

# Is the UNECE region on track for 2030?

## Assessment, stories and insights





UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



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## Foreword

Since signing up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more than five years ago, UNECE countries have taken action to integrate the goals and targets into their national development plans and made progress towards achieving them. Actions at the regional level support this process through focused international exchanges and peer learning on policy solutions, best practices and challenges. For this, countries come together at the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region (Geneva, 17-18 March 2021), which highlights the importance of the regional perspective in follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As mandated by its member States, UNECE informs these discussions through an annual report. The present second UNECE regional report on Sustainable Development Goals assesses the situation with implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and provides insights to the actions taken at regional and national levels. The UNECE Statistical Division led the preparation of the report. The report is enriched with stories and insights from 15 United Nations agencies and country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia.

The report identifies the targets on which the overall progress in the region was good, and shows that in most areas progress needs to accelerate by 2030. It also identifies the few areas where the course needs to be reversed, and presents insights of how change can be achieved through actions on the country and regional levels.

The Covid pandemic is bringing about a major setback across multiple Sustainable Development Goals, at least in the short term. The region faces significant challenges to maintain progress, and to accelerate or reverse trends where required. In this context, the commitment to the 2030 Agenda requires intensified efforts to find suitable policy solutions in the new circumstances. These new challenges remind us again of the strong need for international cooperation and solidarity as it would help us find the solutions and promote those that work well. UNECE stands to support countries in combining their efforts in overcoming the pandemic crisis and to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the region.



Olga Algayerova  
UNECE Executive Secretary

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# Introduction

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## The regional dimension of implementing the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the pivotal role of the regional dimension in implementation, follow-up and review. Actions at the regional level bridge the global and national levels, and provide the necessary focus for international exchanges of experience and peer learning. All five United Nations regional commissions annually organize regional forums for sustainable development. 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 the fifth time this year (Geneva, 17-18 March 2021), to share policy solutions, best practices and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

All the United Nations regional commissions disseminate knowledge and data on the SDGs through designated platforms. In the UNECE region, information on activities and resources on SDGs have been made available through the UNECE [Knowledge Hub](#). The [Dashboard](#) and [Database](#) with the latest data on global SDG indicators for UNECE countries were launched in early 2020, with a Russian interface added recently. UNECE provides guidance to national statistical offices and has been regularly updating a Road Map<sup>1</sup> to guide countries on how to set up and manage a system for providing statistics and indicators for SDGs.

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 9-10 April 2019), the governing body of UNECE, requested the Secretariat “to publish a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region to support the discussions at the sessions of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development”. The UNECE Statistical Division led the preparation of the first such report in 2020<sup>2</sup> as well as the present second report, prepared to inform the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region.

## Assessment

The report provides assessment of progress and stories on how regional and country-level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes. The progress assessment is based on a methodology developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)<sup>3</sup> and now used by all five United Nations regional commissions. Technical notes at the end of this report explain the methodology used.

The assessment covers every goal and target for which there are data and looks at the trends at the regional level only. As the previous, 2020 report on the UNECE region<sup>2</sup> showed, variation among countries is significant in all areas and a trend in a country may differ from the general trend observed in the region.

The assessment relies on the data available in the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database as of 18 February 2021, almost all of which pertain to the time before the Covid pandemic. The changes that

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<sup>1</sup> [UNECE \(2017\). Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals. Geneva: United Nations.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [UNECE \(2020\). Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region: a statistical portrait of progress and challenges. Geneva: United Nations.](#)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2020). [Annex 2 – Technical notes](#). Pp 73-77 in [Asia and the Pacific SDG progress report 2020](#). Bangkok: United Nations.

the pandemic has inflicted on the trajectory of progress cannot yet be quantified in this assessment. Reference is made to the possible effects of the pandemic on specific targets or goals and to the emerging evidence on this.

## Stories

The United Nations organizations and country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia provided 17 stories which enrich this report. The stories provide a closer look at how various regional and country level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes. Anchored in data, the insights from these stories help understand the ways that change can be achieved. Many stories address the challenges brought by the pandemic and measure their impact.

## Data

The 2030 Agenda cannot be fulfilled without relevant and timely statistics to track progress. Data are needed for understanding the overall levels of progress, for designing and monitoring the results and impact of policy actions, as well as for identifying areas, groups or regions that risk being left behind.

The regional assessment presented in this report relies on the global indicator framework for SDGs<sup>4</sup> and the available data on UNECE countries in [the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#) as of 18 February 2021. While the scope of data in the Global SDG Database has greatly increased in recent years, coverage remains weak in many areas. The progress assessment shows that under several goals, data in the UNECE region are available for less than a third of the globally agreed indicators, and many targets cannot be assessed because of lack of data. In all, sufficient national data to track change over time are available for only 121 (49 per cent) of the 247 global monitoring indicators and for 89 (53 per cent) of the 169 targets. Technical notes about the assessment, including a complete list of the used indicators, are presented in the end of this report.

Investing in data remains crucial for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, even in countries with well-developed statistical systems. While statistical data collection was negatively impacted by the restrictions that the pandemic imposed, the new situation also accelerated trends that were well under way throughout the UNECE region in modernising the statistical work. The national statistical offices that had already advanced with innovation and modernisation turned out to be better prepared to meet the challenges caused by the pandemic.

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<sup>4</sup> [United Nations. Global indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly \(A/RES/71/313\), annual refinements contained in E/CN.3/2018/2 \(Annex II\), E/CN.3/2019/2 \(Annex II\), and 2020 Comprehensive Review changes \(Annex II\) and annual refinements \(Annex III\) contained in E/CN.3/2020/2.](#)



# Progress in the UNECE region

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## Is the UNECE region on track for 2030?

During the last two decades, countries in the UNECE region have made significant strides in the areas of development laid out in the 2030 Agenda. Many SDG targets carry forward objectives included in previous national and international development initiatives.

One way to evaluate progress towards the SDGs is to estimate how likely it is the region will achieve individual SDG targets by 2030. Based on the pace of progress since 2000, anticipated indicator values can be estimated for 2030 and compared to the desired target values. Recent trends may be more indicative of future progress. For this reason, recent data are given more weight than earlier data in estimating anticipated indicator values for 2030. For indicators that are not expected to achieve the desired target value, the gap between anticipated and required progress can be quantified, indicating how much progress towards the target will still be required by the end of 2030 (Anticipated Progress Index).<sup>5</sup>

The assessment is presented in the figure on the next page. In the figure, each target is coloured according to the gap between anticipated and required progress. The colour is **green** if the pace of progress is sufficient to reach the target value by 2030; **yellow** if progress needs to accelerate to reach the target value; and **red** if the currently observed trend runs counter to the desired direction. If data are insufficient for the assessment, the target is in **grey**.

The assessment relies on the data available in the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database, nearly all of which pertain to the time before the Covid pandemic. **This assessment indicates that the region will achieve only 23 targets by 2030. On 57 targets, progress needs to accelerate, and for 9 targets, the current trend needs to be reversed.** Data are insufficient for the assessment of 80 targets.

The region is on track in reducing **extreme poverty, undernourishment and malnutrition, and providing access to basic services and adequate housing**. Targets to reduce nationally defined poverty and multidimensional poverty are unlikely to be achieved, especially in light of anticipated gaps in social protection and resources for poverty programmes. In nearly half of countries with data, one in five people experienced multidimensional poverty in 2018 (indicator 1.2.2). The sustainability of the food supply is also uncertain. Risk of extinction among local livestock breeds—an important source of sustainable nutrition—is projected to increase by 2030 (indicator 2.5.2). Likewise, government investment in agricultural productivity and efficiency relative to the contribution of the agricultural sector to the economy (agricultural orientation index, indicator 2.a.1) decreased between 2000 and 2017 in nearly two-thirds of UNECE countries with data.

As measured before the pandemic, the region is on course to achieve 5 of the 13 **health and well-being** targets (goal 3). Most countries in the region have already achieved or are on track to meet targets related to maternal, infant, and child mortality. Road traffic safety, health impacts of pollution, and the management of health risks have been improving across the region. Still, more than half of health targets require acceleration, and the pandemic may further stall progress in areas such as mental health, substance abuse, and health workforce development.

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<sup>5</sup> For information on the estimation and the indicators used, see Technical notes on the progress **assessment** on page 55.

# Which targets are on track for 2030?

■ MAINTAIN progress to achieve target 
 ■ ACCELERATE progress to achieve target 
 ■ REVERSE trend to achieve target 
 ■ NOT YET MEASURED

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

The assessment shows that the region is on track to achieve seven targets related to **climate** and the **environment**.<sup>6</sup> In 2018, 40 of 54 countries with data had already achieved universal primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (indicator 7.1.2). If the current pace of progress can be maintained, it is likely most countries in the region will reduce fossil fuel subsidies to near zero by 2030 (indicator 12.c.1). Industry is becoming more energy efficient; the region is on track to meet targets around carbon intensity of the gross domestic product (indicator 9.4.1). Despite success in these and other areas, the region will need to accelerate or reverse progress to meet other critical climate and environment targets like those related to the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, disaster resilience, waste generation and treatment, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Greenhouse gas emissions have increased (indicator 13.2.2). Disaster risk reduction strategies have been adopted and implemented by many countries and local governments in the region. However, recent increases in the number of people in the UNECE region affected by disasters (indicator 13.1.1) point to persisting vulnerability to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

The region has made good progress on migration-related **measures of equality within and among countries** (goal 10) and is set to achieve targets on safe migration and mobility and remittance costs. However, progress on other indicators on inequality has been slow. Decreasing average labour share of gross domestic product (indicator 10.4.1) points to growing inequality within UNECE countries. Instability in the financial sector is a source of inequality between countries. The share of bank loans that are not repaid by borrowers on time (non-performing loans, indicator 10.5.1) is on an upward trajectory in more than half of 50 countries with data in the region.

While the decline in corruption and strengthening of institutions represent positive progress towards **more peaceful and inclusive societies** (goal 16) by 2030, the rise in victims of human trafficking (indicator 16.2.2) needs to be reversed.

Sluggish progress at the region level reflects uneven progress across and within countries for many targets. Such disparities impede progress towards many targets across all goals, highlighting the importance of efforts to leave no one behind on the way to 2030.

## Consequences of the pandemic

Evidence collected since the onset of the pandemic points to negative impacts on several areas of the 2030 Agenda where the assessment indicates that progress is insufficient. School closures and disparities in access to resources for online learning are likely to slow or reverse progress towards **education** targets like equal access to education (4.5) and effective learning outcomes (4.1).<sup>7</sup>

The pandemic and the related economic crisis have **disproportionately affected women**, both at work and at home, causing challenges for families and increasing violence against women and girls<sup>8</sup>. The progress observed before the pandemic towards more equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work and women's increasing representation in leading positions is at risk of being reversed. These developments threaten to undermine decades of progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Already before the pandemic, none of the measured targets on **decent work and economic growth** (goal 8) were on pace to be achieved, and the gross domestic product per employed person was not

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<sup>6</sup> 1.4, 3.9, 6.1, 7.1, 9.4, 12.c, 17.6. For the full list of climate and environment targets and indicators, see [United Nations Environment Programme \(2019\). \*Measuring progress: towards achieving the environmental dimension of the SDGs\*. Nairobi: United Nations.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [UNESCO \(2020\). \*Adverse consequences of school closures\*.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [UN Women \(2020\). \*Impact of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls and service provision: UN Women rapid assessment and findings\*.](#)

growing (indicator 8.2.1). Widespread job loss, interruptions to education and training, and forecast economic recession across the globe due to the pandemic will worsen the well-being of the region's workers and their families.<sup>9</sup> Long-term impacts on employment, productivity and potential output could be expected, as there is little sign that the fiscal stimulus measures applied throughout the developed world would boost long-term investments and create new jobs. Therefore, a slow recovery of the economy is predicted, which is seen to impact the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>10</sup>

On the positive side, the assessment shows that the targets related to the spread and use of **information and communication technology** (9.c, 17.6 and 17.8) – the area critically important for operating under the pandemic restrictions – appear well on track in the UNECE region.

In view of the pandemic, the assessment provided in this report should be seen through the lens of expected slowdown of progress, at least in the short term. The scale of the effect can be quantified when the immediate impact of the pandemic is reflected in the reported indicators.

The UNECE region brings together countries at different levels of development and the aggregate assessment does not reflect the large variation across subregions and countries. Some countries in the region are more resilient to shocks and stresses while others are particularly vulnerable to setbacks, and the impact of the pandemic in the region will vary accordingly.

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<sup>9</sup> [The World Bank \(2020\). \*The global economic outlook during the COVID-19 pandemic: a changed world\*.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(2021\). \*World economic situation and prospects 2021\*. New York: United Nations](#)

# Stories

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**The United Nations organizations and country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia** provided 17 stories which enrich this report. The stories provide a closer look at how various regional and country level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes. Anchored in data, the insights from these stories help understand the ways that change can be achieved. Many stories address the challenges brought by the pandemic and measure their impact.

## Key messages

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### **Increased risk of poverty in the pandemic**

*UNDP*

- Covid-19 pandemic pushes many into risk of poverty and increases inequalities, increasing risk of being left behind.
  - Understanding of differential impact of crisis requires innovative data approaches.
- 

### **Contributing to the reduction of rural poverty through investments in farming in Georgia**

*FAO*

- Poverty reduction in Georgia, especially in rural areas, has been a result of joint actions of government, donors, private sector, and the effective implementation of targeted strategies.
- 

### **Kyrgyzstan: Stunting falling, but more progress needed**

*UN Kyrgyzstan*

- Increase in agricultural production, government's social protection measures and programmes of international organizations have contributed to the drop of stunting from 12 to 9 per cent in urban areas of Kyrgyzstan. More progress is needed in rural areas.
- 

### **Changemakers in Serbia: Women with disability championing sexual and reproductive health**

*UN Serbia*

- Challenges faced by women with disabilities are not always visible to everyone.
  - Too many prejudices remain around sexual and reproductive health of women with disabilities.
- 

### **Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services during the Covid pandemic in Tajikistan**

*UNFPA*

- In Tajikistan, women in remote areas and women with disabilities face huge barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health services.
  - Covid-19 has aggravated these inequalities, but two new UNFPA programmes serve to make sure that an increasing number of rural women and women with disabilities are no longer left behind when it comes to access to sexual and reproductive health services.
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### **Turkmenistan is leaving no one behind in essential vaccination**

*UN Turkmenistan*

- After decades of sustained effort, nearly all children are now getting essential vaccines in Turkmenistan.
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**How has health care adapted to the pandemic?**

*WHO*

- Universal Health Coverage is vital to achieving the SDGs. The pandemic has disrupted delivery of essential health services across countries.
- Primary health care is a cornerstone of resilient health systems and the most effective pathway to health for all. Investments in primary health care services are essential for recovery and preparedness for future emergencies.

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**Consequences of the pandemic on gender inequalities in domestic and care work and on economic security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

*UN Women*

- The gender gap in unpaid domestic and care work was wide and is now further widening due to Covid-19.
- Women disproportionately bear the negative socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic with reductions of paid work hours and income greater among women than among men.

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**Creating bonds between generations to overcome challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic**

*UN Moldova*

- Creating bonds between generations to develop digital skills of older people helps to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic

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**Closing the gap for older people**

*UN Serbia*

- Technological development should not leave older people behind.

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**International migrants in the SDGs**

*IOM*

- Migrants remain largely invisible across SDG data.
- Efforts to measure "safe migration" under target 10.7 have progressed.

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**New SDG indicator on refugees in the UNECE region**

*UNHCR*

- A new indicator on refugees has been included in the SDG framework in 2020.
- The UNECE region as a whole has seen a decrease in refugees originating from its countries from 2015 to 2020, with specific country exceptions.

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**The share of outward foreign direct investment and manufacturing in UNECE economies is declining**

*UNCTAD*

- In the UNECE region, FDI outflows as a share of GDP was lower in 2019 than at any other point in the previous two decades.
  - The global share of exports from UNECE countries decreased from 60 per cent in 2000 to just over 50 per cent in 2010 and remained constant over the next ten years.
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**The Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP): the case of Ukraine***UNIDO*

- The Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) seeks to harness the catalytic potential of innovation and entrepreneurship in small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups to be catalysts of sustainable economic development and climate action.
- By supporting emerging cleantech start-ups and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystems and policy frameworks, the GCIP delivers environmental benefits through economic growth.

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**Every child has the right to be protected from violence***UNICEF*

- In all but two of the 15 countries from the UNECE region with available data, the majority of children are subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home.
- Only six countries in the UNECE region provide data on sexual violence against children.

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**Improving national capacity to measure SDGs***UNECE*

- In 51 countries of the UNECE region the National Statistical Office is the coordinator for SDG indicators.
- 42 countries of the region disseminate SDG indicators via one stop shops – National Reporting Platforms.

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**Population censuses to take place in every UNECE country around 2020***UNECE*

- All countries of the UNECE region intend to carry out a population and housing census in the 2020 round.
  - Meeting the challenges to census-taking brought about by the pandemic has accelerated the pre-existing trend towards modernization of censuses.
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## Increased risk of poverty in the pandemic

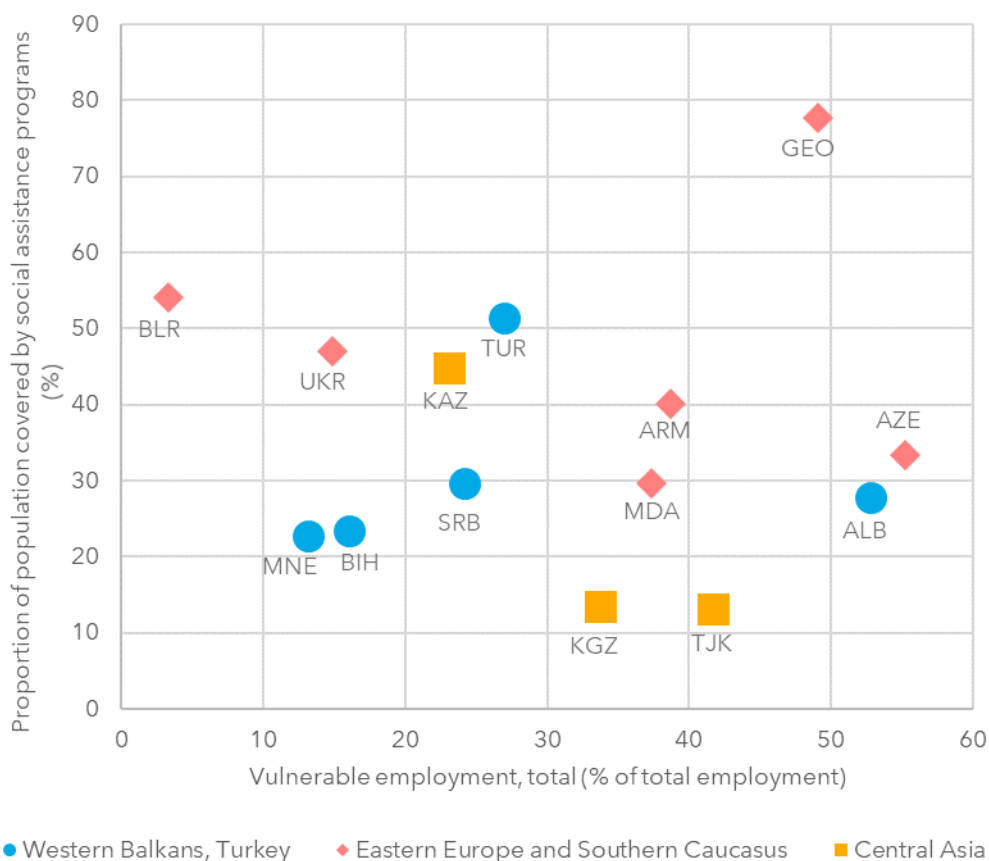
Provided by UNDP

*Covid-19 pandemic pushes many into risk of poverty and increases inequalities, increasing risk of being left behind.*

Countries of the region showed significant progress in poverty reduction—both as judged by international and national poverty indicators. However, COVID-19 pandemic pushes many in risk of poverty and increases inequalities. It exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and widens existing inequality gaps, increasing the risk of leaving behind certain groups.

The impact of the pandemic on household income has three ramifications: (i) a loss of wage income and revenues from informal work; (ii) a loss of remittances; and (iii) price inflation, particularly a rise in food prices. Loss of incomes affect households significantly, and in addition cause spill over effects, including rising household debt, inability to afford out-of-pocket payments for health services and reduced access to public health and education. Exacerbating factors, such as child nutrition due to loss of access to school meals for children and an increased risk of domestic violence, also play an important role.

**Figure 1 Vulnerable employment and coverage by social assistance programs**



Source: For the Proportion of population covered by social assistance programs (%) (SDG indicator 1.3.1), [United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#), most recent year available. For Vulnerable employment, total (% of total employment), modelled ILO estimate. Country codes in the graph follow [the Standard country or area codes for statistical use \(M49\)](#).

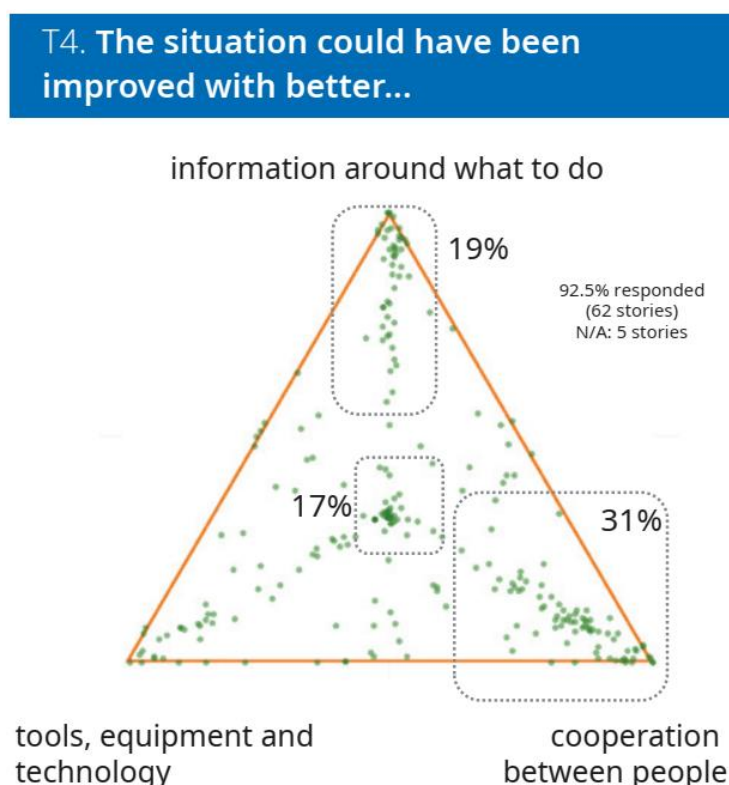


Surveys highlight that disproportionate impacts on households will exacerbate inequality and increase poverty. Specifically, these differential impacts will affect women who generally earn less and are often in more precarious employment. Pre-crisis data suggest that a number of countries in the region were in especially peculiar position, with high share of vulnerable employment and low coverage by social protection programs—Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan to mention a few. This vulnerability can be largely explained by the lack of decent formal sector employment: a high concentration of the labour force in vulnerable or precarious forms of employment, either as self-employed workers or in small businesses. Pandemic disruptions hit the most vulnerable. For instance, in Kazakhstan, according to the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, a deterioration of the financial situation was noted by 51 per cent of the unemployed, by 45 per cent of low-income people, by 42 per cent of persons with disabilities and by 36 per cent of the economically active population.

*Understanding of differential impact of crisis requires innovative data approaches.*

Some aspects of the crisis have affected women more than men, increasing gender inequalities. Women dominate in health sector employment (78 per cent in Kyrgyzstan), and they have had a strong presence among the ranks of ‘frontline’ workers and being more exposed to the risk of contagion. The lockdown has amplified the caregiver burden that is overwhelmingly the task of women given the extended closures of schools and of childcare facilities, the overstretched health systems requiring sick patients to be cared for at home and the longstanding gender inequalities in performing unpaid care work. UN Women’s rapid gender assessment in Kyrgyzstan shows that during the lockdown women spent 3.6 times more time on unpaid work than men and two times more time on childcare. Furthermore, lockdowns have exacerbated the risk of violence, exploitation and abuse against women. Increases in the incidence of domestic violence have been registered. In Kyrgyzstan, there were 2,319 cases of domestic violence reported in March 2020, 1,425 involving physical violence, which is 65 per cent more than in the same period in 2019.

**Figure 2 Clustering of stories by potential way of improvement.**



Source: [UNDP Moldova](#)

The socio-economic risk to households is being heightened due to low coverage and the inadequacy of existing social protection transfers. It will be vital to provide support that can prevent households resorting to the sale of assets, as this can lead to a longer and more difficult post-crisis recovery period and increases the risk of households moving from transitory poverty into chronic poverty. Understanding this differentiated impact of crisis—and differentiated needs—requires new approaches. In Moldova UNDP partnered with Cognitive Edge in a joint effort to answer the question: “What is the impact of COVID-19 on the communities of Moldova?” We used thick data, referred to as micro-narratives, alongside quantitative data gathered through SenseMaker®. One finding showed an atomistic culture, in which people were focused on themselves and close family members rather than their communities and even less on the economic wellbeing of the country. ‘Getting the right information’ was the biggest challenge, mentioned in some 1/3 of stories. At the same time, information was not seen as an important means of improving the situation: 19 per cent of people believed there should be clearer information, compared to 31 per cent who believed better cooperation between people could improve the situation. The sense-making exploration showed that that limited trustworthy, consistent and neat information led to people basing decisions on personal judgements and community knowledge, rather than looking themselves for scientific evidence or government information. Another important challenge is access to solutions and help, in a context where a third of the respondents said that no solution or help came. The narratives tell us that people faced a lack of support services and limited access to basic services, including with regard to health, education, and social payments. This sensemaking exercise suggest two important directions in addressing: (i) design and implement group-specific support programmes; and (ii) Promote community engagement and enforce peer-support initiatives.

## Contributing to the reduction of rural poverty through investments in farming in Georgia

Provided by FAO

*Poverty reduction in Georgia, especially in rural areas, has been a result of joint actions of government, donors, private sector, and the effective implementation of targeted strategies.*

Decentralized development and targeted assistance to farmers based on strategic thinking has helped to alleviate poverty in rural areas of Georgia, contributing to progress towards SDG target 1.2 on poverty reduction.

According to the 2016 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, poverty and inequalities are among Georgia's critical challenges. Disparities between urban and rural areas are stark.<sup>11</sup> In Georgia, tackling rural poverty is critical for reducing poverty overall because agriculture accounts for a

large share of rural employment. Still, agricultural productivity is low due to the predominance of small farms. According to the Agricultural Census of Georgia 2014, family holdings (agricultural households) account for 99.6 per cent of all farms in Georgia, and 96 per cent of rural households engage in farming. Agriculture is fundamental to the economic and social fabric of rural life, making it a key area in fighting poverty.

A number of strategies were recently developed to promote agricultural and rural development. Among them are the Strategy for Agricultural Development of Georgia 2015-2020, the Rural Development Strategy 2017-2021 and the new, acting Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027.<sup>12</sup> Along with other partners, FAO has provided considerable support to the government of Georgia in the preparation and implementation of these strategies.

Based on these strategic plans, the government of Georgia and donors have allocated resources towards combating poverty, focusing on rural areas. The Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture is implementing quite effective and successful state support programs targeting farmers and rural populations.

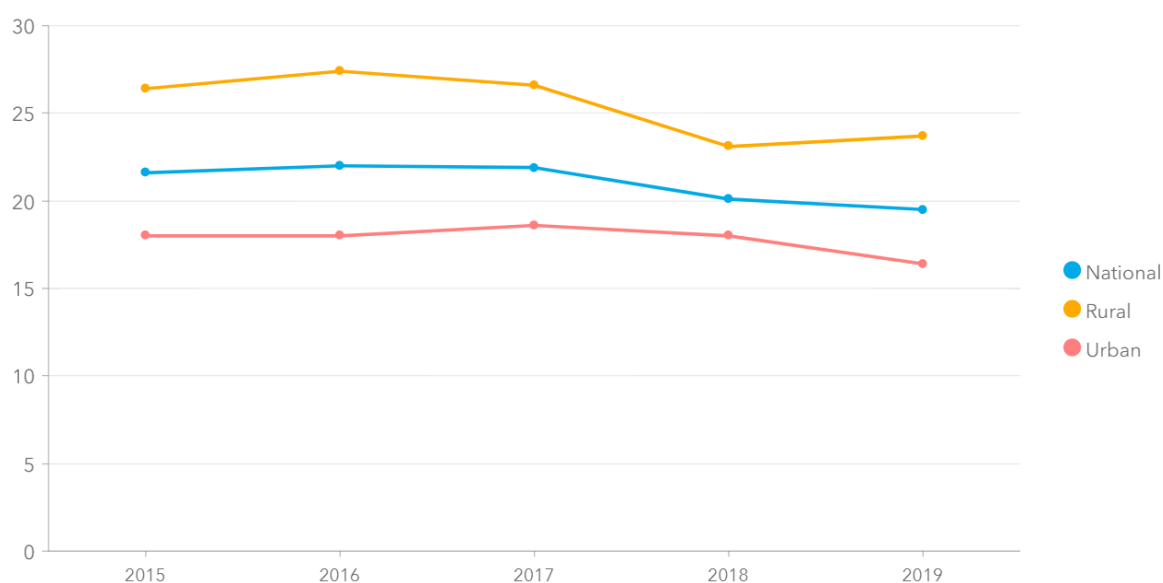
FAO contributes to these efforts through initiatives designed to benefit rural households and small farms. The projects provide grants and capacity-building to support smallholder farmers, focusing on new environmentally friendly technologies, sustainability, upgrading of infrastructure, and the provision of machinery. The grants are geographically dispersed across municipalities and various value chains including fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy products, beef, honey, fish farming, hazelnut etc. Taking into consideration the Agenda 2030's objective of leaving no one behind, particular attention is given to female-headed farms, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and farmers living in high-mountainous or other less-favourable areas.

The effects of these combined efforts are already visible. Between 2015 and 2019, the share of the population living below the absolute poverty line fell from 21.6 per cent to 19.5 per cent. During that period, the share of the urban population living below the absolute poverty line decreased by 1.6 percentage points while the share of the rural population living below the absolute poverty fell by 2.7 percentage points, narrowing the urban-rural poverty gap.

<sup>11</sup> Accelerating Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Identifying Priority Areas for Action in Georgia, MAPS Mission Report, 2019

<sup>12</sup> [Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia: strategic documents](#); [The European Union for Georgia: strategy documents](#).

**Figure 3** Share of population living below absolute poverty line (%) in Georgia 2015-2019



Source: [Household Income and Expenditure Survey \(HIES\) of Georgia, National Statistics Office of Georgia. Metadata available here.](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic poses some threats to these developments. Restriction of all international travel and the resulting sharp decline in tourism had considerable impact on the hospitality sector's demand for food and drinks, particularly demand for wine. Lockdowns coincided with the active agricultural season--planting in spring and harvesting in autumn. The closure of restaurants, hotels and educational institutions shifted the demand for food to retail stores and farmers' markets. The temporary closure of farmers' markets in late 2020 and early 2021 was a considerable challenge for farmers. In general, challenges for primary production are mostly linked to the transportation ban that created a considerable obstacle for the farmers.

Nonetheless, initiatives to support farmers continue. The hope is that these ongoing efforts will minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the positive trends in rural poverty in Georgia.

## Kyrgyzstan: Stunting falling, but more progress needed

*Provided by UN Kyrgyzstan country team*

*Increase in agricultural production, government's social protection measures and programmes of international organizations have contributed to the drop of stunting from 12 to 9 per cent in urban areas of Kyrgyzstan. More progress is needed in rural areas.*

Kyrgyzstan continues to face significant challenges in achieving the SDG target 2.2, as access to food, particularly economic access, is a major threat to household food security. This has caused, among others, every eighth child under the age of five to be stunting – a condition associated with chronic undernutrition.

Stunting has fallen from 13 per cent in 2014 to 12 per cent in 2018.<sup>13</sup> In urban areas the decrease was from 12 to 9 per cent. However, in rural areas the level remained above 13 per cent. In addition, in 2011, 36 per cent of children under the age of five, and 30 per cent of pregnant mothers were affected by anaemia.<sup>14</sup> This condition, which arises from iron

deficiency, causes fatigue and reduced working and learning capacity. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), the low micronutrient content of staple foods, such as wheat products, which make up approximately 20 per cent of people's diets in Kyrgyzstan, is one of the reasons for undernutrition.

In Kyrgyzstan, about one quarter of the population (22 per cent) – or 1.5 million people – live below the national poverty line.<sup>13</sup> Rural population, particularly in the country's rural south, is disproportionately affected by poverty. Children and members of large households are among the poorest of the poor. Almost one-third of the employed population live in rural areas and 20 per cent of the employed population is engaged in agriculture.

The Government's main social assistance programme, the Monthly Benefit for Poor Families and Children, serves only extremely poor households with children, which excludes many of the poor. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and WFP in Kyrgyzstan work closely with the government and farmers to strengthen opportunities for farmers and improve social protection. FAO launched a complex project "Developing capacity for strengthening food security and nutrition in selected countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia" to bridge a key disconnect: the inability of smallholder farmers to access the certification for their produce in order to be served in schools or shipped elsewhere. Similarly, FAO supports the Government in strengthening school gardening initiative that raises awareness about nutritious diets and enables schools to grow their own fruits. Dozens of vulnerable families are benefitting from the training to improve agriculture skills, generate income and diversify diets. WFP supports thousands of farmers, who fully depend on wheat production and are vulnerable to market price fluctuations, through its Empowering Local Smallholder Farmers (ELSF) project, enabling them to sell wheat to WFP.

The WFP's Optimizing School Meals programme is another major contributor to the food security of children. Prior to the COVID-related closures, through the WFP-supported school meals optimization programme, over 184,000 primary school children received hot meals. During the pandemic, wheat flour from schools, which was supplied for school meals is being redistributed to children from poor families. About 2,000 families with schoolchildren identified as poor received 116 tons of fortified wheat flour from WFP's pilot schools to support children while they take distance learning.

The increase in agricultural production, the enrichment of flour and salt with vitamins and micronutrients, the introduction of a hot school food program, as well as other social protection measures for vulnerable

<sup>13</sup> [National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic \(2020\). \*Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in the Kyrgyz Republic\*. Bishkek.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(2019\). \*Food security and nutrition profile of the Kyrgyz Republic\*. FAOSTAT Statistical Database](#)

groups in Kyrgyzstan had a positive impact on improving food security and nutrition of the population. Thus, significant progress has been made in reducing the stunting of children under five years of age, as well as malnutrition. However, despite improvements in the nutritional status of children, the pace of progress and its scale remain insufficient. The structural challenges of the national food production system, characterized by strong reliance on small-scale farms and inadequate technologies, need to be met with increased human and social capital investments, including by giving women greater access to land, productive inputs and financial resources.

## Changemakers in Serbia: Women with disability championing sexual and reproductive health

*Provided by the UN Serbia country team*

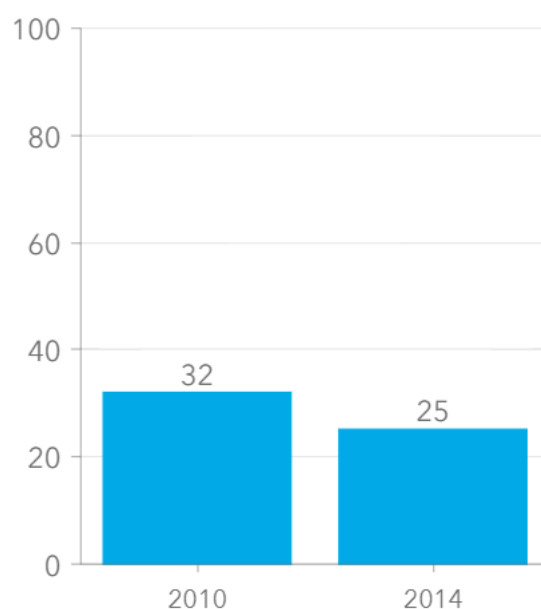
*Challenges faced by women with disabilities are not always visible to everyone.*

From getting a doctor's exam to starting a family, things that many people take for granted can seem beyond reach for women and girls with disabilities. In Serbia, around 8 per cent of the total population — nearly 600,000 people, the majority of them women and girls — lives with some kind of disability.<sup>15</sup> Yet they are far from being treated equally,

especially when it comes to sexual and reproductive health.

This story is relevant for SDG targets 3.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 10.2, 16.3 and 16.6.

**Figure 4** *Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods in Serbia (% of women aged 15-49 years)*



Source: [United Nations Serbia \(2018\). Sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescent girls with disabilities. Belgrade.](#)

The Global SDG Indicators Database shows that 32 per cent of women aged 15-49 in Serbia had their needs satisfied in 2010, and 25 per cent in 2014. Yet there is no such data available for women with disability. A recent study by UNFPA and Iz kruga Vojvodina shows that one in five women and adolescent girls in Serbia with disabilities have difficulty accessing needed health services, one in four are unsatisfied with the sexual and reproductive health services they do receive and as many as one in seven have never had a gynaecological examination.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Data from the 2011 census, referred in the National Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2020-2024).

<sup>16</sup> [United Nations Serbia \(2018\). Sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescent girls with disabilities. Belgrade.](#)

These multi-layered challenges are perpetuated by persistent negative stereotypes and prejudices in society, found even among health professionals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these difficulties. Women and young people with disabilities are nearly three times more likely than their non-disabled peers to experience sexual violence, and they are at risk of being left behind in the response to the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>17 18</sup>

*Too many prejudices remain around sexual and reproductive health of women with disabilities.*

Mónika Zsúnyi, a 26 year old from Temerin, holds an MSc degree in Applied Mathematics. She is engaged in 3D modelling and loves to read. Living with cerebral palsy, she is also very active in promoting rights of people with disabilities in Serbia.

Her [short movie](#) that captures the barriers women with disabilities face when trying to access sexual and reproductive health services in Temerin, mostly communication and architectural barriers, sparked a debate with local authorities. "We may have pointed out to the problems that decision makers never thought about, nor did they think they could be a problem for anyone at all" - says Monika.

With UNFPA support, Monika and other women with disabilities made great strides in less than a year marked with COVID pandemics worldwide: getting a hydraulic table for gynaecological check-ups back into service, made movies about the barriers they face and successfully engaged with local policy makers to offer and advocate for solutions to their problems during and after COVID19 pandemics.

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<sup>17</sup> [UNFPA \(2020\). Pandemic heightens vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities.](#)

<sup>18</sup> [UNFPA \(2018\). Women and young persons with disabilities: guidelines for providing rights-based and gender-responsive services to address gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights. New York: UNFPA.](#)



## Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services during the Covid pandemic in Tajikistan

Provided by UNFPA

*In Tajikistan, women in remote areas and women with disabilities face huge barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health services.*

*Covid-19 has aggravated these inequalities, but two new UNFPA programmes serve to make sure that an increasing number of rural women and women with disabilities are no longer left behind when it comes to access to sexual and reproductive health services.*

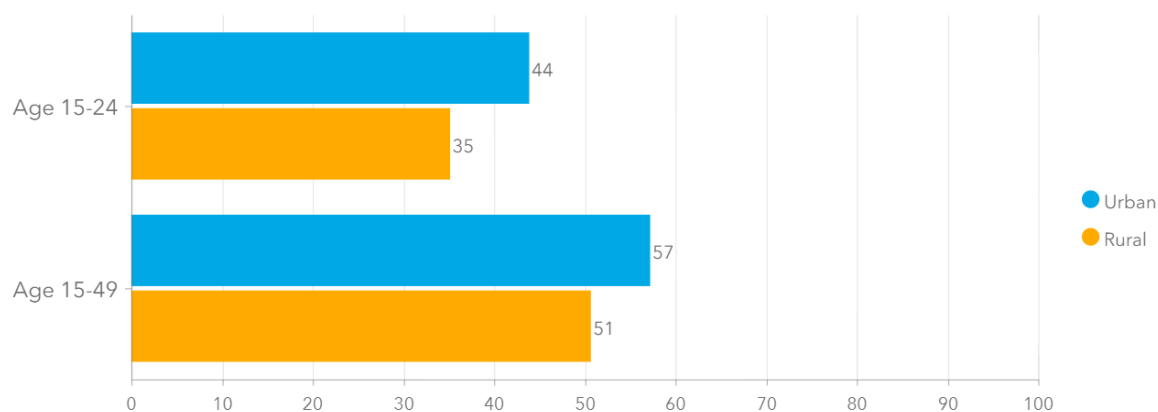
In Tajikistan, UNFPA helps to bring sexual and reproductive health services to hard-to-reach rural populations and women with disabilities, in support of SDG Target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, by 2030.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan — Like many people, young mother Madina Yuldosheva has been reluctant to visit her doctor during the COVID-19 pandemic. “I stopped going in for sexual and reproductive health consultations, but then an urgent need for a visit arose,” says Yuldosheva, who lives in the Jabbor Rasulov district of Sughd region.

Even before the pandemic, nearly one in four women in Tajikistan had an unmet need for family planning.<sup>19</sup> Young women in rural areas are particularly likely to lack access to modern family planning methods. In 2017, only 35 per cent of women age 15-24 living in rural areas with a need for family planning were using a modern method of

contraception.

**Figure 5** Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (%), Tajikistan 2017 (SDG indicator 3.7.1)



Source: [2017 Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey](#)

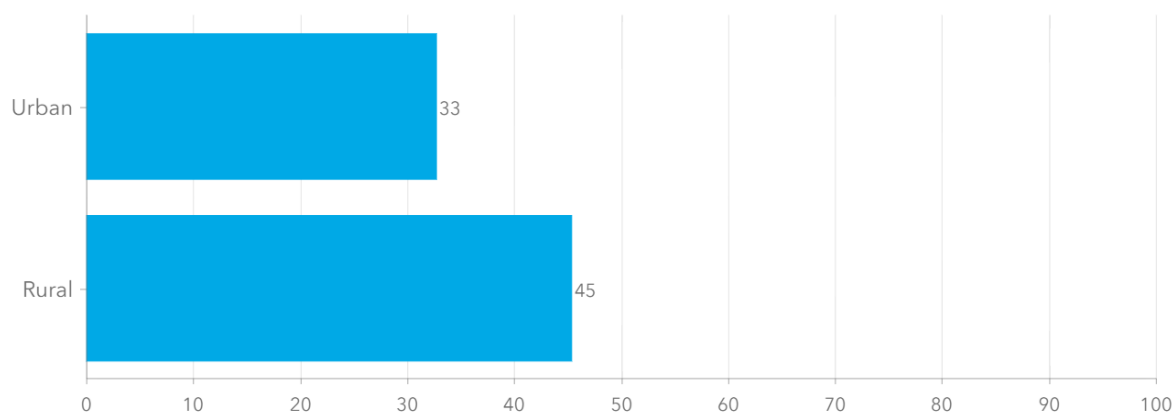
Madina was happy to learn from her gynaecologist about another option: receiving services remotely through a new telehealth programme.

Implemented by UNFPA Tajikistan with funding from the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, the programme offers essential sexual and reproductive health and family planning services and basic psychosocial support to women of reproductive age through messaging apps like IMO, Viber and

<sup>19</sup> [2017 Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey](#)

WhatsApp. And this is just one of the ways that UNFPA is making sure no one in Tajikistan gets left behind during the pandemic when it comes to sexual and reproductive health.

**Figure 6 Proportion of women age 15-49 reporting problems in accessing health care (%), Tajikistan 2017**



Source: [2017 Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey](#)

“The telehealth initiative has enabled women, especially those who are pregnant or have difficulty coming to the health centre, to have consultations with their doctors online, without the need to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Gulbahor Zaripova, head of the Reproductive Health Centre of Khatlon Region. This service stands to benefit women living in rural areas, who are more likely to report difficulties accessing health care.

More than 2,200 women of reproductive age have already taken advantage of the telehealth programme, which will be extended through June 2021 with technical and financial support from UNFPA.

A total of 80 sexual and reproductive health service providers have been trained in the provision of alternative antenatal care, family planning and psychosocial support services following UNFPA technical guidance and WHO recommendations. This includes 22 service providers with dedicated mobile numbers and web-based applications developed for this purpose. An awareness-raising campaign including posters, leaflets and video PSAs has reached more than 2 million people in the country, including 200,000 pregnant women and 800,000 women who use modern contraceptives.

Another UNFPA-led programme focuses on ensuring that women with disabilities are able to receive the same sexual and reproductive health information and services as other women, including during the pandemic.

Roziya Boboeva, a young teacher in one of the Bokhtar city schools, says she always had difficulty finding a professional gynaecologist who would listen to her concerns and give her the advice she needed due to her disability. “Usually, they are always busy with other patients and it is hard to get their consultation,” she says.

But thanks to a new facility established at her local health centre that specializes in services for women with disabilities, Boboeva can get all of her sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial support needs met in one place. “This is exactly what I was looking for,” she says. “Most important is the attitude of the staff towards me; they understand me and listen respectfully to what I have to say.”

Five such facilities in different cities and districts of Tajikistan have been set up by UNFPA and its partner organization Gender and Development since July 2020, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and the National Association of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan. All of the medical rooms have been equipped with basic medical supplies, including personal protective equipment, in order to provide safe and high-quality services to women with disabilities at no charge.

The five medical rooms established in the capital Dushanbe, the cities of Kulob, Bokhtar and Khujand, and the district of Rudaki will have reached an estimated 12,500 women with disabilities by the end of the project cycle.

“Before, I didn’t know where to go when I needed a consultation on sexual and reproductive health issues, and these services were very expensive for me to afford,” says Bibinazokat Nazirova, who has been blind in one eye since she was a teenager. “I hope more and more of these facilities can be set up in our country, so we can get the services and consultations we need without having to worry about money.”

## Turkmenistan is leaving no one behind in essential vaccination

*Provided by the UN Turkmenistan country team*

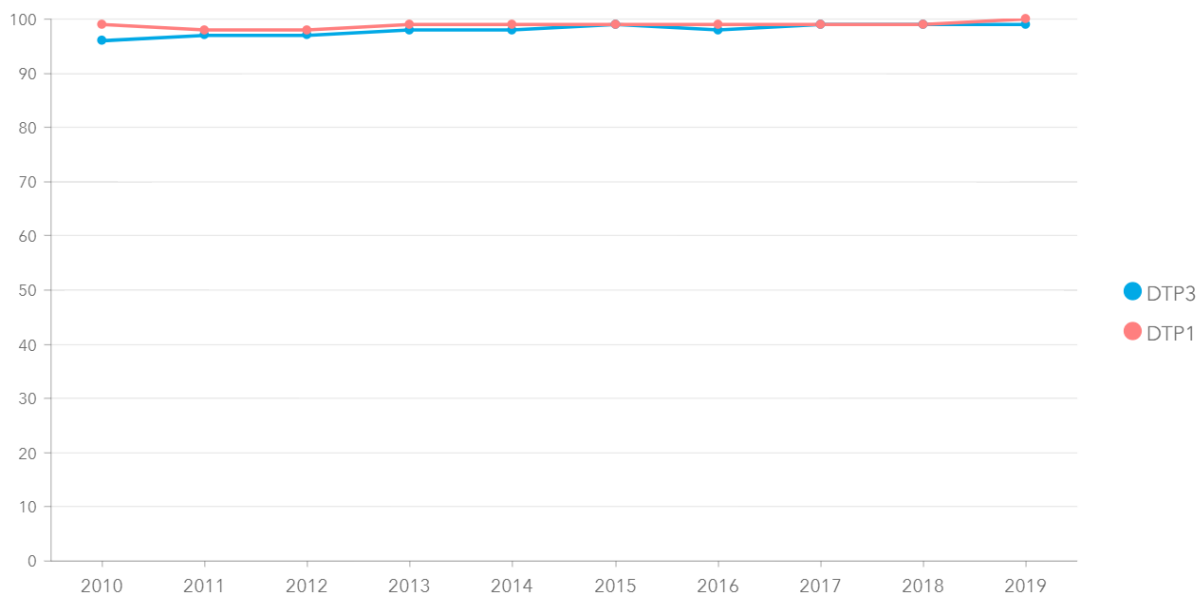
*After decades of sustained effort, nearly all children are now getting essential vaccines in Turkmenistan.*

Immunisation has a crucial role in achieving SDGs as it helps to alleviate poverty (SDG 1), improve education outcomes (SDG 4), reduce inequalities (SDG 10), and can only be achieved by working in partnership (SDG 17). It pertains directly to target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage and target 3.b on the provision of vaccines.

In 2015, Turkmenistan was one of the first countries to start consultations on the national adaptation of the SDGs. Based on the Regulatory Impact Assessment, 85 per cent of the adopted SDG targets are reflected in the strategic documents of Turkmenistan today. Turkmenistan regularly reviews its progress on SDG targets and in 2019 presented its first Voluntary National Report at High Level Political Forum, focusing on SDG 3.<sup>20</sup>

In Turkmenistan, efforts towards ensuring immunisation for all children started long before SDGs and have been prioritised since as a key aspect of better health services for all. Diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus are included in the list of disease scourges that modern health care systems worldwide aim to eliminate. In Turkmenistan, by the time the 2030 Agenda was launched in 2015, 99 per cent of children were receiving the first dose of the combination vaccine for diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DTP1).<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 7 Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus (DTP) vaccines coverage in Turkmenistan (%), 2010-2019**



Source: [WHO vaccine-preventable diseases: monitoring system. 2020 global summary](#)

The latest WHO/UNICEF data from 2019 indicate that 100 per cent of surviving infants received DTP1. This reflects both the strong political commitment and the allocation of sufficient public resources for immunisation. In addition to maintaining the high immunisation coverage, the national schedule has gradually expanded and during the SDG era 4 new vaccines have been added: human papillomavirus,

<sup>20</sup> [24723Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan.pdf](#)

<sup>21</sup> [WHO vaccine-preventable diseases: monitoring system. 2020 global summary](#)

rotavirus, hepatitis A and pneumococcal vaccine. The latest national vaccination calendar includes vaccines which protect children from 14 preventable diseases.

Immunisation continued to be one of the important aspects of the national programme "Saglyk" (health) adopted in 2015 to meet the health-related SDGs. As vaccines are critical to the prevention and control of infectious-disease outbreaks, and the reduction of child mortality, Turkmenistan treats immunisation as a key component of primary health care and as a vital intervention in the battle against antimicrobial resistance. It is especially important that children receive all the vaccines scheduled at birth and in the first two years of life. Today, the immunisation coverage rates for Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) antigens remain high, with 98 per cent of children receiving the third dose of the combination vaccine for diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT3) in 2016, and 99 per cent in 2019.<sup>22</sup>

As part of the long-standing partnership between the Government and UNICEF, the national funding for the procurement of vaccines in Turkmenistan continuously increased and almost doubled from 2009 to 2020, covering all immunization related expenditures. The latest plan under the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the Government and UNICEF in 2020 secured additional national funding and highest-level commitment to maintain the current level of immunisation during 2021-2025. This will support the objective to ensure adequate quality of services on immunisation, vaccine-related safe waste management, strengthening and upgrading of the cold chain as well as the availability of quality data on immunization. Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic the Government and UNICEF ensured the routine immunisation activities are conducted without disruption, and the regular delivery of vaccines is continuing under these difficult circumstances.

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<sup>22</sup> [WHO vaccine-preventable diseases: monitoring system. 2020 global summary](#)

## How has health care adapted to the pandemic?

Provided by WHO

*Universal Health Coverage is vital to achieving the SDGs. The Covid pandemic has disrupted delivery of essential health services across countries.*

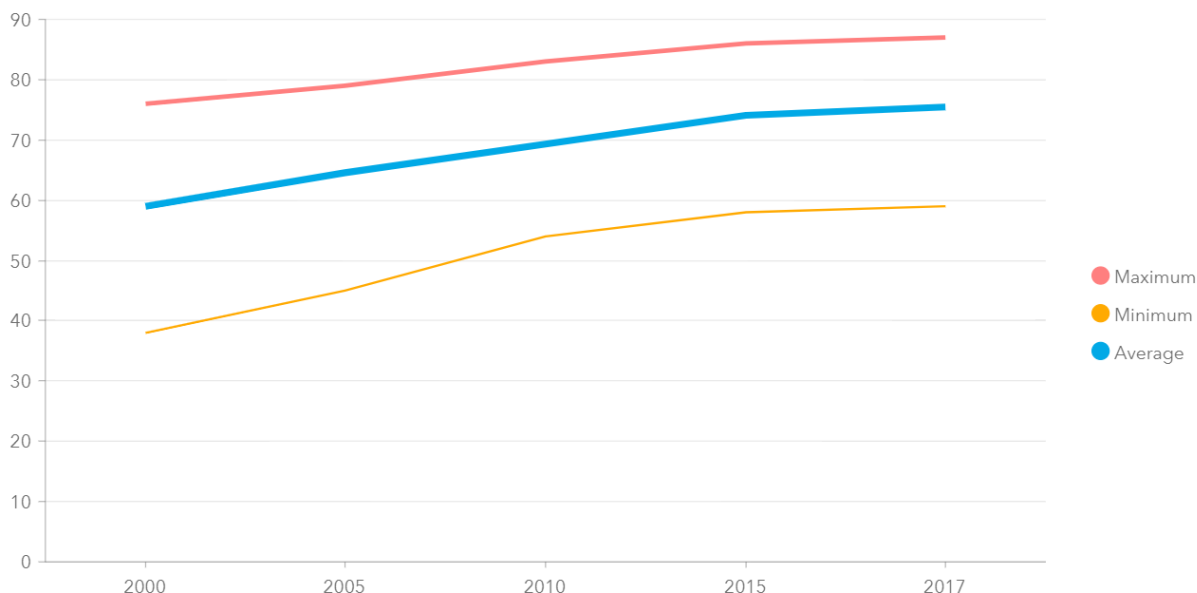
“Universal health coverage (UHC) is fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related not only to health and well-being, but also to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, ensuring quality education, achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment, providing decent work and economic growth, reducing inequalities, ensuring just, peaceful and inclusive societies and to building and fostering

partnerships”. This political declaration, approved by the United Nations high-level meeting on universal health coverage on 23 September 2019, highlights the central importance of UHC to achieving the SDGs.<sup>23</sup>

Work towards UHC is ongoing. WHO’s 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work and WHO/Europe’s European Programme of Work 2020-2025, United Action for Better Health, both include universal health coverage as a core pillar.

However, the 2017 estimated service coverage index<sup>24</sup> for the countries of the WHO European Region was 75.5<sup>25</sup> out of a possible 100 (SDG indicator 3.8.1). The current index shows that, while there has been progress across the years and the gap between the countries with the lowest and highest index values is narrowing, access to quality essential healthcare services remains a goal for the region – one that has been further complicated due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

**Figure 8** *Estimated UHC service coverage index in the WHO European Region*



Source: [United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#)

<sup>23</sup> [United Nations General Assembly \(2019\). Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage. A/RES/74/2.](#)

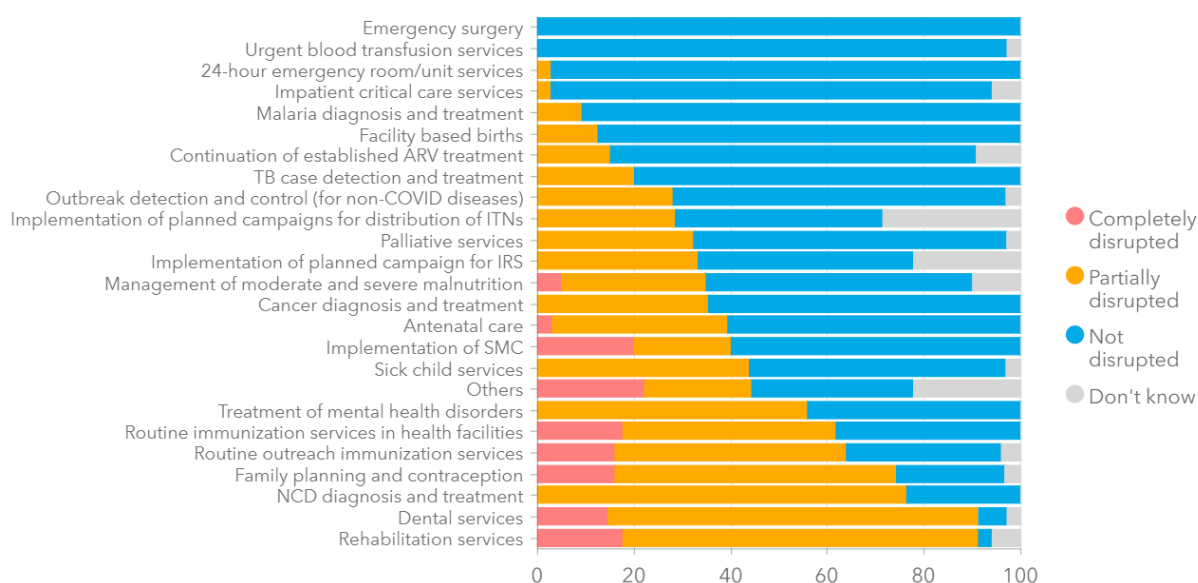
<sup>24</sup> Service coverage index is defined as the average coverage of essential health services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and most disadvantaged population. See [a full list of the tracer indicators](#) that comprise the service coverage index.

<sup>25</sup> This average does not include the rates of Andorra, Monaco, or San Marino, for which data were missing.

## The impact of Covid-19 on health services provision

A rapid survey by WHO between June and July 2020 found severe disruptions in regular service delivery, including in essential health services.<sup>26</sup> Based on 34 responding countries of the WHO European Region, the five most significantly disrupted services( from a list of 25 services surveyed) were: (i) rehabilitation services (92 per cent of countries); (ii) dental services (91 per cent of countries); (iii) non communicable disease (NCD) diagnosis and treatment (76 per cent of countries); (iv) family planning and contraception (74 per cent of countries); and, (v) outreach services for routine immunizations (63 per cent of countries), endangering the achievement of other SDG targets.

**Figure 9 Essential health service disruption (%) in 34 responding countries, WHO European Region**



Source: WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care (2021). *Global survey: Rapid assessment of continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Analysis of results from the European Region. Almaty: WHO. Report in preparation.

Changes to both the supply of and demand for healthcare have caused disruptions. Decrease in inpatient volume due to cancellation of elective care (76% of countries), decrease in outpatient volume due to patients not presenting (70% of countries) were the most common causes of disruption. The Health System Response Monitor<sup>27</sup>, a collaboration between WHO’s Regional Office for Europe, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and the European Commission documents the approaches countries have used to overcome disruptions. These include repurposing physical infrastructure and reassigning personnel to respond to the pandemic while maintaining essential health services.

*Primary health care is a cornerstone of resilient health systems and the most effective pathway to health for all. Investments in primary health care services are essential for recovery and preparedness for future emergencies.*

<sup>26</sup> Global survey: Rapid assessment of continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Analysis of results from the European Region. WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care, Almaty;2021. Report in preparation.

<sup>27</sup> COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor. Cross-country analysis. Available at: <https://analysis.covid19healthsystem.org/>

Regular testing of health care personnel has been a key measure to contain the spread of the virus and protect staff and patients. Many countries have introduced or expanded initiatives to provide telemedicine or care at home. Other countries also worked with civil society and volunteers to provide patients with necessary medications at home.

These initiatives represent just a snapshot, and the extent to which these measures have impacted other health needs is yet not clear. There are concerns about pent-up demand in the future, an increase in preventable complications, and the need for hospital services to address them. A key concern is ensuring equitable access to care, as disruptions and financial difficulties disproportionately impact vulnerable groups.

## Primary health care: an effective pathway for UHC and health security

Primary health care services play a vital role in the pandemic response, in supporting the timely, effective and safe management of patients with suspected and confirmed Covid-19, as well as in the provision of immunization services once the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines gets underway.

To continue progress towards SDGs, health systems could adopt a dual-track approach to balance the response to Covid-19 with other health care needs. This will require greater investments in primary health care. Well-resourced community-based health professionals providing care across the spectrum of promotion, prevention, treatment and recovery are essential for UHC. They are also essential for strengthening capacities for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks, essential towards achieving SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being for all at all ages. The WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care in Almaty, Kazakhstan, continues to provide guidance as a centre of excellence on primary health care.

WHO will continue supporting countries adapt and transform health services to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Consequences of the pandemic on gender inequalities in domestic and care work and on economic security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Provided by UN Women

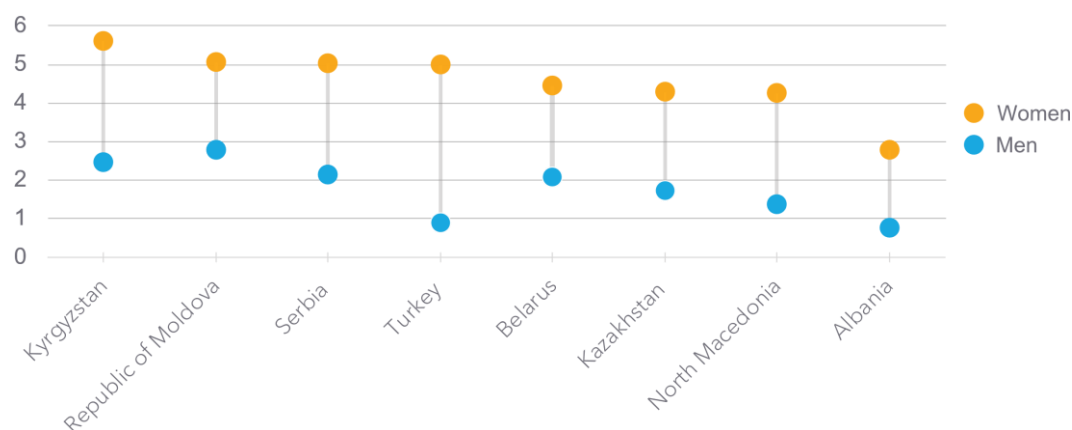
*The gender gap in unpaid domestic and care work was wide and is now further widening due to Covid-19 (SDG target 5.4).*

Five years into the SDGs and 25 since the Beijing Platform for Action, important gains in gender equality have been secured. Yet, a long road remains ahead towards realizing the full spectrum of SDG5 dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. Inadequate progress on gender parity hinders prospects for decent work (SDG8) and in reducing inequalities within countries

(SDG10) – hindrances that are now further aggravated by Covid-19. Women and girls have been disproportionately impacted due to multiple and intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination that predated the pandemic.

Globally and across Eastern Europe and Central Asia<sup>28</sup>, women disproportionately shoulder the burden of domestic and care work – work that is often invisible and unpaid, and that hinders women’s participation in the labour market. Prior to COVID-19 women already did at least double the level of domestic and care work that men did, and in some countries like North Macedonia, Albania and Turkey the level ranges from 3 to 5 times higher for women. The distribution of unpaid work gives a sense of the fact that women have fewer hours per week that they can devote to paid work, in contrast to the time men have.

**Figure 10 Daily time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (hours)**



Source: [UNECE Statistical Database](#). Data for Serbia, Belarus, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan refers to 2015, Albania (2010), Republic of Moldova (2012), North Macedonia (2014) and Kazakhstan (2018).

Women’s workforce participation has generally moved closer to men’s, yet large gender differentials remain and the average gender gaps in labour force participation range between 20-35 percentage points, with a high of 47 percentage points in Turkey.<sup>29</sup> In addition, 1 out of 3 women in Eastern Europe

<sup>28</sup> Refers to the United Nations programme countries/territories: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo\*, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia and Turkey. \* All references to Kosovo should be understood in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

<sup>29</sup> [UN Women \(2020\). Keep the promise, accelerate the change: Taking stock of gender equality in Europe and Central Asia 25 years after Beijing.](#)

and Central Asia were employed in vulnerable work, including in farming and family-run businesses. Eastern Europe countries were characterised by large share of female contributing workers (22 per cent among all employed women) and relatively large shares of female own account workers (11 per cent respectively). In contrast, women in vulnerable jobs in Central Asia were primarily engaged in self-employment (28 per cent), as opposed to contributing to family business (5 per cent).<sup>30</sup>

Rapid Gender Assessments of Covid-19 impact on livelihoods in Eastern Europe and Central Asia showed that women disproportionately bear the negative socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic.<sup>31</sup> Overall, over 40 per cent of women reported reductions in paid work hours. Women in the 18-34 age group reported a higher loss in paid work hours compared to other women and compared to men in the same age group. Self-employed women faced the worst burnt with a reduction in paid work hours close to a staggering 80 per cent in countries such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Resulting from loss of livelihood resources, such as remittances and farming, women in 6 out of 10 countries reported higher difficulties than before the pandemic in meeting basic needs and paying basic expenses, such as rent, utilities and food. Women with children anticipated particularly high increase with 75 to 80 per cent reporting difficulties with basic needs in countries like Albania and Georgia.<sup>32</sup> Financial insecurities that have proliferated during Covid-19 are threatening the equal rights to economic resources (SDG target 1.4) of poor women and men and those in vulnerable situations, with clear indications that building their resilience (SDG target 1.5) might not be realized.

*Women disproportionately bear the negative socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic with reductions of paid work hours and income greater among women than among men.*

During the pandemic, the share of unpaid domestic and care work overwhelmingly increased both for women and men, but women are still doing the lion's share. On average, 70 per cent of women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia reported spending more time on domestic work than before the pandemic. The increase among men was 59 per cent.<sup>33</sup> Similarly, more women than men reported increases in time spent on unpaid care work throughout the region. The human impact of the pandemic in the day-to-day lives of people, and especially women, has been enormous. The Rapid Gender Assessments survey data shows that women's psychological and mental health is being affected at higher rates than that of men. Notably, women from Albania (69 per cent), Turkey (54 per cent), Kazakhstan (52 per cent), and the Republic of Moldova (49 per cent) have experienced higher rates of psychological distress than men, but also than women from other countries.<sup>34</sup>

Drawing on the [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#), a global database compiled by UNDP and UN Women, few governments have addressed the increased demands of unpaid care and domestic work in their COVID-19 responses. Of the 248 socioeconomic measures adopted by countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in response to the pandemic, only 82 were gender-sensitive<sup>35</sup>, of which 14 were about women's economic security and 14 addressed the increased burden of unpaid care.<sup>36</sup> Moreover, of the 166 labour market and social protection measures, only 23 were gender-sensitive; and of the 28 economic and fiscal measures only 5 are designed to support women-dominated sectors of the economy and aim to protect women's employment. Western Balkans and Turkey performs better than

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> [UN Women \(2020\). The impact of COVID-19 on women's and men's lives and livelihoods in Europe and Central Asia: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment.](#)

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

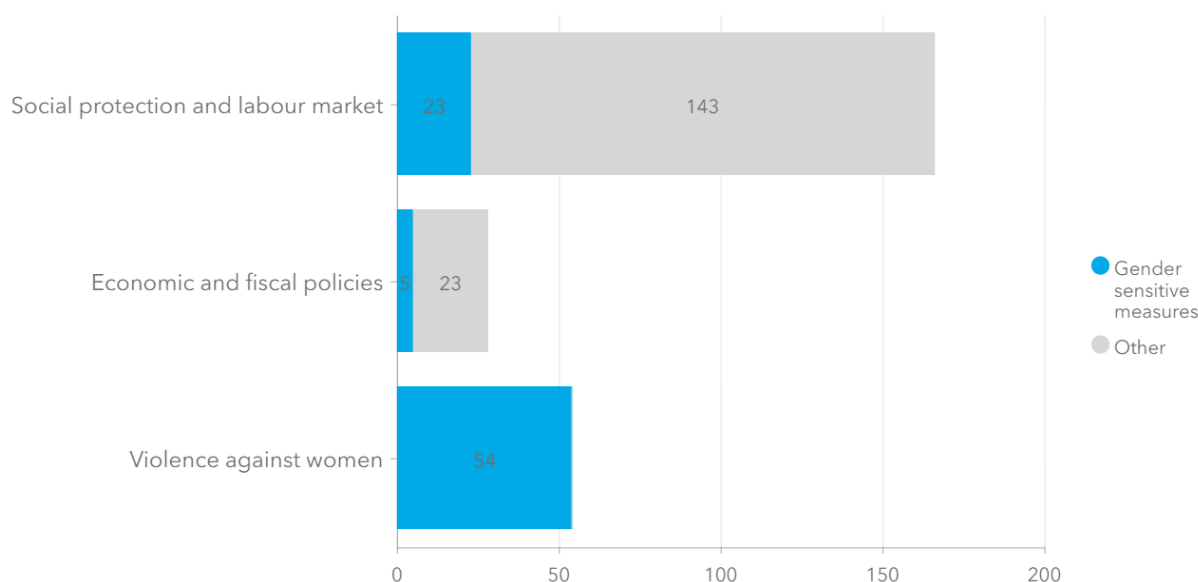
<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Gender-sensitive measures are defined as those that seek to directly address the risks and challenges that women and girls face during the COVID-19 crisis, notably violence against women and girls, unpaid care work and economic insecurity.

<sup>36</sup> [UN Women, UNDP. \(2020\). COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. Factsheet: Europe and Central Asia.](#)

the other sub-regions on gender sensitivity of labour market and social protection measures adopted compared to Central Asia which reports only one gender sensitive measure.<sup>37</sup> This is an inadequate response in light of the severity of the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on women and its potential to exacerbate existing gender inequalities.

**Figure 11 Gender equality in COVID-19 policy response in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (number of policy measures)**



Source: [UN Women, UNDP. \(2020\). COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. Factsheet: Europe and Central Asia.](#)

Each of the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, including goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and gender equality as a cross-cutting prerequisite for sustainable development. In order to continue to make progress towards meeting SDG targets and ensure that no one is left behind in the wake of the pandemic, every COVID-19 response plan, and every recovery package and budgeting of resources, needs to address the gender impacts of this pandemic.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

## Creating bonds between generations to overcome challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic

*Creating bonds between generations to develop digital skills of older people helps to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic*

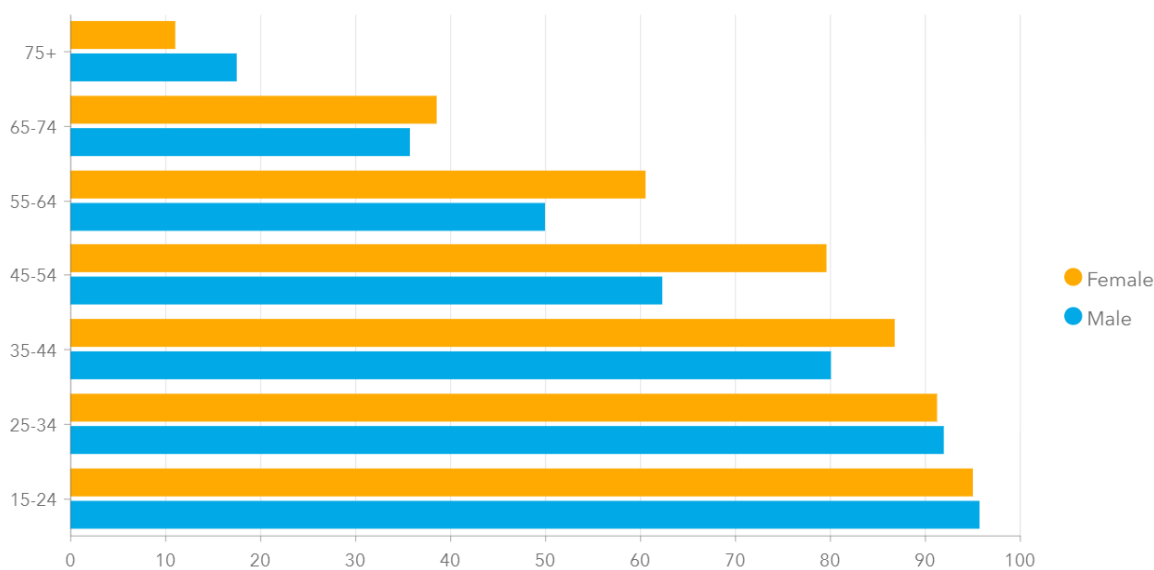
*Provided by the UN Moldova country team*

Older people are among the population groups most affected by the Covid pandemic. They often live alone, with limited access to social support, information technologies and community engagement. Fifty-seven per cent of people over age 55 surveyed as part of a recent UNFPA assessment in the Republic of Moldova found it very difficult to cope with self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>38</sup>

Restrictions on the movements of people in response to the pandemic caused physical isolation, but also revealed social and digital isolation among older persons.

While the whole world moved online for both work and social support, older persons faced barriers to accessing these resources. Data collected before and during the pandemic indicate that only 34 per cent of people age 60 to 79 in Moldova use the Internet, compared with 82 per cent of those age 15-59.<sup>39</sup>

**Figure 12 Share of the population using the Internet (%), by age and sex, Republic of Moldova 2020**



Source: [Republic of Moldova - Generations and Gender Survey \(2020\)](#).

To build bridges between generations and reduce the social and digital divide in Moldova, UNFPA established an innovative partnership with the telecommunication company Moldcell and grassroots organizations in mobilizing young people to help older persons in accessing social services during the pandemic while developing older people's digital skills. The intergenerational programme, led by UNFPA and implemented jointly with Moldcell Foundation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and HelpAge International Moldova engages young volunteers to teach digital skills to older

<sup>38</sup> UNFPA (2020). [Analysis of the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elderly in the Republic of Moldova](#).

<sup>39</sup> [Republic of Moldova - Generations and Gender Survey \(2020\)](#). Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics, UNFPA, NIDI-GGP (as partner and distributor). Publication to [GGP website](#) forthcoming.

persons using donated mobile phones, so that they connect with other members of their community and seek social and medical support during the pandemic.<sup>40</sup> The initiative is implemented under a broader UN Moldova-Moldcell cooperation agreement, meant to facilitate joint actions for the promotion of the Sustainable Development Agenda and investments in SDGs.

Valentina Rotari, age 85, is one of the 200 older people who has benefitted from the programme. Valentina worked as a French teacher in the school. She has no children, her husband passed away and after retirement, before the pandemic, she used to spend her time doing household chores, reading books from the library and socializing with family and friends. During the pandemic, loneliness has become a burden. The farmyard animals she takes care of are her only companions. She misses her work in the school and engaging with her community. Thus, Valentina Rotari has become a student again at the age of 85. The discipline – how to use a mobile phone to access information and connect with family and friends.

“This phone is like a friend to me. Although I still cannot manage with this smart phone fully, I’m trying to do something by myself to be informed of the events in the country and to chat with my friends, to see them at least virtually and to know they are safe. It helps me to cope easier with loneliness. This programme engagement is a priceless gift for me and for all older people,” she says.

Alexandrina is one of the 50 young volunteers who helps train older people in digital skills. The young volunteer is not only a trainer for Mrs. Valentina, who lives alone, but also one of the few people with whom she has had regular contact during the pandemic. According to the last census, more than 13 per cent of older people in the Republic of Moldova live alone.<sup>41</sup> “When I’m leaving Mrs. Valentina, I know she is now connected to the world, she is connected to her friends and relatives who are living far away. This helps her not to feel alone anymore,” reflects Alexandrina.

Older persons in the Republic of Moldova are less socially active compared to their peers in other European countries. According to the 2020 Generations and Gender Survey, only 5 per cent of respondents over age 55 in Moldova were involved in social or educational activities, compared to the EU average of 8.4 per cent.<sup>42</sup> Isolation may compound the profound negative effects of the pandemic on the health and well-being of older persons. UNFPA is working with national and private sector partners for empowering older persons, like Valentina Rotari, to advocate for active and healthy ageing while creating bonds between generations and facilitating intergenerational dialogue.

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<sup>40</sup> UNFPA (2020). [Press Release: Elderly people in 10 localities will receive mobile phones and will learn with young people how to communicate online.](#)

<sup>41</sup> National Bureau of Statistics of Republic of Moldova (2020). [Distribution of older people in territorial profile, May 2020, based on the 2014 Population and Housing Census.](#) <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&id=6652&idc=168>

<sup>42</sup> [Republic of Moldova - Generations and Gender Survey \(2020\)](#). Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics, UNFPA, NIDI-GGP (as partner and distributor). Publication to [GGP website](#) forthcoming.

## Closing the gap for older people

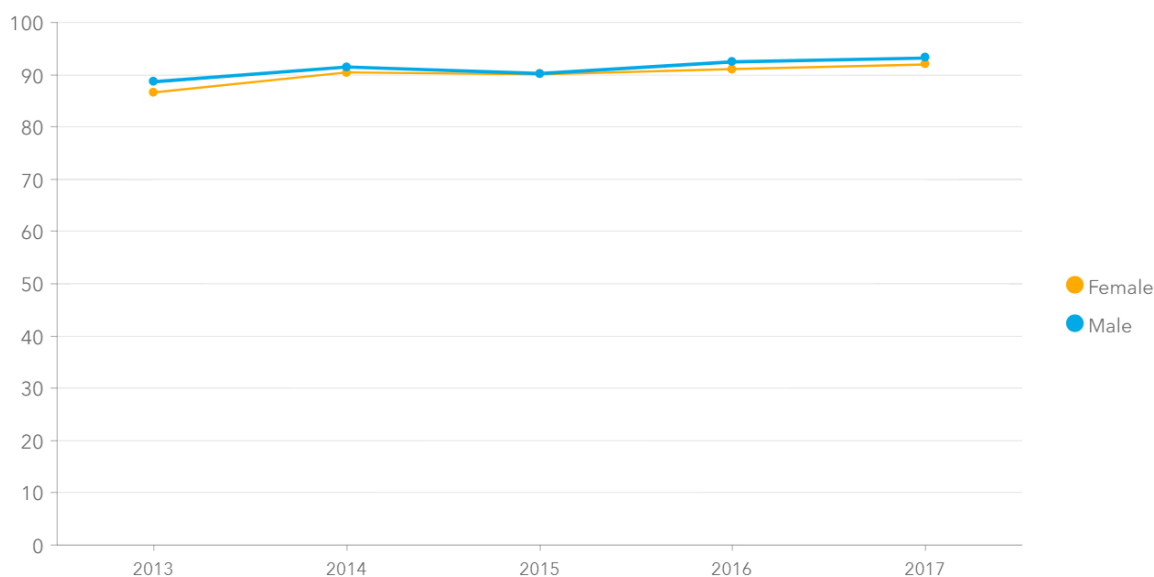
Provided by the UN Serbia country team

*Technological development should not leave older people behind.*

While Global SDG Indicators Database shows that in 2017, 92.6 per cent individuals owned a mobile telephone in Serbia (91.9 per cent female and 93.2 per cent male), recent study shows that 43 per cent of older people in Serbia do not use internet at all. Out of those who do use it, 90 per cent do not use services available online.

This story pertains to SDG targets 9.c, 10.c, 10.2 and 16.10.

**Figure 13 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone in Serbia by sex (%)**



Source: [United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

With further migration of many services to the Internet, new risks are arising for older women, but also men in Serbia. Will it exclude many older people especially those with lower levels of education and lower incomes? With that, will they be left without many of the rights that belong to them? Additionally, COVID19 pandemics disproportionately affected older people, putting a spotlight on their health and rights.

Rada Djuricin, renowned actress in her 80s, is leading the way and showcasing how to close the digital divide in Serbia. Within the project of UNFPA and Mikser Organization promoting intergenerational exchange, Rada starred in tutorials for Skype, Viber and Facebook showing older women and men in Serbia how to use most popular platforms to connect with their loved ones, especially during COVID pandemics. Tutorials were widely disseminated online on social media, and will be brought closer to older people in clubs and centres for older people across the country.

"If I can do it, you can do it" – Rada says to older people.

## International migrants in the SDGs

Provided by IOM

*Migrants remain largely invisible across SDG data.*

SDG targets 10.7, 17.18 and many others require quality and regular migration data. However, monitoring migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda is challenging and relevant data are scarce. Efforts to improve SDG data disaggregation by migratory status and measure “safe migration” help address this.

**SDG target 10.7** calls on States to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.” However, defining and measuring both “safe migration” and “well-managed migration policies” is challenging; all four SDG indicators that contribute to 10.7 monitoring are classified as Tier II, indicating that States do not regularly produce data on any of these indicators and/or that methodologies are relatively under-developed. Meanwhile, SDG target 17.18 calls for greater availability of “high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and migratory status”. To date, however, this has also been difficult. Disaggregation of SDG indicators remains low and migrants are largely invisible in official SDG data, meaning that as we approach 2030, we still do not know what the effects of the SDGs are on migrants and whether they are being left behind.<sup>43</sup> Nevertheless, progress has been made in the UNECE region to monitor both targets.

**Figure 14 Deaths and disappearances on the way to Europe in 2020**



**Indicator 10.7.3** measures the “number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination.” The data for this is provided by IOM’s [Missing Migrants Project](#), which is compiled from a variety of official sources – such as coast guards and medical examiners – as well as unofficial sources, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), media reports, and surveys of migrants. Measuring the number of lives lost on migratory routes is challenging as the vast majority of lives lost occur on irregular routes. For example, many bodies are lost at sea on hazardous

<sup>43</sup> IOM, forthcoming publication linked to ongoing disaggregation [project](#).

overseas journeys: MMP data indicates that at least 14,000 migrant remains have been lost in the Mediterranean Sea since 2014. However, the challenges of identifying migrant deaths are also due to the lack of official sources which collect data on this issue. Currently, no country provides data on migrant deaths within their jurisdiction at a national level, and most official actors do not collect this even at a local level.<sup>44</sup> This necessitates reliance on non-governmental sources that operate in and monitor remote routes; however with the outbreak of COVID-19 and the ensuing mobility restrictions, many of these sources are no longer in operation.

Beyond monitoring target 10.7, the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators recommends 24 indicators be **disaggregated by migratory status**. In [the United Nations Global SDG Database](#), in 2020 only one indicator was disaggregated by migratory status: indicator 8.8.1, Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status. Out of the 27 countries that disaggregated this indicator by migratory status, 22 were in Europe. More encouraging evidence is seen beyond official databases, however, at regional and national levels. For example, indicators from Eurostat relevant to the SDGs (such as on poverty, income and more) are regularly disaggregated by migratory status. Many countries in the region also regularly generate disaggregated data across sectors. For example, the Italian National Statistical Office (NSO) disaggregates all 24 recommended SDG indicators by country of citizenship in its SDG Information System (2019) and in Norway data are linked between three government agencies to generate data on migrants' living conditions and provide disaggregated data for several SDG indicators (Statistics Norway, 2017).

*Efforts to measure "safe migration" under target 10.7 have progressed.*

Despite methodological and other difficulties in measuring migration topics in the context of the 2030 Agenda, there are ongoing efforts by IOM and others to improve this. In particular, there are opportunities to improve SDG-migration data availability in the region. Despite the lack of disaggregated SDG data at the global level many countries, particularly in the UNECE region, often already gather relevant data. States can leverage existing national data towards the SDGs and include such disaggregation into relevant SDG platforms so there is sufficient data to ensure that no migrant is left behind in the region.

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<sup>44</sup> For a deeper discussion of the quality of data sources on missing migrants, see Singleton et. al (2017) Measuring unsafe migration: The challenge of collecting accurate data on migrant fatalities. [Migration Policy Practice](#) VII:2.



## New SDG indicator on refugees in the UNECE region

Provided by UNHCR

SDG 10 calls for reduced inequality within and among countries. In particular, target 10.7 calls for the facilitation of orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

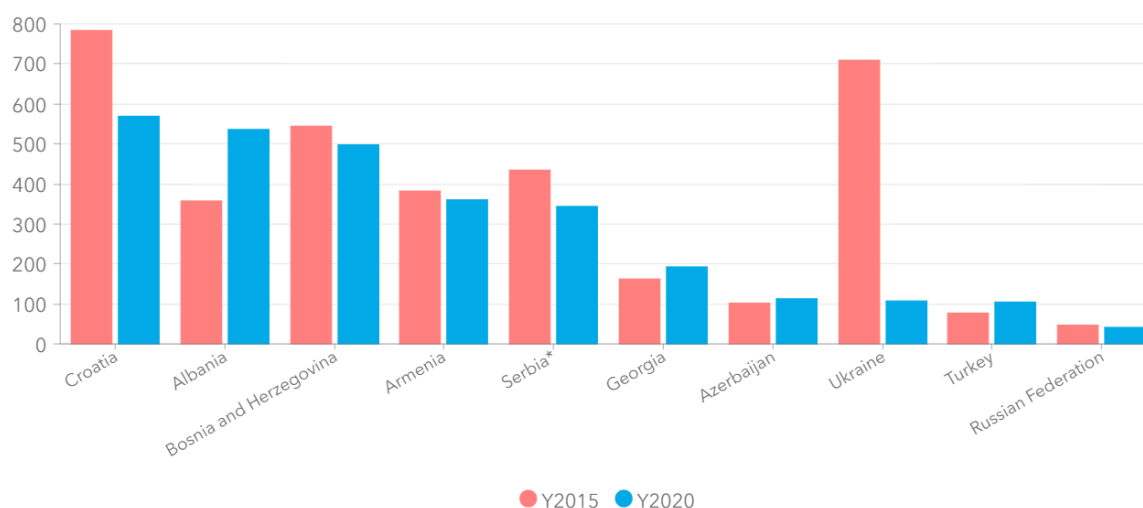
*A new indicator on refugees has been included in the SDG framework in 2020.*

In 2020, the UN Statistical Commission agreed to include in the SDG measurement framework indicator 10.7.4, Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin. This indicator is compiled by UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, and uses data on refugee populations that are routinely collected by UNHCR through its biannual Population Statistics Review (PSR), including country-level data from administrative asylum systems and direct refugee registration databases.

At the global level, indicator 10.7.4 has seen an increase in the proportion of refugees from 216 by 100,000 population in 2015 to 307 per 100,000 population in 2020. This pattern is not the same for countries in the UNECE region: between 2015 and 2020, the proportion of refugees originating in countries in the UNECE region has decreased from about 48 to 26 per 100,000 population; in absolute numbers, the number of refugees originating from countries in the region has decreased from approximately 607,000 to 343,000.

The reduction in the number of refugees originated in the UNECE region is largely driven by the decrease in the number of refugees from Ukraine. Important reductions were also recorded in Croatia and Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999). On the opposite direction, there has been a large increase in the number of refugees originating from Turkey and Albania in relation to their respective population sizes.

**Figure 15 Refugees as a proportion of the total population of their country of origin, per 100,000 population (SDG indicator 10.7.4) in 2015 and 2020**



\* Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)

Source: [United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#)

Note: Only countries that are origin to a refugee population above 5,000 persons in 2020 are shown.

The explicit inclusion of refugees in the SDG indicator framework draws attention to the need for disaggregation of other SDG indicators by refugees and other displacement statuses. This work is accompanied at the international level by recent international statistical recommendations on refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) coming through the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS), and the upcoming International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS), to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in 2022.

*The UNECE region as a whole has seen a decrease in refugees originating from its countries from 2015 to 2020, with specific country exceptions.*

## The share of outward foreign direct investment and manufacturing in UNECE economies is declining

Provided by UNCTAD

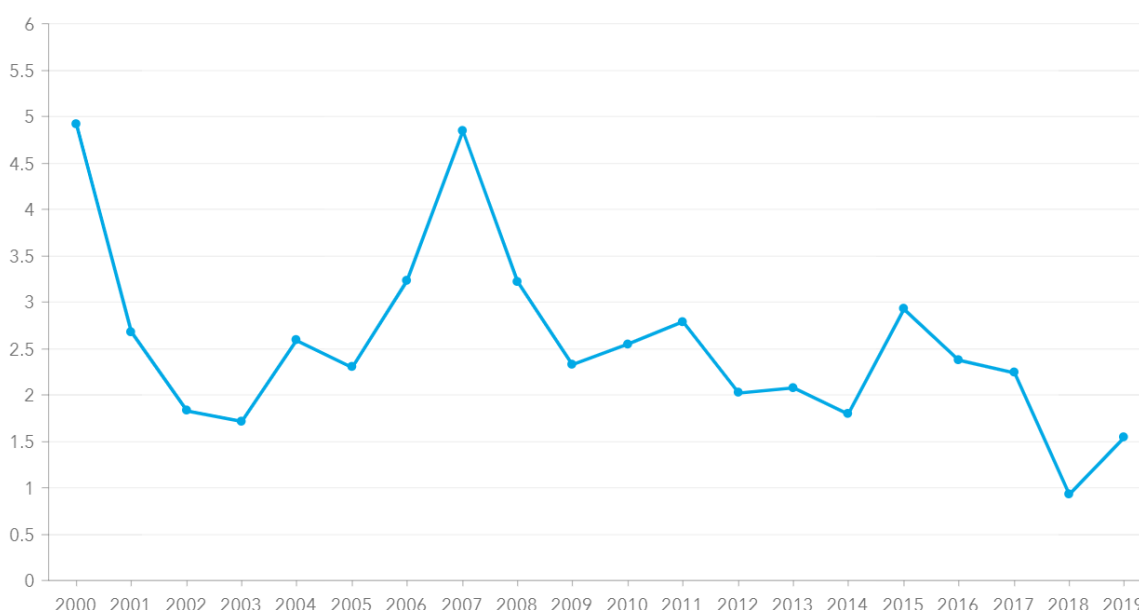
*In the UNECE region, FDI outflows as a share of GDP was lower in 2019 than at any other point in the previous two decades.*

Outward foreign direct investment (FDI) as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) has decreased in the UNECE region since 2000.

FDI is a valuable source of external financing for developing countries, due to both its volume and resilience to economic shocks. SDG indicator 10.b.1 measures FDI and official development assistance (ODA) in support of developing countries. The UNECE region has historically provided a large

share of global FDI outflows. While traditionally considered stable, FDI flows have been shown to be volatile in the past.<sup>45</sup> As such, multi-year trends can be more insightful than year to year fluctuations. Between 2000 and 2007, the UNECE region disbursed 3 per cent of GDP to FDI, accounting for more than 80 per cent of global FDI outflows. Since then, however, the global contribution has dropped to about 50 per cent and FDI as a share of GDP has decreased. For the period 2007-2017, the average FDI share of GDP in the region was 2.4 per cent. Values for 2018 and 2019 were the lowest observed since 1994.

**Figure 16 FDI outflow as a share of GDP, average of UNECE countries (%), 2000-2019**



Source: [UNCTADStat](#) (2021)

Increases in FDI from countries in other regions expand the pool of available FDI for recipient countries. As more countries contribute, UNECE's global share of FDI has decreased.

<sup>45</sup> UNDP (2015). Private capital flows: foreign direct investment and portfolio investment. Chapter 3 in [UNDP. Towards human resilience: sustaining MDG progress in an age of economic uncertainty.](#)

## UNECE countries' share of global exports decreasing

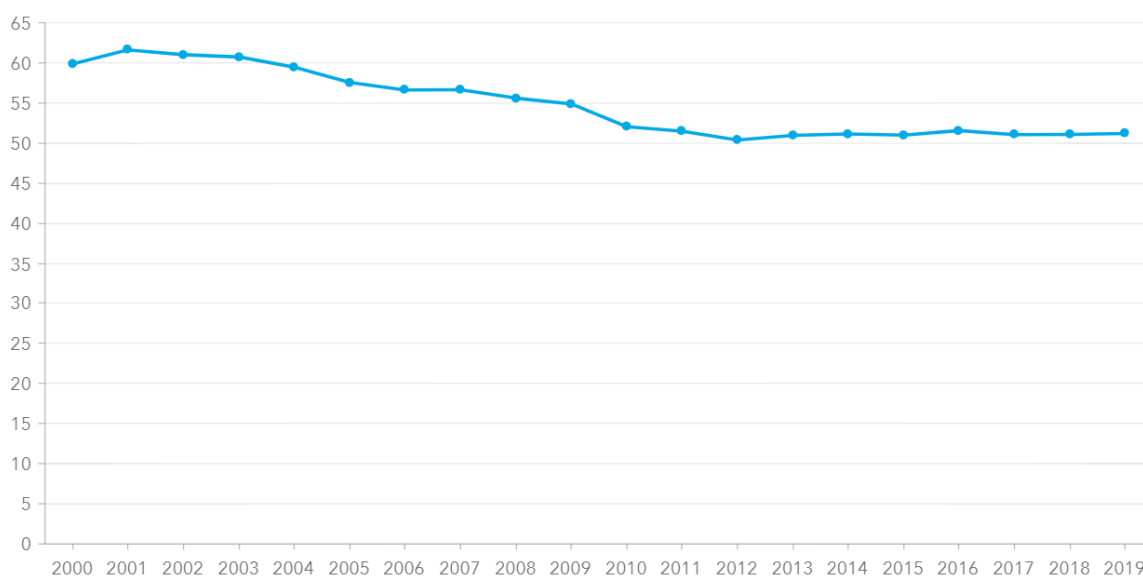
SDG indicator 17.11.1 aims to significantly increase developing countries' share of global exports and to double the share of global exports from the least developed countries (LDCs). Trade is recognized as a key factor for the 2030 Agenda, including for poverty reduction and economic growth.<sup>46</sup> The share of global merchandise exports from UNECE countries has stagnated at around 50 per cent after a decline between 2000 to 2010. Evidence from the UNECE

region and other parts of the world suggest the decrease in global share of exports across all UNECE countries has corresponded with an increase in the share of exports from developing regions.

The share of global merchandise exports originating in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia increased from 2.3 per cent in 2000 to 3.3 per cent in 2019. The share of global exports in this subregion peaked at more than 4 per cent in 2008 and between 2011 and 2013. The global share of exports from the Western Balkan countries has increased persistently over the last two decades from 0.14 per cent in 2000 to 0.28 per cent in 2019. This represents a near doubling of the region's share. The region experienced a small set back from 2008 to 2012.

*The global share of exports from UNECE countries decreased from 60 per cent in 2000 to just over 50 per cent in 2010 and remained constant over the next ten years.*

**Figure 17 Share of UNECE countries in global merchandise exports (%), 2000-2019**



Source: [UNCTADStat](#) (2021)

The pandemic has triggered a sharp fall in FDI. Globally, FDI in the first half of 2020 was lower by 49 per cent than in the comparable period the year before; among developed economies even by 75 per cent.<sup>47</sup>

## Manufacturing share in GDP declining in the UNECE region

*The share of manufacturing value added in GDP has*

<sup>46</sup> Tipping A and Wolfe R (2016). *Trade in transforming our world: options for follow-up and review of the trade-related elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

<sup>47</sup> [UNCTAD \(2020\). Investment trends monitor 36, October 2020.](#)

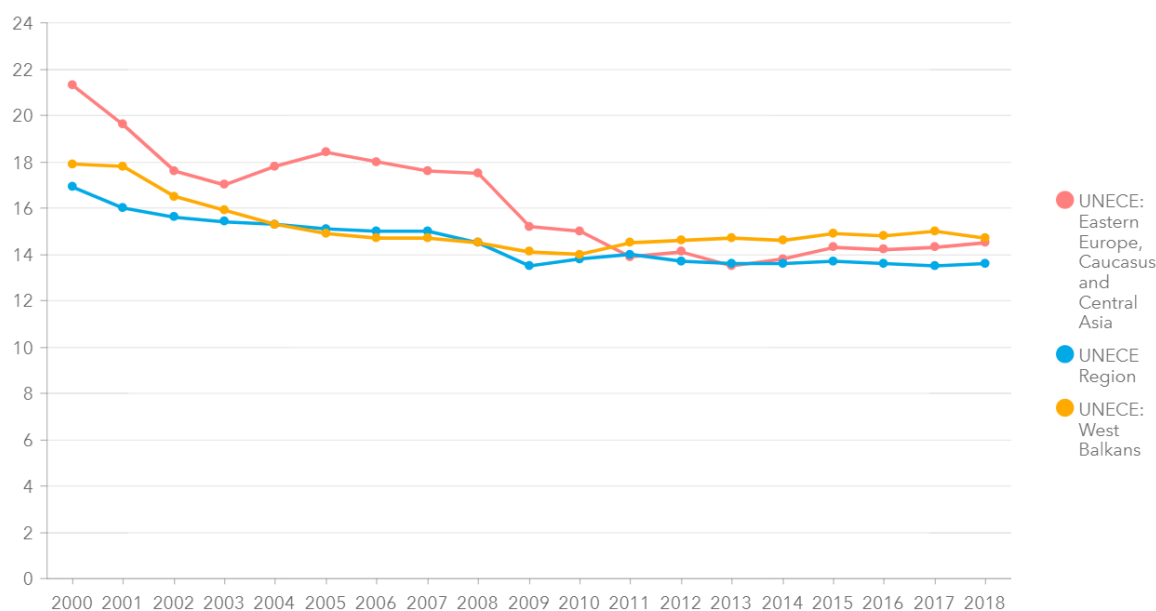
*declined in the UNECE region from 16.9 per cent in 2000 to 13.6 per cent in 2018.*

Manufacturing is an important component of economic growth and higher living standards. SDG indicator 9.2.1 measures manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP. Manufacturing value added (MVA) is the net-output of all resident manufacturing activity units. It is obtained by adding up their outputs and subtracting intermediate

inputs.<sup>48</sup> In many advanced economies manufacturing has started to decline relative to other sectors, especially services. This is the case for the UNECE region, where the share of manufacturing value added in GDP decreased from 16.9 per cent in 2000 to 13.6 in 2018. This development is partially explained by changing business structures, increasing outsourcing and delivering of industrial products increasingly in the form of service packages that are classified under services.

In countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Western Balkans, manufacturing share in GDP has decreased more than in other parts of the UNECE region. However, with just below 15 per cent of manufacturing value added in GDP, these two regions remain slightly above the UNECE average.

**Figure 18 Manufacturing share in GDP in the UNECE region and its subregions (%), 2000-2018**



Source: [UNCTADStat](#) (2021)

<sup>48</sup> [United Nations \(2020\). SDG indicators: Metadata repository](#), accessed 20 April 2020.

## The Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP): the case of Ukraine

Provided by UNIDO

*The Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) seeks to harness the catalytic potential of innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs and start-ups to be catalysts of sustainable economic development and climate action.*

*By supporting emerging cleantech start-ups and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystems and policy frameworks, the GCIP delivers environmental benefits through economic growth.*

By facilitating reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, fostering technology innovations and thus reaping positive impacts for the environment, the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) contributes to SDGs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil-fuel use in the energy and industry sectors dominate total GHG emissions. Following a period of stabilization from 2014 to 2016, emissions started to rise again in 2017.<sup>49</sup> In 2018, global levels of heat-trapping GHG in the atmosphere reached record high, 407.8 parts per million. Today, we need to reduce emissions by 7.6 per cent a year over the next decade to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.<sup>50</sup>

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has partnered

with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address a growing need to re-direct the current system towards Sustainable Energy Solutions through [the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme \(GCIP\)](#).

Since 2011, the GCIP has been making an impact in [nine countries around the world](#), including Armenia, Turkey and [Ukraine](#). The GCIP provides business acceleration support to locally grown cleantech solutions that contribute to climate action and energy transition, thereby introducing technological and business innovations to the market. The piloting and commercialization of cleantech solutions is crucial to achievement of SDG 7 (target 7.2, 7.a), SDG 12 (targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.a) and SDG 13 (target 13.3), as it enables consumers to choose affordable alternatives to energy and carbon intensive products.

A key component of the GCIP is the annual competition-based Accelerator, which identifies the most promising SMEs and start-ups across a country based on their business and environmental potential. Participating enterprises offer solutions that will facilitate the clean energy transition and lower carbon and resource footprint, while benefitting from mentorship by industry experts, cleantech investors and international business leaders. In addition, the GCIP enterprises gain exposure to the investment community, where investors are looking for credible cleantech solutions with high-impact potential.

Thus, 139 start-ups took part in five Accelerator cycles in Turkey during 2014-2018. Twenty national winner start-ups participated in the 1-week Global Forum of the Cleantech Open in the United States. Among them, at least 5 GCIP-Turkey teams successfully raised funding from private sector investment groups.

In 2019, UNIDO launched the GCIP Ukraine with support from GEF. In 2020, 33 cleantech start-ups were mentored within the Programme, which successfully developed their projects and created 103 green jobs (and hence contributed to SDG targets 12.2, 12.a). Participants of the Accelerator provided solutions in the fields of renewable energy, resource efficiency, waste management and medical technologies.

<sup>49</sup> [Christensen J. and Olhoff A. \(2019\). Lessons from a decade of emissions gap assessments. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme.](#)

<sup>50</sup> [United Nations Climate Action web site](#)

The national winner of the GCIP Ukraine Accelerator in 2020 became a creative team of the SPF “Prodekologiya”, which found a way to reduce the negative impact of polymers on the environment by sorting colour mixtures of polymers for further processing. The innovative technology reduces the consumption of crude oil and leads to lower emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

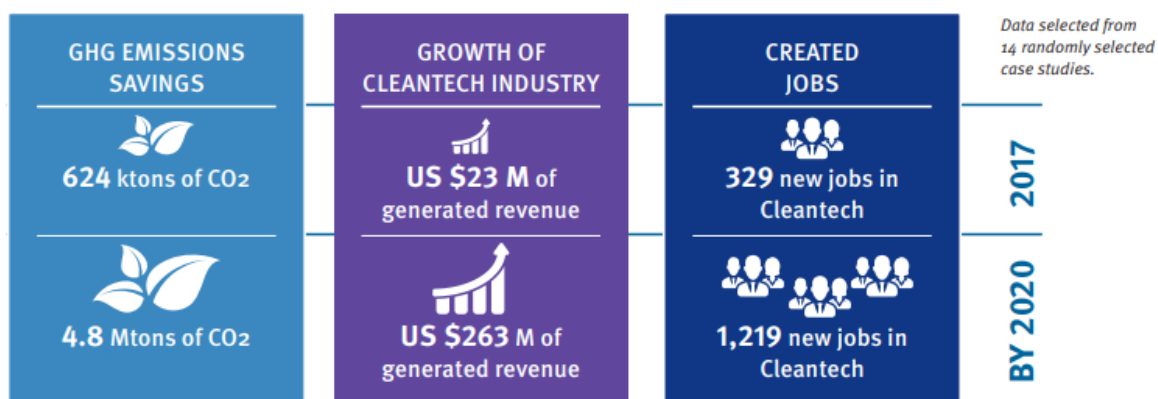
Contribution to SDG target 5.5. and women’s economic empowerment through entrepreneurship is also a crucial dimension of the GCIP. In 2020, GeronCore team, who developed a new generation of cardio implants for children with congenital heart disease, won in two nominations – “Medicine for Sustainable Development” and “Best Women-led Enterprise”. In addition to 14 female trainers and mentors of the Programme, women constitute 30per cent of the GCIP Ukraine participants.

Despite fall in emissions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, atmospheric CO2 concentrations continued to increase to new records.<sup>51</sup> The GCIP Ukraine facilitates a rapid response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 by supporting initiatives that tackle the spread of the pandemic. The winner in the category “Start-ups against COVID-19” became a team that provided a solution on compact ultra-low-temperature freezers, used for a long-term and energy efficient storage of blood, tissues, vaccines and viruses (including those related to the COVID-19).

UNIDO with support from GEF is currently designing Phase 2 of the GCIP that will be launched in mid-2021 and will comprise a network of 10 partner countries. GCIP 2 has an enhanced focus on providing advanced commercialization support for cleantech solutions with high-impact potential, through investment facilitation. Partner countries will benefit from national cleantech ecosystem support provided by UNIDO, as well as knowledge exchange within the GCIP 2 network.

In the UNECE region, new partner countries – the Republic of Moldova and Kazakhstan – are joining the network. The expansion of the GCIP presence in the region is expected to unlock the private sector potential to fully participate in cleaner and more resilient economic growth paths.

**Figure 19 Exponential global potential of the GCIP**



Note: Upon completion of the impact assessment exercise, a more accurate compilation of the impact achieved and impact projections will be available.

<sup>51</sup> [United Nations Climate Action web site.](#)

## Every child has the right to be protected from violence

*Provided by UNICEF*

*In all but two of the 15 countries from the region with available data, the majority of children are subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home.*

The right to be protected from violence is a critical component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). In particular, goal 16, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, has a target to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” (16.2). Three indicators have been selected to measure progress towards

this target, of which two are related to violence (Indicator 16.2.1: Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month. Indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18).

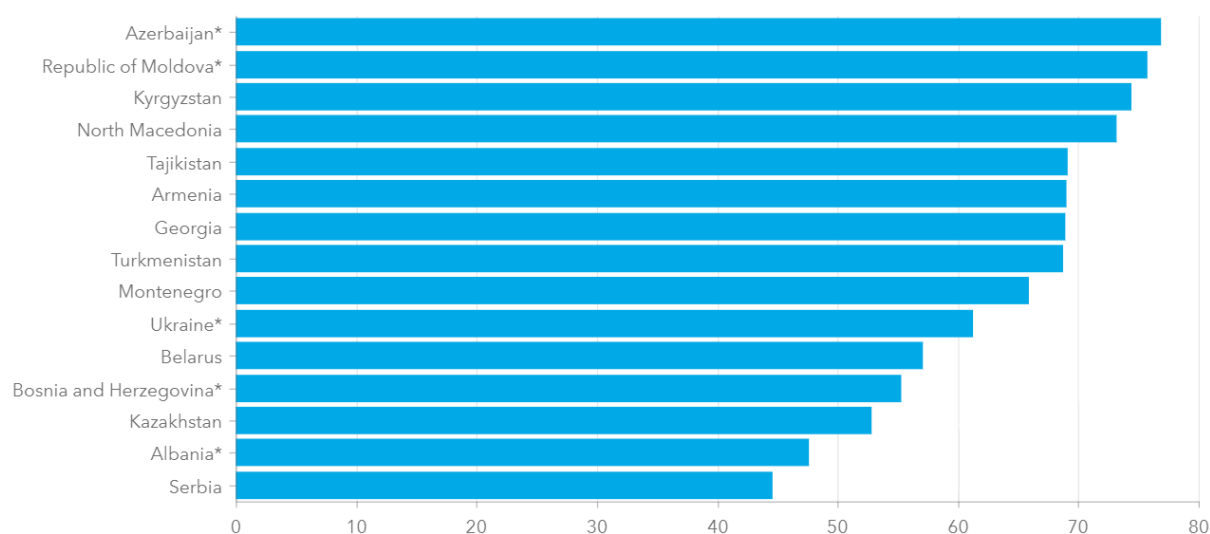
The SDGs represent an incredible opportunity to help protect the world’s children from violence. At the same time, monitoring countries’ progress comes with a unique set of measurement and resource-capability challenges. Despite recent progress, the availability of comparable data on violence against children remains limited, hindering the ability of most countries to report on the SDGs.

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

Various forms of violence against children persist but the most common is discipline that relies on physical force and psychological aggression. Despite their detrimental and long-lasting impacts, violent forms of discipline are widespread. In all but two of the 15 countries from the UNECE region with available data, the majority of children are subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home.



**Figure 20 Percentage of children aged 1 to 14 years who have experienced any violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment) in the past month**



Note: Data from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine refer to children aged 2 to 14 years.

Source: UNICEF global databases, 2020, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), 2006–2019.

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

Sexual violence is one of the most unsettling of children’s rights violations. As such, it is the subject of dedicated international legal instruments aimed at protecting children against its multiple forms. But underreporting and a lack of comparable data limit understanding of the full extent of the issue. As of 2020, only six<sup>52</sup> of the 56 countries that are part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe have prevalence data that can be used to report on SDG indicator 16.2.3.

*Only six countries in the UNECE region provide data on sexual violence against children.*

<sup>52</sup> Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

## Improving national capacity to measure SDGs

Provided by UNECE

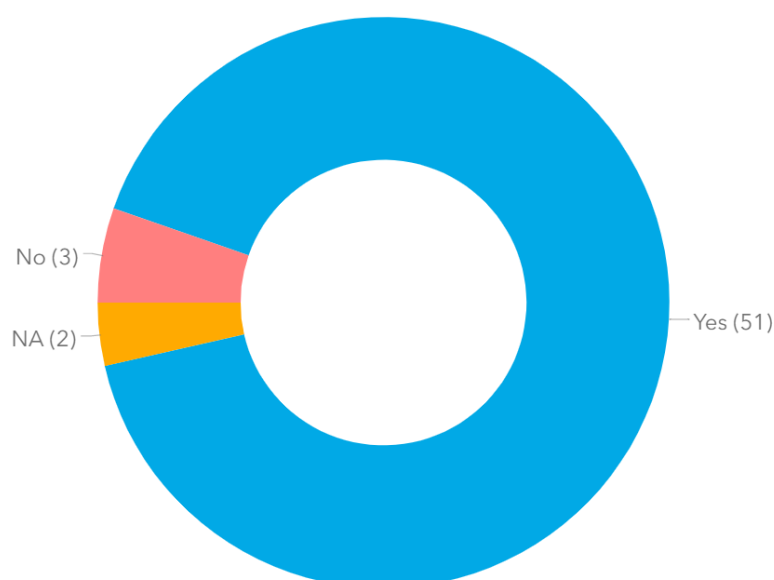
*In 51 countries of the UNECE region the National Statistical Office is the coordinator for SDG indicators.*

*42 countries of the region disseminate SDG indicators via one stop shops – National Reporting Platforms.*

The 2030 Agenda calls for the participation of all Member States of the United Nations in providing national statistics to measure progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses that official statistics and data from the national statistical systems constitute the basis for the SDG global indicator framework. Targets 17.17 and 17.18 focus on promoting partnerships in statistics and building statistical capacity.

Providing data for SDGs is a major coordination challenge. Global level data for the 231 SDG indicators is compiled by over 50 international organizations (the so-called custodian agencies) using data from 193 countries. In each country, the data comes from many agencies in the national statistical system but also from outside the system, often from over 30-40 national agencies. To provide guidance on how to implement an efficient system for providing data for SDGs, UNECE developed a *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* (2017).<sup>53</sup> The Road Map recommends that the national statistical office should coordinate the provision of SDG indicators in countries, to ensure quality and national ownership of the data. Following the Road Map recommendation, currently this is the case in 51 countries of UNECE region.

**Figure 21** Number of countries where the national statistical office is the coordinator for SDG indicators



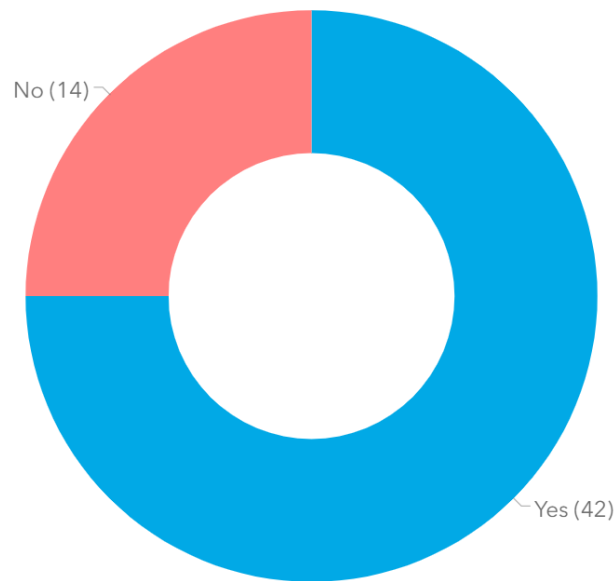
Source: [UNECE Knowledge Hub on SDGs: country resources](#).

An increasing number of UNECE countries have developed National Reporting Platforms for SDGs as an efficient way of providing access to the national SDG data. Currently three quarters of UNECE countries (42 countries) have such a platform available. It provides a one-stop shop for national data on indicators originating from different sources within a country. In addition, the platform can serve as a

<sup>53</sup> [UNECE \(2017\). Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals. Geneva: United Nations.](#)

data collection portal for various producers and as a production database of global, regional, national and subnational SDG indicators.

**Figure 22** Number of countries with a National Reporting Platform for SDG indicators



Source: [UNECE Knowledge Hub on SDGs: country resources](#).

UNECE is currently developing a second edition of the Road Map to reflect new information, lessons learned and emerging challenges, to be released in 2021.

## Population censuses to take place in every UNECE country around 2020

Provided by UNECE

*All countries of the UNECE region intend to carry out a population and housing census in the 2020 round.*

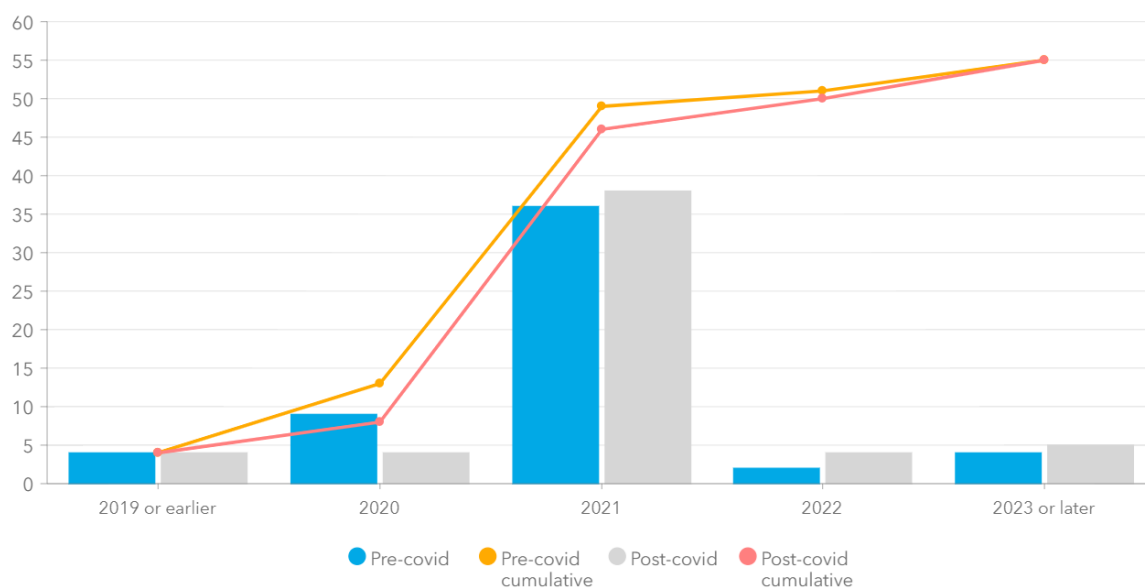
Censuses are at the heart of national statistical systems. A census aims to count all the people in a country, as well as all the homes, providing baseline information for a vast range of crucial national statistics. We need to know the size of the population to calculate some of the most commonplace indicators, such as income per capita. Census data are used to formulate and monitor policies and plans

for economic development, healthcare, education, transport infrastructure, housing and a wide range of other areas. Many SDG indicators depend on knowing the size of the population, or of specific parts of it: children, older people, women and men, and where they live in a country, either to serve as a denominator or to allow for disaggregation.

In fact, censuses are so crucial for sustainable development that conducting a census is itself one of the SDG targets (target 17.19), measured by indicator 17.19.2(a), "Proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years". Censuses typically take place every ten years, with most countries in the UNECE region aiming for a census in 2021 as part of what is known globally as the '2020 round'. The SDG indicator measures compliance with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution of 2015](#) which urges all countries to conduct a population and housing census as part of the 2020 round.

At the regional level, the [Conference of European Statisticians' Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing](#) call for all countries to gather data on a core set of variables using internationally-agreed definitions and classifications. For the first time, all countries in the UNECE region intend to comply with this recommendation.

**Figure 23 Number of UNECE countries by census year in the 2020 round: impacts of COVID-19**



Note: Information on census reference dates based on latest available information provided by national statistical offices. Total number countries is 55. No information on census date available for San Marino.

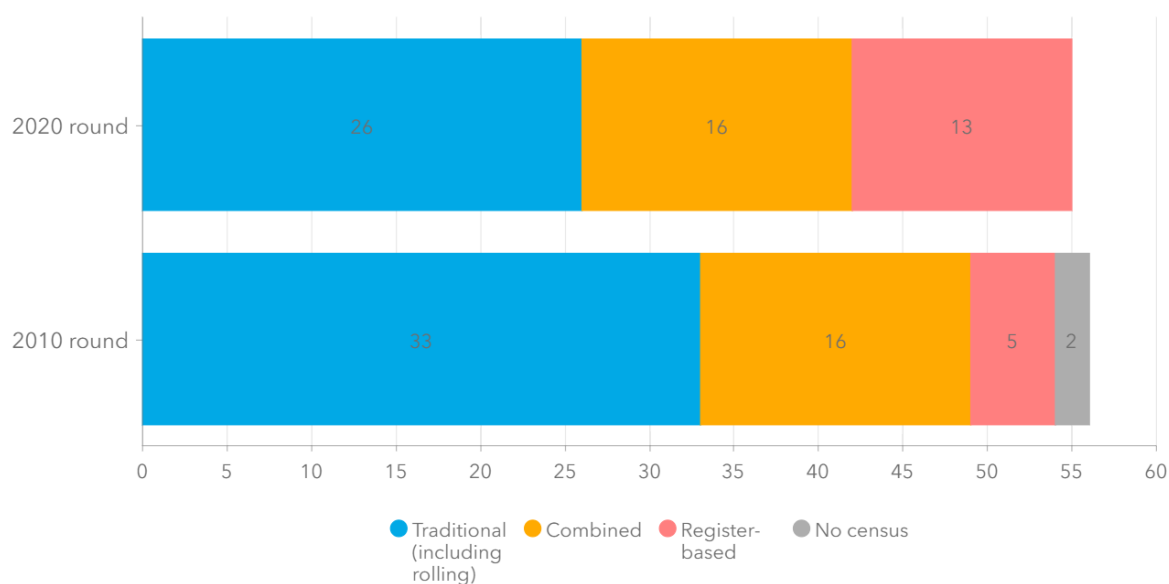
Many have already fulfilled this goal, with four having already conducted their censuses in or before 2019 or before and a further four doing so in 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic, however, threw many countries' census plans into disarray. At the time of writing at least 16 UNECE countries have delayed their censuses by periods ranging from a few weeks to two years.

Those employing the most modern, streamlined approaches—either producing census data from pre-existing administrative sources or using modern technologies to enhance the efficiency of data collection—have been relatively less hard hit than those relying on more traditional techniques of in-person interviews or paper-based forms. Countries that use population registers, while not entirely without impact, have in general had fewer challenges to overcome as a result of the pandemic: delays in obtaining data or inaccuracies caused by slow updating of sources.

*Meeting the challenges to census-taking brought about by the pandemic has accelerated the pre-existing trend towards modernization of censuses.*

In spite of the challenges and delays, countries across the region are pressing ahead with crucial censuses, whose role has become even more apparent as statistics about the size, location and characteristics of population groups are called upon daily in countries' pandemic responses. This has required modifications in all aspects of censuses, from data collection to public communication.

**Figure 24 Main census approaches used in the 2010 and 2020 rounds (number of countries)**



Note: For 2020 round, no information on census type available for San Marino.

A shift towards more online completion was already underway across the region among those countries that gather census data directly from respondents, and has been accelerated as census offices take steps to minimize interpersonal interactions. Other countries have decided to increase their use of administrative data sources, either to provide census data directly or to help them identify addresses and businesses or to check the accuracy of data collected from respondents.

Overall, a pre-existing trend towards conducting censuses through population registers or other administrative sources, rather than administering questionnaires, has been cemented by the pressures of the pandemic. A declining proportion of countries employing the traditional approach to census-taking (gathering data directly from the population, whether in-person, on paper or online) continues apace, with fewer than half of UNECE countries employing this approach in the current round.

 Is the UNECE region on track for 2030?

The bold and innovative ways that countries have faced up to the challenges of conducting censuses in the 2020 round have also drawn attention to areas where practices may need to change in the future. The need for comprehensive contingency plans, built into census designs from the outset, is chief among these.

# Technical notes on the progress assessment

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## Data

The progress assessment is based on the Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>54</sup>. The data were downloaded from [the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database](#) as of 18 February 2021. 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.

## Assessment measure

The assessment presents the Anticipated Progress Index, a method developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)<sup>55</sup> 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 2020. Recent data are given more weight than earlier data in estimating anticipated indicator values for 2030. For targets that will not be achieved, the Index reports the anticipated gap between the target value and the projected value for 2030 relative to the progress required between 2015 and 2030.

## Estimation and aggregation

The anticipated values for 2030 are estimated using the available data between 2000 and 2020. 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, page 54). In total, 121 indicators across 89 targets and all 17 goals (see Indicators used in the assessment, page 55). 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 calculations, and the progress index for the indicator is the average of the indices of its components.

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<sup>54</sup> United Nations (2017). [Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). 6 July 2017. A/RES/71/313 and annual refinements E/CN.3/2018/2 (Annex II), E/CN.3/2019/2 (Annex II), and E/CN.3/2020/2.

<sup>55</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2020). [Annex 2 – Technical notes](#). Pp 73-77 in [Asia and the Pacific SDG progress report 2020](#). Bangkok: United Nations.

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.<sup>56</sup> 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 policy.

In aggregation to the target level, each indicator has an equal weight (independent of its number of components) under the corresponding target; and when aggregating the targets to the goal level, each target has an equal weight (independent of its number of indicators) under the corresponding goal.

In this report, the assessment results are presented at the target level (*Is the UNECE region on track for 2030?* on page 6).

## Target values

The methodology uses target values for each indicator (or its component), which are expected to be reached by 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly or implicitly defines target values for 55 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 and latest observations available. The target value is set as the product of the mean growth rate of the top performers and the regional median value in 2015.

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

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

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<sup>56</sup> The regional value represents the mean value for indicators 12.4.1, 15.2.1, 16.1.1, and 4.1.1.



## Indicators used in the assessment

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
<b>GOAL 1 – No Poverty</b>		
Extreme poverty	SDG	<b>1.1.1</b> Proportion of population below international poverty line (%)
National poverty	SDG	<b>1.2.1</b> Proportion of population living below the national poverty line (%)
Multidimensional poverty	SDG	<b>1.2.2</b> Proportion of population living in multidimensional poverty (%)
Social protection	SDG	<b>1.3.1</b> - Proportion of population covered by social assistance programs, lowest income quantile (%) - Proportion of population covered by social insurance programs, lowest income quantile (%) - Proportion of unemployed persons receiving unemployment cash benefit (%) - Proportion of population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension (%) - Proportion of population with severe disabilities receiving disability cash benefit (%)
Access to basic water and sanitation services	SDG	<b>1.4.1</b> Proportion of population: - Using basic drinking water (%) - Basic sanitation services (%)
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	SDG	<b>1.5.1</b> - 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	SDG	<b>1.5.2</b> Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%)
Disaster risk reduction	SDG	<b>1.5.3</b> Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework
Disaster risk reduction	SDG	<b>1.5.4</b> Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)
ODA grants for poverty reduction	SDG	<b>1.a.1</b> Official development assistance grants for poverty reduction, by donor countries (% of GNI)
Government spending on education and health	SDG	<b>1.a.2</b> Proportion of total government spending on essential services, education (%)
<b>GOAL 2 – Zero Hunger</b>		
Prevalence of undernourishment	SDG	<b>2.1.1</b> Prevalence of undernourishment (%)
Moderate or severe food insecurity in the population	SDG	<b>2.1.2</b> Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population (%)
Prevalence of stunting	SDG	<b>2.2.1</b> Proportion of children moderately or severely stunted (%)
Prevalence of malnutrition	SDG	<b>2.2.2</b> - Proportion of children moderately or severely wasted (%) - Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight (%)
Local breeds at risk of extinction	SDG	<b>2.5.2</b> Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk as a share of local breeds with known level of extinction risk (%)
Agriculture orientation index	SDG	<b>2.a.1</b> Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
<b>GOAL 3 – Good health and well-being</b>		
Maternal mortality ratio	SDG	<b>3.1.1</b> Maternal mortality ratio
Births attended by skilled health personnel	SDG	<b>3.1.2</b> Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)
Under-five mortality	SDG	<b>3.2.1</b> - Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) - Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
Neonatal mortality	SDG	<b>3.2.2</b> Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
HIV infections	SDG	<b>3.3.1</b> Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population
Tuberculosis	SDG	<b>3.3.2</b> Tuberculosis incidence (per 100,000 population)
Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	SDG	<b>3.4.1</b> Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (probability)
Suicide	SDG	<b>3.4.2</b> Suicide mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 population)
Harmful use of alcohol	SDG	<b>3.5.2</b> Alcohol consumption per capita (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year (litres of pure alcohol)
Road traffic deaths	UNECE <sup>57</sup>	<b>3.6.1</b> Road traffic fatalities, rate per million inhabitants
Modern methods for family planning	UN DESA <sup>58</sup>	<b>3.7.1</b> Women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (%)
Adolescent births	SDG	<b>3.7.2</b> Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years)
Universal health coverage index	SDG	<b>3.8.1</b> Universal health coverage (UHC) service coverage index
Household expenditures on health	SDG	<b>3.8.2</b> Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (%): - Greater than 10% - Greater than 25%
Unintentional poisoning	SDG	<b>3.9.3</b> Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings (deaths per 100,000 population)
Tobacco use	SDG	<b>3.a.1</b> Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older (%)
Population covered by all vaccines in national programme	SDG	<b>3.b.1</b> 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	SDG	<b>3.c.1</b> Health worker density (per 10,000 population) - Dentists - Nurses - Pharmacists - Physicians - Health worker distribution, female physicians (%)

<sup>57</sup> [UNECE Statistical Database](#)

<sup>58</sup> 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	Source	Indicator
Health capacity and emergency preparedness	SDG	<b>3.d.1</b> International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity (%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislation and financing</li> <li>- Laboratory</li> <li>- Surveillance</li> <li>- Food safety</li> <li>- Human resources</li> <li>- Points of entry</li> <li>- Risk communication</li> <li>- Health service provision</li> <li>- Chemical events</li> <li>- Radiation</li> <li>- National health emergency framework</li> <li>- IHR Coordination and National Focal Point Functions</li> <li>- Zoonotic events and the Human-Animal Health Interface</li> </ul>

#### GOAL 4 – Quality education

Minimum proficiency in reading and maths	SDG	<b>4.1.1</b> Proportion of children and young people achieving a minimum proficiency level (%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mathematics</li> <li>- Reading</li> </ul>
Completion rate	SDG	<b>4.1.2</b> Completion rate (%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary</li> <li>- Lower secondary</li> <li>- Secondary</li> </ul>
Organised learning before primary entry age	SDG	<b>4.2.2</b> Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) (%)
Formal and non-formal education and training	SDG	<b>4.3.1</b> Participation rate in formal and non-formal education and training (%)
Youth and adults with ICT skills	SDG	<b>4.4.1</b> Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills (%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programming language</li> <li>- Transfer file</li> <li>- Download software</li> <li>- Electronic presentation</li> <li>- Spreadsheet arithmetic</li> <li>- Copy/move file/folder</li> <li>- Copy/paste</li> </ul>
Inequality indices for education indicators	SDG	<b>4.5.1</b> Low to high socio-economic parity status index for achievement (ratio): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading</li> <li>- Math</li> </ul>
Schools with access to basic services	SDG	<b>4.a.1</b> Schools with access to (%) [Primary, lower secondary, secondary]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Computers for pedagogical purposes</li> <li>- Internet for pedagogical purposes</li> <li>- Electricity</li> <li>- Basic handwashing facilities</li> <li>- Single-sex basic sanitation</li> <li>- Basic drinking water</li> </ul>

#### GOAL 5 – Gender Equality

Gender parity in time spent on domestic tasks	SDG	<b>5.4.1</b> Male/female ratio of hours spent on domestic tasks
Seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments	SDG	<b>5.5.1</b> Proportion of seats in national parliaments held by women (%)

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
Proportion of women in managerial positions	SDG	<b>5.5.2</b> Proportion of women in (%): - Managerial positions - Senior and middle management positions
<b>GOAL 6 – Clean water and sanitation</b>		
Safely managed drinking water services	SDG	<b>6.1.1</b> Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)
Open defecation practice and handwashing facilities	SDG	<b>6.2.1</b> Proportion of population (%): - Practicing open defecation - Using safely managed sanitation services
Water use efficiency	SDG	<b>6.4.1</b> Water Use Efficiency (United States dollars per cubic meter)
Water stress	SDG	<b>6.4.2</b> Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)
<b>GOAL 7 – Affordable and clean energy</b>		
Access to electricity	SDG	<b>7.1.1</b> Proportion of population with access to electricity (%)
Reliance on clean energy	SDG	<b>7.1.2</b> Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)
Renewable energy share	SDG	<b>7.2.1</b> Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%)
Energy intensity	SDG	<b>7.3.1</b> Energy intensity level of primary energy (megajoules per constant 2011 purchasing power parity GDP)
<b>GOAL 8 – Decent work and economic growth</b>		
Real GDP per capita growth rate	SDG	<b>8.1.1</b> Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (%)
Real GDP per employed person growth rate	SDG	<b>8.2.1</b> Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%)
Domestic material consumption	SDG	<b>8.4.2</b> Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (kilograms per constant 2010 United States dollars): - Biomass - Fossil fuels - Metal ores - Non-metallic minerals
Unemployment rate	SDG	<b>8.5.2</b> Unemployment rate (%)
Youth not in education, employment or training	SDG	<b>8.6.1</b> Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training (%)
Occupational injuries	SDG	<b>8.8.1</b> Occupational injuries among employees per 100,000 employees: - Fatal - Non-fatal
National compliance to labour rights	SDG	<b>8.8.2</b> Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation
Tourism direct GDP as proportion of total	SDG	<b>8.9.1</b> Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP (%)
Commercial bank branches and automated teller machines	SDG	<b>8.10.1</b> Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults
Adults with a bank account	SDG	<b>8.10.2</b> Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider (%)

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
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**GOAL 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure**

Passenger and freight volumes	UNECE <sup>59</sup>	<b>9.1.2</b> - Non-road freight as proportion of total (%) - Rail passengers, thousand passenger-km per capita
Manufacturing value added	SDG	<b>9.2.1</b> Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (%)
Manufacturing employment	SDG	<b>9.2.2</b> Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (%)
Small-scale industries as share of total	SDG	<b>9.3.1</b> Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added (%)
Small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	SDG	<b>9.3.2</b> Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit (%)
CO2 emission intensity	SDG	<b>9.4.1</b> Carbon dioxide emissions (kilogrammes of CO2 per constant 2010 United States dollars): - Per unit of GDP - Per unit of manufacturing value added
Research and development expenditure	SDG	<b>9.5.1</b> Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (%)
Number of researchers	SDG	<b>9.5.2</b> Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants (per 1,000,000 population)
Medium and high-tech industry value added	SDG	<b>9.b.1</b> Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added (%)
Population covered by mobile phone network	SDG	<b>9.c.1</b> Proportion of population covered by mobile network (%): - At least a 2G - At least a 3G - At least a 4G

**GOAL 10 – Reduced inequalities**

Labour income share of GDP	SDG	<b>10.4.1</b> Labour share of GDP (%)
Non-performing loans	SDG	<b>10.5.1</b> Non-performing loans (%) - Net of provisions to capital - To total gross loans
Refugees	SDG	<b>10.7.4</b> Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin (%)
Zero tariff imports	SDG	<b>10.a.1</b> Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports with zero-tariff (%), all products
Total resource flows for development	SDG	<b>10.b.1</b> Net official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of OECD-DAC donors' GNI, by donor countries (%)
Remittance costs	SDG	<b>10.c.1</b> Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted (%)

**GOAL 11 – Sustainable cities and communities**

Slums	SDG	<b>11.1.1</b> Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	SDG	<b>11.5.1</b> - 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	SDG	<b>11.5.2</b> Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%)
Disaster risk reduction	SDG	<b>11.b.1</b> Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework

<sup>59</sup> [UNECE Statistical Database](#)

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
Disaster risk reduction, local governments	SDG	<b>11.b.2</b> Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)

#### GOAL 12 – Responsible consumption and production

Domestic material consumption	SDG	<b>12.2.2</b> Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (kilograms per constant 2010 United States dollars): - Biomass - Fossil fuels - Metal ores - Non-metallic minerals
Handling of hazardous waste	SDG	<b>12.4.1</b> Parties meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information on hazardous waste and other chemicals, as required by: - Basel Convention - Montreal Protocol - Rotterdam Convention - Stockholm Convention
Hazardous waste generated	SDG	<b>12.4.2</b> - Hazardous waste generated, per capita (kg) - Electronic waste generated, per capita (kg) - Electronic waste recycling, per capita (kg)
Recycling	SDG	<b>12.5.1</b> Electronic waste recycling, per capita (kg)
Fossil fuel subsidies	SDG	<b>12.c.1</b> Fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) as a proportion of total GDP (%)

#### GOAL 13 – Climate action

Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	SDG	<b>13.1.1</b> - 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	SDG	<b>13.1.2</b> Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework
Disaster risk reduction, local governments	SDG	<b>13.1.3</b> Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)
Greenhouse gas emissions	SDG	<b>13.2.2</b> Total greenhouse gas emissions without LULUCF (Mt CO <sub>2</sub> , equivalent): - Annex I Parties - Non-Annex I Parties

#### GOAL 14 – Life below water

Protected marine areas	SDG	<b>14.5.1</b> Average proportion of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)
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#### GOAL 15 – Life on land

Forest area	SDG	<b>15.1.1</b> Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)
Sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity	SDG	<b>15.1.2</b> Average proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) - Freshwater - Terrestrial

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
Sustainable forest management	SDG	<b>15.2.1</b> - Above-ground biomass in forest (tonnes per hectare) - Forest area net change rate (%) - Proportion of forest area with a long-term management plan (%) - Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas (%)
Sites for mountain biodiversity	SDG	<b>15.4.1</b> Average proportion of Mountain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)
Mountain Green Cover Index	SDG	<b>15.4.2</b> Mountain Green Cover Index
Red List Index	SDG	<b>15.5.1</b> Red List Index
Plant genetic resources for good and agriculture	SDG	<b>15.6.1</b> - Countries that have legislative, administrative and policy framework or measures reported through the Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) - Countries that are contracting Parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA)
Management of invasive alien species	SDG	<b>15.8.1</b> Legislation, Regulation, Act related to the prevention of introduction and management of Invasive Alien Species
ODA for biodiversity	SDG	<b>15.a.1</b> Total official development assistance for biodiversity (millions of constant 2017 United States dollars) by: - Donor countries - Recipient countries

#### GOAL 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

Intentional homicides	SDG	<b>16.1.1</b> Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population
Robbery	SDG	<b>16.1.3</b> Proportion of population subjected to robbery in the previous 12 months (%)
Detected victims of human trafficking	SDG	<b>16.2.2</b> Detected victims of human trafficking (number)
Robbery reporting rate	SDG	<b>16.3.1</b> Police reporting rate for robbery (%)
Unsentenced detainees	SDG	<b>16.3.2</b> Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (%)
Bribery	SDG	<b>16.5.2</b> Bribery incidence (% of firms experiencing at least one bribe payment request)
Government expenditure	SDG	<b>16.6.1</b> Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget (%)
Public access to information	SDG	<b>16.10.2</b> Countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
Human Rights, Paris Principles	SDG	<b>16.a.1</b> Countries with National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles, A status

#### GOAL 17 – Partnerships for goals

Tax revenue	SDG	<b>17.1.1</b> Total government revenue (budgetary central government) as a proportion of GDP (%)
Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	SDG	<b>17.1.2</b> Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (% of GDP)

Indicator short name	Source	Indicator
ODA from OECD-DAC	SDG	<b>17.2.1</b> Net official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of OECD-DAC donors' GNI, by donor countries to (%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landlocked developing countries</li> <li>- Small island states (SIDS)</li> <li>- Least developed countries (LDCs)</li> </ul>
Debt service	SDG	<b>17.4.1</b> Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)
Fixed Internet broadband subscription by speed	SDG	<b>17.6.1</b> Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 MPBS</li> <li>- Any speed</li> </ul>
Internet users	SDG	<b>17.8.1</b> Internet users per 100 inhabitants
Worldwide weighted tariff-average	SDG	<b>17.10.1</b> Worldwide weighted tariff-average, all products (%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most-favoured-nation status</li> <li>- Preferential status</li> </ul>
Census, birth and death registration	SDG	<b>17.19.2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years</li> <li>- Countries with birth registration data that are at least 90 percent complete</li> <li>- Countries with death registration data that are at least 75 percent complete</li> </ul>



# Is the UNECE region on track for 2030? Assessment, stories and insights

This report provides a progress assessment on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), based on the data available in the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database and on the statistical methodology commonly used by all five United Nations regional commissions.

The assessment identifies targets on which the overall progress in the region was good, and shows that in most areas progress needs to accelerate by 2030. It also identifies the few areas where the course needs to be reversed.

The United Nations organizations and country teams participating in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia provided 17 stories which enrich this report.

The stories provide a closer look at how various regional and country level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes. Anchored in data, the insights from these stories help understand the ways that change can be achieved. Many stories address the challenges brought by the Covid pandemic and measure their impact.

The UNECE Statistical Division led the preparation of this second annual report to inform the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region (Geneva, 17-18 March).