



The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

Extended Report

-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 level

Note: The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) prepares the annual *The Sustainable Development Goals Report*, also known as the glossy report, based on storyline inputs submitted by UN international agencies in their capacity as mandated custodian agencies for the SDG indicators. However, due to space constraints, not all information received from custodian agencies is able to be included in the final glossy report. Therefore, in order to provide the general public with all information regarding the indicators, this 'Extended Report' has been prepared by UNSD. It includes all storyline contents for each indicator as provided by the custodian agencies and is unedited. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information linked for further information.

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

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

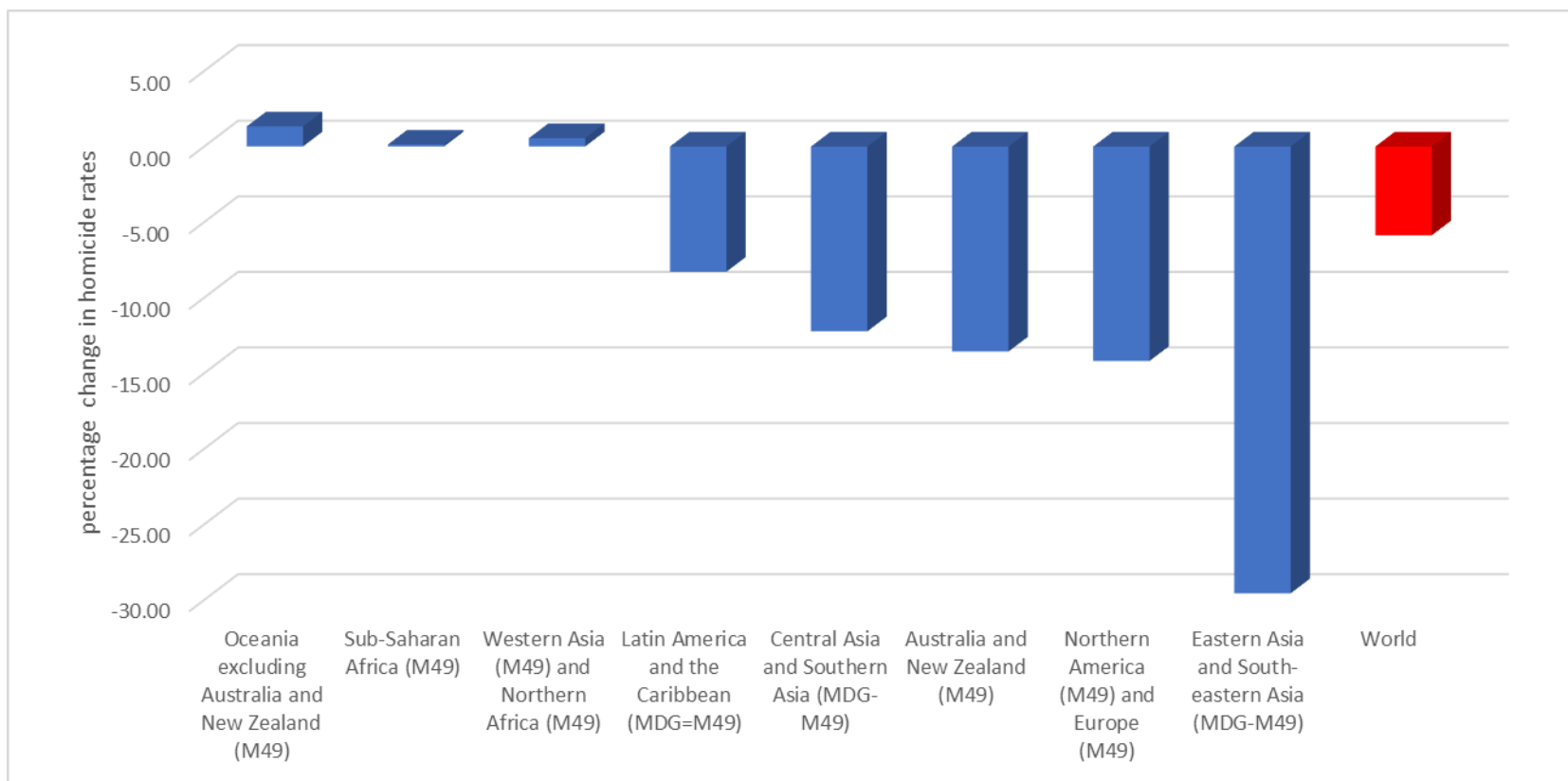
The global homicide rate is falling, but the gap between the regions with low level of homicide and the regions with high level keeps widening.

The global rate of homicide per 100,000 population has been slowly declining between 2000 and 2014 from 6.9 to 6.2. Between 2015 and 2019, the global homicide rate declined further to 5.7 (in 2019, approximately 437,000 victims of homicide of which 82% were male and 18% female). This global development is the result of diverging regional developments. Different trends were recorded in the two areas which account for over two thirds of homicide victims globally: in Latin America and the Caribbean homicide rates have substantially decreased in the past four years while no significant change was visible in Sub-Saharan Africa. In most of the other regions the decreasing trend continued also in 2019, except for Western Asia and Northern Africa and the Pacific Small Island Developing States where the homicide rates remain substantially stable.

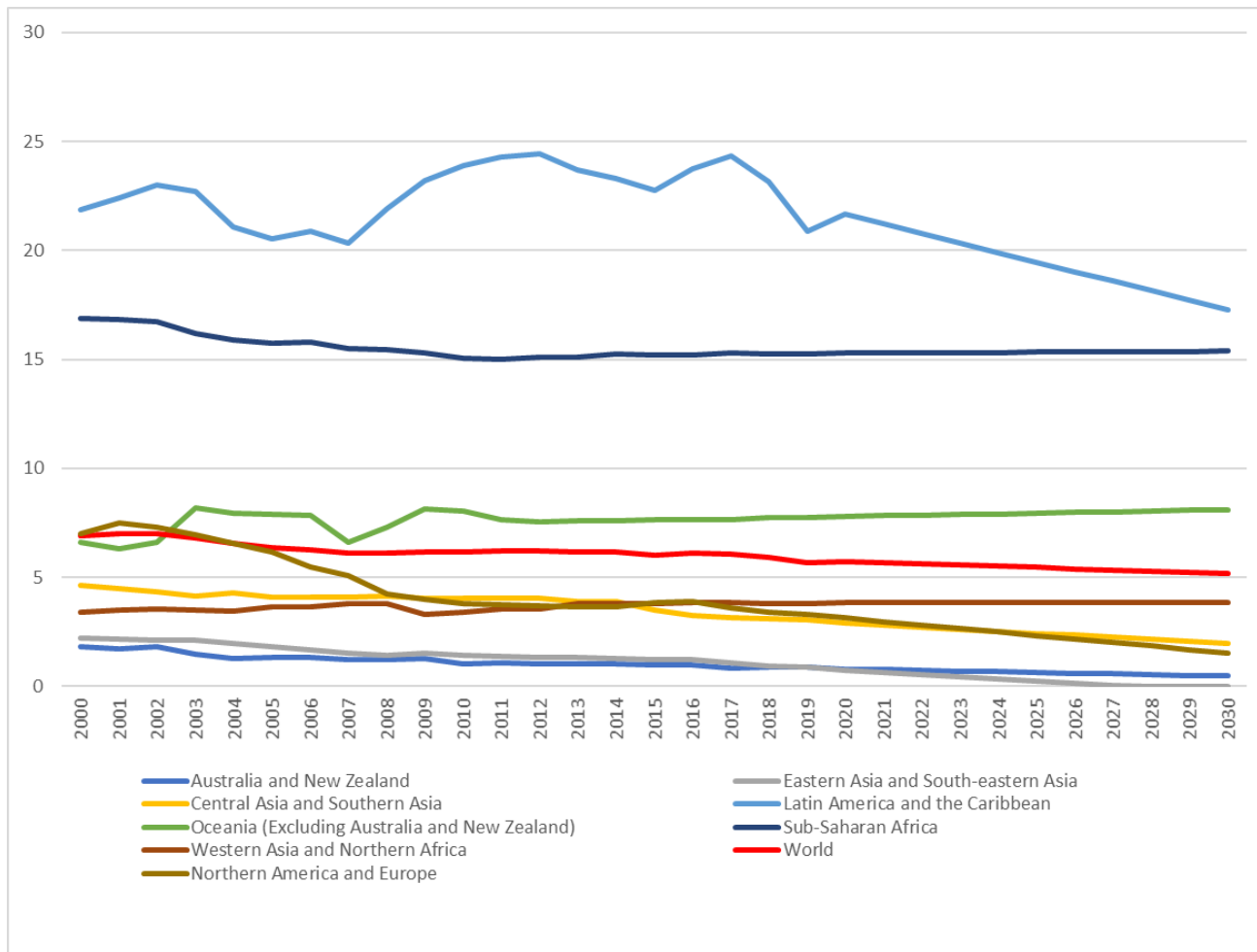
In order to reach target 16.1 (‘Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere’) efforts need to be strengthened. Projecting the current trend 2015 – 2019 to future years up to 2030, only two regions: North America and Europe; and Eastern and South-eastern Asia; would reach a significant decrease above 50% by 2030. On the other hand, homicide rates in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as in the Pacific Small Island Developing States are projected to be higher than in 2015. Overall, at current trends (2015 – 2019) the global rate of homicide per 100,00 population would stand at around 5.0 in 2030 resulting in an overall decrease limited to around 15 percent.

Available data from selected countries mostly in Europe and Latin America during the first half of 2020 indicate that the first wave of lockdown measures had varying impacts on homicide levels. When restrictive measures were in place, in some countries the decrease in the homicide trend in March/April 2020 was more than 25 per cent larger than the average recorded in those months over the period 2015–2019. Such homogeneous changes were visible in countries in Europe and other regions where data were available, while trends were quite heterogeneous across Latin America. This makes it difficult to draw general conclusions on the impact of the pandemic on the level of lethal violence. Several factors could explain this heterogeneity: differences in the level of restrictive measures imposed by Governments, pre-existing socioeconomic conditions, and the overall predominance of a particular typology of homicide, which in Latin America is often related to organized crime and gangs, whereas in Europe it is more closely linked to interpersonal and family-related violence.

Percentage change in homicide rates between 2015 and 2019, by region



Trends and projections in the rate of international homicide, by region (2015-2019 and 2020-2030)



Progress analysis: [See progress chart](#)

Custodian agency(ies):

UNODC, WHO

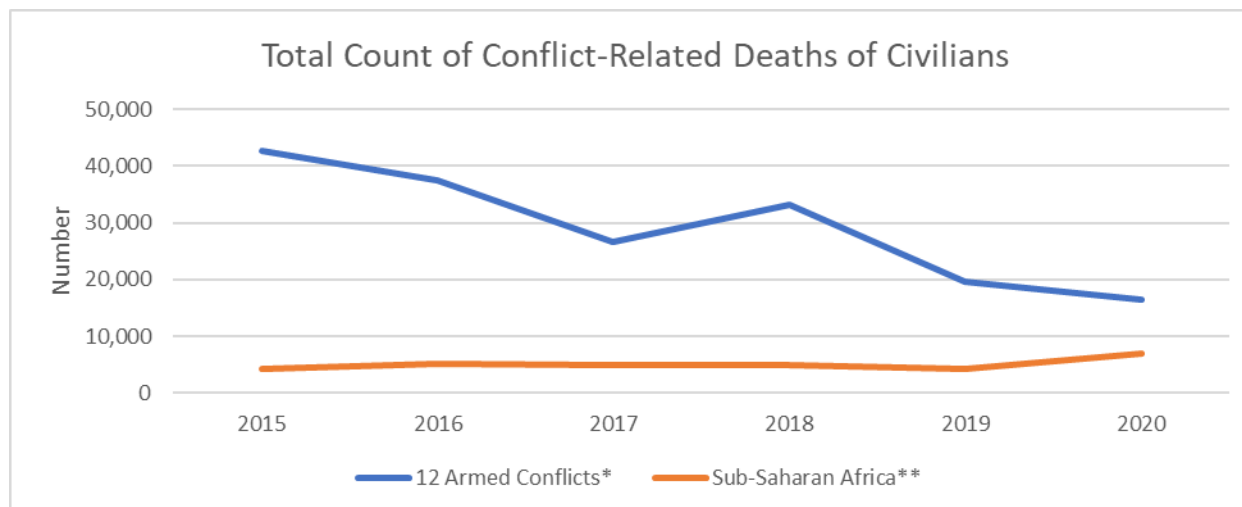
Indicator 16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

Widespread civilian deaths in armed conflicts persist, although progress has been made in most regions

Armed conflict results in civilian deaths, injury and trauma, displacement and damaged essential infrastructure, including health care. It is also associated with rampant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including against children. The United Nations recorded at least 176,095 civilian deaths in 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts between 2015 and 2020. Despite this high toll, the annual number of civilian deaths globally actually decreased by 61 per cent over this period. One exception is sub-Saharan Africa, where civilian deaths in conflicts increased by 66 per cent. The reduction in civilian deaths at the global level is due to the fact that some of the deadliest conflicts have become less lethal, along with collective efforts to enhance the protection of civilians.

In 2020, 5 civilians per 100,000 people were killed in armed conflicts, and 1 in 7 of those deaths was a woman or child. Most civilian deaths were caused by small arms and light weapons (27 per cent), followed by heavy weapons and explosive munitions (24 per cent). Throughout 2020, the United Nations has consistently called for a global ceasefire to protect civilians from the deadly combination of armed conflict and COVID-19.

Number of conflict-related civilian deaths, 2015-2020



Note: *This figure includes only documented and verified civilian deaths caused directly by war operations for the armed conflicts in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, State of Palestine and Israel, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.

** Includes armed conflicts in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan.

Figures may vary from other UN civilian casualty figures due to the methodology used that build on UN casualty data by integrating new data sources.

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2021.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- [Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, A/HRC/46/39](#)
- [Report of the Secretary General on Protection of civilians in armed conflict, S/2020/366](#) and draft of the 2021 report
- [Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/46/54](#)
- [589 killed in central Mali so far in 2020 as security worsens – Bachelet](#)
- [Annual Brief on Violence Affecting Civilians in South Sudan](#)
- [Press briefing notes on DRC: Attacks against civilians](#)

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

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

UNODC

Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

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

UNODC

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

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

While research on the impact of COVID-19 on violence against children is only at the early stages, evidence has begun to emerge, pointing to increased risks for victimization as well as changes in the demand for and delivery of services. When it comes to violence at home, a number of factors related to confinement measures are likely to result in increased risk for children including heightened tensions in the household, added stressors placed on caregivers, economic uncertainty, job loss or disruption to livelihoods, and social isolation.

Even before the COVID-19 outbreak, violence against children was widespread, affecting children regardless of wealth or social status. In 77 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries with available data from 2012 to 2020, 8 in 10 children from 1 to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the past month.

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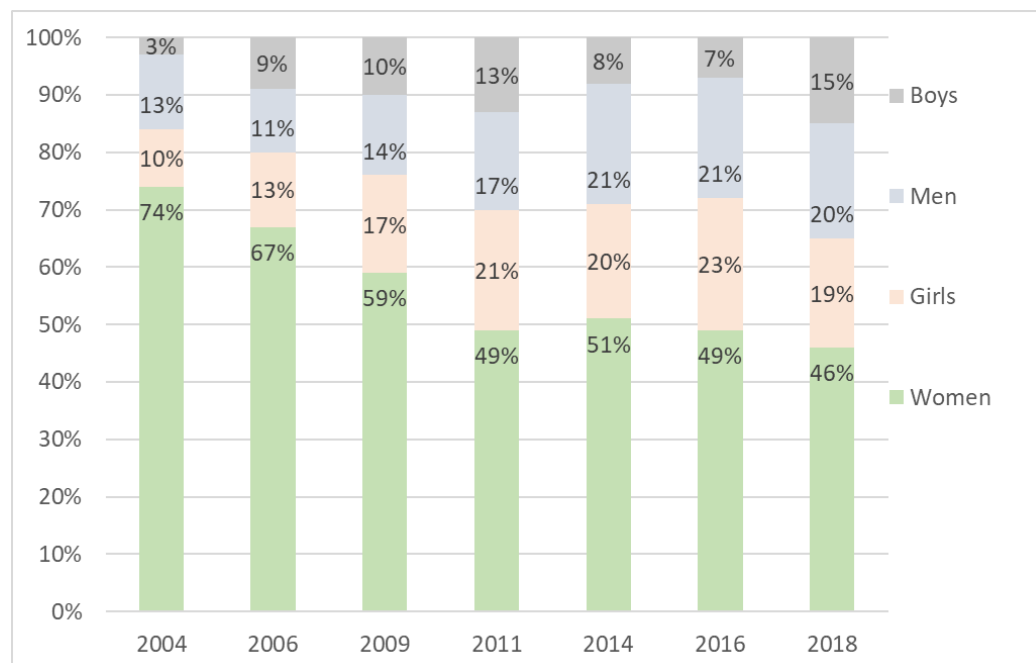
Custodian agency(ies):

UNICEF

Indicator 16.2.2: Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
Trafficking victims increasingly detected for forced labour and a variety of different purposes

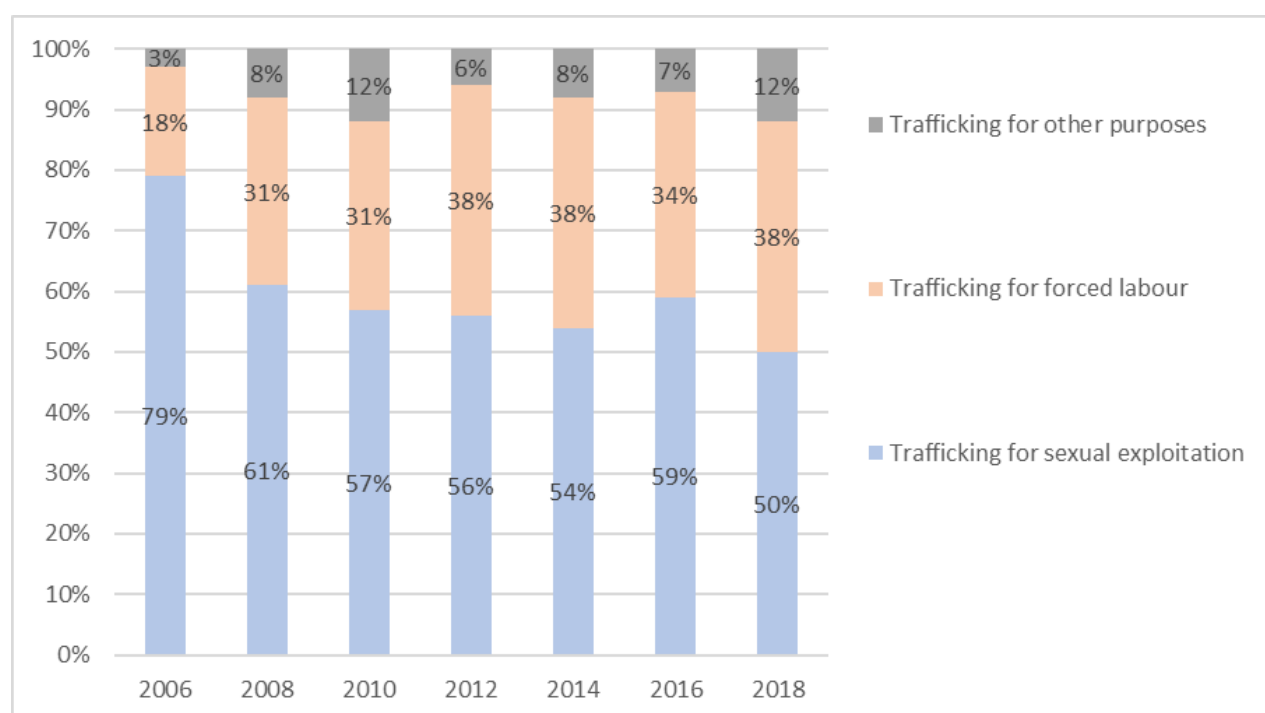
Female victims continue to be particularly affected by trafficking in persons, despite the growth of the male component, the female component remain the one more heavily affected by human trafficking. In 2018, for every 10 victims detected globally, about five were adult women and two were girls. About one third of the overall detected victims were children, both girls (19 per cent) and boys (15 per cent), while 20 per cent were adult men.

Trend in the profile of detected victims of trafficking in persons, global - by share of sex and age of the victims on total detected.



Women and girls are mainly trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (77 per cent), while boys and men are trafficked for forced labour (68 per cent). Overall, the majority of the detected victims are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (50 per cent), while an increasing share of detected victims are trafficked for forced labour (38 per cent) and for other forms of exploitation (12 per cent). Among the “other forms” of trafficking, most detected victims in 2018 were trafficked for committing criminal activity (6 per cent), for begging (1.5 per cent), for forced marriages (1 per cent).

Trend in the purpose of exploitation of detected victims of trafficking in persons, global - by share of forms of exploitation for the victims on total detected.



As with previous economic crises, the sharp increase in unemployment rates brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to increase trafficking in persons, particularly from countries experiencing the fastest and most persistent drops in employment. Job seekers from these countries are likely to be more willing to take high risks in the hope of improving their opportunities.

The most vulnerable groups, even in wealthy nations, are those suffering the most during the Pandemic Recession. Evidence suggests low earners have been hit the hardest by spiking unemployment. As unemployment rates rise, increasing numbers are likely to be trafficked from the poorest communities to those parts of the world recovering faster.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020
- How COVID-19 restrictions and the economic consequences are likely to impact migrant smuggling and cross-border trafficking in persons to Europe and North America - UNODC Research Brief -

Custodian agency(ies):

UNODC

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

Sexual violence is one of the most unsettling of children’s rights violations but underreporting and a lack of comparable data limit understanding of the full extent of the issue. While more and more countries now have data on violence against women, most still lack data on violence against children: only 50 countries have internationally comparable data on sexual violence against girls and only 12 produce such data for boys.

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Custodian agency(ies):

UNICEF

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

Indicator 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

Custodian agency(ies):

UNODC

Indicator 16.3.2: Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

No progress in the proportion of persons held in detention without being sentenced for a crime: it is equal to 31 per cent in 2019, the same level observed in 2000.

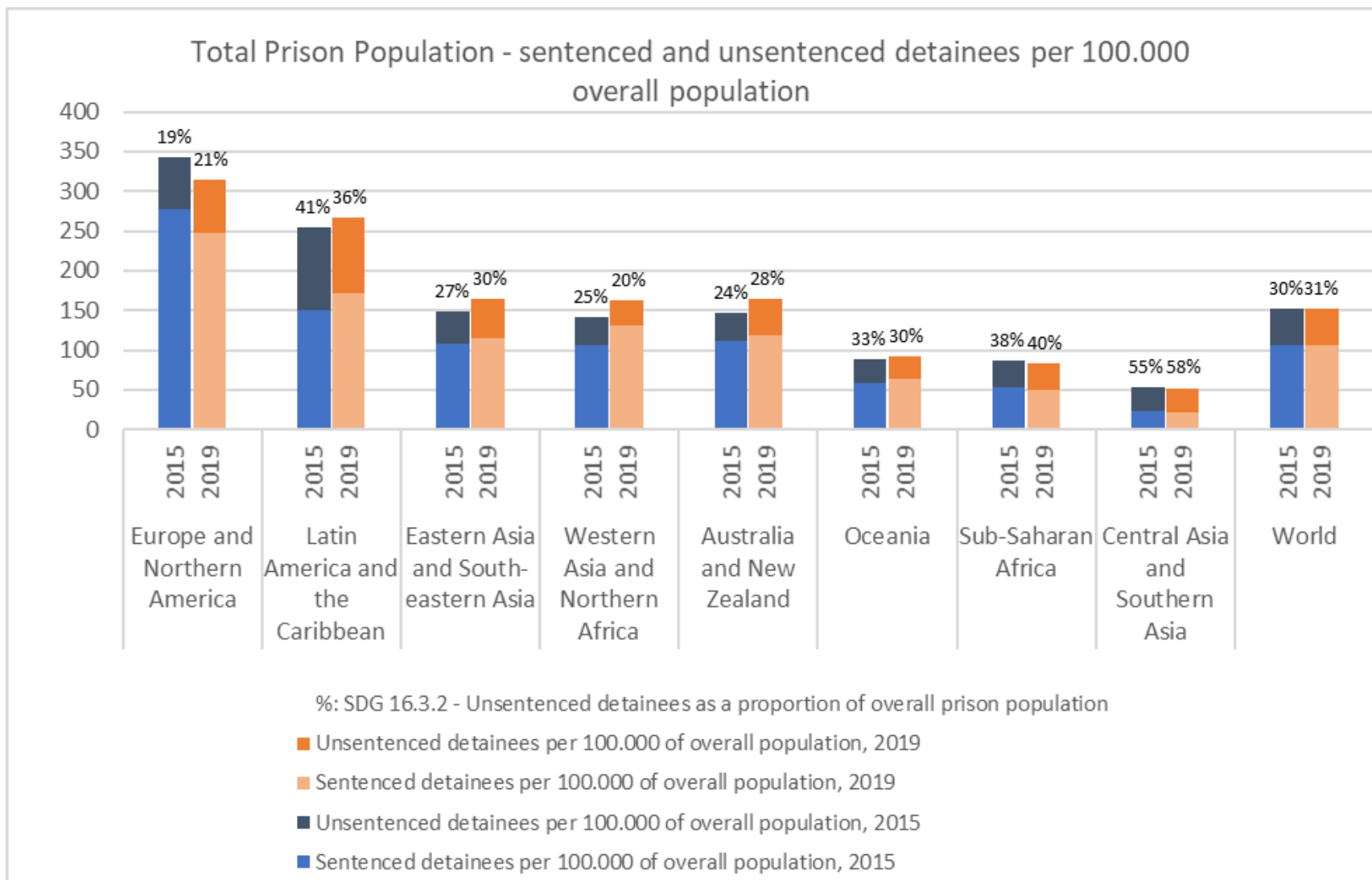
An important element in providing access to justice for all is ensuring that a fair trial takes place within a reasonably short period of time. Globally, however, the most recent data show that the proportion of prisoners held in detention without being sentenced for a crime is equal to 31 per cent, the same level it was already in 2000. This occurred in a context where the number of persons in detention continued to grow in absolute values while remaining relatively constant in relative terms to the total population. More than 11.5 million individuals were in detention in 2019, corresponding to approximately 153 persons per 100,000 population. In 2019, estimates show that there are more than 3.6 million prisoners held in detention without being sentenced for a crime, a figure which has been steadily increasing since 2000 in absolute terms.

On a regional level, the dynamic of the proportion of unsentenced detainees with respect to the overall prison population does not always reflect the changes observed in the overall prison population. In Northern Africa and Western Asia as well as in Latin America and Caribbean the growing prison population, both in relative and absolute terms with respect to the population, is associated to a decreasing proportion of unsentenced detainees. Oppositely, in Europe and North America despite the reduction of the prison population in relative terms, there was an increase in the proportion of unsentenced detainees between 2015 and 2019.

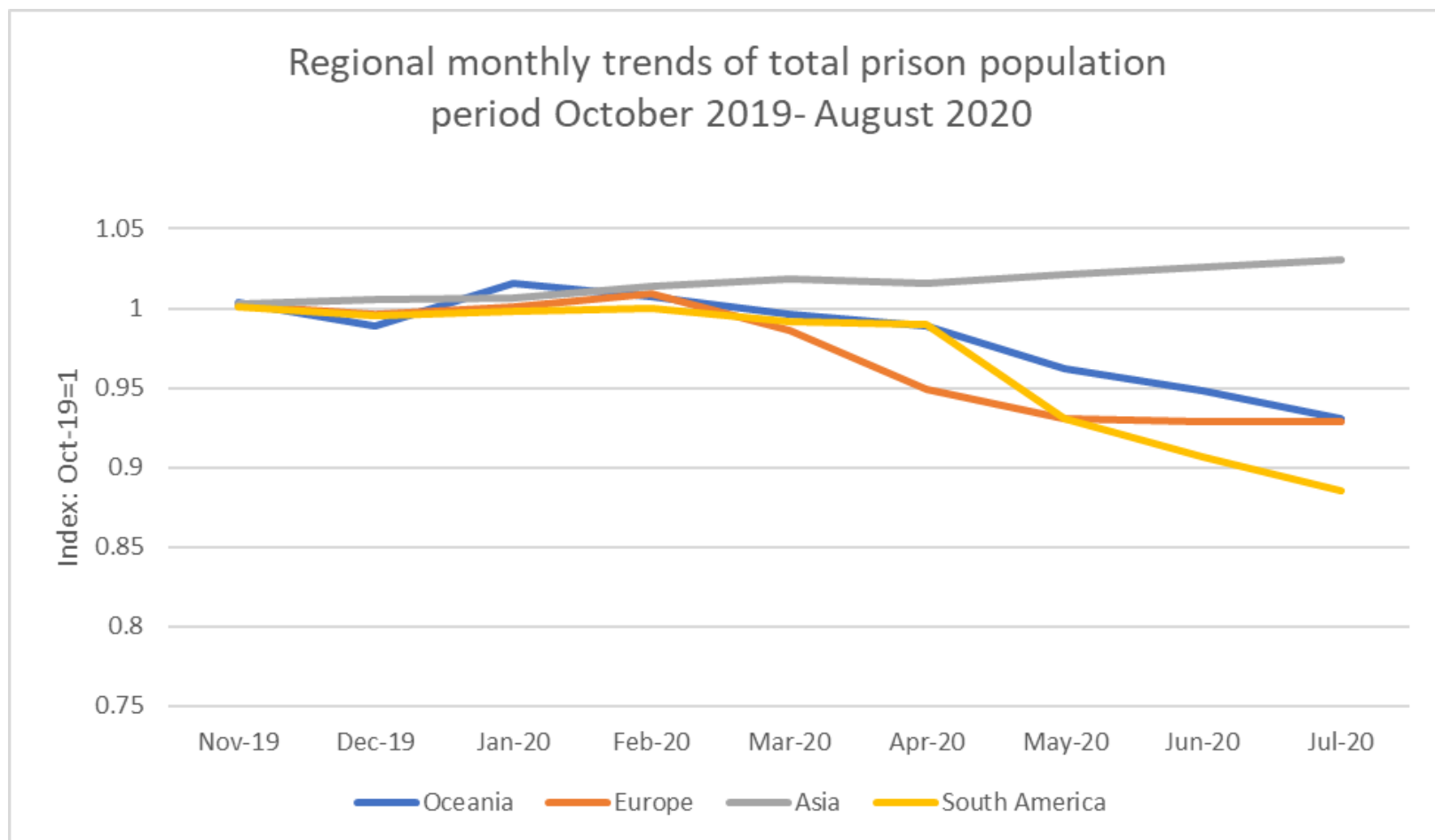
The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is heavily impacting on detainees worldwide. Prison represents a particularly high-risk environment for the infection due to unavoidable close contacts and to prison over-crowding which remains a significant problem in many countries.. Of the 132 countries and territories for which UNODC has data on both prison capacity and prison occupancy between 2003 and 2019, 55% are operating at more than 100% of intended capacity.¹ A smaller share of countries and territories (22%) operate at more than 150% of the intended capacity. Besides leading to inhumane conditions of incarceration, prison over-crowding also facilitates the spread of the virus among prisoners, prison officials and visitors. Governments have put in place prison restrictive regimes, such as limiting or prohibiting visitors and avoiding interactions resulting in a worsening of detainees' life conditions.

The pandemic caused delays in the Criminal Justice System which, combined with emergency actions to facilitate exits and limit entries in prisons in an attempt to limit the prison over-crowding, resulted in a temporary decrease of the global prison population. This is confirmed by data reported by 20 countries showing that the overall prison population reported a downward (between 7% and 13%) trend over between October 2019 and August 2020 in South America, Europe and Oceania.

¹ For each country, the latest available year (between 2003 and 2019) with data points for both adult prison capacity and adult prison occupancy were used to calculate the prison occupancy rate. A country's occupancy rate is equal to the ratio of the adult prison population over the reported adult prison capacity multiplied by 100. Countries with an occupancy rate exceeding 100% are overcrowded.



Source: United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and World Prison Brief-Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research (WPB-ICPR).



Source: Data collected through the Global initiative to improve knowledge on Covid-19's impact on crime and drugs; Note: Asia (3 countries), Europe (13 countries), Oceania (1 country), South America (3 countries)

Progress analysis: [See progress chart](#)

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Data collected through the Global initiative to improve knowledge on Covid-19's impact on crime and drugs: <https://dataunodc.un.org/content/covid-19>

Custodian agency(ies):

UNODC

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

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

UNDP, OECD, UNODC

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

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

Custodian agency(ies):

UNODC, UNCTAD

Indicator 16.4.2: Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

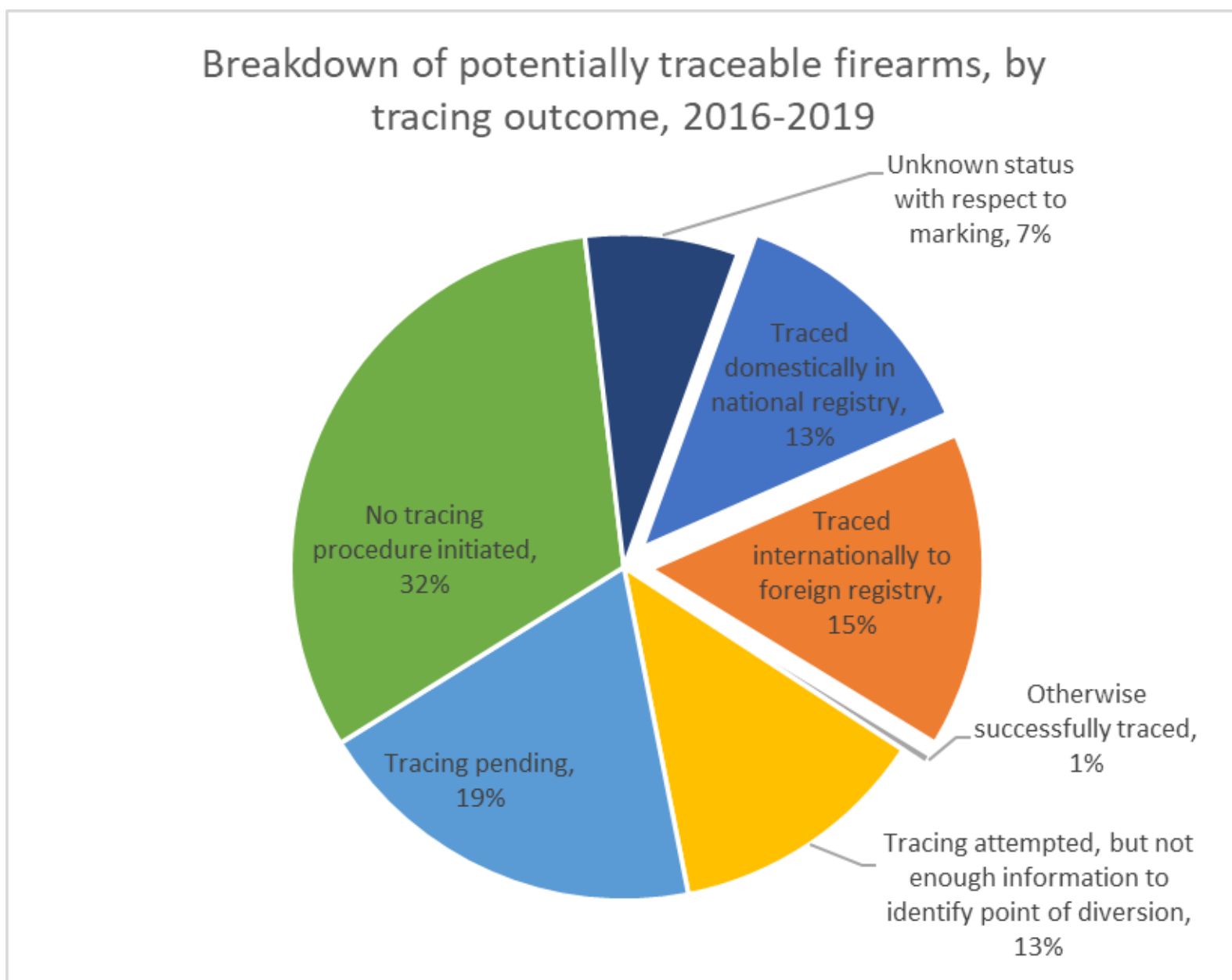
Tracing the origins of illicit firearms is a crucial step towards promoting peaceful societies, but it remains a challenge for many countries.

The collection of small arms and light weapons (SALW) used in the context of armed conflict, violent crime, and drug trafficking, and the establishment of their illicit origin, are important steps towards promoting peaceful and inclusive societies in line with SDG 16. Between 2016 and 2019, national authorities collected 758,000 illicit SALW.² Importantly, the global figure hides significant regional differences. Based on available data, Western European and Other States³ accounted for more than 50% of all collected SALW in the period 2016-2019. Underreporting may explain some of the regional differences. Reporting on illicit SALW remains very limited, with many countries, especially in Asia and the Pacific region, not reporting the relevant data. In most world regions, the total number of SALW collected has remained relatively stable since 2016. A notable exception is Western European and Other States, which recorded a strong upward trend in the total number of collected SALW until 2018, and a significant reduction in 2019 (see Figure 2). Further building Member States' capacity to report the number of collected SALW will be crucial for monitoring progress on SDG indicator 16.4.2.

Illicit SALW are either seized, found or surrendered. Based on available data, regional differences are observable in this regard. In Africa, 66% of all SALW collected by national authorities in 2019 were *surrendered SALW*. In contrast, *seized SALW* make up the largest proportion of collected weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (80%), Western European and Other States (68%) and Eastern Europe (86%) (see Figure 3).

Tracing the origin of collected firearms is a crucial step to detect and reduce illicit arms flows, and a key measure of progress on indicator 16.4.2. The available data suggest that tracing remains a major challenge for many countries and they point to a lack of national tracing infrastructure and/or insufficient communication at the international level. On average, the point of diversion into the illicit market was successfully established for only 29% of all firearms collected between 2016 and 2019 (based on firearms traceable through marking). This percentage is made up of two equally sized components: firearms traced domestically to a national registry (13%) and firearms traced internationally to a foreign registry (15%).⁴ For roughly 1 in every 3 firearms collected between 2016 and 2019, no tracing procedure was initiated (see Figure 1). Importantly, tracing data remain very limited, with only 15 Member States submitting sufficiently detailed data through the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire. Further building Member States' capacity to report on the tracing of collected firearms will be crucial for monitoring progress on SDG indicator 16.4.2.

Figure 1. Breakdown of potentially traceable firearms, by tracing outcome (2016-2019)



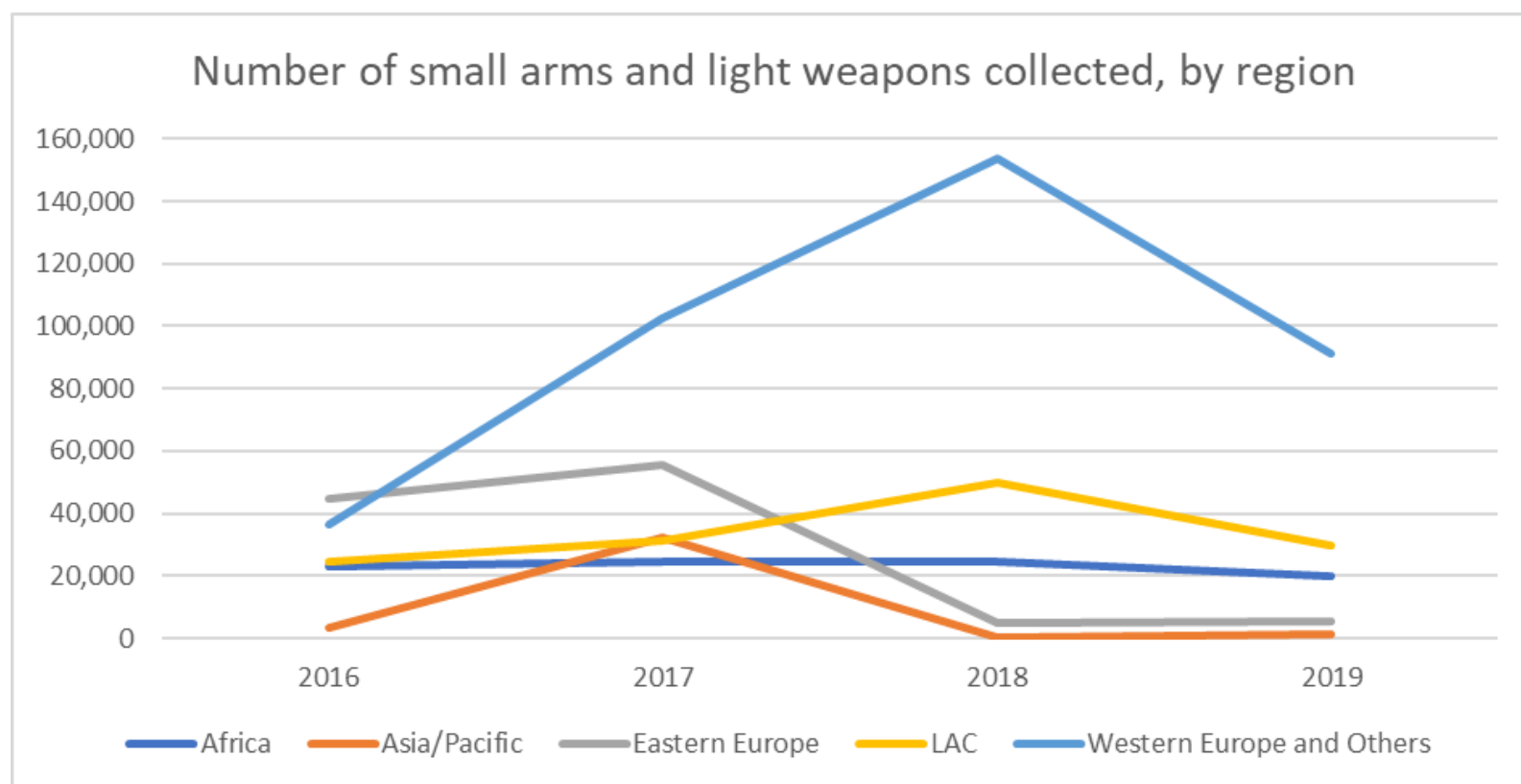
Note: Based on data from 15 countries. Data: United Nations Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire

² Member States submit biennially national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons to the Office for Disarmament Affairs. During 2016-2019, a total of 203 national reports were submitted from 125 States. Among them, 61 reports included relevant data on collection of SALW.

³ These include Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, and the United States.

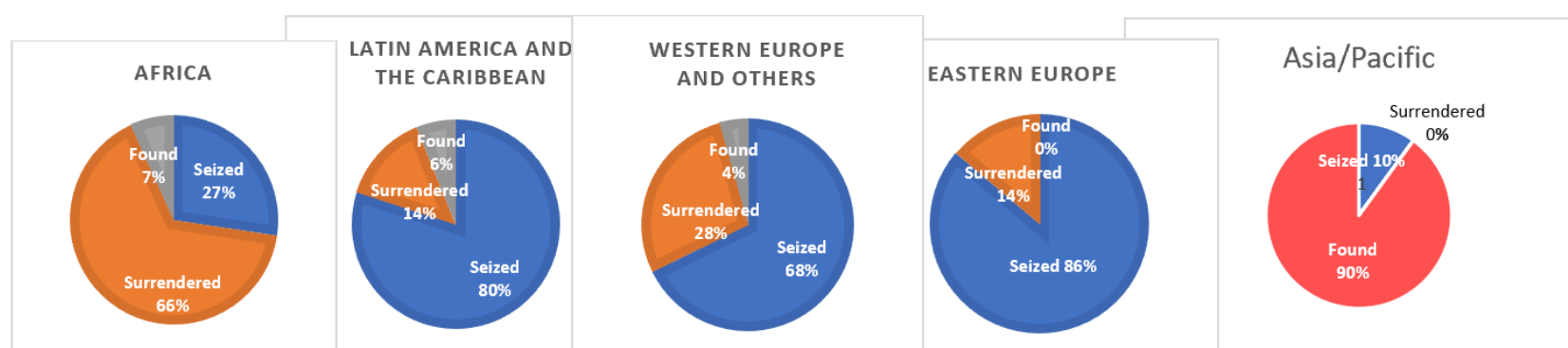
⁴ 1% of potentially traceable firearms is otherwise successfully traced (see Figure 3).

Figure 2. Number of SALW Collected by National Authorities, by Region (2016 – 2019)



Note: Based on data from 61 countries. Data: National Reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons

Figure 3. Percentage of Seized, Surrendered and Found Small Arms, by Region (2018-2019)



Note: Based on data from 23 countries. Data: 2020 National Reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (covering 2018-2019 period)

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Custodian agency(ies):

UNODC, UNODA

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

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

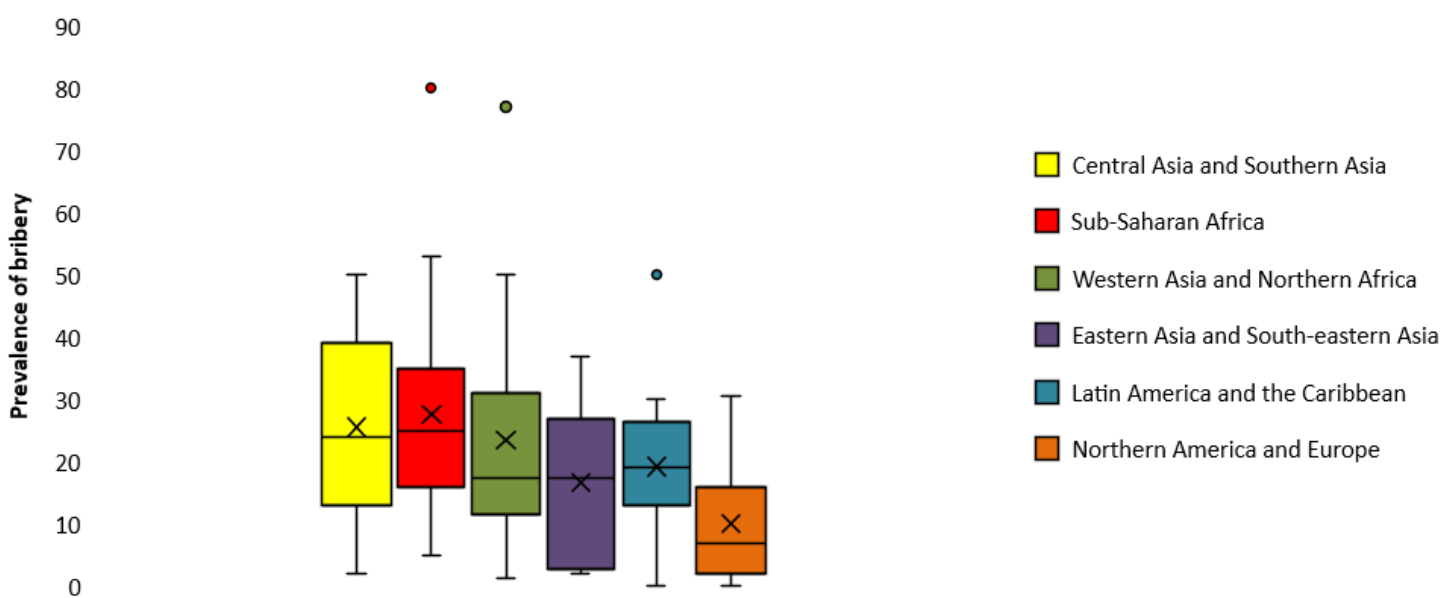
Addressing corruption is crucial for an inclusive COVID-19 recovery with integrity and accountability

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges that corruption represents a severe impediment to sustainable development. Corruption is a phenomenon that has a detrimental impact on every aspect of the social and economic performance of a country. Among other things, corruption hinders development, aggravates income inequality, reduces investment, both domestic and foreign, leads to the inefficient allocation of public funds and significantly lowers the quality of public sector services. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented opportunities for corrupt actors, and now it is more important than ever to address corruption if we are to achieve an inclusive COVID-19 recovery with integrity and accountability.

Every day, millions of people across all regions of the world are asked to pay bribes to access essential public services such as healthcare, education, water, electricity, judiciary, etc. There are, however, some notable regional disparities. Countries from Sub-Saharan Africa and from Central and Southern Asia have the highest average prevalence rate of bribery (27.7 per cent and 25.6 per cent, respectively). This means that, on average, one in four people who had contact with public officials in these regions paid a bribe or were asked to pay a bribe. A significantly lower average prevalence rate is recorded in Northern America and Europe, where only one in ten people who had contact with public officials paid a bribe (10.1 per cent).

Beyond the regional disparities, the level of socio-economic development of a country plays an even more important role. Data available in more than 120 countries show that people living in low-income countries are those most exposed to bribery. The average prevalence rate of bribery in low-income countries is 37.6 per cent, while high-income countries have an average prevalence rate of 7.2 per cent. The disproportionate social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on low and middle-income countries may further exacerbate the situation of those who rely on essential public services and cannot afford to pay bribes.

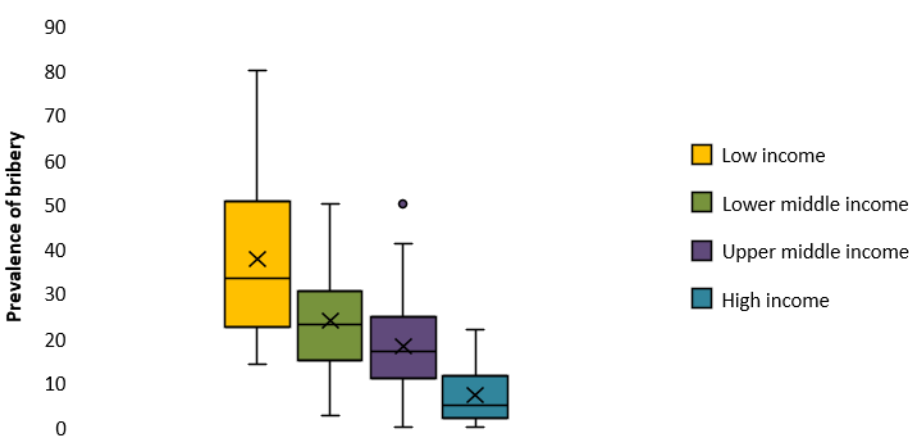
Figure 1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months, by region (latest data available in the period 2011 – 2020)



Note: Central Asia and Southern Asia (11 countries), Sub-Saharan Africa (33 countries), Western Asia and Northern Africa (15 countries), Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (12 countries), Latin America and the Caribbean (24 countries), Northern America and Europe (30 countries)

Source: United Nations Crime Trends Survey (UN-CTS) and Global Corruption Barometer.

Figure 2: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months, by income (latest data available in the period 2011 – 2020)



Note: Low income countries (18 countries), Lower middle income countries (38 countries), Upper middle income countries (39 countries), High income countries (31 countries)

Source: United Nations Crime Trends Survey (UN-CTS) and Global Corruption Barometer.

Custodian agency(ies):

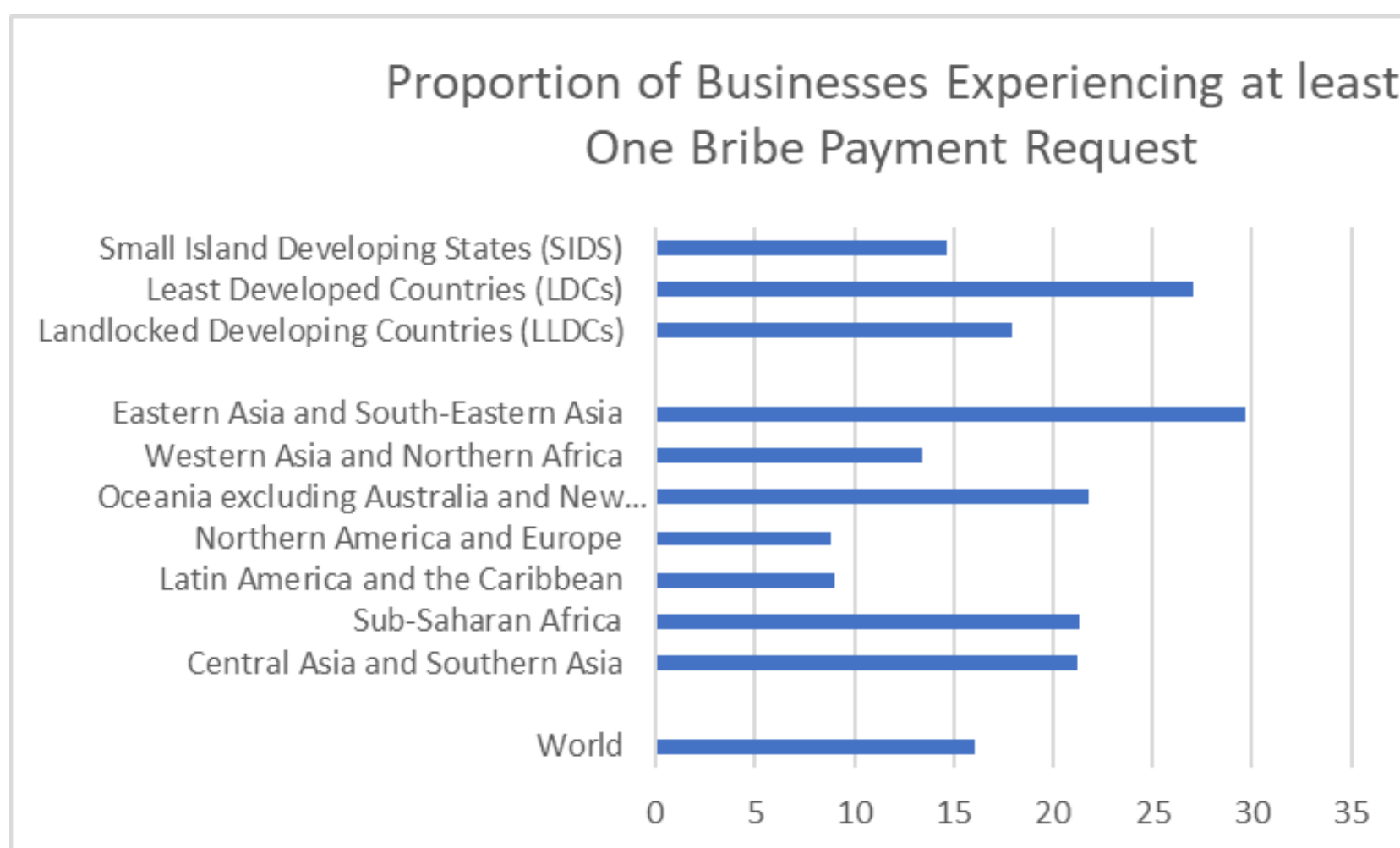
UNODC

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

Globally, almost one in six businesses face requests for bribe payments by public officials; this is based on establishment-level surveys that collect data on what businesses experience on a day-to-day basis.

Globally, almost one in six businesses face requests for bribe payments by public officials; this is based on establishment-level surveys that collect data on what businesses experience on a day-to-day basis. The six transactions under consideration are obtaining electrical connections, water connections, construction-related permits, import licenses, operating licenses, and meetings with tax officials. The incidence of bribery varies across the world. Asian countries (Eastern and Southeast) and Least Developed Countries have the largest bribery incidence- approximately 30% of businesses, whereas businesses in the Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America and Europe regions have the lowest incidence- 9% of businesses. Policymakers can reduce the prevalence of bribery by making business processes, such as applications and payments for permits and licenses, both online and fully transparent.

Chart1. Proportion of Businesses Experiencing at least One Bribe Payment Request



Source: World Bank, www.enterprisesurveys.org

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World Bank, UNODC

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

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

The 16.6 indicator is used to measure strong, effective, accountable, and transparent institutions. The efforts of governments in realistic planning and accurate implementation of budgets across countries and regions will support reaching the goal in 2030.

Institutions need to be transparent, accountable and effective to function properly and cope with variety of crises, as well as with the COVID-19 pandemic.

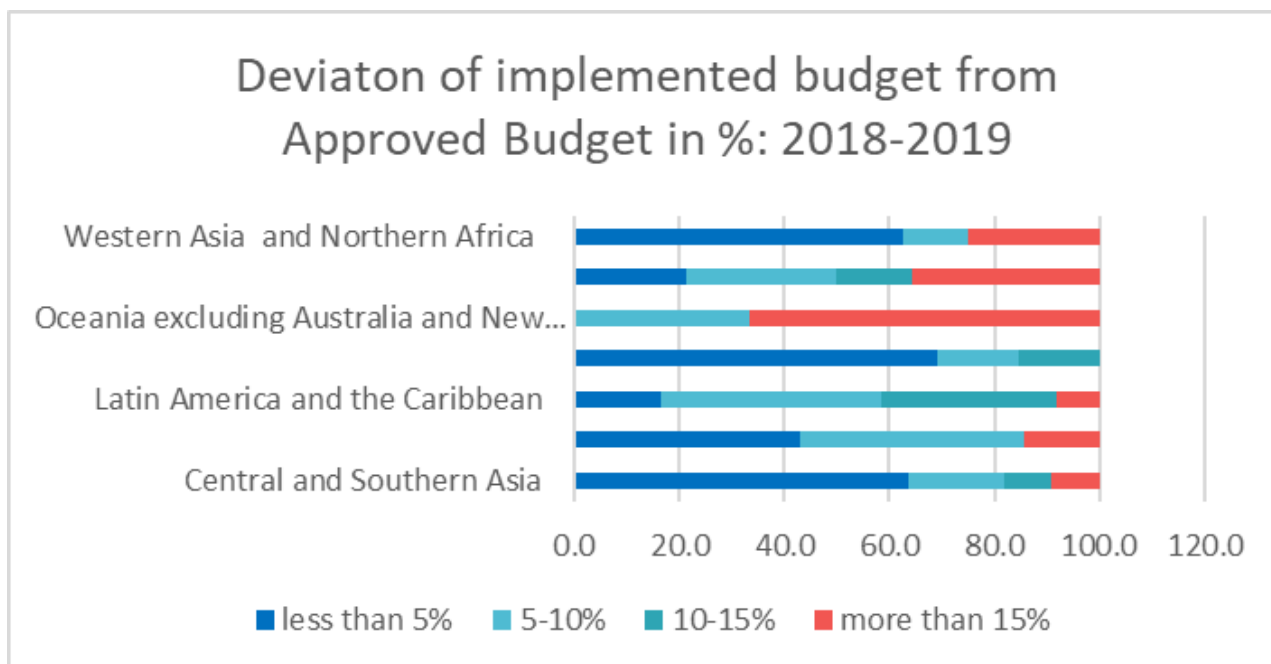
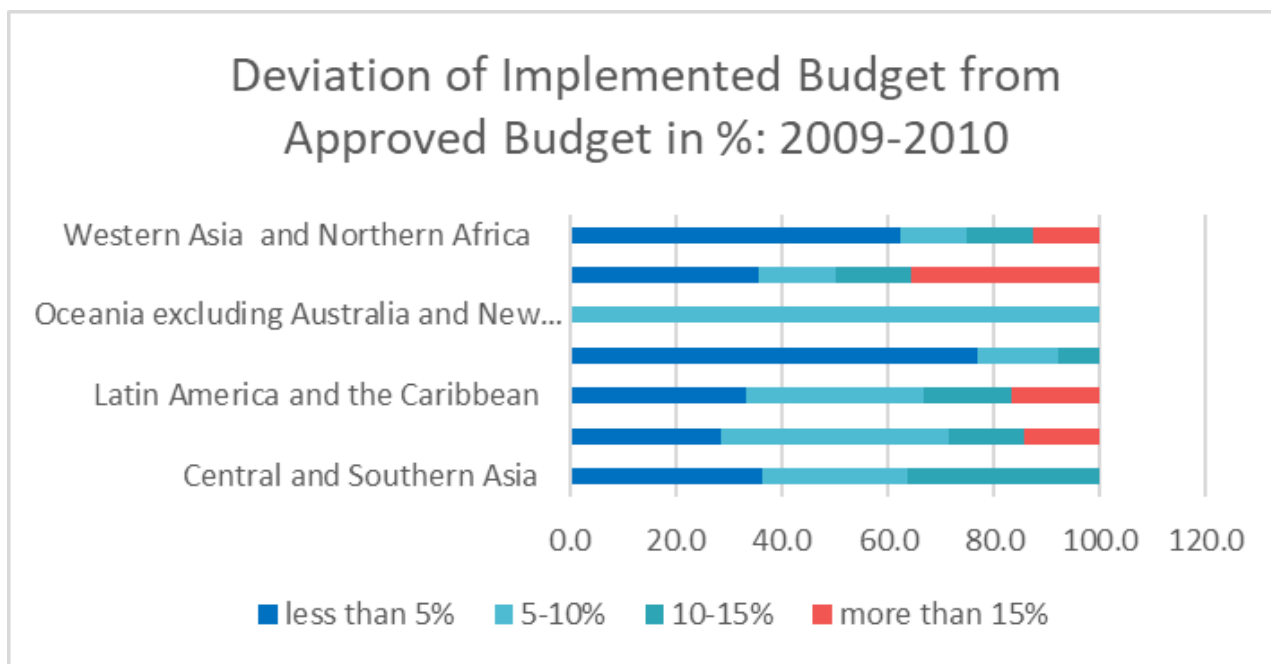
Comparing the budget implementation according regions is done for 67 countries with available data for the periods 2009-2010 and 2018-2019. Analyses of the data show that in some regions the deviations from the originally approved budget are slight, while in others are considerable. In “Central and Southern Asia” Region the countries with up to 10% deviation of the implemented budget as compared to approved budget /corresponding to A and B scoring according PEFA Framework/ have showed progress from 64 % to 82 %, and in “Eastern and South-Eastern Asia” Region from 72 % to 86 %. At the same time regression is noticed in “Latin America and the Caribbean Region” from 67% to 58 % and “Northern America and Europe” Region from 92% to 85%. There is no change in “Western Asia and Northern Africa” Region with 75 % for both periods of time, as well as in Sub-Saharan Africa with 50%.

The regions with the largest number of countries with the slight deviation - up to 5 % /corresponding to A score in PEFA Framework/ of implemented to approved budgets, are “Northern America and Europe” Region – 77% /in 2009-2010/ and 70% /in 2018-2019/, and “Western Asia and Northern Africa” Region with 63 % for both periods of time.

The highest deviation of implemented budgets – more than 15% /corresponding to D score in PEFA Framework/ is noticed in Sub-Sharan Africa: 36 % of the countries for both period of times.

Conclusions of the analysis of PEFA data since 2006 show that:

- overspending and underspending affect budget credibility;
- the average budget deviations vary a lot across countries and while some countries have improved budget reliability, others have regressed;
- the good financial management encompasses more than budget reliability and also relates to transparency and accountability, management of assets and liabilities, preparation and execution of the budget, financial reporting, and external scrutiny and audit;
- few countries perform well in all areas of public financial management



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- PEFA website: Are we Making Needed Progress Towards SDG Goal 16.6: <https://bit.ly/3bNlw5V>
- PEFA Global report: <https://bit.ly/306orkF>
- WBG Data Portal.

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s):

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

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

UNDP

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

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

Parliaments continue to become – slowly – more feminine and younger. Both women and young people remain significantly underrepresented in parliament compared with in society in general, with young women being the least represented group.

Parliamentarians by sex and age

Sex: 2020 was marked by continued gradual progress. Globally, the proportion of women parliamentarians rose by 0.6 points, reaching an all-time high of 25.5 per cent.

Of the 57 countries that held elections in 2020, 25 have legislated quotas (either reserved seats or candidate quotas). Significantly more women were elected to parliament in countries with legislated quotas elected than in those with no legislated quota (27.4 per cent v. 16.7 per cent for single and lower chambers and 25.6 per cent v. 18.2 per cent for upper chambers).

Political party configuration has a significant impact. Women running for office in States with dominant parties experienced strong outcomes. Likewise, where dominant parties that have been championing gender parity experienced setbacks or major change, women’s representation followed suit.

Age: based on data for 161 chambers, 31.1 per cent of parliamentarians are aged 45 or under, up from 28.1 per cent in 2018. Some 17.9 per cent of parliamentarians are 40 or under, up 2.4 points from 2018. Only 2.5 per cent of parliamentarians are 30 years of age or less, an increase of 0.3 points since 2018. Some 23.9 per cent of 121 single and lower chambers have no members under 30, compared with nearly 30 per cent in 2018.

COVID-19: COVID-19 created extensive challenges for elections and campaigning, generating additional risks related to online violence and harassment against women in politics. Further research is needed to determine if the increased significance of digital campaigning in the context of COVID-19 created new opportunities for young people to be elected.

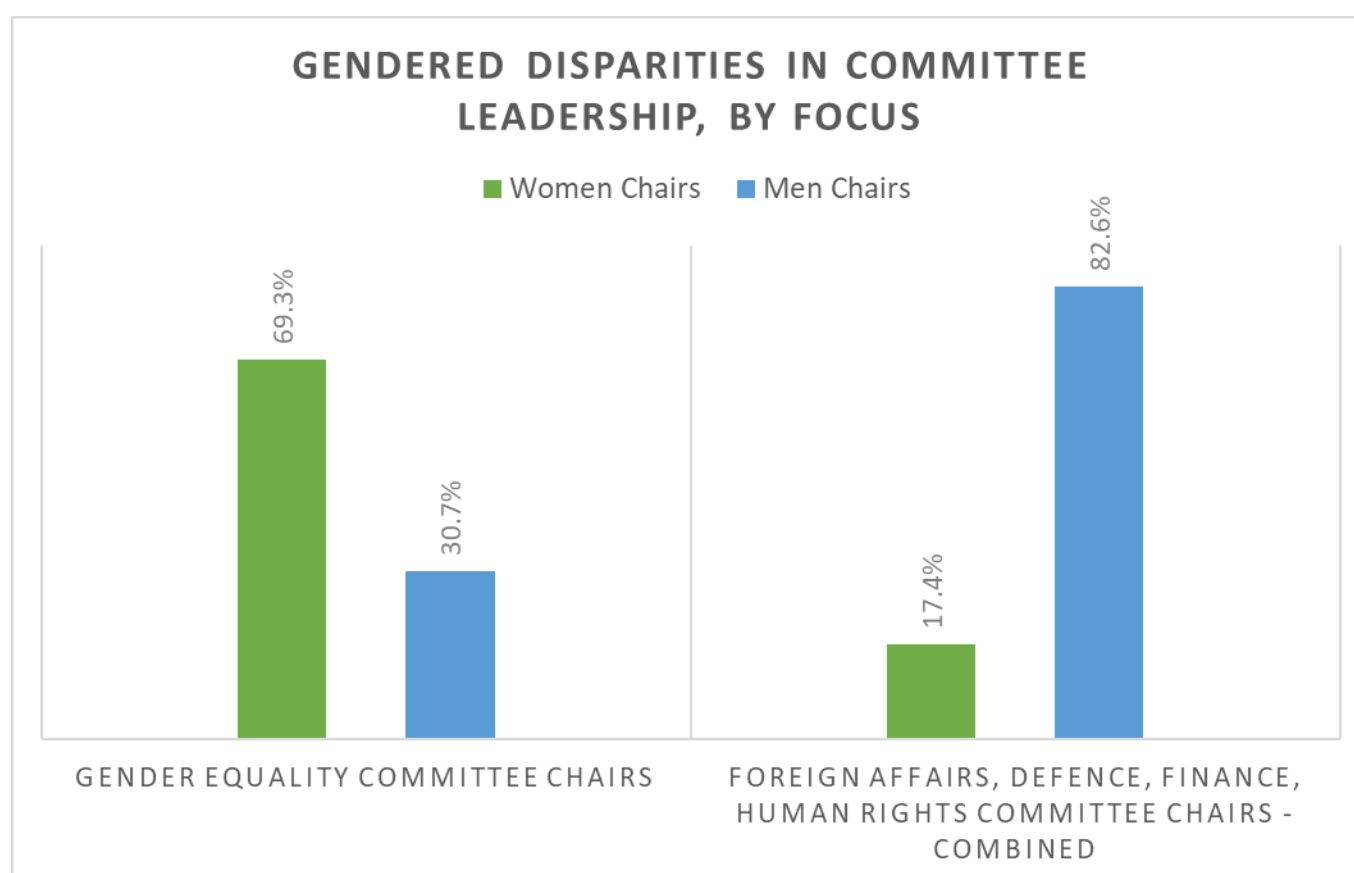
Leadership positions in parliament

Male parliamentarians remain predominant across leadership positions.

Speakers of parliament: the proportion of women Speakers (20.6 per cent) remained unchanged from 2019, and is 5 points below the overall proportion of women parliamentarians (25.6 per cent).

The average age of Speakers – both men and women - is 61 years. In 2020, 10 per cent of Speakers were aged 45 or under, up from seven per cent in 2019. Only 2 out of the 26 Speakers aged 45 or under were women, which is indicative of the obstacles that young women face in acceding to leadership positions.

Committee chairs: women hold 26.8 per cent of posts of committee chair across the five parliamentary committees measured for this indicator, higher than the overall proportion of women parliamentarians. However, this aggregate figure masks gendered disparities. Whereas committees on gender equality are massively chaired by a woman (69.1 per cent), women only chair 17.4 per cent of the committees on foreign affairs, defence, finance and human rights. This is nevertheless a slight improvement from 2019 when women chaired 72.3% of gender equality committees and around 15.1% of the types of committee. Meanwhile, 19% of committee chairs are aged 45 or under.



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, <https://data.ipu.org/>
- IPU (2018). Youth participation in national parliaments, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-12/youth-participation-in-national-parliaments-2018>
- IPU (2021). Youth participation in national parliaments (forthcoming)
- IPU (2021) Women in parliament in 2020: the year in review (forthcoming)

Custodian agency(ies):

IPU, UNDP

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

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

UNDP

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

Indicator 10.6.1/16.8.1: Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations
[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#)

DESA/FFDO

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

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

By providing all children with proof of legal identity from day one, their rights can be protected and universal access to justice and social services can be enabled. Yet the births of around 1 in 4 children under age 5 worldwide have never been officially recorded. While a few regions have reached universal or near universal birth registration, only half African children under five have had their births registered, and levels are even lower among younger children. All of infants in Africa, only 44% have been registered. Registration should take place as soon as possible after a birth has occurred. Registering a birth within a reasonable time (and no later than 30 days after the event) minimizes the risk of misreporting details or failing to report the birth altogether.

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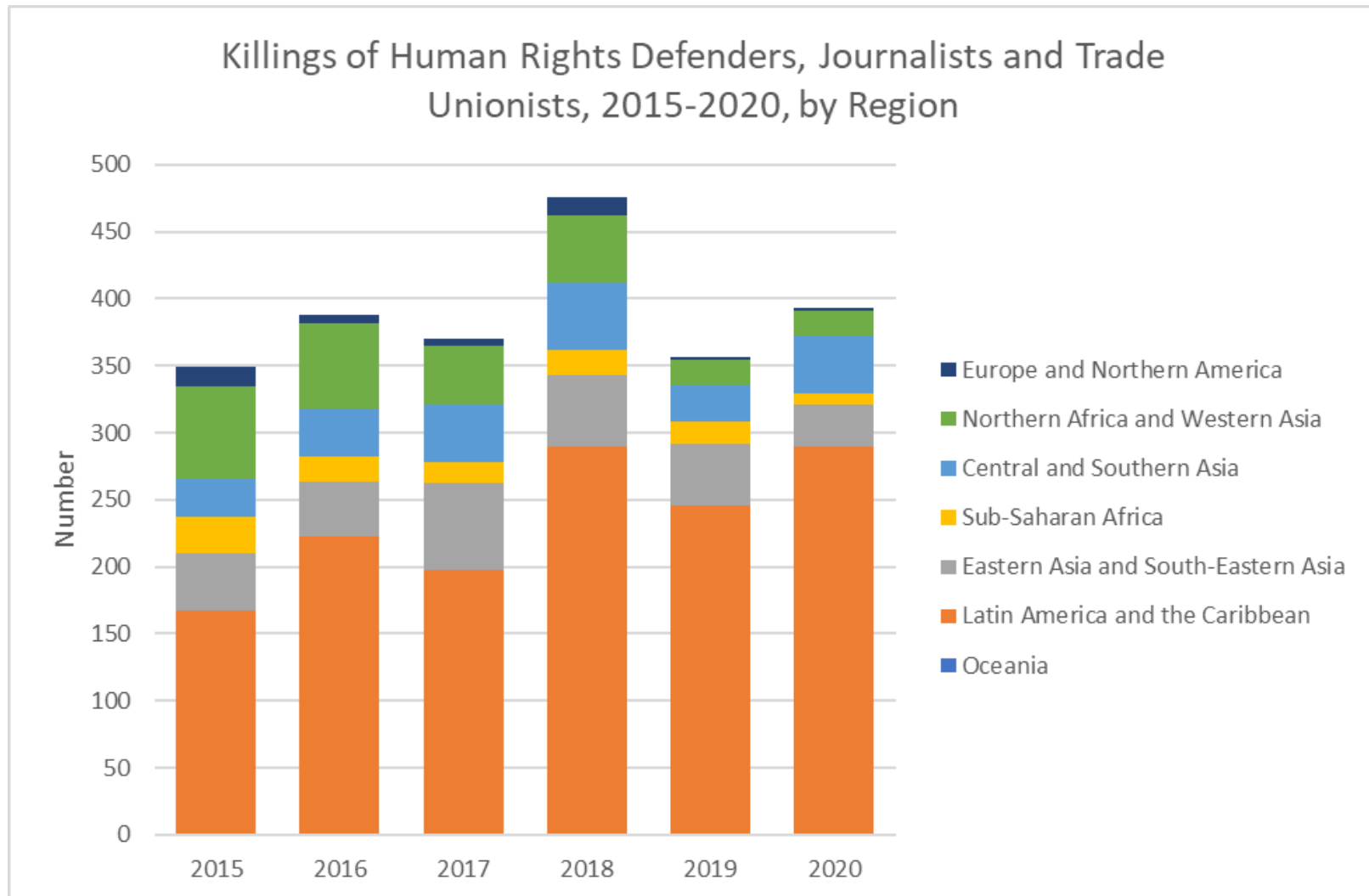
Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

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

Over a third of UN Member States have seen reported killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists

In over one third of UN Member States, killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists have been reported since 2015, even during the pandemic. In 2020, the killing of 331 human rights defenders were reported in 32 countries (an 18 per cent increase from 2019), along with 19 enforced disappearances in 14 countries; women comprised 13 per cent of the victims. Latin America remains the region most affected. In addition, 62 journalists were killed in 2020, the lowest annual death toll in the past decade. The United Nations has cited impunity as a key driver of the killings; in some contexts, pandemic measures have been used to avoid accountability. Mustering the political will to prosecute perpetrators is key to preventing more killings. Member States should also publicly applaud the vital contributions of these courageous individuals towards building more just societies, based on the rule of law.

Number of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists killed, by region, 2015-2020



Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Labour Organization (ILO), 2021.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/35>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1086502>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=26853&LangID=E>
- <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-highlights-fragility-press-freedom-face-covid-19-2020>
- <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373573?posInSet=1&queryId=0216815c-9a38-457c-8e20-b224c31b03e5>
- [UNESCO deplors fatalities among journalists covering the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [UNESCO stresses importance of safety of journalists amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374206>
- <https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists/observatory>

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OHCHR

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

More countries have adopted legal guarantees on access to information in the past years, but more can be done to make these guarantees effective, particularly in times of health crises

Progress has been recorded in the past years in terms of legal guarantees giving individuals a right to access information held by public authorities, but the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down the pace. A number of countries in fact temporarily suspending existing guarantees. Nevertheless, many countries attempted to step forward to make available data concerning virus infections, contracting of emergency equipment, and allocation of rescue package and relief financing.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, at least 19 countries have passed access to information (ATI) laws, reaching 127 in total as of today. During the COVID-19 period in 2020, no new ATI laws were passed. In some countries where the ATI laws are in place, the pandemic has disrupted normal administrative procedures, such as the processing of requests for information and ensuring that records of such requests are maintained. However, it is worth noting that many countries had shown they could make available data on the pandemic, which demonstrated the potential to improve access to information in other areas of life.

UNESCO's [research](#) in 2020⁵ showed that of 62 countries responding to its survey, almost 70% at least have ATI oversight institutions with the power to make binding decisions on releasing information. However, only 65% of them could provide statistics about the number of requests for information. This highlighted the importance of good record-keeping, which affects the availability, traceability and accessibility of adequate, reliable and relevant records in any public bodies. This is particularly relevant in the current circumstance, where a number of countries have been experiencing challenges regarding the reliability, accuracy and completeness of information about the pandemic.

Access to information is a key component of the right to health, making it possible for citizens to follow responses to the crisis, such as confinement rules, regulations of travel and schooling, virus testing, availability of vaccines and medical equipment supplies, as well as economic aid or stimulus packages. When officials fail to publish health information proactively, or to respond to information

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- IPDC Council welcomes UNESCO's first global report on public access to information: <https://en.unesco.org/news/ipdc-council-welcomes-unescos-first-global-report-public-access-information>
- The right to information in times of crisis: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374369>

Custodian agency(ies):

UNESCO-UIS

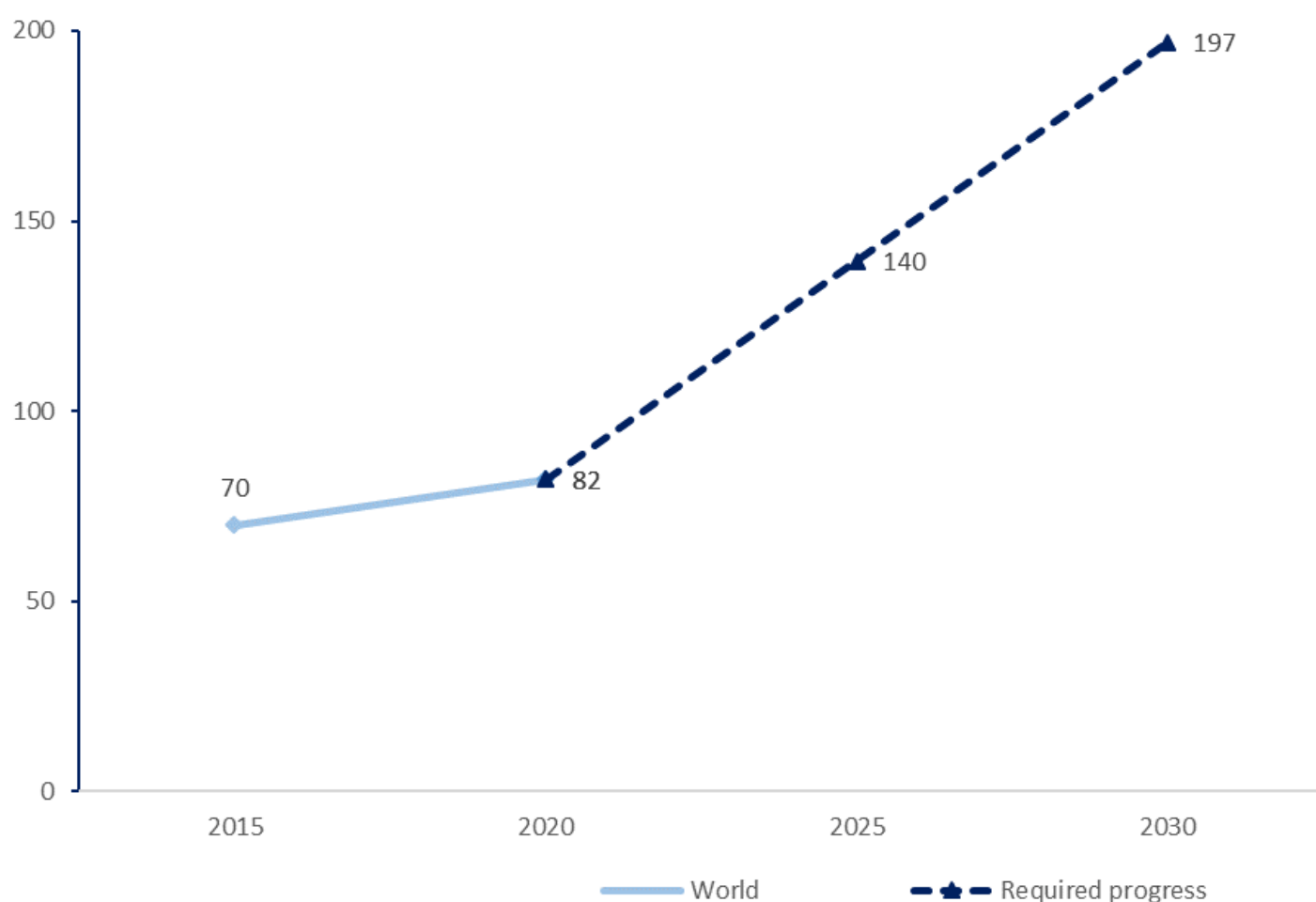
⁵ From promise to practice: access to information for sustainable development;2020 UNESCO report on the monitoring and reporting of SDG indicator 16.10.2 (Public access to information): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375022>

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

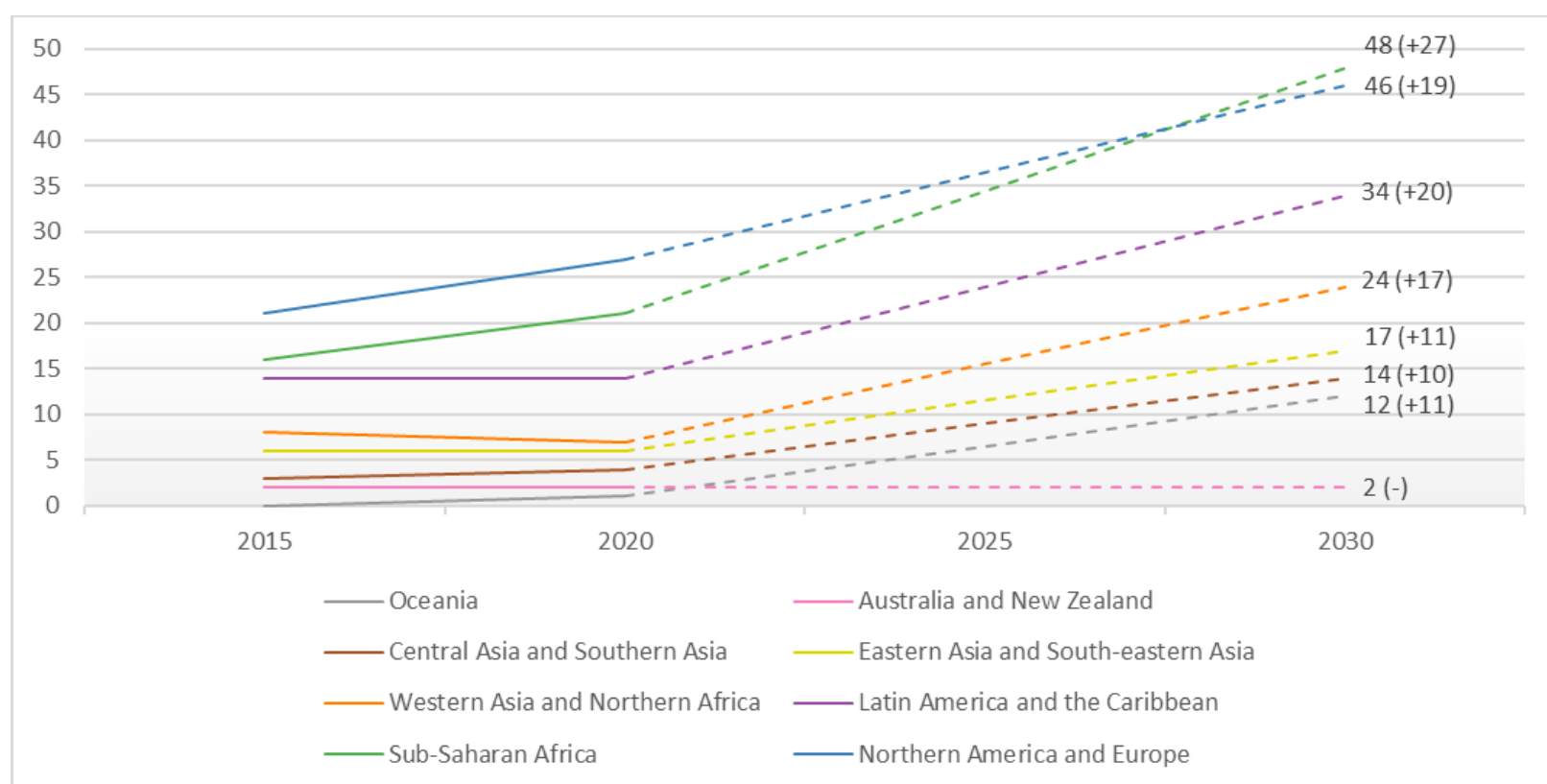
Indicator 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
Modest gains in national human rights institutions will not be enough to meet the 2030 target, despite their critical role during the pandemic

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are independent bodies mandated to promote and protect human rights. They have played a critical role during the pandemic by examining and monitoring impacts on health and other areas and by highlighting the human rights implications of the crisis. They have also combated the spread of inaccurate and misleading information and worked to protect vulnerable groups. In 2020, 82 countries had independent NHRIs that successfully achieved compliance with international standards. This represents a 17 per cent improvement from 2015. One in three LDCs now have an internationally compliant NHRI, compared to one in five in 2015. These modest gains, however, are not enough to meet the 2030 target. Progress has stalled in Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Western Asia, and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, where no new independent NHRIs have been recognized or established since 2018. Efforts will need to be redoubled to establish and strengthen NHRIs and ensure broader access to human rights promotion and protection services.

Number of countries and territories with independent NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles (2015-2020), and required progress to meet the target (2020-2030)



Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2021.



Progress analysis: [See progress chart](#)

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- A/HRC/45/L.20 (<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G20/243/31/PDF/G2024331.pdf?OpenElement>)
- NHRIs and COVID-19 (<https://ganhri.org/covid-19/>)

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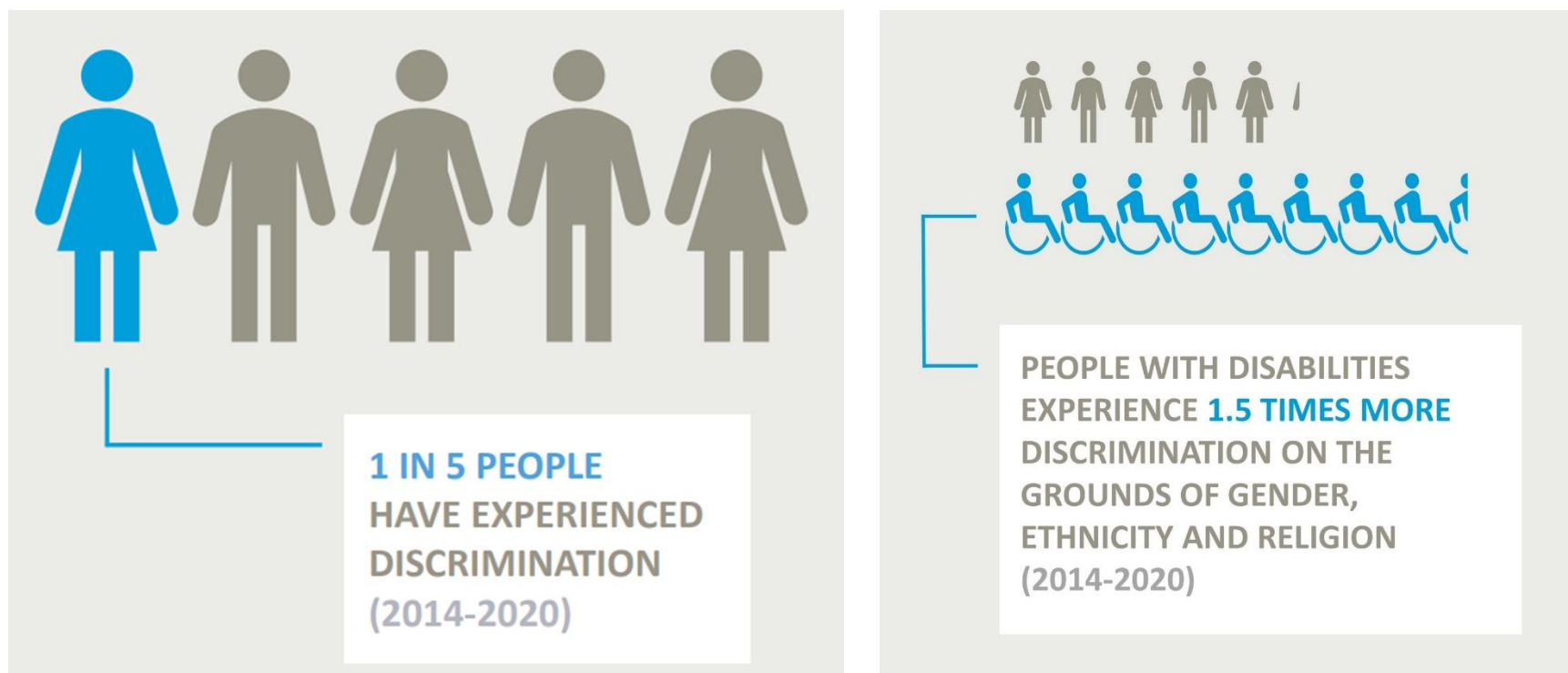
Target 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

In mitigating the effects of COVID-19, focus is needed on women and persons with disabilities who are facing greater discrimination

Almost one in five people reported having personally experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds established by international human rights law, according to data from 44 countries over the period 2014 to 2020. Moreover, women are more likely to be victims of discrimination than men. Among those with disabilities, one in three personally experienced discrimination, with higher levels still among women with disabilities. Persons with disabilities experience more discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, and religion, on average 1.5 times more.

The restrictions necessary to combat COVID-19 pose a considerable obstacle to data collection operations related to discrimination. However, it is even more essential that timely and disaggregated data collection on experiences of discrimination continue. As many of the groups already experiencing higher discrimination are further negatively impacted by COVID-19, particularly with regard to their health and socio-economic situation, such data are key to inform UN and countries' COVID-19 responses that mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic on those most left behind.



Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2021.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- OHCHR Annual Report 2020, Presentation to Member States by Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27162&LangID=E>
- <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/covid-19/covid-19-impact-on-labour-market-statistics/>
- http://mics.unicef.org/news_entries/178/PLANNING-AND-IMPLEMENTATION-OF-FACE-TO-FACE-HOUSEHOLD-SURVEYS-CONTINUE-TO-BE-AFFECTED-BY-COVID-19
- https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/documents/covid19-report-ccsa_vol2.pdf

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