The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2024. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The 'Extended Report' aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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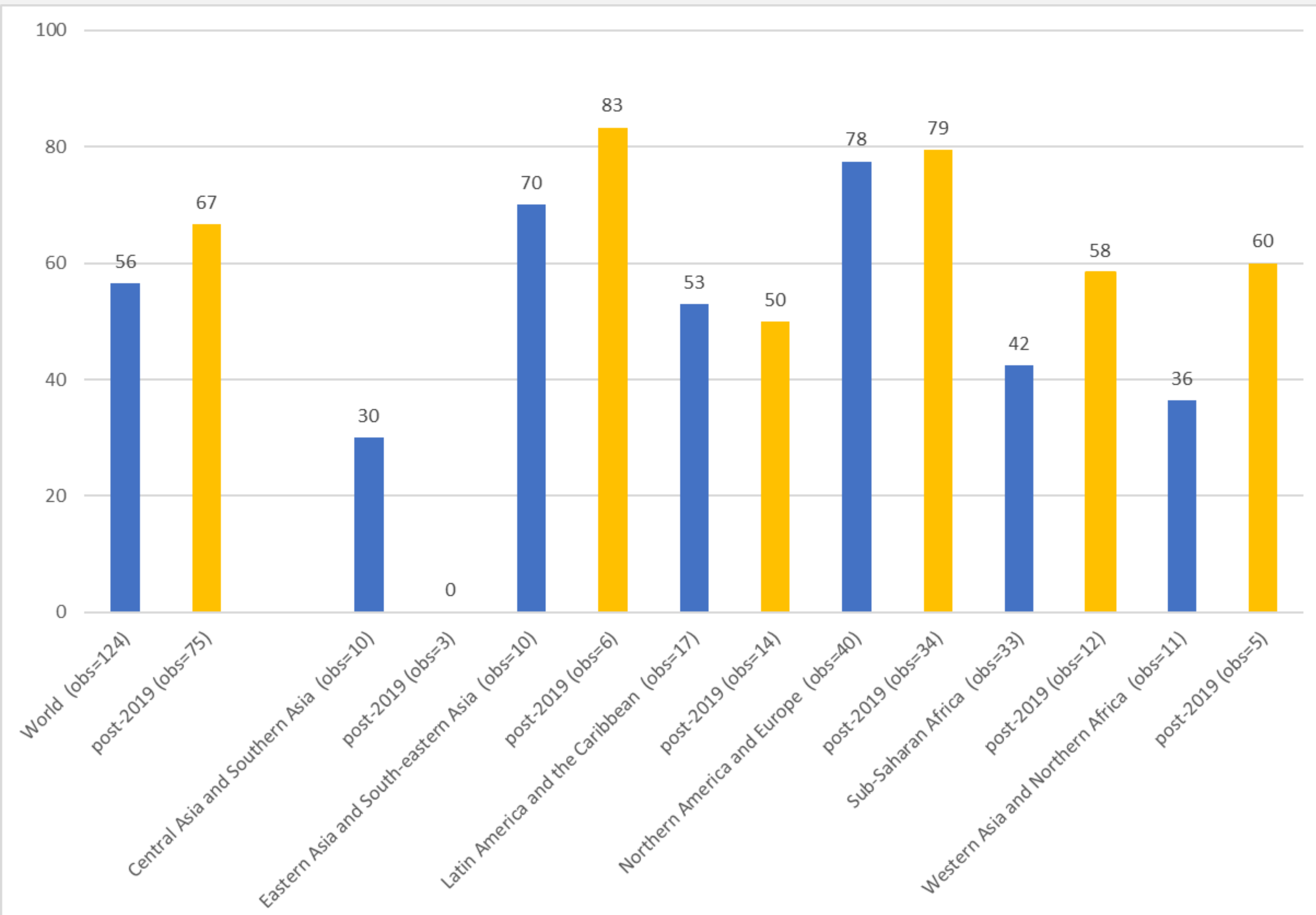
Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Indicator 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

Majority of countries have improved shared prosperity, but progress has been uneven

Across 124 countries with data, more than a half of them have achieved income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. The overall picture masks important regional differences. 78% of countries in Northern America and Europe and 70% of countries Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia have experienced bottom 40 growth that was faster than the growth in the mean, whereas only 30% in Central Asia and Southern Asia, 36% in Western Asia and Northern Africa, and 42% in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Latin America and the Caribbean, countries are split roughly equally. Overall, inequality remains a concern in most parts of the world and growth has been regressive even in some advanced economies.

Figure 1: Percent of countries with growth of the bottom 40% higher than the national average



Source: Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: This chart shows data for up to 2023 with blue bars and only post-2019 period with yellow bars.

A subsample of 75 typically richer countries with data covering the period of the pandemic suggests that two-thirds of countries have seen the incomes of the bottom 40 percent grow faster than the national average. Safety nets are often an important component of the welfare state in richer countries. During the pandemic, more prosperous countries could afford to support poor and vulnerable workers, many of whom lost their sources of livelihood. Further, the pandemic weakened economic activities across several industries and a wide range of the income distribution was affected. With transfers going to the poorest, while overall growth was limited, more countries have experienced a boost in shared prosperity, compared to the full sample of countries including both pandemic and pre-pandemic data. In Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, in Northern America and Europe, in Sub-Saharan Africa, and in Western Asia and Northern Africa, the post-2019 period has been more progressive. Only Latin America and the Caribbean has had a lower share of countries improving shared prosperity. A lack of data in the post-2019 period makes it hard to generalize the findings from these regions.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Samuel Kofi Tetteh-Baah, World Bank; Daniel Mahler, World Bank; Christoph Lakner, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

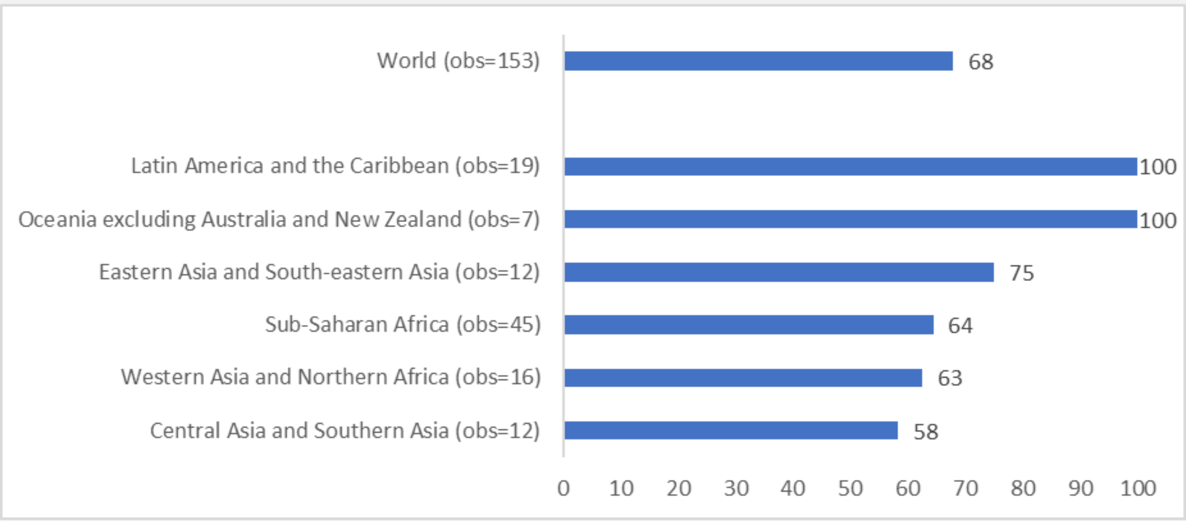
Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Indicator 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The share of population living on less than half the median reduced slightly during COVID-19

Since 2000, two-thirds of 153 countries with data have reduced the share of their population living on less than half the median. Across all regions, more than half of countries have seen improvements in within-country inequality. The highest gains occurred in the Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. See Figure 1.

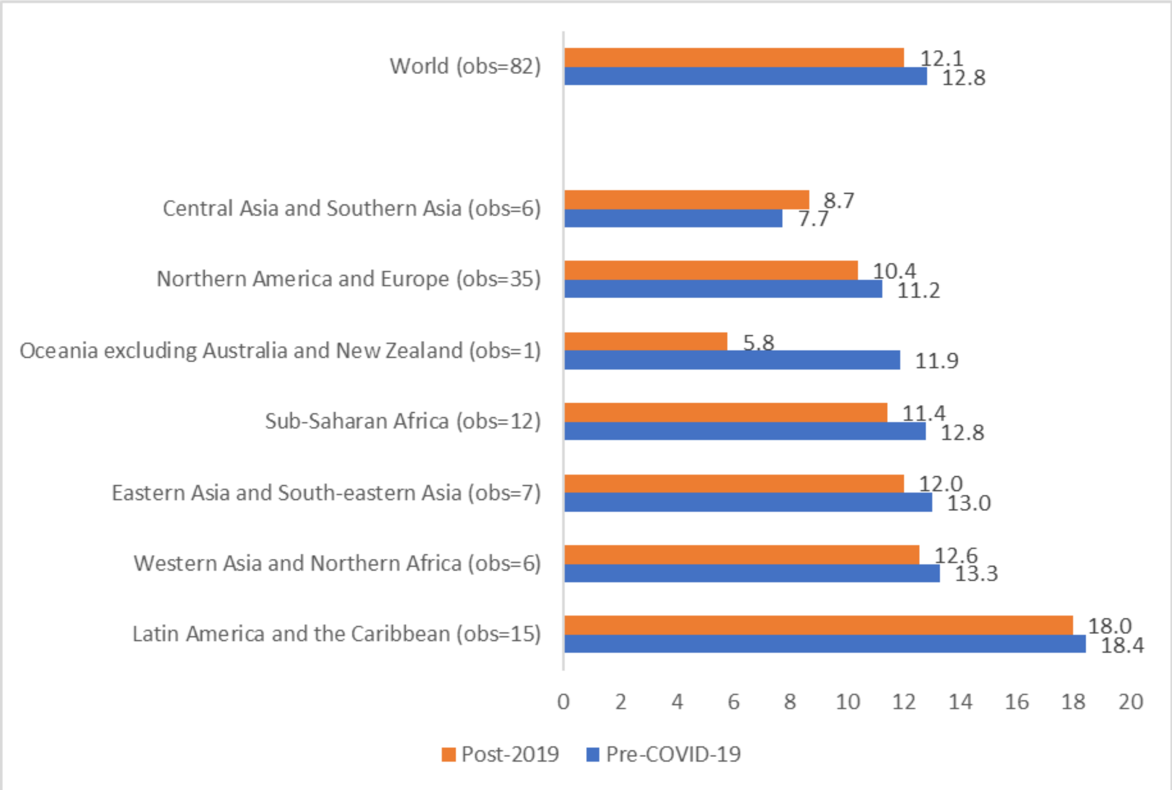
Figure 1: Percent of countries with declining share of population living on less than half the median since 2000



Source: Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Development Indicators (WDI)

This progress in reducing within-country inequality continued further during the pandemic. Data from a comparable set of 82 countries, representing 70 percent of the world's population, suggest that the proportion of population living on less than half the median reduced marginally post-2019 relative to the period before the pandemic (2015-2019). Globally, the share of population living on less than half the median declined from 12.8% to 12.1%. See Figure2. Improvement in within-country inequality occurred across all regions with data, except for Central Asia and Southern Asia where the proportion of people living on less than half the median is relatively low at 9%.

Figure 2: Percent of population living on less than half the median – before and after COVID-19



Source: Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Development Indicators (WDI)

As is the case globally, the reduction in within-country inequality is marginal across all regions. The proportion of population living on less than half the median reduced by up to 1 percentage points in all regions, except for Sub-Saharan Africa where the reduction is up to 1.4 percentage points. However, Sub-Saharan Africa is underrepresented – only 12 of 45 countries with survey data are included due to a lack of recent data from the region. The improvements in within-country inequality do not change the relative rankings of regions. Latin America and the Caribbean has particularly high levels of within-country inequality – at least 18% of the population live on less than half the median. The levels of within-country inequality are lower and more similar across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Northern America and Europe.

The positive trend of lower within-country inequality during the pandemic is explained in a large part by social assistance programs rolled out in many countries, especially the richer ones which had more fiscal space. Yet, the fact that more than 12% of people live on less than half the median in their countries calls for more interventions to reduce within-country inequality further going forward.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/medians-new-best-friend-introducing-sdg-1021
- World Bank (2022). Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022: Correcting Course. Washington, DC: World Bank

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Samuel Kofi Tetteh-Baah, World Bank; Daniel Mahler, World Bank; Christoph Lakner, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

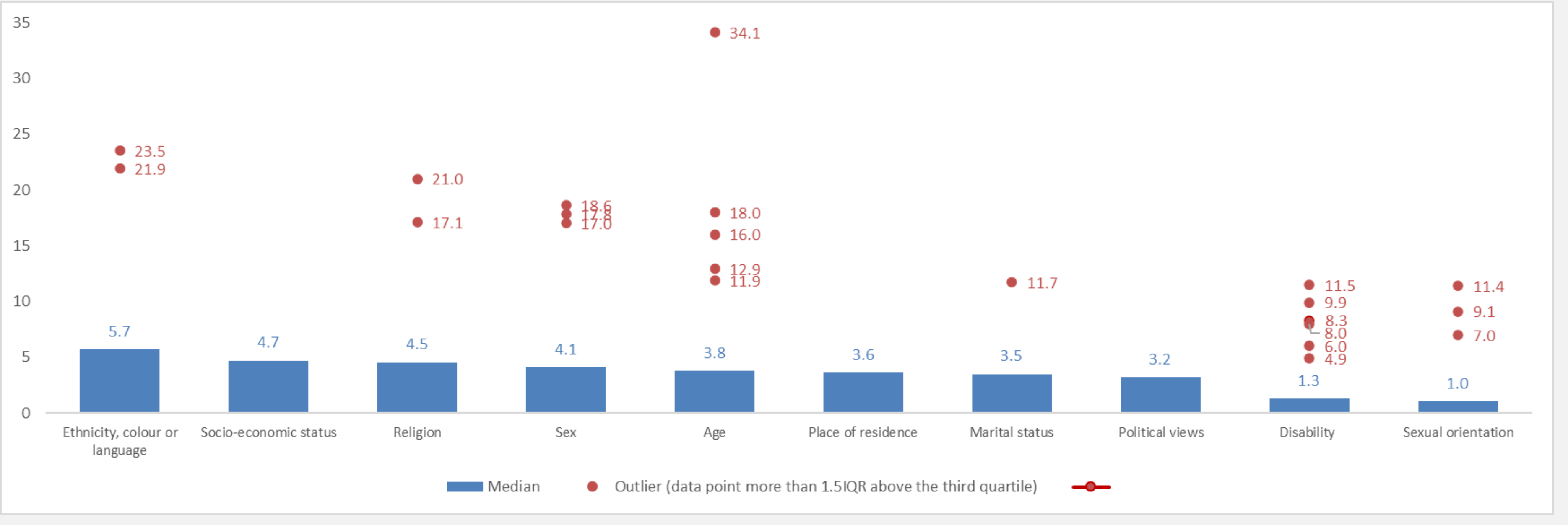
Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Indicator 10.3.1 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

While more countries measure discrimination, one person in six is still a victim

The number of countries measuring discrimination has increased by 25% since last reporting. But the harsh reality remains: one person in six encounter discrimination over a 12 month period. Racial discrimination prevails. Discrimination by color or ethnic background continues to affect large population groups. Discrimination based on age, gender, religion or belief are also pervasive. While nearly 10% of the population surveyed report being discriminated on the grounds of social origin or socio-economic status, only a third of countries monitor this ground.

Figure 1: Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and country, 2015-2023

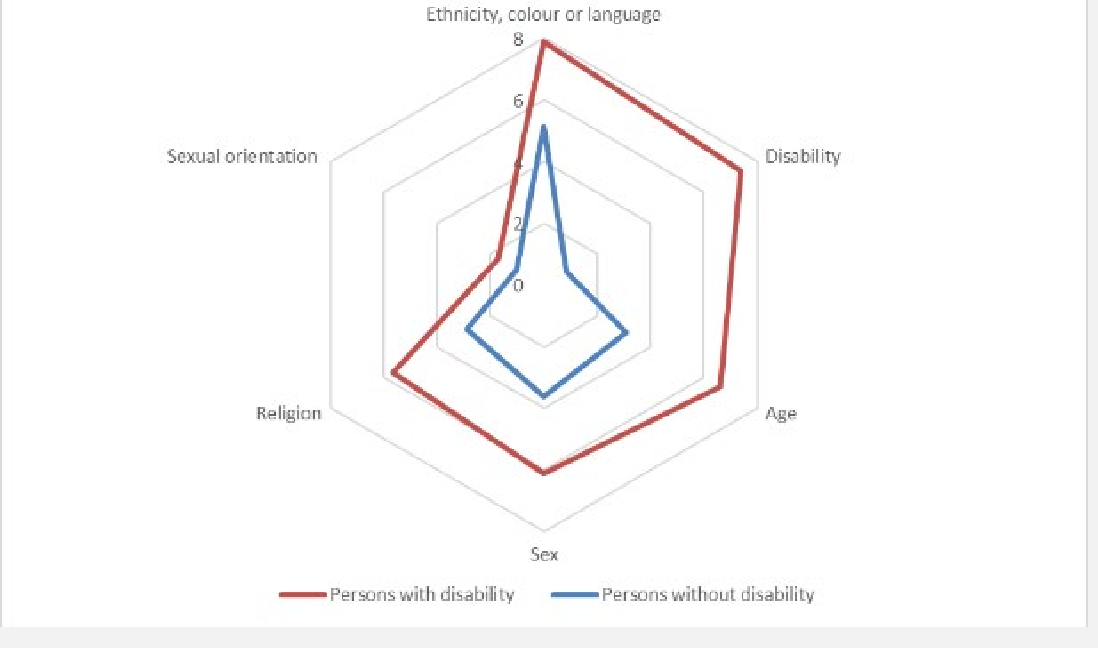


Global averages hide wide disparities

On certain grounds, levels of discrimination can sometimes be significantly higher than the global average, such as color or ethnic background, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or sexual orientation. Globally, women face four times more sex-based discrimination than men. One in three persons with disabilities report being discriminated. For every person without disabilities discriminated against, two persons with disabilities are discriminated, based on multiple grounds.

While data availability has significantly improved since 2015, not half of the countries measure discrimination in everyday life. Fewer countries carry out sufficiently regular and disaggregated surveys to measure its prevalence and inform their efforts to eliminate discrimination.

Figure 2: Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and disability status, 2015-2023



Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR

Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Indicator 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP

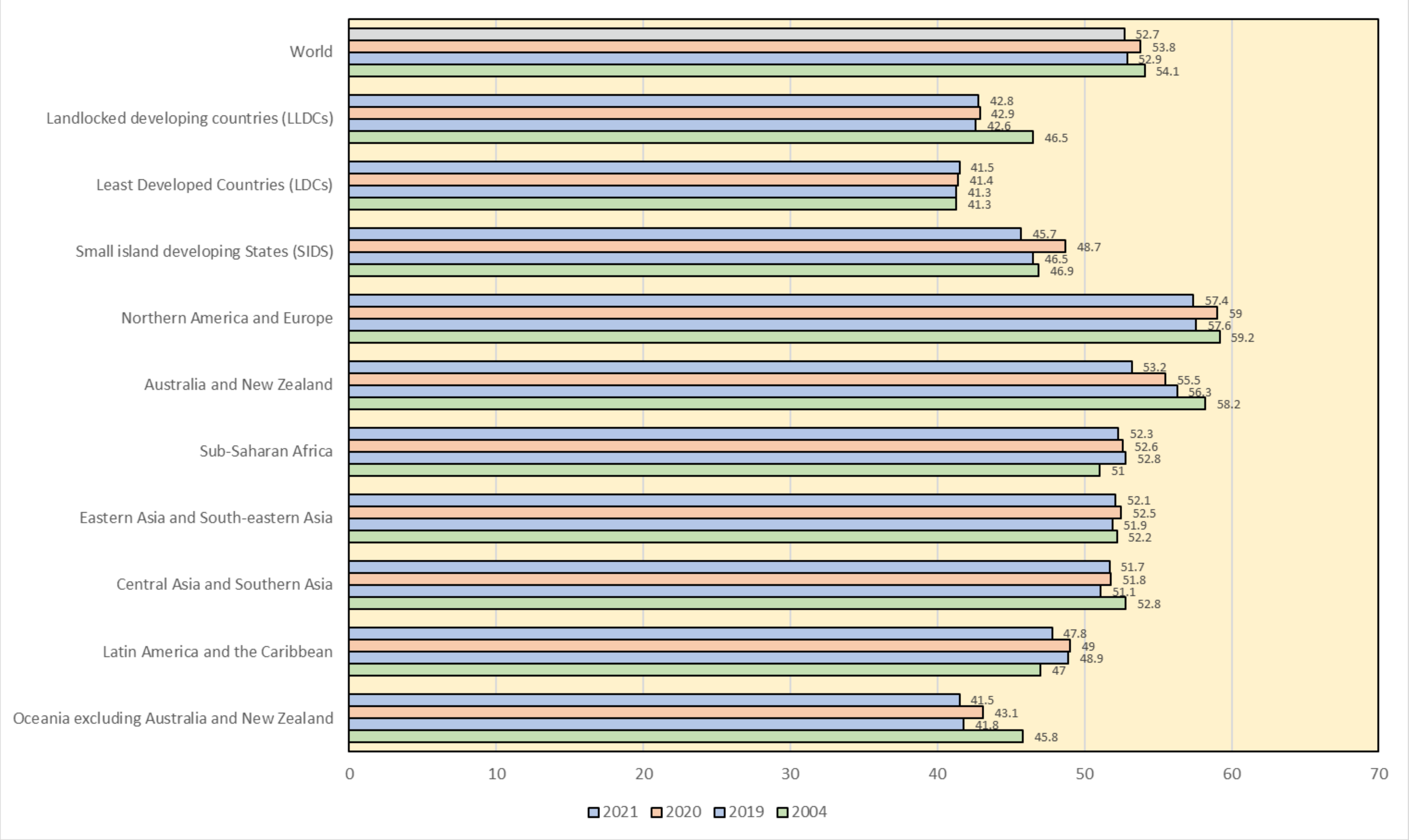
The labour income share in GDP resumed in 2021 its long-run decline, posing an upward pressure for income inequality

In 2021, 56 per cent of persons above the age of 15 worldwide were employed, meaning that labour income shapes the lives of 3.3 billion workers and their families. A declining labour income share in GDP reflects that gains in labour productivity do not translate fully to labour compensation. This mismatch comes with higher returns to capital, which can increase inequality, as capital income is concentrated among the affluent.

The labour income share in GDP declined from 54.1 per cent in 2004 to 52.7 per cent in 2021. This global decline represents an average of US$568 (PPP) per worker per year. With the exception of 2020, the registered decline is consistent with related evidence going back to the 1970s. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a sharp increase in the global labour income share, which rose to 53.8 per cent from 52.9 per cent in 2019. However, this increase in labour income share should not be misinterpreted as a net gain for workers. Global labour income actually decreased by 1.5 per cent in 2020 but global output experienced an even greater decrease of 3 per cent. In 2021, as global output recovered, the labour income share experienced a notable drop.

Central Asia and Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), Northern America and Europe and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) registered a decline in the labour income share between 2004 and 2021. In contrast, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) experienced increases in the labour income share. In general, the increases are occurring in regions with a lower initial value. However, the decreasing trend of labour income share observed after 2019 in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean is worrying as the pandemic could erase the gains achieved in the last two decades.

Labour income share (%), 2004 to 2021



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Indicator 10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Indicator 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators

Custodian agency(ies): IMF

Target 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Indicator 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

The voice and participation of developing countries[1] in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance needs to be broadened and strengthened

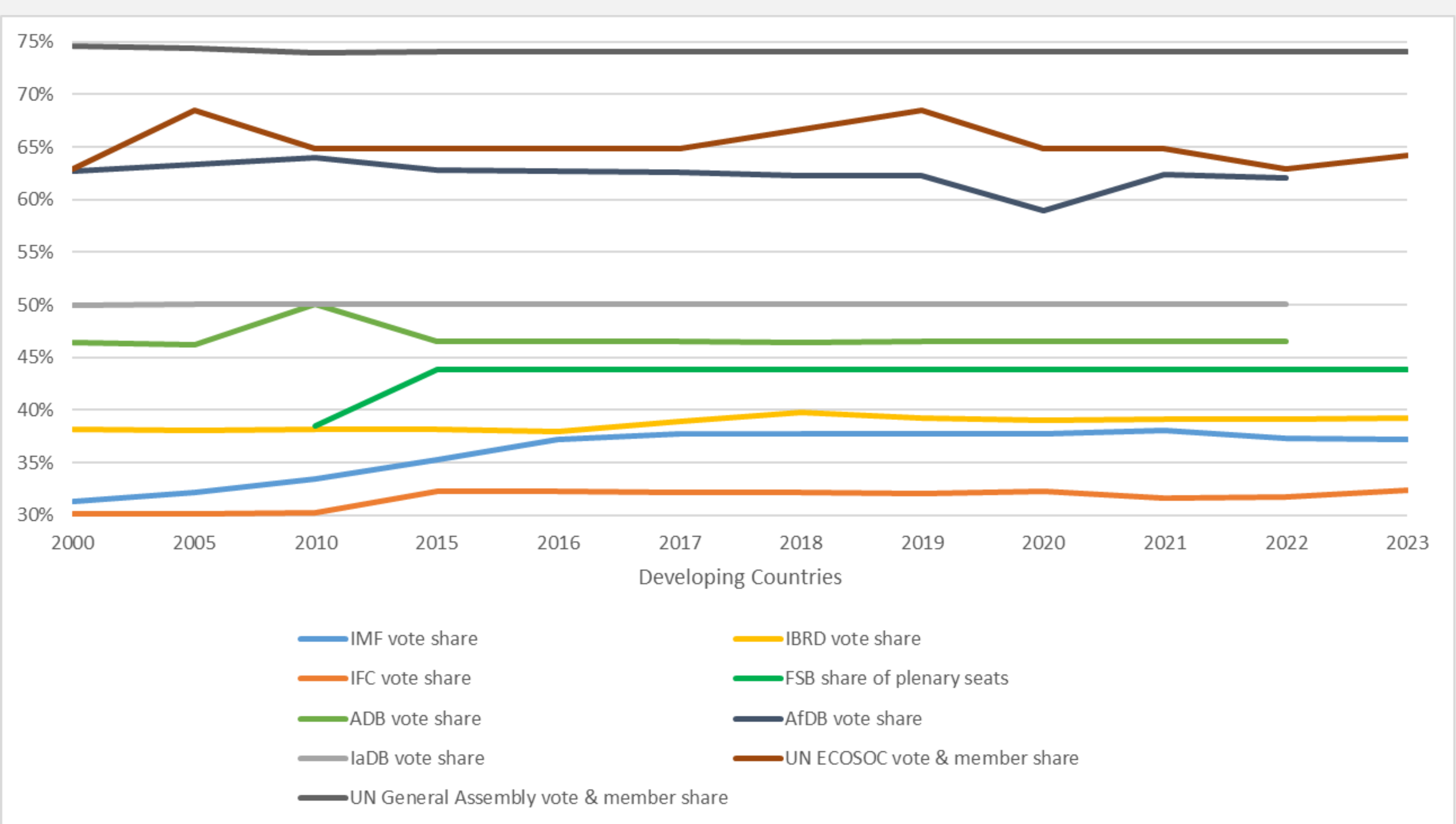
The voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance needs to be broadened and strengthened. While countries in developing regions represent over 74 per cent of the membership of the United Nations General Assembly, which utilises a one-member-one-vote system, their voting share in other international organizations remains far below these levels. Developing country membership in other United Nations bodies fluctuates year by year.

No significant changes in these countries' voting rights were registered in recent years at any of the international economic institutions. The World Trade Organisation operates on a one-country-one-vote system similar to the General Assembly. Reforms agreed by the World Bank Board of Governors in October 2018 have been phased in over time, as countries subscribe to their new capital shares, but developing countries remain holding only 39 per cent of voting rights at the World Bank's main lending arm, still short of the 75 per cent they represent in the World Bank membership. At the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's private sector lending arm, developing countries have just over 32 per cent of the voting rights.

Two general reviews of quotas at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been completed, in 2019 and in 2023, without changes to the distribution of quotas, which help determine voting rights. Developing countries retain 37 percent of the voting rights at the IMF. A new quota formula, which was supposed to be agreed in 2014, is now due for agreement in 2025.

Other international institutions, such as regional development banks, have not undertaken any reforms to their voting rights since 2015 and have not yet announced plans to do so.

Countries in developing regions' voting rights in international organisations, 2000–2023 (percentage)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- 2024 Financing for Sustainable Development Report
- International financial system and development: report of the Secretary-General (A/78/178)

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA

Custodian agency(ies): DESA/FFDO

[1] There is no established convention for the designation of "developed" and "developing" countries or areas in the United Nations system. In common practice, Japan in Asia, Canada and the United States in northern America, Australia and New Zealand in Oceania, and Europe are considered "developed" regions or areas. Until a definition of developing countries is agreed, this indicator provisionally aggregates all countries located in "developing regions" as identified in the M49 code for the purposes of monitoring "developing countries".

Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination

Custodian agency(ies): ILO, World Bank

Indicator 10.7.2 Proportion of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

Custodian agency(ies): DESA Population Division, IOM

Indicator 10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination

Among multiple crises, 2023 becomes deadliest year on record for migrants

In 2023, the world witnessed a heartbreaking milestone as it became the deadliest year on record for migrants. Amid crises across the globe, the loss of lives during migratory journeys reached unprecedented levels, highlighting the urgent need for safer legal pathways for people on the move.

Safe and regular migration pathways are limited and inaccessible to many, pushing hundreds of thousands to embark on perilous journeys through irregular and unsafe routes, which often endanger their lives. The International Organization for Migration's Missing Migrants Project, which provides data for SDG indicator 10.7.3, monitors and records deaths and disappearances during migration. Since 2015, over 57,000 migrant deaths have been documented. However, the challenges in data collection and limited response to address this issue mean that the actual number of lives lost is likely much higher.

In 2023, 8,177 migrant fatalities were recorded, making it the deadliest year on record. Most of these tragic incidents occurred on routes taken by migrants affected by crises. Iran stands out as the country where the highest number of deaths during transit took place, with 1,069 recorded fatalities (13% of global migrant deaths). All victims were Afghans escaping decades of conflict, instability, and economic crisis. Subsequently, 2,828 deaths of migrants transiting through Libya, Tunisia, Greece, and Italy were recorded in 2023. The Central Mediterranean route, the most dangerous sea crossing globally since 2015, was the site of 87.5% of fatalities across these countries.

In Mexico and the United States, 805 deaths of migrants in transit were recorded in 2023, nearly 10% of all deaths recorded globally. The US-Mexico border has long been a hotspot for migrant fatalities, where individuals lose their lives on a near-daily basis, often drowning while attempting to cross the Rio Grande or succumbing to exposure in the desert that spans much of this border. Unprecedented numbers of vulnerable migrants sought to reach the United States in 2023 due to a combination of social, environmental, and political challenges, and economic crises in their countries of origin.

At least 440 migrants from the Horn of Africa died in Yemen while attempting to reach Saudi Arabia, often due to violence. The decade-long armed conflict in Yemen likely puts migrants at risk as they transit through the country, with most recorded deaths taking place at the border with Saudi Arabia.

Since 2015, the top countries of origin of people losing their lives on migration routes are countries where there has been an active armed conflict, including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

SDG indicator 10.7.3 serves as the sole measure of safe migration in the SDGs. The alarming figures from 2023 underscore a growing global risk of people losing their lives or going missing during migration. Urgent action is needed to establish regular migration pathways prioritizing the safety of all migrants undertaking these journeys.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Visit the International Organization for Migration's Missing Migrants Project website where you can access thematic reports and download data for indicator 10.7.3 disaggregated by sex, age group. International Organization for Migration (iom.int)

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Andrea García Borja, IOM

Custodian agency(ies): IOM

Indicator 10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

Number of refugees as share of world population has more than doubled since 2015

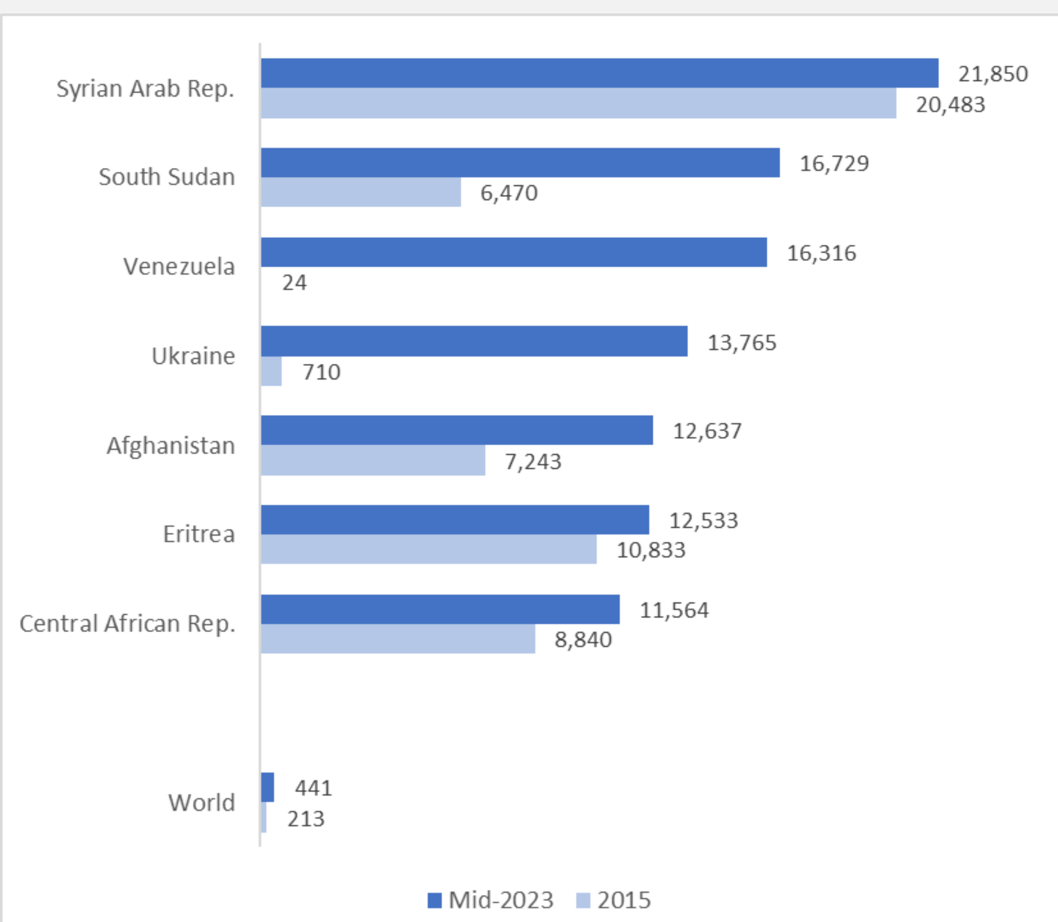
As displacement rises globally have become more frequent, intense and remain unresolved, a record number of 35.8 million refugees remained forcibly displaced from their countries due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order at mid-2023. The number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate, including other people in need of international protection, has increased year-on-year for more than a decade and has doubled within a span of less than seven years.

Measured as a proportion of the global population, 441 out of 100,000 people, or 1 in 225, were refugees by 30 June 2023. This proportion has more doubled than since 2015, when 213 out of 100,000 people in the world were refugees. The countries that have seen the greatest proportion of their national population include countries from which refugees have been forced to flee for many years, as well as those reflecting more recent conflicts.

The Syrian refugee population remains the largest globally both in absolute terms as well as a proportion of the national population, as has been the case for the last decade. More than 6.5 million Syrian refugees were reported at mid-year in 130 countries, equivalent to more than one in four Syrians globally. The proportion of Eritreans and nationals of the Central African Republic who have been forced to flee from their home also saw no improvement since 2015, as more than one in ten citizens from both countries remained refugees by mid-2023. Unresolved - long-running displacement situations may reignite and re-escalate, as seen in Afghanistan and South Sudan, from where, at mid-year 2023, 6.1 million and 2.2 million people remained forcibly displaced. Two situations particularly, represent the increasing intensity of displacement situations. Since 2017, Venezuelans have been displaced, primarily to neighbouring countries in South America. At mid-2023, the number of Venezuelans remaining forcibly displaced in other countries stood at 5.6 million. Following the Russian invasion of in February 2022, millions of Ukrainian refugees were forced to flee. A total of 5.9 million Ukrainians were refugees at mid-year 2023. In the most recent re-escalation, war broke out in Sudan, forcing several hundred thousand people to flee to neighbouring countries.

While most people who have been forced to flee want to return home, this can only occur in safety and dignity if lasting peace is achieved, which remained beyond reach during 2022 and the first half of 2023. Other durable solutions such as resettlement to third countries or naturalization in refugees' countries of asylum remain available to too few refugees. In a strong sign of solidarity with people forced to flee, the international community came together for 2023 Global Refugee Forum, promising concrete measures and commitments for refugees and the communities who host them. Pledges included measures to ease the pressure on countries hosting refugees; to enhance refugees' self-reliance; to expand third country solutions available to refugees; and to improve conditions in countries of origin.

Countries of origin with the highest proportion of the population who are refugees; per 100,000 people, Mid-2023 & 2015



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database (https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/)
- UNHCR, Global Trends report (https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html)
- UNHCR, Mid-Year Trends report (https://www.unhcr.org/mid-year-trends.html)

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Janis Kreuder, UNHCR; Edgar Scrase, UNHCR

Custodian agency(ies): UNHCR

Target 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

Custodian agency(ies): ITC, UNCTAD, WTO

Target 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Indicator 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

Since 2015, total official resource flows have increased by from USD 290 billion to USD 499 billion in 2022

In 2022, total receipts by developing countries from DAC donors, multilateral agencies and other providers were USD 499.0 billion, of which USD 246 billion were in the form of Official development assistance (ODA). Private flows, which tend to be more volatile than ODA, had fallen dramatically in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have increased since to reach USD 200 billion in 2022.

Since 2015, total official resource flows have increased by from USD 290 billion to USD 499 billion in 2022. The proportion of Official Development Assistance decreased from 54% in 2015 to 49% in 2022 although it has experienced a lot of variations in the period due to the volatility of private flows.

Within total ODA receipts in 2022, 66% were from DAC countries, 7% from other bilateral donors and 27% from multilateral organizations.

Asia was the region that received the largest volume of flows (USD 190 billion or 38% of the total) followed by the Americas (USD 9.5 billion or 19% of the total). Lower Middle-Income Countries were the group that received the larger amounts (USD 131.8 billion) followed by Least Developed countries (USD 60.2 billion).

From the bilateral donor perspective, the US, Germany and Japan were the countries at the origin of larger flows towards developing countries (USD 228.7 billion, USD 55.5 billion and USD 54.2 billion respectively.

Custodian agency(ies): OECD

Target 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Indicator 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

Digitalization leads to a decline in remittance costs

In 2023, the average cost of remittances has continued to decline. In 2023, the global average for sending $200 was recorded at 6.18 percent, 0.12 percentage points drop from 2022 and 3.12-percentage-point drop from 2011. However, this figure is still above the 3 percent SDG target.

To complement the Global Average, the World Bank introduced the SmaRT indicator in Q2 2016, which aims to reflect the cost that a savvy consumer with access to sufficiently complete information could pay to transfer remittances in each corridor. The global SmaRT index has been below the 5 percent since 2018 and was last recorded at 3.36 percent. Seventy-five percent of all corridors have a SmaRT average less than 5 percent.

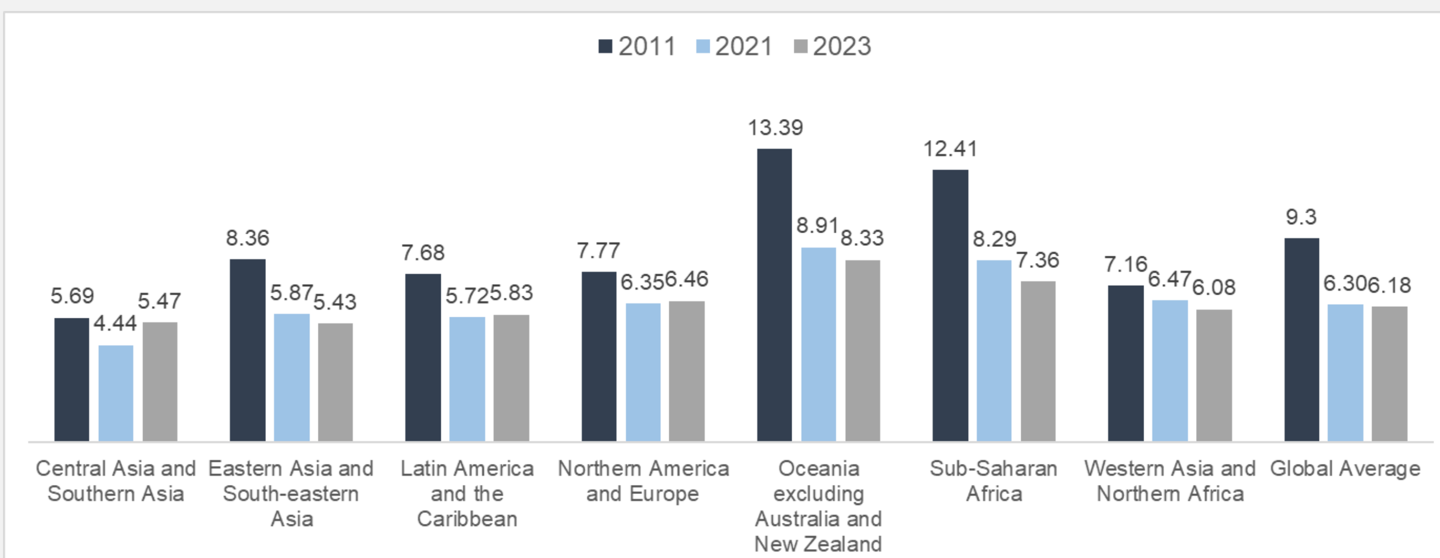
Regional trends continue to display a visible disparity in costs between Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions. In 2023, the average cost of sending $200 remittances to Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and sub-Saharan Africa are the highest at 8.33 percent and 7.36 percent, respectively, although substantial progress has been made in both regions since 2011.

Data shows that digital remittance services are slated to reach the target faster. In 2023, the global average for digital remittances was recorded at 4.84 percent, while the global average for non-digital/cash-based remittances was 6.77 percent. Digital services account for 30% of all services collected by the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide database in 2023.

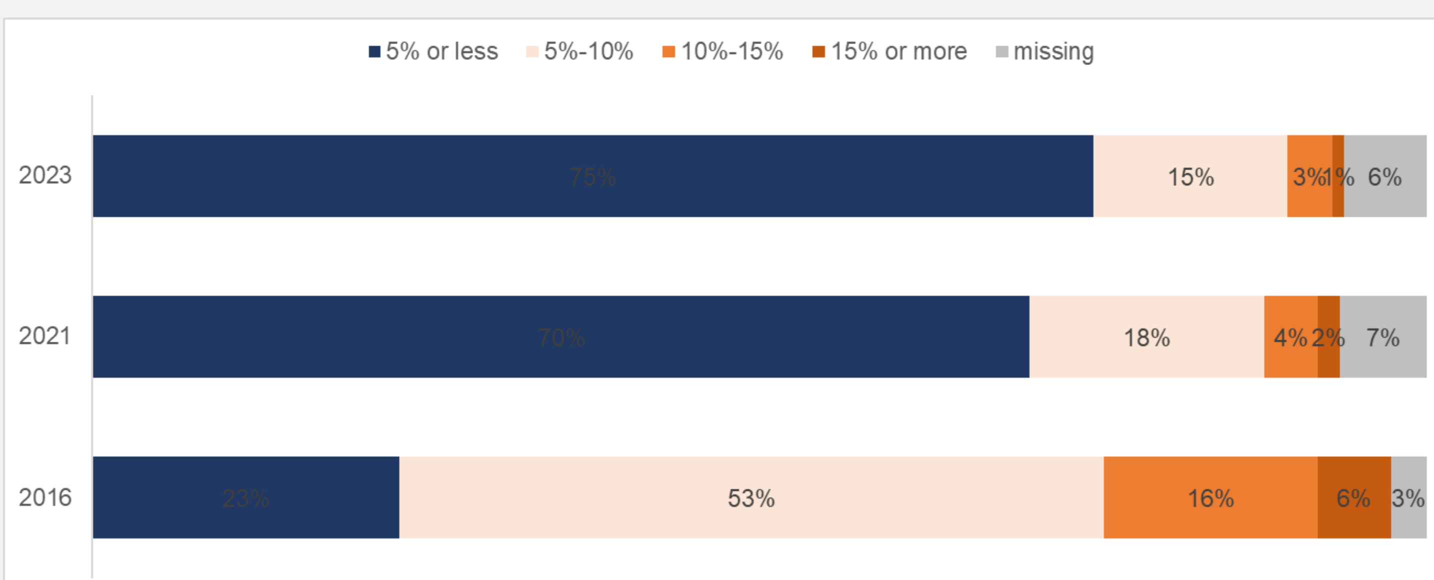
At the same time, the cost of sending remittances varies by the type of payment instrument used, while this difference in costs across payment instruments have narrowed over time. In 2023, mobile money was the cheapest method for funding a remittance transaction at 4.78 percent on average, 35 percent cheaper than a bank transfer. Mobile money is also the cheapest method for disbursing remittances at 4.68 percent.

To ensure achieving the SDG10 10.c.1 target of 3 percent for the Global Average and enabling remittances senders in all corridors to send at a cost of 5 percent or less by 2030, stakeholders should leverage the potential of digitalization in reducing costs, increasing efficiency and making remittances more accessible for all. Additionally, regulators should address the challenges in the sector, such as lack of competition, high cost of compliance, lack of access to account, lack of transparency, lack of digital and financial literacy and emerging risks of innovation among others.

Trends in the Average Cost of Sending $200 by UN Region (%)



Share of Corridors by Average SmaRT Cost



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Custodian agency(ies): World Bank