular communication about data utility and limitations help prevent selective use of evidence.

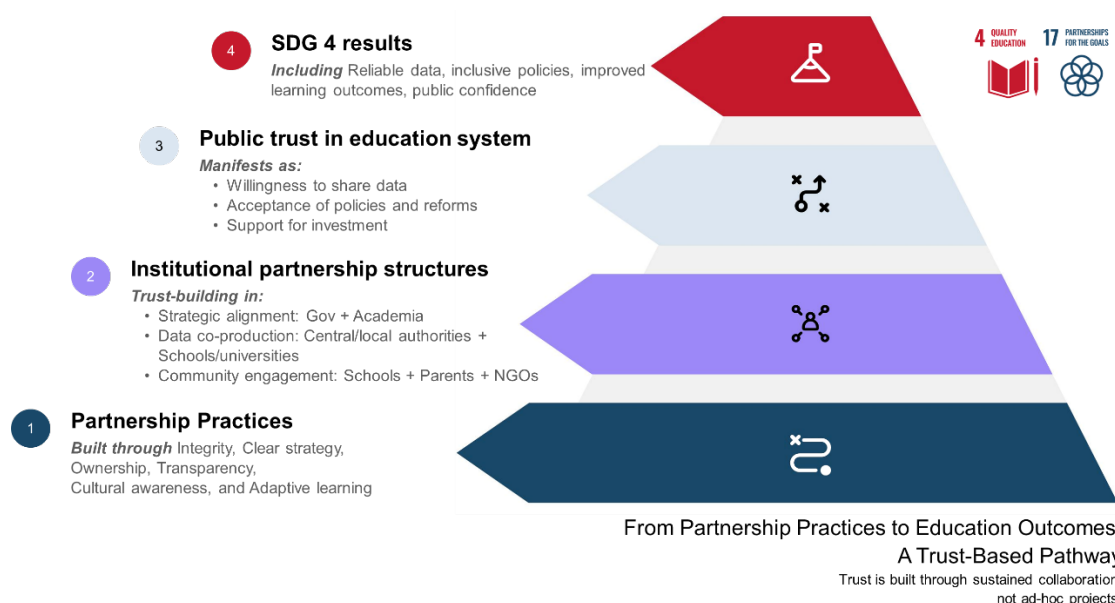
¹⁵ Key Dimensions of the OECD Trust Framework includes reliability, integrity, openness and responsiveness. Available here: <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/trust-in-government.html>

3. Cultural awareness and adaptive learning: listening across institutional cultures, acknowledging contextual differences and learning from setbacks are essential to understanding the full data picture and sustaining trust.

Partnerships anchored in these principles bring clarity to decision-making, make evidence actionable and sustain progress, promoting trust and robust learning outcomes.

The level of partnership engagement is reflected in SDG indicator 17.16.1, which tracks whether countries report on how stakeholders work together. This could be complemented with qualitative data and insights on coordination mechanisms and regular joint review of education data.

Figure 13
From partnership practices to education outcomes: a trust-based pathway



Rethinking SDG 17: revisiting target indicators and reimagining partnerships

Revisiting current target indicators for SDG 17

Monitoring progress towards SDG 17 is a systemic process that requires relevant measures to capture how partnerships function. Progress is reflected in continuous improvements in institutional alignment, data completeness and stakeholder coordination. To better capture this reality, it is worth considering an alternative approach to measuring, including the introduction of two new indicators:

a. Assess data completeness and transparency among stakeholders and across SDG domains

Fragmented or siloed data often signal weak partnership ecosystems. Conversely, robust cross-institutional data-sharing, with the UIS serving as data custodian, reflects effective data governance. In practice, this could mean assessing whether countries:

- Publish reports where education data are systematically linked with other sectors (e.g. health or social protection).
- Make methodologies and assessments of limitations publicly available.
- Provide short, accessible summaries of key education statistics for non-technical audiences.

These are all indicators of whether data are being treated as a shared asset across institutions.

b. Identify shared data insights and governance markers of partnership practice

Beyond completeness, it is important to understand how data are jointly interpreted and used. One entry point is identifying co-produced data narratives through cross-referencing data with multi-stakeholder partners. In education, this could mean verifying whether national education strategies:

- Explicitly include a dedicated section on multi-stakeholder engagement or data-sharing aims that go beyond technical circles.
- Have regular joint review forums where ministries, statistical offices, researchers and representatives of educators, youth and communities discuss education data together.
- Present data in inclusive ways, for example, by using accessible language, visualizations or shorter public summaries.

These indicators do not require new data sets. They can be identified through desk research of existing policy documents, providing a practical means to assess how partnership practices are reflected in institutional processes and governance arrangements.

Reassessing the role of partnerships

SDG 17 is a foundational enabler for all the SDGs. Its essence lies in building trust, increasing capacity and creating collaborative ecosystems.

Insights from the South East Europe region show that partnerships must be reimagined as ongoing practices of trust-building. Ad hoc projects, particularly those driven by external funding and not embedded in long-term partnerships, may have limited impact beyond the project cycle.

Partnerships in education function as an analytical lens, grounded in trust and informed by data monitoring to move beyond surface-level observations and better understand underlying educational challenges.



Strengthening Ukraine's future: UNFPA's contribution to demographic resilience

UNFPA Ukraine

UNFPA is helping Ukraine confront a severe demographic crisis by modernising national data systems, advancing long-term demographic planning and supporting gender equality during wartime.



Ukraine is facing a severe demographic crisis with direct consequences for progress across the 2030 Agenda. Since 2014, the country's population has declined by an estimated 10 million people and fertility has fallen below 1.0 children per woman. As of the end of 2025, more than 5.9 million Ukrainians remain abroad and 3.7 million are internally displaced. This is not an abstract population trend: it changes who is available to work, where people live and whether communities can sustain schools, clinics and basic services—all core conditions for sustainable development.

As large numbers of people are displaced or living outside the country, labour markets tighten, service delivery becomes uneven and local economies struggle to maintain momentum. These pressures show up at community level as well, shaping whether towns and cities remain viable and inclusive (SDG 11) and whether health and well-being can be protected in practice (SDG 3).

Gender equality is a core part of demographic resilience. Ukraine's recovery depends on women being able to participate in economic life, including entering into traditionally male-dominated sectors during wartime. It also depends on women and girls being safe and free from violence,

because participation in work and public life requires safety. These are enabling conditions for SDG 5 and for sustaining recovery in communities under strain.

A second enabling condition is reliable population data. Recovery and development planning depends on accurate, timely and disaggregated demographic information, yet under martial law a traditional population census is not possible. Strengthening national data systems and data partnerships (SDG 17.18) becomes essential for evidence-based policymaking—supporting decisions that affect access to services, local planning and allocation of resources.

UNFPA is supporting the Government of Ukraine maintain and modernise population data systems through approaches adapted for wartime conditions. In partnership with the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), UNFPA is supporting the transition towards digital data collection and the development of official wartime population estimates using non-traditional methods. This will enable the production of the first official population estimates since February 2022, creating a critical evidence base for national planning and laying groundwork for a future register-based statistical system.

The same data gap affects humanitarian response. Since 2023, UNFPA has supported humanitarian coordination through the Common Operational Dataset on Population Statistics (COD-PS), described as the best available population data for humanitarian response in the absence of official statistics. The COD-PS draws on non-conventional sources, including mobile operator data and National Health Service administrative data used as population proxies, to support needs-based planning and coordination across humanitarian actors.

UNFPA's support to the SSSU also includes capacity building for modern survey methods that can function during wartime. This includes consultancy, methodological support and equipment to establish a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) call centre within the SSSU, enabling the continuation of household surveys and preserving critical data flows on socio-economic conditions and population dynamics. UNFPA is further supporting to scale up CATI and support a transition to a web-first ("push-to-web") data collection in 2026, alongside supporting a statistical population register that could later serve as the foundation for a register-based census.

Demographic pressures are felt sharply at municipal levels where population changes affect service demand and the ability to sustain local institutions. UNFPA is supporting local actors with population intelligence to strengthen planning and decision-making, including through the Municipal Youth Well-Being Index (YWBI) platform. The YWBI enables municipalities assess the living conditions, needs and aspirations of young people, monitor youth development indicators and track policy effectiveness over time. Its methodology has been updated to reflect the war context, with an aim to support 40 municipalities apply the platform by 2029. UNFPA is also developing local population projection tools for municipalities to forecast future demand for healthcare, education and social services and support more sustainable and inclusive planning.

Ukraine's demographic trajectory also requires long-term policy responses that work across sectors. UNFPA provided technical support for the development and adoption of Ukraine's National Demographic Strategy until 2040, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in September 2024, alongside the first Action Plan for 2024–2027. This Strategy marks a shift towards a broader demographic resilience approach, integrating human capital development, quality of life, human rights and social inclusion. Key pillars include family-friendly policies and childcare support; reducing premature mortality; increasing labour market inclusiveness (including integration of internally displaced persons); promoting active ageing; and supporting return migration and reintegration of Ukrainians abroad. UNFPA continues to support implementation through technical assistance, evidence generation and stakeholder engagement, including through advocacy.

Taken together, this work connects the immediate demands of wartime governance with long-term development goals: modernising data systems to support decisions; developing municipal tools to keep communities functioning and inclusive; and supporting national demographic planning that treats resilience as a whole-of-society issue.



Co-designed multifunctional public spaces strengthen social cohesion and resilience in Armenia

UNDP

Inclusive and gender-sensitive public spaces strengthen social cohesion, empower women and youth and support refugee integration in Armenian host communities.



The arrival of more than 100,000 refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023 placed immense pressure on Armenian host communities. With limited budgets and aging infrastructure, communities had to rapidly adjust to serve significantly increased populations. Many lacked even the most basic shared spaces where people could gather, interact and reconnect with community life. Without such environments, dialogue between host residents and refugees remained limited, making integration challenging and weakening social cohesion.

To respond to these needs, UNDP Armenia launched a “Resilience from the Start” project, implemented by the Gender Equality Portfolio, with a focus on co-design of gender-sensitive and inclusive multifunctional public spaces in partnership with communities. Masis, Khoy, Pambak, Ijevan and Areni communities were selected based on high refugee presence, gaps in public infrastructure and strong municipal readiness to co-design, co-finance and sustain new services. Across consultations, residents repeatedly voiced the same concern: integration is nearly impossible when there is no place to meet. Refugees felt disconnected; long-time residents struggled to adapt to rapid demographic change.

To bridge these divides, the project introduced a participatory service development and a delivery model grounded in co-design with service recipients and service providers, community validation and user-centered planning. Instead of designing for communities, UNDP and communities co-designed with them. This ensured that every space reflects real needs, strengthens trust and cultivates a shared vision of inclusive resilience.

This shift-from top-down planning to genuine co-creation became one of the initiative's most transformative dimensions. Residents who had rarely been involved in municipal decision-making suddenly found themselves shaping the spaces that would define their daily lives. Refugees, women and youth contributed insights that influenced everything from accessibility features to cultural programming. Communities engaged, adapted and co-created solutions, transforming public space design into a platform for rebuilding trust and fostering meaningful social connection.

Actions taken

Participatory co-design and validation in all communities

More than 500 residents – predominantly women, youth and refugees – participated in needs assessments, brainstorming sessions, co-design workshops and validation meetings. These were not symbolic exercises; ideas were debated, prioritized and translated directly into architectural plans. As one resident shared: “For the first time, our ideas are shaping something real in the community.” The process reshaped relationships between communities and Local Self-Governance and laid the foundation for long-term collaboration.

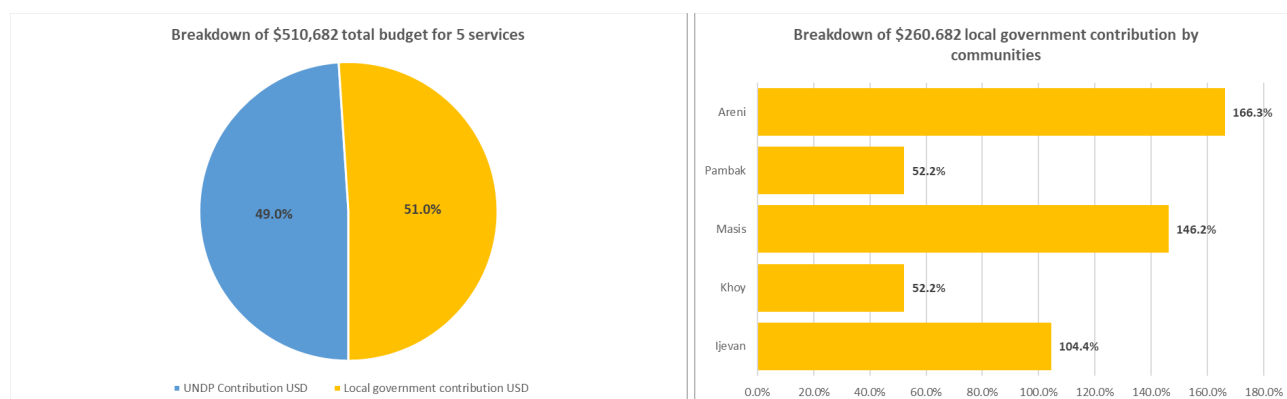
Gender-sensitive and inclusive design standards

All public spaces were designed according to UNDP's global gender equality and social inclusion standards. They include safe and well-lit environments, accessible and barrier-free pathways, zones tailored for girls, boys and youth, flexible cultural and educational areas and environmentally sustainable features. These elements ensure that public spaces are welcoming for those traditionally excluded, especially women, girls and persons with disabilities.

Unprecedented municipal co-financing and ownership

All five communities committed to long-term operation and maintenance and contributed 50 and 140 per cent co-financing, mobilizing over 260,000 USD in local resources. In the context of limited municipal budgets, this level of investment reflects exceptional ownership and a shared commitment to sustaining inclusive community services.

Figure 14
Breakdown by contribution (left) and breakdown of local government contribution by community (right)



Strong national and international partnerships

The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, ensuring alignment between national reforms and financial support of the Government of Serbia.

What has improved: quantitative and social impact

Three outdoor and one indoor space—totaling approximately 3,250 m²—have been transformed into vibrant gathering areas for sports, educational, cultural and leisure activities. In Areni, where community spaces are scarce, a mobile stage truck will bring cultural and educational programming to remote settlements, extending access beyond physical square meters. Together, these interventions create inclusive environments where women, youth, persons with disabilities, refugees and host community residents can interact and participate on equal terms.

Introduction of new municipal sectoral services and new service evaluation system

These spaces enable municipalities to deliver sports, cultural and educational services through multifunctional public spaces, creating opportunities to introduce new services. In addition, the project introduced a digital subsystem for assessing municipal sectoral services in five target communities, enabling residents to 'close the loop' by participating first as co-designers and later as evaluators, ensuring continuous improvement in service delivery.

Strengthened municipal partnerships and investment

For the first time, municipalities stepped forward, not only as beneficiaries of external support but as co-financiers of community infrastructure. This shift marked a significant departure from traditional practice and created a powerful sense of ownership at the local level.

Participation, empowerment and a new culture of collaboration

For many residents, it was the first time their ideas influenced public decisions. Refugees, initially hesitant, gradually became confident contributors. Communities shifted from being passive beneficiaries to co-authors of change, strengthening trust with Local Self-Governance and cultivating shared responsibility.

Table 1
SDG Indicator Contribution Table

SDG Indicator		Evidence from the Project	How the Project Contributes
	9.1.1	~180,000 indirect and 28,500 direct beneficiaries, incl. ~3,500 refugees	Expands access to essential community infrastructure and promoting sustainable and inclusive local infrastructure
	11.3.2	500+ residents engaged in co-design; majority women, youth, refugees	The project contributed to the participatory, accessible urban development
	11.7.1	~3,250 m ² spaces transformed; mobile stage truck for outreach	~3,250 m ² spaces transformed; the mobile stage truck will create a public space by reaching all settlements of the community
	17.17.1	Municipal co-financing 50–140 per cent; 260,682 USD mobilized	Municipal co-financing 50–140 per cent; 260,682 USD mobilized, fostering effective collaboration among local authorities and development partners

Conclusion

Armenia's experience shows that public spaces become powerful engines of social cohesion when they are co-designed with people who will use them. The inclusive process of sitting together, sharing ideas, negotiating priorities has been just as transformative as the spaces themselves. Transformed areas are not only gender-sensitive and inclusive; they are clear manifestations of trust, shared ownership and community resilience. They are places where refugees meet neighbors, where youth feel seen, where women shape decisions and where communities and local governments build a new, more collaborative model of partnership.



Data-driven communities: how Moldova's local authorities are using demographic insights and civic participation to build a better future

UNFPA Moldova

As Moldova advances on its path toward European integration, communities across the country are embracing a transformative shift: using reliable demographic data to inform governance, engaging citizens more meaningfully and ensuring that no one is left behind.



From Nisporeni to Sipoteni, from Puhăceni to Sărata Veche, local authorities, hometown associations and diaspora networks are working together to redesign public services, strengthen social cohesion and create opportunities at home. These collaborative efforts are supported by UNDP and UNFPA through projects implemented under the Swiss Cooperation Office Programme "Moldova - Making the most of migration," in partnership with the State Chancellery and the Bureau for Diaspora Relations of the Republic of Moldova.

Turning statistics into real solutions

In late 2024, ten local public authorities were selected through a competitive process to participate in an ambitious UNFPA supported program focused on effective public policies and transparent

budgeting. Each locality received a 15,000 USD in grant as well as access to training and technical tools, including AI-driven solutions, to support the translation of population data into sustainable, people-centered and needs-based policies and solutions.

This effort builds on a national breakthrough achieved in 2024: with UNFPA support, the Government of Moldova institutionalized demographic forecasting at both the national and local levels. As a result, population forecasts are prepared annually at the national level and every three years at the territorial level, providing authorities with essential data for strategic planning and sustainable development.

Nisporeni: building services where they are needed most

One of the selected localities, the city of Nisporeni, faces challenges familiar to many Moldovan communities: declining birth rates, youth migration and an aging population. Until now, development planning often relied on estimations rather than on disaggregated data.

Following consultations with residents, the municipality chose to transform the long-abandoned Kindergarten No. 4 into a multifunctional center. The need was clear: families reported insufficient access to modern social and educational services, particularly for children with special educational needs (SEN). While Nisporeni lacks its own data on children with SEN, regional figures show 309 children with special needs enrolled in schools and preschools across the district.

The grant will finance the feasibility study and technical documentation needed to unlock the national and European funding for services such as speech therapy, psychology, neurology, an inclusive kindergarten and a “Respiro” center for parents of children with disabilities.

By May 2026, Nisporeni and the other 14 selected municipalities aim to expand these models to sectors including health, education and urban planning. In the long run, the city aims to develop a demographic monitoring system integrating administrative, participatory and digital tools — including GIS maps and AI-powered analysis — to better target investments and justify decisions to the local councils and citizens.

Communities mobilizing for change

Nisporeni is part of a broader landscape of local transformation. Across Moldova, another 20 communities are implementing inclusive development initiatives with support from UNDP. Twenty hometown associations (HTA) received a 9,000 USD in grant each to work with local authorities on community-led solutions. The results are already visible:

- In Cotiujeii Mari, a new day centre now supports older residents.
- In Sărata Veche, children with special education needs benefit from expanded therapy and educational services.
- In Nimoreni, 400 new waste containers improved community sanitation.
- In Sipoteni and Puhăceni, newly installed accessibility ramps allow persons with disabilities, parents with strollers and older adults to participate equally in community life.

These achievements build on many years of cooperation and partnership that led to improved living conditions in over 120 communities, benefiting more than 500,000 people.

Strengthening local leaders for long-term impact

Another key intervention implemented by UNDP focuses on strengthening the organizational and community-mobilization capacities of hometown associations nationwide. Through the “Next Level” capacity-building programme conducted by the CSO Alliance of Hometown Associations with support from UNDP and Switzerland, 30 HTAs and 20 representatives of local public authorities received training and mentorship during 2024-2025. The programme focused on strengthening competencies in project management, good governance, fundraising, community mobilization and

diaspora engagement. The programme has already generated compelling success stories in communities including in Sireți, Cărbuna, Puhăcenii, Scoreni, Pelinia and Sipoteni.

Complementing these community-focused initiatives, UNDP works with the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) and the State Chancellery to strengthen the essential role of local migration focal points, helping to ensure that returnees, migrants and diaspora partners remain connected to local development. The results of a comprehensive assessment carried out in 80 communities on evaluating the functionality of existing migration focal points is informing now the updated profiles and Terms of Reference for migration focal points, capacity-development modules and improved coordination mechanisms.

From demographic forecasting to inclusive playgrounds, from data-driven investments in Nisporeni to community-led projects in dozens of villages, one message is clear: local development works best when it is grounded in facts, shaped by citizens and supported by strong partnerships.



Connecting communities: accessible cities and partnerships for sustainable development in Belarus

UN Belarus

In Belarus, multi-stakeholder partnerships are strengthening the accessibility and safety of urban spaces by translating official SDG data and commitments into local action

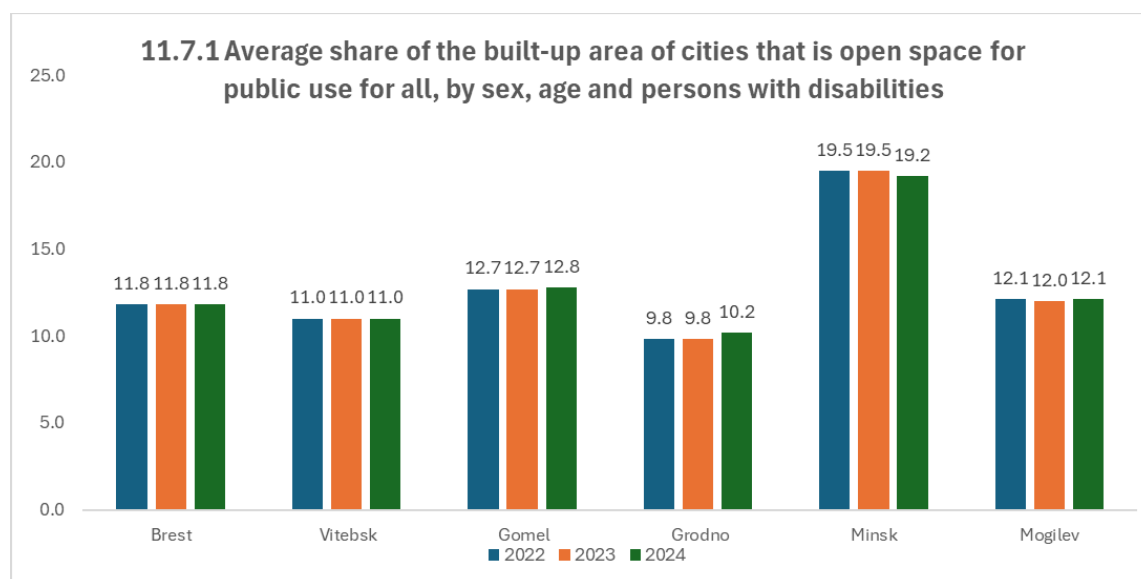


Advancing SDG 11 and SDG 17 through inclusive urban development

Progress toward sustainable and inclusive cities in Belarus is closely linked to the strength of partnerships that mobilize resources, expertise and local action. Accessibility and inclusion, particularly for persons with disabilities, women, youth, migrants and groups at risk of exclusion, have emerged as cross-cutting priorities.

Globally agreed SDG indicators point to the need to improve accessibility of public spaces, transport and services for all population groups, while also addressing urban-rural disparities. SDG target 11.7 emphasizes not only the availability of public spaces but also their safety, inclusiveness and accessibility for all. Indicator 11.7.1, measuring the share of urban areas allocated to public spaces, provides one entry point for assessing accessibility. Experience in Belarus shows that progress depends not only on the number of public spaces but on their design, management and governance. Barrier-free access, adaptive facilities and easy navigation are essential to ensure that public spaces serve all equally.

Figure 15
Average share of the urban built-up area open for public use by sex, age and persons with disabilities



Source: National SDG Reporting Platform, <https://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by/datasets/11.7.1>

In 2025, Belarus marked a milestone for SDG target 11.7 and will be publishing the first time the national indicator 11.7.2, measuring the proportion of women aged 18–69 years who experienced non-sexual or sexual harassment in the previous 12 months. This indicator is based on a national household sample survey conducted in 2024 by the National Statistical Committee, with technical support from UNFPA and UN Women. This data establishes a baseline for understanding women's safety in public and private spaces, reinforcing that accessibility presupposes freedom from violence and harassment.

At the same time, progress under SDG 11 has been supported by strengthened partnerships reflected particularly in 17.14.1, as collaboration between national and local authorities, UN agencies, civil society and communities.

Baseline and key challenges

Belarus has made significant progress in SDG implementation with an overall progress rate exceeding 82 per cent, according to national estimates. Over 85 per cent progress is reported on SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduce inequalities) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). SDGs 13 (Climate Action) and 14 (Life Below Water) are considered as fully achieved. Further improvement is still needed under SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Belarus also faces challenges, especially in population ageing (aging rate increased from 105.4 per cent in 2024 to 112.6 per cent in 2025), domestic violence and technology facilitated violence, urban-rural divides (for example, access to quality services and modern infrastructure) and gaps in inclusion of persons with disabilities (unemployment rate among persons with disabilities aged 18–74 years was 12 per cent in 2024). Addressing these intersecting complexities requires a comprehensive approach that combines infrastructural investment with coordinated policy action and robust data. A dedicated database of regional SDG indicators was developed by the National Statistical Committee, supported by UNFPA, to effectively monitor progress at the local level.

Inclusive SDG localization through joint UN action

In 2025, UN Belarus, led by UNDP, supported 21 local SDG pilot initiatives across all six regions through a joint project on SDG localization. Implemented in partnership with national and local authorities and civil society, these initiatives focused on creating accessible environments, inclusive learning opportunities and employment pathways for persons with disabilities.

A total of 4,903 people (1,421 men and 3,482 women), including 693 persons with disabilities, participated in these SDG pilot initiatives. Local partnerships brought about practical innovations, including Belarus' first inclusive coffee training center in Mozyr, combined with employment opportunities in the food service sector for graduates of a special boarding school for persons with mental disabilities in Pinsk. Digital inclusion was strengthened through training in animated video production in Grodno and 3D printing in Luninets, alongside the development of an online platform for persons with disabilities and their families. These pilots illustrate how partnerships translate SDG principles into tangible community-level outcomes.

Accessible public spaces, services and social inclusion

Partnerships have also expanded access to public and recreational spaces, contributing directly to SDG target 11.7. In Braslav district, an important tourism area, inclusive beaches and accessible tourist routes were developed, enabling persons with disabilities and older persons to participate more fully in cultural and recreational life. In the Brest region, an inclusive sports and workout area was established for residents with mental disabilities, supporting physical activity, social interaction and wellbeing.

Inclusive approaches extend beyond urban design. Through collaboration with IOM, disability inclusion has been integrated into humanitarian assistance for migrants, including clear-language information, accessible feedback mechanisms and tailored support, such as mobility aids and medical escorts. These actions reinforce social cohesion and demonstrate that accessibility is integral to essential services, not an add-on.

UNFPA-led partnerships complement these efforts by addressing safety and violence prevention, supporting women who have experienced domestic violence, engaging youth through inclusive communication platforms, promoting dialogue on accessibility and conducting nationwide webinars on universal design. Plain-language tools further help ensure that young people with mental disabilities can access critical information and services.

Together, these partnership-driven initiatives have strengthened accessibility, safety, participation and awareness at the local level. Communities have gained more inclusive public spaces, services and skills development opportunities, while women, persons with disabilities, youth, migrants and their families benefit from safer environments and greater visibility in community life.

Conclusion

Sustainable and accessible cities depend on partnerships that connect national strategies with local action and infrastructure development with data, safety and social innovation. In Belarus, collaboration between government institutions, UN agencies, civil society and communities has proven effective in piloting inclusive solutions that can be adapted and scaled.

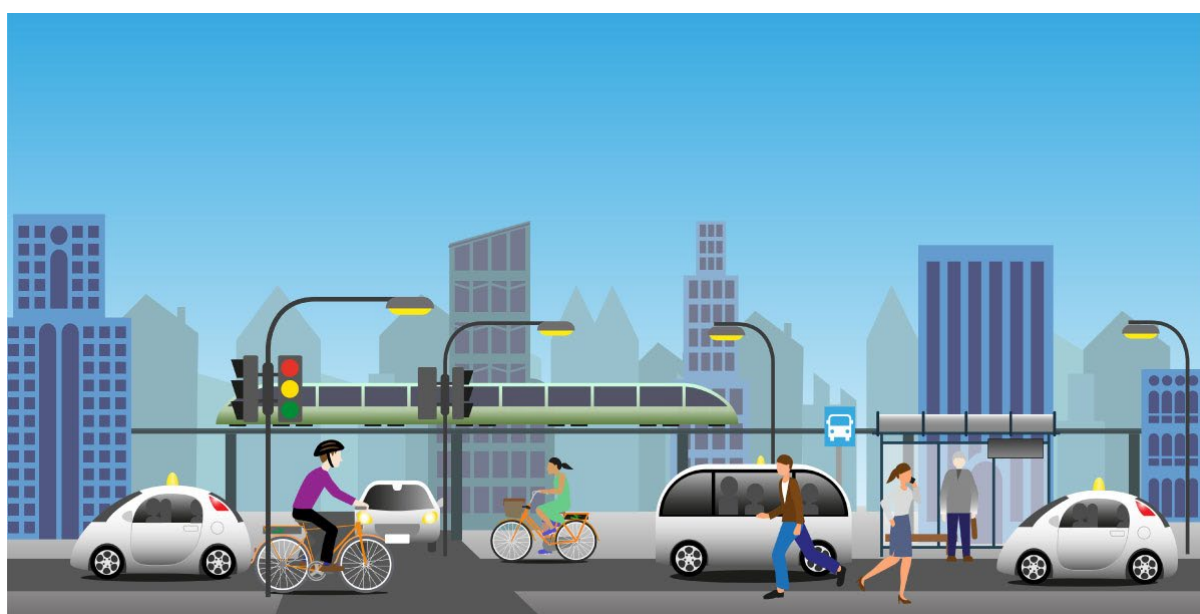
As the UNECE region advances towards 2030, this experience highlights the value of partnership-based SDG localization in transforming cities into spaces where all people, regardless of ability, age, gender or status, can participate, contribute and thrive.



MoveSafe+: strengthening sustainable urban mobility in South-Eastern, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

UN Habitat

MoveSafe+ supports five cities in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to build safer, low-carbon and more inclusive urban mobility systems through long-term planning and investment strategies.



As cities around the world continue to urbanise rapidly, they are increasingly confronted with urban mobility challenges, notably with traffic congestion, air pollution and high rates of road traffic injuries and fatalities. The transport sector is also a major contributor to global energy-related carbon emissions. In this context, an integrated approach that combines efficient public transport systems—such as buses, trams and metros—with non-motorized mobility options such as walking and cycling is increasingly recognized as an effective way to address growing urban transport pressures while meeting people’s mobility needs.

Against this backdrop, this project is a collaborative initiative led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), implemented in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), to advance sustainable urban mobility planning. Working with the cities of Almaty and Bishkek in Central Asia, and Chisinau, Kragujevac and Vushtrri in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the project aims to support the development of sustainable, long-term investment strategies that enhance accessibility and connectivity for all, while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions and road traffic fatalities.

Links to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

Rapid urbanisation in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia is creating significant mobility challenges, including traffic congestion, rising air pollution, inefficient energy use and high rates of road traffic incidents. Transport sector is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, undermining both local air quality and global climate goals. These trends directly affect economic productivity, public health and the overall livability of cities.

The MoveSafe+ initiative responds to these challenges by promoting sustainable urban mobility solutions—such as efficient public transport, walking and cycling—enhancing road safety and supporting long-term, low-carbon transport strategies. These priorities align closely with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 11.2, by advancing safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, especially through improved public transport and inclusive mobility planning; SDG 7.3, by improving energy efficiency through a shift away from private cars towards cleaner, more efficient modes; SDG 13.2, by integrating climate action into national and local planning via low-carbon mobility strategies; and SDG 9.1, by supporting sustainable and resilient infrastructure through well-planned public transport and non-motorised mobility networks.

By addressing these interconnected challenges, the project contributes to safer, healthier, more inclusive and climate-resilient cities, fully in line with the 2030 Agenda's vision of sustainable urban development.

Project scope in the targeted cities

The project supports five cities Almaty, Bishkek, Chisinau, Kragujevac and Vushtri — in advancing sustainable urban mobility through interventions tailored to their specific local priorities.

Almaty will focus on improving road safety through better integration of road safety datasets and community behavior by piloting tactical urbanism intervention proposals. Bishkek will strengthen mobility data systems, infrastructure and institutional capacity to support the preparation of a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) aligned with the Urban Plan, integrating public transport prioritization, with an emphasis on non-motorized transport parking and demand management, road safety and accessibility to mobility services.

Chisinau will enhance its existing SUMP implementation through stakeholder engagements to support institutionalization and update mobility datasets, aligning SUMP indicators more closely with the General Urban Plan. Kragujevac and Vushtri, for their part will undertake full SUMP development supported by comprehensive data assessment and collection as well as participatory planning aligned with EU requirements.

Potential future engagements

The ongoing project activities in all five cities are opening clear opportunities for future engagement, particularly in advancing full SUMP preparation, expanding stakeholder participation processes, and strengthening institutional capacity for data-driven mobility planning. As data gaps are addressed and technical tools are developed, cities are well positioned for follow-up support, including deeper analytical studies, development of monitoring framework and scaling of pilot interventions, especially in areas such as active mobility, traffic management and road safety. These foundations create strong potential for longer-term partnerships with municipalities to further develop and implement sustainable urban mobility measures, with cities increasingly equipped to carry out stakeholder and participatory activities essential for effective SUMP implementation.



Cities driving change: local action for global impact

UN Habitat, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Strengthening multilevel governance and advancing SDG localization through integrated urban development and sustainable agrifood systems transformation at national and local levels.



Empowered cities, equipped with clear mandates, adequate resources and coherent multilevel governance, are uniquely positioned to turn the SDGs into tangible local progress. When local authorities can access reliable data, apply evidence-based planning tools and work in partnership with national governments, civil societies, communities and the private sector, global commitments translate into better neighbourhoods, safer streets, greener public spaces and more inclusive services. Investing in city leadership and capacity is therefore a core pathway to deliver measurable improvements in people's daily lives—especially for those most at risk of being left behind.

Links to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

Urban areas are the frontlines of sustainable development. Over half of the world's population now lives in cities, where challenges such as housing inadequacy, inequality and weak local governance structures threaten to stall progress on the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, urban agrifood systems face increasing pressures, including ensuring food security, nutrition and health for all;

enhancing environmental sustainability through waste management and the reduction of food loss and waste (FLW); supporting inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihoods, reducing gender and socio-economic inequalities, and addressing resource-intensive consumption patterns. These interlinkages demonstrate the relevance of food systems across multiple SDGs.

SDG 11 calls for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, while SDG targets 11.3, 11.a and 16.7 emphasize participatory planning, multilevel governance and inclusive decision-making. Yet, many cities lack the institutional capacity, data systems and policy frameworks needed to deliver on these aspirations.

As the permanent co-chair of the Local 2030 coalition, UN-Habitat has supported local and regional governments engage in UN processes, advocacy and capacity building. The Local 2030 Coalition is the UN-system platform to accelerate the SDGs through localization of the 2030 Agenda, enhancing coherence, efficiency and local impact. Guided by the Bilbao Blueprint (a framework that shares tools and practices to help local governments plan and implement sustainable development strategies) and the SDG Localization Marker (a tool to track and align funding with local SDG priorities), the Coalition helps channel resources to the local level and track their impact with greater transparency and accountability.

Recognizing this, UN-Habitat's corporate approach, SDG Cities, connects global goals with local realities by supporting cities collect and use data, strengthen governance systems and design integrated policy frameworks that foster catalytic investments. Central to this approach are Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), processes that help cities assess progress, align local actions with national strategies and ensure coherence with their countries' Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). In 2025, FAO has been working closely with UN-Habitat to strengthen the focus on agrifood systems in VLRs, as a key entry point for SDG acceleration at the local level.

Baseline and challenges

When the process began in Poti and Khashuri (Georgia), Trebinje, Kakanj, Bijeljina and Maglaj (Bosnia and Herzegovina), local administrations were confronted with a set of shared obstacles that limited their ability to advance sustainable urban development. Data systems were fragmented, making evidence-based planning and monitoring difficult, while local capacities to translate global frameworks such as the SDGs into practical policy actions remained limited. Misalignments between local and national plans led to inefficiencies and duplication and many cities faced rising socioeconomic inequalities driven by rapid urbanization, housing pressures and environmental stress. In addition, the relevance of agrifood systems at the local level—especially within the context of VLRs—was not yet fully understood or integrated into planning. Opportunities for peer learning and experience sharing across the wider ECE region were also limited, leaving cities without the networks needed to innovate and scale solutions.

Actions taken

UN-Habitat and FAO supported these cities through the SDG Cities approach, providing technical guidance, peer learning and participatory mechanisms to translate the SDGs into actionable local strategies. The process unfolded through several interconnected steps:

1. Capacity-building and technical support: municipal teams and national experts participated in targeted workshops on SDG data, spatial analysis, policy planning, agrifood systems and multilevel governance. Coordination mechanisms ensured alignment with the global SDG Cities Framework. An inter-agency mechanism involving FAO, UN-Habitat and UNDP Georgia supported experience-sharing between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia. Regional exchange was further promoted through a regional technical workshop on VLRs and SDG localization organized by FAO and UN-Habitat.
2. Participatory consultations and co-creation: cities convened multi-stakeholder consultations involving local governments, academia, civil society and youth to define

priorities across housing, climate resilience, agrifood systems and local economic development.

3. Data frameworks and policy integration: cities developed localized indicator frameworks aligned with national SDG monitoring systems. To support VLR development and strengthen agrifood systems integration, FAO is developing a regionally tailored list of agrifood systems-related indicators for local use, already piloted in municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia.
4. VLR development and national alignment: the process produced action-oriented VLRs serving as planning tools rather than reporting exercises. Each VLR informed national SDG processes, strengthening VLR-VNR linkages and policy coherence.
5. Learning and peer exchange: a study tour was organized for municipalities from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia to Mafra, Portugal, focusing on VLR development and agrifood systems-related initiatives, including biodiversity, water reuse and waste management. Participants also engaged in the second SDG Workshop for Lusophone Countries.

What has improved

The VLR and follow-up processes have generated measurable institutional and policy gains:

- Institutionalization: VLRs are now embedded in municipal planning cycles, strengthening SDG localization.
- Data ecosystems: all six cities developed SDG indicator frameworks supporting systematic monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.
- Multilevel coordination: collaboration between local governments, ministries and UN agencies improved policy coherence.
- Inclusion and participation: civil society, youth and academia contributed directly to VLRs, reinforcing the “leaving no one behind” principle.
- Peer learning: cities expanded regional exchange through workshops and study tours.
- Agrifood systems integration: VLRs increasingly reflect agrifood systems as a catalytic area for SDG acceleration.

Conclusion

The experience of participating cities demonstrate that SDG localization is a transformative process that strengthens governance, fosters inclusion and builds the foundation for long-term prosperity.

The subsequent JSDF projects in Kyrgyzstan and Serbia, jointly implemented with UNECE, UNDP, Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF Serbia and UNEP illustrate a shift from planning to implementation and translating VLR insights into tangible investments. FAO has reinforced the role of agrifood systems within action-oriented VLRs as a catalyst for systems thinking and SDG acceleration.

By institutionalizing SDG localization and strengthening multilevel collaboration, these cities are not only reporting on progress but actively shaping pathways toward more sustainable and equitable urban futures.



Rebuilding heritage, building resilience: Albania's journey toward SDG 11 through EU4Culture

UN Habitat

EU4Culture turned post-earthquake heritage recovery into a long-term driver of resilience, inclusion and sustainable urban development in Albania



When a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck Albania in 2019, its effects reached deep into the cultural fabric of the country. Cultural heritage sites including museums, historic buildings and archaeological sites, were impacted, disrupting daily life and challenging the communities and economies that rely on them. The event underscored how deeply cultural heritage is tied to SDG 11, especially to Target 11.4, which calls for the protection and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage. It also exposed the need for stronger disaster-risk preparedness under Target 11.b and highlighted how essential open and inclusive cultural spaces are for Target 11.7, which promotes safe and accessible public areas. Crucially, the scale of the destruction required substantial public investment for reconstruction and conservation, reinforcing the importance of strengthening financing streams for heritage preservation, a core element of Indicator 11.4.1.

In this context, the challenge was not only to address the physical damage but to restore in a way that strengthened resilience, expanded accessibility and ensured that heritage could serve the communities sustainably.

A challenging starting point

Following the earthquake, heritage assets across the country required urgent intervention. Many sites displayed structural weaknesses or deterioration that limited public access and risked further loss. At the institutional level, cultural authorities faced significant constraints: limited tools for risk-informed conservation, insufficient disaster-management frameworks, gaps in specialised conservation capacity, traditional management models not suited to long-term sustainability and inadequate public investment mechanisms to meet the scale of needs.

For communities, the temporary closure of historic sites meant losing places that support the identity, learning and social cohesion, as well income for artisans, guides, educators and small businesses linked to cultural tourism.

Despite the challenges, the recovery process also offered a unique opportunity to conserve heritage using higher standards of resilience and accessibility while promoting community participation and sustainable financing. The task ahead meant a multidisciplinary approach to restore damaged structures, aimed at converting the crisis into a catalyst for a more inclusive, resilient and future-oriented urban and cultural development.

Coordinated response for sustainable reconstruction

To support Albania's recovery from the earthquake, the European Union launched the EU4Culture programme under IPA 2020, implemented by UNOPS in partnership with the Ministry responsible for Culture and local institutions. Comprehensive interventions of the program targeted 23 heritage sites across 8 of the most affected municipalities, using a "Build Back Better" approach.

This approach combined resilience-focused conservation, community engagement and strengthened management. The restoration of heritage assets mobilized a large local workforce, resulting in over 56,000 days of employment for community members. Their future management was reinforced through disaster risk management plans aligned with the Sendai Framework.

Several sites were reinterpreted or readapted for new uses as well. For example, the Ethnographic Museums in Kruja and Kavaja now use digital storytelling and interpretation tools to support experiencing customs and traditions through a different lens. The Venetian Tower in Durrës now offers augmented and virtual reality experiences to immerse visitors into the place as it was in prehistoric times to today.

To strengthen sustainability, EU4Culture developed Cultural Heritage Management and Business Plans introducing clearer governance, revenue models and long-term planning tools that reduce dependence on public subsidies. Professional development was also central: more than 100 staff and experts were trained in conservation methods, artifact handling, maintenance planning and risk-informed management.

Community participation played a substantial role. Through 33 civil-society grants, artisans, youth groups, educators and cultural associations created new cultural products, storytelling initiatives and inclusive programming. 8,904 people benefited from these activities, including 55 per cent women and 24.5 per cent youth, ensuring diverse voices in the recovery process.

How recovery is translated into tangible improvements

EU4Culture has strengthened Albania's progress across several dimensions of SDG 11:

Safeguarding cultural heritage (Target 11.4)

The prioritised sites have been restored, preserving their architectural integrity and enhancing their cultural and educational value. These spaces now support learning, cultural expression and sustainable tourism.

Improved resilience (Target 11.b)

The Build Back Better approach and Disaster Risk Management Plans, aligned with the Sendai Framework, have enhanced safety and resilience, making restored sites more robust and protected against future risks.

Inclusive and accessible public spaces (Target 11.7)

Many restored sites are equipped with features that improve access for children, women, seniors and persons with disabilities. Digital interpretation tools, tactile materials and accessible storytelling broaden the reach of cultural spaces.

Community empowerment and participation (Target 11.3)

Civil-society grants empowered communities to shape cultural programming and reinterpret their heritage. Strong participation of women and youth demonstrates the inclusiveness of the process, turning heritage into a shared, lived experience.

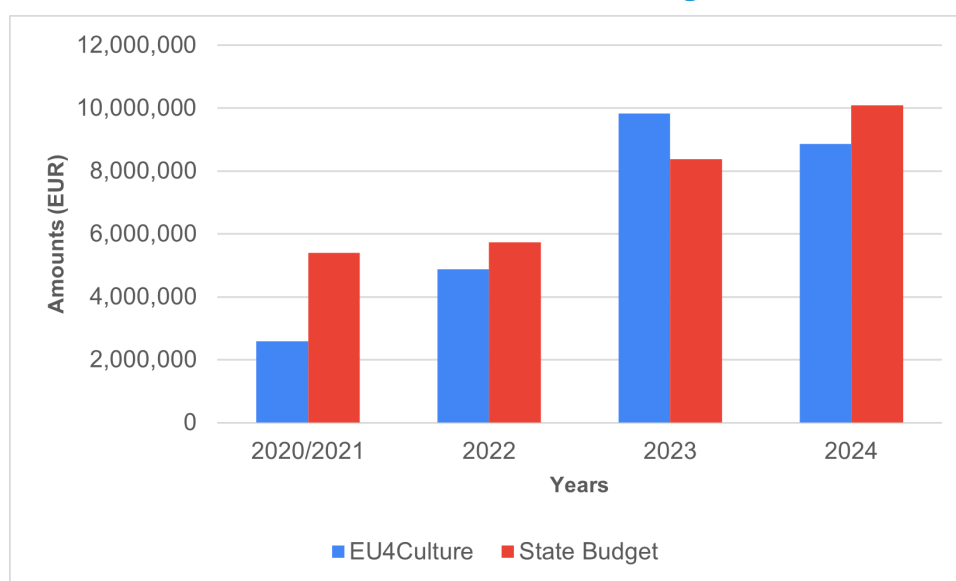
Capacity development, sustainability and financing (Indicator 11.4.1)

The programme strengthened the institutional and financial foundations of heritage management. Clearer business and management plans, improved budgeting practices and enhanced professional skills support the long-term sustainability of restored sites. The programme mobilised €40 million in EU funding during a period when Albania increased by 40 per cent of its national culture budget compared to 2018, helping broaden the public financing base for heritage.

While routine maintenance and risk-informed planning beyond EU4Culture sites remain challenging, the programme has contributed to a more resilient and better-funded heritage sector, with Albania's investment in cultural heritage growing significantly throughout the implementation period.

Figure 16

EU4Culture and Albania's investment in cultural heritage



Conclusion

EU4Culture illustrates how post-disaster recovery can advance long-term sustainable development. By pairing careful restoration with disaster-risk reduction, capacity-building, community participation and improved governance, Albania has strengthened the resilience, accessibility and social relevance of its cultural heritage.

The programme shows that safeguarding heritage is not only about protecting historical assets but about reinforcing the social, cultural and economic foundations of communities. Restored and revitalised sites now foster learning, inclusion and local opportunities, contributing to wider

development goals that extend beyond the cultural sector. Through this work, Albania has made meaningful progress toward SDG 11 and demonstrated how heritage can serve as a driver of sustainable, resilient and people-centred development.



Missing data, missed opportunities: tracking child progress toward 2030

UNICEF

In Europe and Central Asia, progress towards child-related SDG targets is limited: on average, only 26 per cent of indicator series related to children are on track to meet the targets. Data availability leaves nearly half of 47 indicators without sufficient information for assessment: 36 per cent have no data and 14 per cent have insufficient trend data.



SDG 17 is the enabling goal of the 2030 Agenda, through which partnerships, financing, technology, capacity and data systems are mobilised to enable progress on all other goals to be planned, measured and corrected in real time. When data are missing, updated irregularly, or not comparable across time and countries, decision-makers are unable to reliably detect early slippage, allocate budgets strategically or demonstrate whether children most at risk are being reached.

This is why the SDG target 17.18 is directly relevant to child outcomes. It calls for a significant increase in the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, including appropriate disaggregation within national contexts. However, UNICEF analysis based on its latest assessment of progress against child-related SDG indicators shows serious data gaps. This poses a risk to sustained progress and evidence-informed decision-making.

Methodology

The assessment is based on the recently developed regional Child-related SDG Progress Dashboard¹⁶, which allows policymakers and stakeholders to review progress specifically for 47 child-related indicators (113 series) which are most relevant to the Europe and Central Asia region.

The methodology also benefited from the approach used in the recent reports by UNESCAP and UNECE, further adapted to child-related SDG indicators. Additional consultations with UNESCAP were also held to discuss the proposed changes. All computations use the UNDESA Global SDG indicators database and the main unit of analysis is a series. The series codes are used to identify the specific sub-indicator series reported under an SDG indicator.

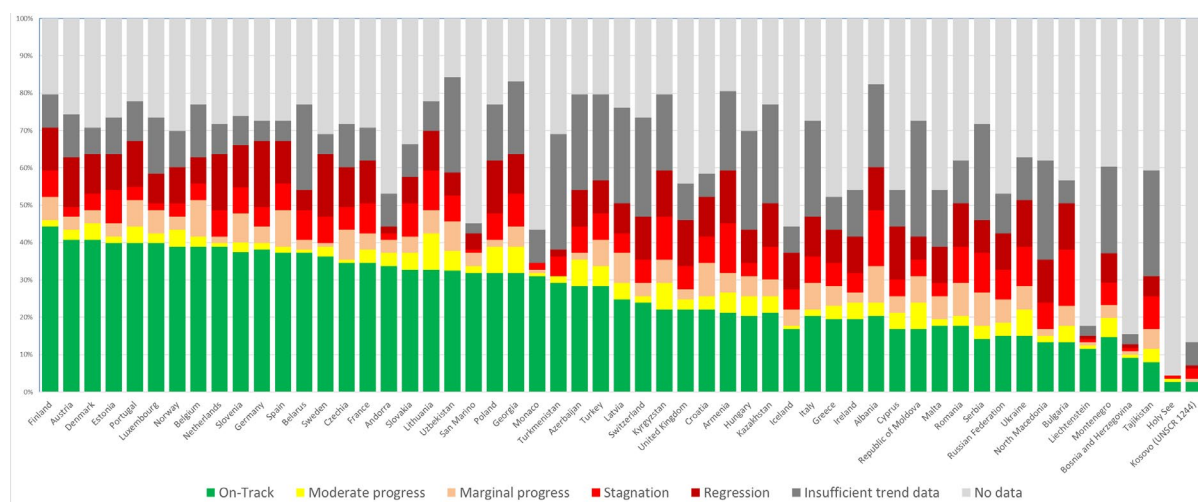
Country indicators (series) are included in the current progress measurement only when they have at least two data points, namely a baseline value from 2015 to 2019 and a recent value from the last five years, (2020 to 2024). The targets were derived from the global SDG framework. Some of these are absolute values while some relative values. In cases when no global target is indicated, the average of the top 5 performers was used as an aspirational regional benchmark.

Current progress status scores are grouped into seven categories for interpretation: On-Track, Moderate Progress, Marginal Progress, Stagnation and Regression. Two additional categories capture data gaps: Insufficient Data (missing baseline or recent data) and No Data (no data available at all in the SDG database).

Progress assessment

The overall picture is mixed. Of the 113 indicator series representing 47 child-related SDG indicators, on average, the region is on track for 26 per cent of indicator series, while 16 per cent show stagnation and regression.

Figure 17
Progress for child-related SDG indicators in Europe and Central Asia



Source: UNICEF ECARO, Child-related SDG progress dashboard. Accessed 22 Dec 2025.

- Considerable progress has been made by most of the countries for some indicators, namely on, maternal mortality (Target 3.1), childhood mortality (Target 3.2) and birth and death registration (Target 17.19).
- Least progress has been made for indicators concerning anaemia in women 15-49 (Target 2.2), universal health coverage service (Target 3.8), minimum proficiency in reading and

¹⁶ <https://www.transmonee.org/child-related-sdg-progress-dashboard>

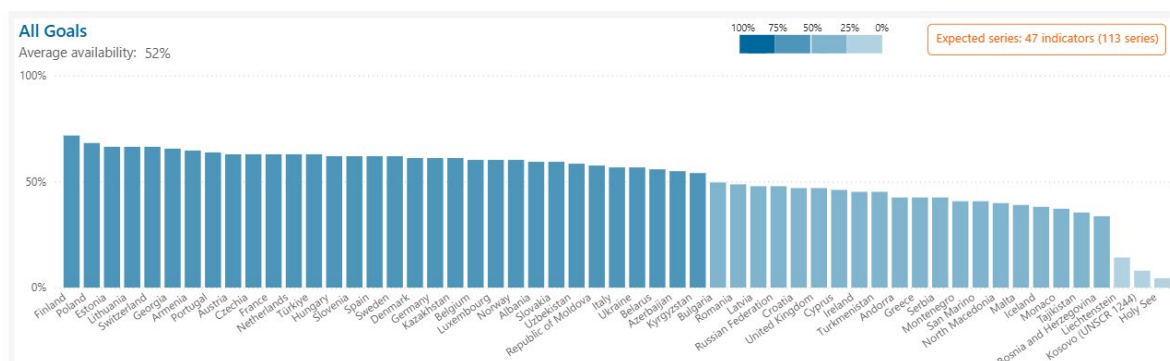
mathematics (Target 4.1) and immunization (DTP3 and measles, Target 3.b.1). Either stagnation or regression was seen in most of the countries.

- The data gaps (no data available or insufficient data) for trend analysis, particularly affect targets for indicators concerning multidimensional poverty (Target 1.2), government spending (Target 1.a), social transfers (Target 1.3), child wasting (Target 2.2), ambient air pollution (Target 3.9), child development, child labour, physical and/or sexual violence (Target 5.2), child disciplining (Target 16.2).

Across 54 countries, the data availability in the region is 52 per cent when measured by the availability of at least two data points since 2015. If modelled further and estimated data are excluded from the analysis, the data availability declines to 30 per cent.

Figure 18

SDG data availability and recency of data for child-related SDG indicators (two data points since 2015)



Source: UNICEF ECARO, SDG data availability and recency.¹⁷ Accessed 22 Dec 2025.

These assessments do not consider the availability of disaggregated data and the achievement of SDGs for all groups of children. Such disaggregation requires systematic collection and analysis of data for the furthest behind. UNICEF has been partnering with many governments in the region to collect much-needed data for SDG indicators at disaggregated levels primarily through Multi Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

Conclusion

With less than five years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the Europe and Central Asia region faces a dual challenge: progress on child-related SDG targets is uneven and data gaps undermine the ability to act. While some indicators show promise—such as reductions in maternal and child mortality—less than a third of all child-related indicator series are on track. Nearly 50 per cent lack sufficient data to even measure progress.

These deficits matter. When governments lack timely, disaggregated and high-quality data, they are unable to identify children who are most left behind, adjust programs or hold themselves accountable. The most vulnerable—children living in poverty, migrants, Roma and children with disabilities—are most likely to be obscured in national averages.

The solution is clear: child-focused data systems must be strengthened without delay. UNICEF's work with governments across the region through MICS and related partnerships provides a proven model. However, more is needed: data systems must be institutionalized, adequately resourced and integrated into national statistical system to ensure continuity and sustainability. Investing in data is not merely a technical afterthought. It is a political decision to prioritize children. With it, governments can deliver results more efficiently, equitably and at the pace required.

¹⁷ <https://www.transmonee.org/availability-and-recency-data-child-related-sdg-indicators>



Strengthening partnerships to improve the evidence base for human rights

UN Human Rights (OHCHR)

Formal agreements between national statistical offices and national human rights institutions, established with the support of OHCHR, institutionalize collaboration that strengthens the evidence base for human rights, advances SDG monitoring, and puts “leave no one behind” into practice.



Robust, disaggregated data on all social, economic and environmental topics, gathered in accordance with a human rights-based approach, are essential to measure progress and gaps across the SDGs. Partnerships between national statistical systems and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) contribute directly to SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, by bringing together complementary mandates. NSOs bring the technical expertise and quality standards of official statistics, while NHRIs bring the substantive knowledge and commitment to ensure attention to rights holders, equality and accountability.

Through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), established with the support of OHCHR, these actors agree on common workplans, roles and methodologies that embed a human rights based approach to data (HRBAD) in their work: from participatory design to ethical collection, meaningful disaggregation and accessible dissemination. The whole 2030 Agenda is anchored in human rights and calls for the application of the ‘leave no-one behind’ principle across all goals, targets and indicators. The impact of national agreements for applying the HRBAD, therefore, also spans the entire set of goals, including SDG 3 on health, SDG 4 on education, SDG 8 and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, among others, while directly supporting States’ obligations for human rights reporting and follow up.

Starting point: fragmented efforts and limited disaggregation

Without formal agreements on applying the HRBAD, collaboration between NSOs and NHRIs in the UNECE region can often be absent or ad hoc. NHRI insights about discrimination, marginalized groups and data gaps may not consistently inform the survey design, data selection criteria or indicator frameworks used in official statistics. Statistical outputs of NSOs, meanwhile, may be insufficiently disaggregated by characteristics relevant to equality (e.g., disability, ethnicity, language, gender identity, migration status) to offer meaningful insights about differential enjoyment of human rights across groups. Civil society data on human rights issues tends to be under used in official monitoring.

In this context, UN Human Rights (OHCHR) has facilitated dialogue and capacity development to formalize relationships, clarify mandates and co-create technical processes that align statistical quality with the HRBAD principles of participation, disaggregation, self-identification, transparency, privacy, data protection and accountability.

Agreements established in the Republic of Moldova, Albania and Kosovo¹⁸

With hands-on facilitation from OHCHR country offices as well as the human rights statistics team at headquarters, MoUs for the UNECE region have been concluded between NHRIs and NSOs in Albania, Kosovo (S/RES/1244, 1999) and the Republic of Moldova, setting out the parameters for cooperation on collection, disaggregation, dissemination, use and analysis of data in support of human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

This storyline focuses principally on the experience of the Republic of Moldova, where progress in 2025 exemplifies the great potential of these agreements.

In the Republic of Moldova, an MoU was signed in 2021 by the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsperson), the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). It defines objectives, joint activities, focal points and collaboration modalities. The MoU mandates technical focal points and regular coordination meetings between senior leadership and working level experts to monitor progress, troubleshoot and plan, ensuring continuity beyond individual projects.

Building on the MoU, the OHCHR flagship publication [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#) served as the basis for the Republic of Moldova to develop and validate a national methodology for contextualizing human rights indicators, engaging multiple public authorities. Over the four years since the establishment of the agreement, this process has led to the development of several human rights-relevant indicator sets through a defined set of stages drafting, validation, gap analysis and advocacy for uptake by competent authorities.

Across the three locations where MoUs have been developed, partnerships have begun to open pathways to consider civil society and citizen data—especially where NGOs are the only actors collecting data on rights violations or experiences of marginalized groups—by establishing quality assurance dialogues and metadata standards compatible with official statistics frameworks. In the Republic of Moldova, for example, this is reflected in provisions in the MoU on collaboration for analysis and reporting and on advisory support by each party.

Emerging impacts

More relevant, disaggregated indicators

As a result of these efforts, the Republic of Moldova's 2024 population census incorporated enhanced disaggregation by ethnicity, language and disability, with support from OHCHR and the NHRIs on questionnaire design to better capture equality dimensions while respecting statistical

¹⁸ References to Kosovo are to be understood in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 from 1999: [S/RES/1244 \(1999\)](#).

standards. An indicator set on the right to health has been finalized and is available for use. Advocacy with the Ministry of Health is planned to promote its systematic adoption. Indicator sets on protection against torture and ill treatment are undergoing gap analysis, while indicator sets on the right to education and social security are under validation—showing the concrete direction of progress from methodology to implementation.

Stronger governance and clearer roles

The MoU's focal point model and leadership oversight institutionalize collaboration, reduce duplication and create predictable channels for NHRI insights to inform NSO operations, including survey design and publication practices, such as user friendly dissemination and return of information to communities that have contributed data.

Application of HRBAD in practice

The 2024 census disaggregations introduced in the Republic of Moldova exemplify the HRBAD's non-discrimination and participation principles, enabling greater visibility of diverse linguistic and ethnic groups and persons with disabilities in official statistics: critical for many SDG targets, such as 10.2 and 10.3 on social inclusion and eliminating discrimination, and for policy design that addresses barriers faced by these population groups.

A pathway towards sustained change

While results are mixed across themes—some indicator sets have matured faster than others—where there are MoUs, a steady shift is seen from sporadic collaboration to institutionalized processes. This creates durable capacity for continuous improvement in human rights data, even where progress on specific indicators is incremental or subject to resource constraints recognized in the MoUs.

Benefits for marginalized and vulnerable groups

By prioritizing disaggregation and equality relevant metadata, these partnerships improve visibility and policy relevance for Roma and other ethnic minorities, minority linguistic communities, persons with disabilities, children, and people at risk of discrimination or ill treatment. In the Republic of Moldova, enhanced census variables and targeted indicator sets on health, education, social security and protection from torture support evidence informed interventions—from disability inclusive health service planning to anti discrimination measures, and monitoring of prevention of ill treatment in places of detention. The emphasis on accessible dissemination and returning information to communities also strengthens accountability and trust.

What's next: sustaining partnerships and scaling up

To consolidate gains and extend the impact of these MoUs, the parties to these agreements, working in collaboration with OHCHR, can:

- redouble efforts to formalize the data sharing pipelines that allow integration of civil society data into official statistics
- continue designing, validating and adopting dedicated indicator sets on specific topics, such as education, social security or prevention of torture
- expand training on HRBAD for both NSO and NHRI staff, building national capacity and institutionalizing the ability to deliver such training regularly, including training on ethics, consent and disaggregation for small populations that accords with confidentiality and data security principles.

Countries can learn from the experiences of these pathfinders, and OHCHR can facilitate new partnerships to bring these benefits to a broader range of stakeholders throughout the region.

Conclusion

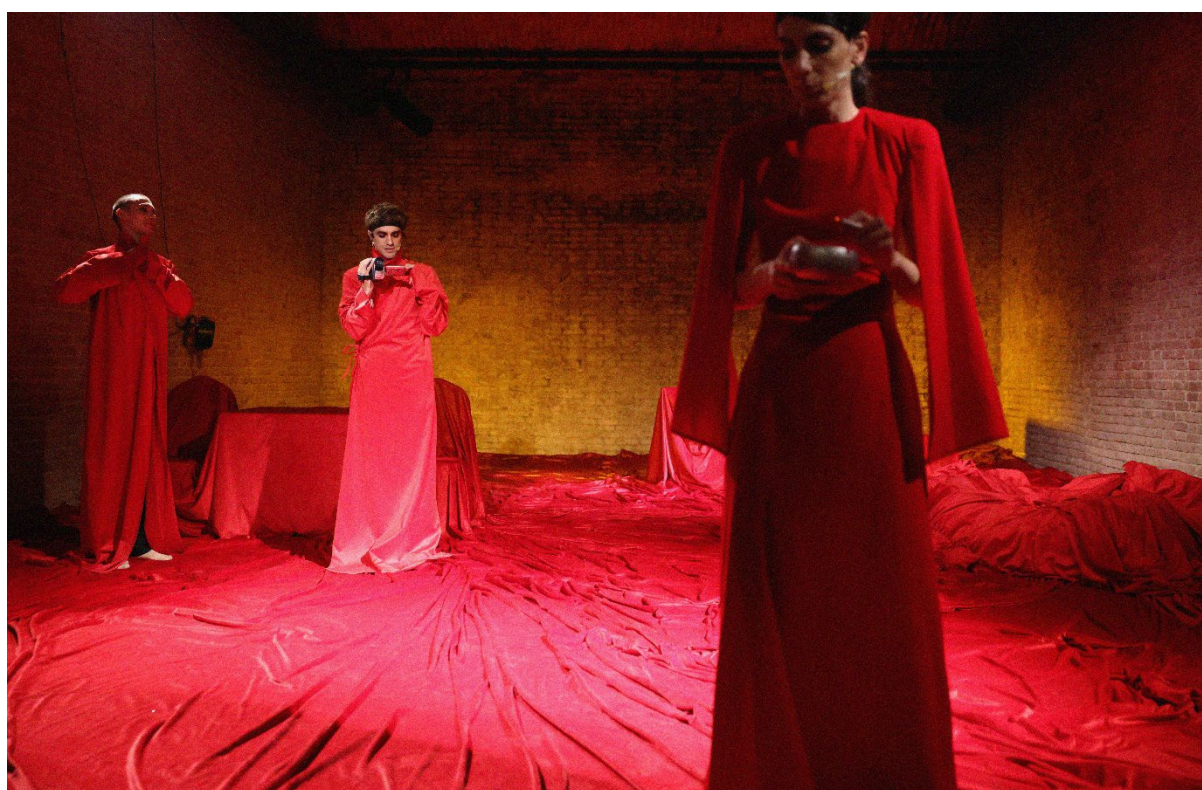
By formalizing cooperation through MoUs, these pioneering statistical offices and national human rights institutions in the UNECE region are beginning to turn principles into practice: building joint methodologies, improving disaggregation, and opening responsible channels for harnessing the potential of citizen data. These partnerships are strengthening national capacities to monitor SDG progress with a human rights lens, ensuring that data meaningfully reflect the experiences of those most at risk of being left behind—so that policies can close the gaps that matter most.



Acting for change: from real stories to powerful stage performances on gender-based violence

UNFPA Georgia

To address the ever-evolving nature of gender-based violence, UNFPA in Georgia partners with an independent theatre company to foster social dialogue, bringing stories of violence, resilience and survival to the creative stage.



Gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual violence against women and girls, remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations rooted in unequal power relations and reflecting harmful social norms. In the context of rapidly expanding digital spaces, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) has emerged as an additional and increasingly harmful dimension of abuse, disproportionately affecting women and girls. UNFPA in Georgia, in line with its global mandate, works to create a world free from all forms of GBV—both on and offline.

Virtual is real

TFGBV is an emerging form of violence and is often dismissed as being less serious than violence occurring offline. Because it takes place behind the screens and devices, its emotional, psychological and social impacts are frequently underestimated. Yet for many survivors, digital

violence is deeply personal, painful and long-lasting. Globally, 85 per cent of women reported witnessing digital violence and nearly 40 per cent have experienced it personally¹⁹.

To build a society where everyone can live free from violence, UNFPA works through partnerships to reach diverse audiences, especially young people as key transformative agents of social norms and positive change. This is what inspired UNFPA to create the Virtual is Real Monologues - a series of theatrical pieces developed as part of its [bodyright campaign](#) in partnership with a creative group at an independent theatre company Haraki, Georgia. The aim UNFPA set for the project was to give voice to lived experiences that too often remain invisible.

The concept was simple but powerful: to collect real documentary cases of TFGBV—court rulings, media reports and survivor testimonies from civil society organizations working on the issue—and transform them into stories and monologues. Each monologue represents a different manifestation of TFGBV through distinct perspectives, including those of the survivor, the perpetrator and the relatives of those affected. This multi-angle approach allows the audience to understand the issue and the complexity. The performances capture the emotions surrounding the invisible pain, injustice, solidarity and resilience—giving voice to those directly or indirectly impacted by violence in virtual spaces. Through these narratives, the project underscores UNFPA's focus on TFGBV, emphasizing that “virtual is real.”

Prominent writer Tamta Melashvili, who worked on the text of the monologues, believes that in the contemporary tech-directed world, art can touch upon such realms that no other medium can encompass. “Literature and theatre are the best mediums to talk about digital violence and to bring this problem close to people's hearts. Theatre is an immediate medium and, besides the spoken word, there are visual and other aspects—enabling the instant delivery of the message to the audience,” she says.

Indeed, the selection of a theatre as a medium was intentional. Unlike statistics or policy briefs, theatre establishes an immediate rapport with the viewer and has the power to make complex issues easily understandable and relatable. Research consistently shows that people remember emotions long after they forget facts, making emotional engagement a compelling way to confront a form of violence that is often minimized because it takes place online. Theatre invites audiences to step into the emotional landscape of digital violence and helps bridge the gap between perception and reality. Through story and emotional connection, the monologues make visible what may otherwise have remained overlooked.

"I think that the play turned out to be extremely effective for reflecting, expressing and conversing on this important topic. This is an issue that, to some extent, concerns everyone in today's digital world, especially young women and it is a complex issue that is intertwined not only with one woman but with many layers and people and realizing this, understanding it and talking about it is both important and necessary," Tamta Melashvili adds.

Director Ilia Korkashvili also notes the importance and relevance of the play in the era of digital technologies and devices, which sadly also exerts negative influences on society. This project allowed him to get closer to the real stories of people who experienced GBV in various forms. It was also important and interesting for him how the documentary material was brilliantly transformed into a fictional text by writer Tamta Melashvili.

“Theatre is a synthetic art that combines many directions of art within itself. The most vital thing for theatre is the text; literature is the backbone of theatre, without which it cannot be realized. The art of theatre is alive; it unfolds in the present and this is precisely its power that impacts the audience. The stories told by the actors, which take place in real-time, in front of the audience, make the problem much more understandable and visible, giving the listener the opportunity to contemplate and perceive the scale of the issue,” Ilia Korkashvili says.

¹⁹ Data referenced is taken from Economist Intelligence Unit, 2020

Persephone (Where the Light Forgets Me)

GBV served as a topic of creative process during yet another partnership with Haraki Theatre. Drawing inspiration from the myth of Persephone, the award-winning play by a local female artist Anastasia Chanturaia, examines how childhood experiences shape emotional perception and the journey of becoming a woman. At the centre of the play is a female protagonist, who frames the entire piece as a gender-sensitive observation of the contemporary world.

The performance offers a fresh female interpretation of the well-known story of Persephone from the Ancient Greek mythology and explores themes such as the sudden loss of childhood innocence, sexual violence and challenges to autonomy, internal transformation and reclaiming one's identity. The play guides the audience through Persephone's metamorphosis into the queen of the underworld, symbolizing the painful, yet empowering, process of womanhood—a journey of survival, resilience and self-discovery.

By working with creative spaces, by diversifying and strengthening its voice through drama and literature, UNFPA in Georgia managed to make both traditional and technology-facilitated manifestations of abuse more visible, fostering public awareness, empathy and collective responsibility to challenge violence against women and girls in all its forms.



Reimagining public-private partnerships: from cost efficiency to sustainable impact

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade

The UNECE PIERS methodology helps design Public-Private Partnerships with sustainability and inclusiveness at their core and drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals



Bridging the global infrastructure financing gap is no longer an option — it is imperative. Sustainable transportation, resilient energy systems and digital networks form the backbone of inclusive growth and climate action and are essential for improving connectivity across regions and communities. Enhanced connectivity not only drives economic integration but also supports aging societies by enabling access to healthcare, social services and digital solutions that reduce isolation and improve quality of life.

Yet trillions of dollars remain missing from the equation. Public budgets alone cannot meet this demand and private financiers often remain cautious without clear frameworks for risk and impact. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), despite their mixed track record, offer a pathway forward when designed with transparency, sustainability and resilience at their core.

To achieve the SDGs, PPPs must be reimagined and made fit-for-purpose, delivering not just infrastructure but inclusive, sustainable impact.

Traditional PPPs, with their narrow focus on “value for money,” often failed to deliver the transformative impact needed to achieve the SDGs. By prioritizing short-term cost efficiency, many projects overlooked critical targets such as SDG 6.1 (universal access to safe and affordable

drinking water), SDG 7.2 (renewable energy expansion) and SDG 9.1 (developing quality, reliable, sustainable infrastructure). This gap underscored the need for a new PPP model — one that places sustainability and people at its core and supports SDG 17.17, which calls for effective partnerships to mobilize and share knowledge, technology and financial resources.

In 2015, the baseline was clear: very few PPPs embedded sustainability principles and even fewer PPP concessionaires went beyond contractual obligations to consider community well-being and long-term impact.

For the past decade, UNECE has led the shift through its normative PPP tools, culminating in the launch of the PIERS evaluation methodology in 2022 — a true game changer. PIERS translates policy into action by providing governments and stakeholders with a practical, evidence-based tool to measure project impact against SDG objectives. Its five dimensions — access and equity, economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability, environmental sustainability and resilience, replicability and stakeholder engagement — ensure that PPPs deliver tangible benefits for communities and future generations.

The impact is real: PIERS has assessed projects across multiple countries, transforming well-executed PPPs into drivers of sustainable development. PIERS has helped users move beyond compliance toward proactive community and environmental engagement.

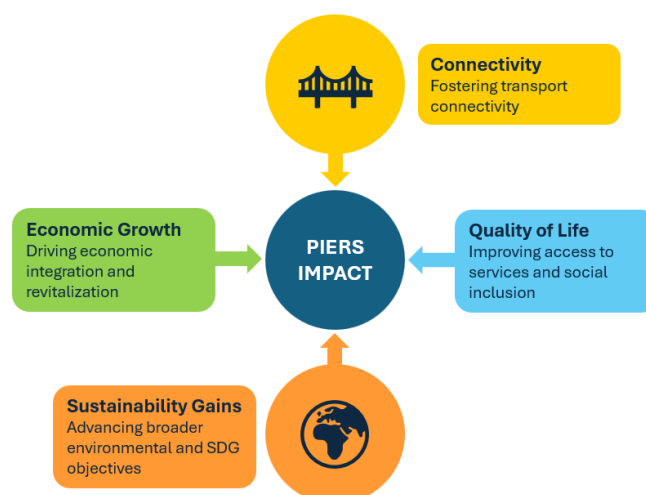
Empirical evidence from two landmark projects in Türkiye – the 1915 Çanakkale Bridge and the Eurasia Tunnel — demonstrates this transformation. Initially designed to deliver connectivity and economic growth, these projects evolved into holistic sustainability platforms through PIERS-driven evaluation and action, combined with the concessionaires' commitment to being good neighbours to their communities.

The PIERS application demonstrated that transport infrastructure projects, by fostering connectivity, also deliver broader sustainability gains across a wide range of SDGs, underscoring their value beyond transport alone.

PIERS was instrumental in:

- Mapping activities against SDG targets to clarify impact
- Identifying gaps, such as the absence of community disaster-preparedness plans
- Triggering new actions to strengthen resilience and stakeholder engagement
- Helping to articulate a coherent, evidence-based SDG narrative

Figure 19
Mapping sustainability gains with PIERS

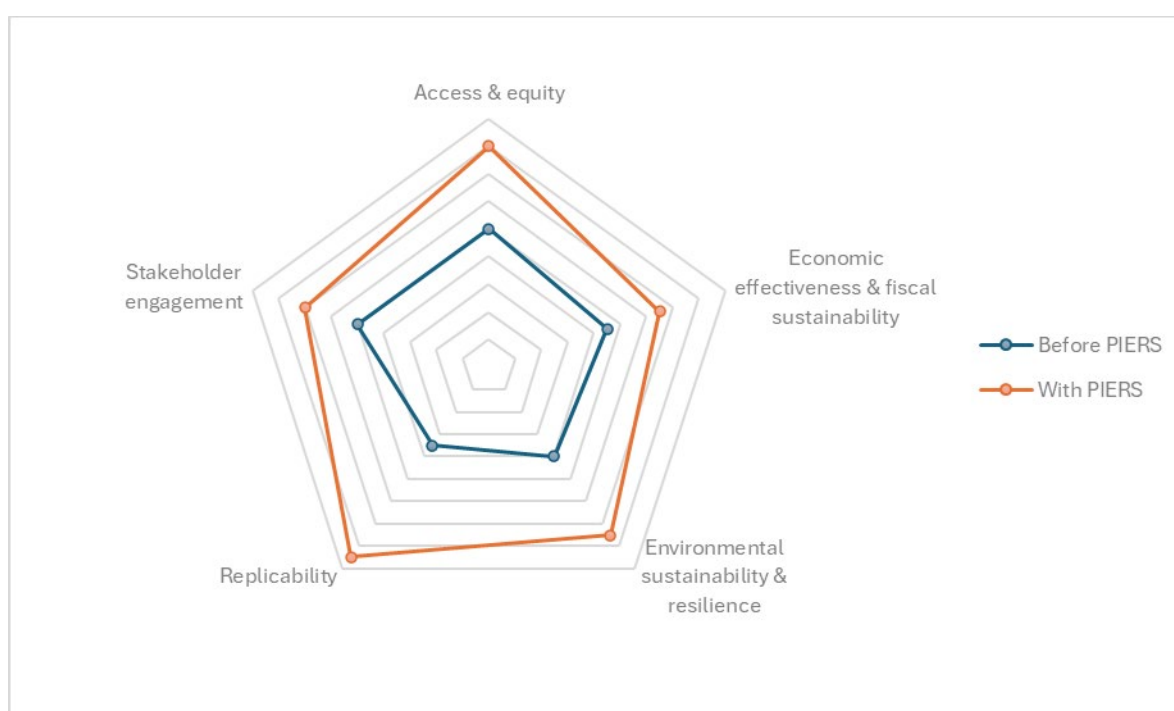


To date, the PIERS-enhanced transformation is complete, as evidenced by the projects' economic, social and community impact, environmental stewardship, safety and resilience.

The outcomes of these two projects tell a compelling story of transformation:

- Over 20 billion USD in lifetime economic value
- More than 80,000 jobs created
- Revitalized industrial zones, attracting investment and integrating local suppliers into value chains
- Transformative mobility gains, with travel times slashed dramatically
- Social initiatives empowered women's cooperatives, strengthened rural livelihoods and expanded community and educational programmes
- Environmental initiatives — from large-scale reforestation to biodiversity conservation and carbon-neutral operations— have delivered measurable benefits for both people and nature
- Road safety outcomes have improved significantly, supported by advanced emergency-response systems and resilient infrastructure engineered to withstand extreme events

Figure 20
PIERS impact on two transport projects



Source: UNECE

Note: The chart illustrates trends and improvements across PIERS dimensions for two transport projects in Türkiye (the 1915 Çanakkale Bridge and the Eurasia Tunnel).

Conclusion: PIERS as a catalyst for change

By enabling users to identify, improve and report these indicators with robust data, PIERS has turned infrastructure projects into true SDG accelerators—delivering value for people, planet and prosperity. What began as a tool for self-evaluation has become a catalyst for transformation, proving that when PPPs are designed with sustainability and inclusiveness at their core, they can bridge the infrastructure gap and drive progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Equally important, the Charter has created a platform for cross border cooperation. Member States are working together to exchange experience, pilot new approaches and co-develop scalable solutions. This spirit of collaboration ensures that transformative innovation is not confined to national boundaries but becomes a shared asset for sustainable development.

Technical notes on the progress assessment

Data

The progress assessment is based on the Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals²⁰. The data were downloaded from [the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#) on 24 December 2025. 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)²¹ 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 2025. 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 gap between the desired target value and the anticipated 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 2025. 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 176 indicators across 127 targets and all 17 goals (see [Indicators used in the assessment](#)). For 67 indicators, sufficient country data are not 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).

²⁰ United Nations (2025). [Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). A/RES/71/313, 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, E/CN.3/2023/2, E/CN.3/2024/4, E/CN.3/2025/6.

²¹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2025). Annex 1: Technical notes – methodology to measure progress. Pp. 55–59 in [Asia and the Pacific SDG progress report: engaging communities to close the evidence gap, 2025](#). Bangkok: United Nations.

The approach is the same in the assessment of the 17 **programme countries**, which uses all indicators where at least two data points are available for at least 5 countries: 157 indicators across 115 targets and all 17 goals.

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, 448 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.²² 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 desired 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 87 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 between 2000 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, 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 value is then set as the mean value in 2015 among these top performers.

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.

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 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, data values are normalized based on gross domestic product for the corresponding year so that the data reflect per cent of gross domestic product. It is

²² 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.

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 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.

For the **programme countries**, the set of desired target values is the same as those for the entire UNECE region, with the exception of cases where the target value is obtained using the rate of change. For those indicators, the desired target value for the programme countries is the product of the rate of change of top performers in the UNECE region and the median value observed in the programme countries in 2015.

Presentation

In the charts, each target is coloured according to the gap between anticipated and desired progress. The colour is **green** if the pace of progress is sufficient to reach the target value by 2030; **light yellow** if the pace of progress is at least at two thirds of the rate needed to reach the target; **dark yellow** if the pace of progress is slower than two thirds of the necessary rate; and **red** if the trend observed so far runs counter to the desired direction. If the target cannot be assessed, it is shown in **grey**.

The description of the assessment results for the **programme countries** focuses on the features that are different from the results for the entire region and where the difference is not attributable to data availability. While using the same methodology, the direct comparison between the assessments is not always straightforward because under some SDG targets, the set of indicators and data series available for the programme countries is not identical to that available for the entire region.

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 (%) - 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 employed population covered in the event of work injury (%) - 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 poor population receiving social assistance 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 (%)
Right to land	1.4.2 - Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to land out of total adult population (%)
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 - Health - Social protection
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 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 2017 international \$)) - Productivity of large-scale food producers (agricultural output per labour day, PPP) (constant 2017 international \$)
Productive and sustainable agriculture	2.4.1 - Progress toward productive and sustainable agriculture: - Current status score - Trend score - Proportion of agricultural land area that has achieved an acceptable or desirable level of farm output value per hectare (%)
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)

Indicator short name	Indicator
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)
Treatment for substance use disorder	3.5.1 - Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders (%) – Total - Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders (%) – ATS - Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders (%) - Cocaine Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders (%) - Opioids
Harmful use of alcohol	3.5.2 Alcohol consumption per capita (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year (litres of pure alcohol)
Road traffic deaths ²³	3.6.1 Road traffic fatalities, rate per million inhabitants
Modern methods for family planning ²⁴	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)
Household expenditures on health	3.8.2 Proportion of the population with positive out-of-pocket household expenditure on health exceeding 40% of household discretionary budget (%)
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 (%)

²³Data source is [UNECE Statistical Database](#)

²⁴Data 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
Health capacity and emergency preparedness	3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity (%): - Policy, Legal and normative Instruments to implement IHR - IHR Coordination, National IHR Focal Point functions and advocacy - Financing - Laboratory - Surveillance - Human resources - Health emergency management - Health services provision - Infection prevention and control (IPC) - Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) - Points of entry (PoEs) and border health - Zoonotic diseases - Food safety - Chemical events - Radiation emergencies
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 - Upper 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 (%)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Youth and adults with ICT skills	4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills (%): - Reading or downloading on-line newspapers, magazines, or electronic books - Telephoning over the Internet/VoIP - Getting information about goods or services online - Seeking health information (on injury, disease, nutrition, etc.) - Using Internet banking - Participating in social networks - Doing a formal online course - Taking part in on-line consultations or voting to define civic or political issues - Purchasing or ordering goods or services using the Internet - Above basic communication and collaboration skills - Basic communication and collaboration skills - Above basic digital content creation skills - Basic digital content creation skills - Above basic information and data literacy skills - Basic information and data literacy skills - Above basic problem-solving skills - Basic problem-solving skills - Changing privacy settings on your device, account or app to limit the sharing of personal data and information (e.g. name, contact information, photos) - Verifying the reliability of information found online - Writing a computer program using a specialized programming language - Finding, downloading, installing and configuring software - Creating electronic presentations with presentation software - Using basic arithmetic formula in a spreadsheet - Using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document - Sending e-mails with attached files
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
Youth and adult literacy	4.6.1 Youth/adult literacy rate (%)
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 Proportion of schools with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, by education level (%): - Primary - Lower secondary - Upper secondary

Indicator short name	Indicator
Teachers with minimum required qualifications	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications (%): - Pre-primary and primary - Secondary, lower secondary, upper secondary

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 safely treated domestic wastewater flows
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 (%)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Policies and procedures for participative water and sanitation management	6.b.1 - Countries with users/communities participating in planning programs in water resources planning and management, by level of participation (3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = NA) - Countries with procedures in law or policy for participation by service users/communities in planning program in water resources planning and management, by level of definition in procedures (10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined ; 0 = NA) - Countries with users/communities participating in planning programs in rural drinking-water supply, by level of participation (3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = NA) - Countries with procedures in law or policy for participation by service users/communities in planning program in rural drinking-water supply, by level of definition in procedures (10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined ; 0 = NA)

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 2021 purchasing power parity GDP)
Renewable energy capacity	7.b.1 Installed renewable electricity-generating capacity (watts per capita)

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 - Non-metallic minerals - Metal ores - Mixed and complex products n.e.c. - Petroleum - Waste for final treatment and disposal - 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

Indicator short name	Indicator
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 2023 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

GOAL 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Passenger and freight volumes ²⁵	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 manufacturing industries in total manufacturing value added based on international classification (%) - Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added based on national classification (%)
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 CO2 per constant 2021 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 - At least a 5G

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 (%)
Discrimination	10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having felt discriminated against, by grounds of discrimination, sex and disability (%)
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

²⁵ Data source is [UNECE Statistical Database](#).

Indicator short name	Indicator
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)
Refugees	10.7.4 Number of refugees per 100,000 population, by country of origin (per 100,000 population)
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 Total assistance for development, by donor countries (millions of current United States dollars)
Remittance costs	10.c.1 - Average remittance costs of sending \$200 to a receiving country 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

Slums	11.1.1 - Proportion of urban population living in slums (%) - Proportion of urban population living in inadequate housing (%)
Expenditure cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1 Total expenditure per capita spent on cultural and natural heritage (PPP, constant 2017 United States dollars) - public - private - public and private
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)
Policies that respond to population dynamics	11.a.1 Countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that respond to population dynamics; ensure balanced territorial development; and increase local fiscal space (1 = YES; 0 = NO)
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 - Non-metallic minerals - Metal ores - Mixed and complex products n.e.c. - Petroleum - Waste for final treatment and disposal - Total
Food waste per capita	12.3.1 Food waste per capita (kg)
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 - Minamata Convention - Montreal Protocol - Rotterdam Convention - Stockholm Convention
Hazardous waste generated	12.4.2 - Electronic waste collected (%) - Municipal waste treated (%) - Hazardous waste treated or disposed (%) - Hazardous waste generated, per capita (kg)
National recycling rate	12.5.1 - Proportion of electronic waste recycled (%) - Proportion of municipal waste recycled (%) - Electronic waste recycling, per capita (kg)
Renewable energy capacity	12.a.1 Installed renewable electricity-generating capacity (watts per capita)
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 (nominal 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
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 (%)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Greenhouse gas emissions	13.2.2 - Total greenhouse gas emissions with LULUCF (Mt CO ₂ equivalent) - Total greenhouse gas emissions without LULUCF (Mt CO ₂ , equivalent)

GOAL 14 – Life below water

Coastal eutrophication and plastic debris density	14.1.1 - Chlorophyll-a anomaly, remote sensing (%) - Moderate - High - Extreme - 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 (%)
Combating 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

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) - Annual forest area 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 - Proportion of degraded mountain land (%)
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) - Countries that have legislative, administrative and policy framework or measures reported to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House - Countries that are parties to the Nagoya Protocol
Portion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked	15.7.1 - Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked (plants) - Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked (animals) - Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked (total)
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.1/15.b.1 Total official development assistance for biodiversity (millions of constant 2023 United States dollars) by: - Donor countries - Recipient countries
Combat poaching and trafficking of protected species	15.c.1 - Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked (plants) - Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked (animals) - Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked (total)

GOAL 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

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 Prevalence rate of bribery (%)
Bribery	16.5.2 Bribery incidence (% of firms experiencing at least one bribe payment request)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Government expenditure	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget (%)
Public services	16.6.2 Proportion of population who say that overall they are satisfied with the quality of public services (%): - Healthcare services - Secondary education services
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
Inclusive and responsive decision-making	16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive (%)
Public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms	16.10.1 - Countries with at least one verified case of killings of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists (1 = YES, 0 = NO) - Countries with at least one verified case of enforced disappearance of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists (1 = YES, 0 = NO)
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 - Proportion of countries with independent National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (%)
Non-discrimination	16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having felt discriminated against, by grounds of discrimination, sex and disability (%)

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
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)
Internet users	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet (%)

Indicator short name	Indicator
Official development assistance for technical cooperation	17.9.1 Total official development assistance (gross disbursement) for technical cooperation (millions of 2023 United States dollars)
Worldwide weighted tariff-average	17.10.1 - Worldwide weighted tariff-average, most-favoured-nation status (%): - Agricultural products - Arms - Clothing - Industrial products - Oil - Textiles - All products - Worldwide weighted tariff-average, preferential status (%): - Agricultural products - Arms - Clothing - Industrial products - Oil - Textiles - All products
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 (%)
Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships	17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure, million USD real

Indicator short name	Indicator
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) - Open Data Inventory (ODIN) Coverage Index
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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ISBN 978-9211-593990



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