

The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

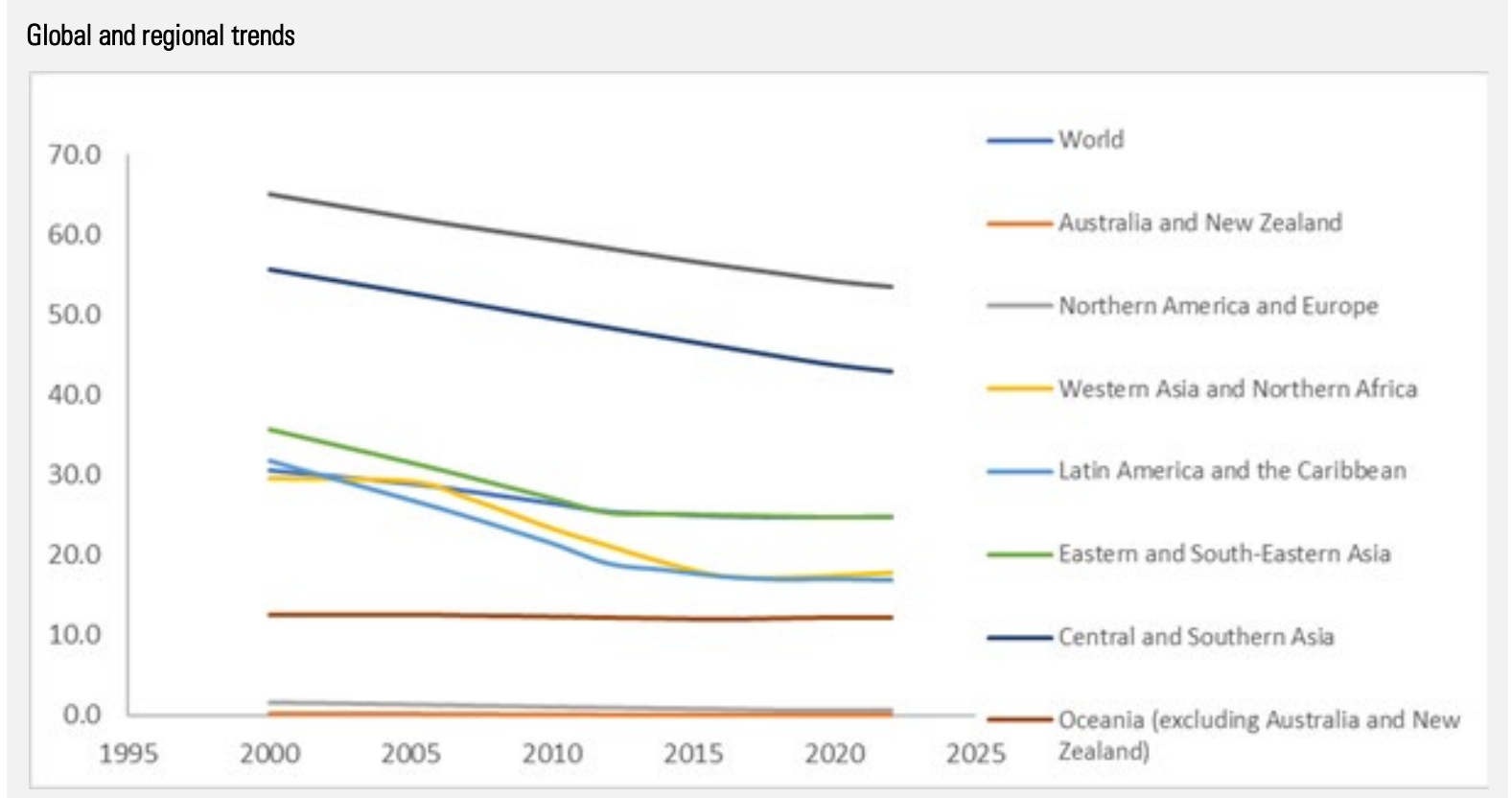
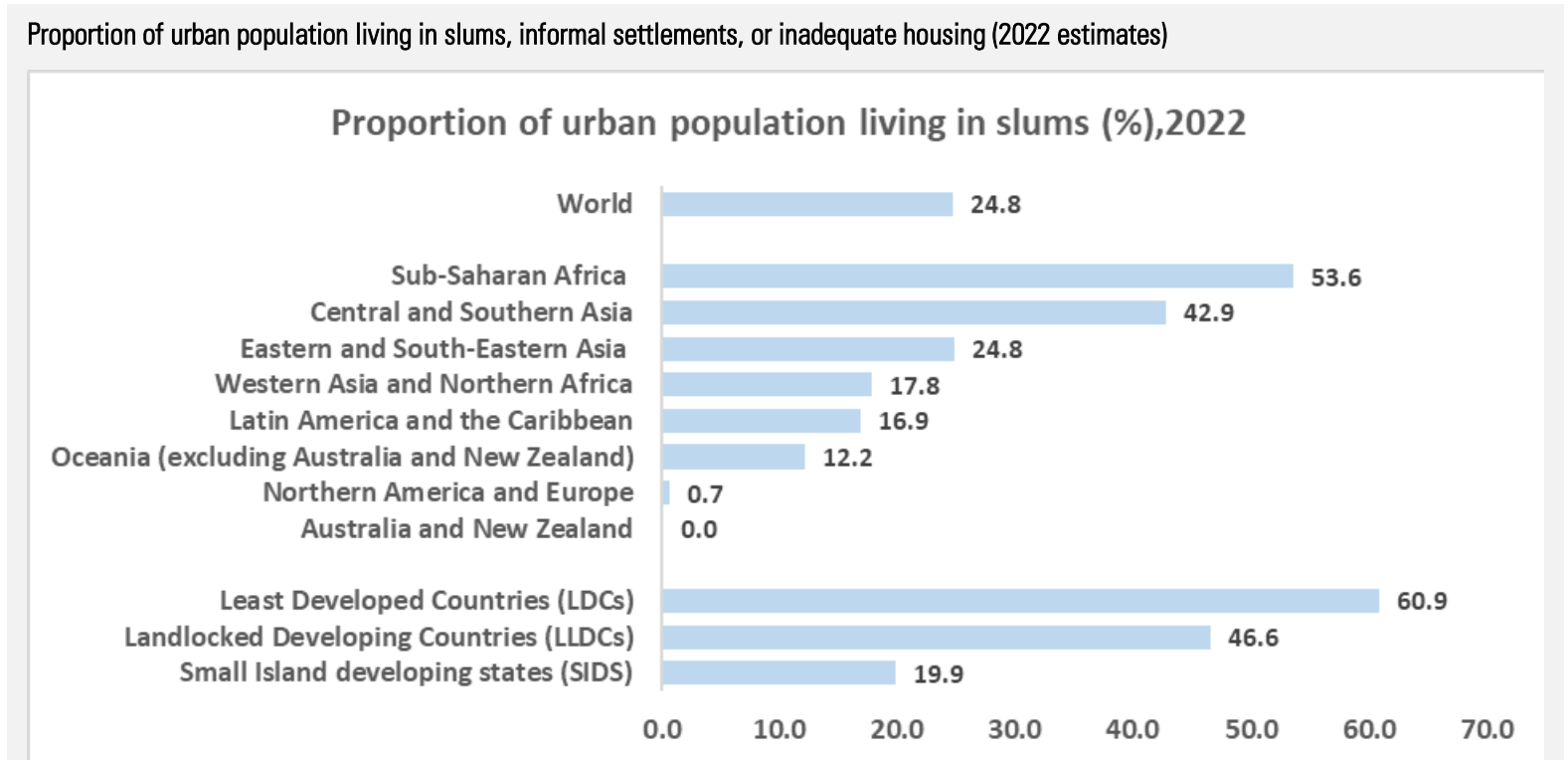
Indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

The urban slum housing is increasing amidst increasing levels of global urban poverty and covid-19 impacts

The 2022 estimates of the population living in slums and informal settlements show that the overall population and the share among urban dwellers have increased from the estimates of 2020. This is likely due to the impact of Covid-19 and its impact on the global urban poverty levels. This reversal of the proportion of the urban population living in slums comes at the backdrop of a consistent decrease in the global urban proportion living in slums over the years 2000 to 2020.

For 2022, over 85 per cent of slum dwellers were concentrated in three regions: Central and Southern Asia (334 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (362 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (265 million). Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest percentage of the urban population living in slums, accounting for more than half (53.6%), followed by Central and Southern Asia at 42.9%. Also, more than half (60.9%) of the urban population in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) live in slums or informal settlements.

Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to experience the greatest proportional increase in the number of slum dwellers, with an additional 360 million people projected to live in slums and informal settlements by 2030 if the status quo holds. The increasing number of people living in slums reflects the severity of the urban housing crisis. This crisis highlights the critical need for a multifaceted approach to addressing housing needs, which includes providing diverse housing options, equitable access to public transportation, and basic services tailored to the diverse needs of urban residents.



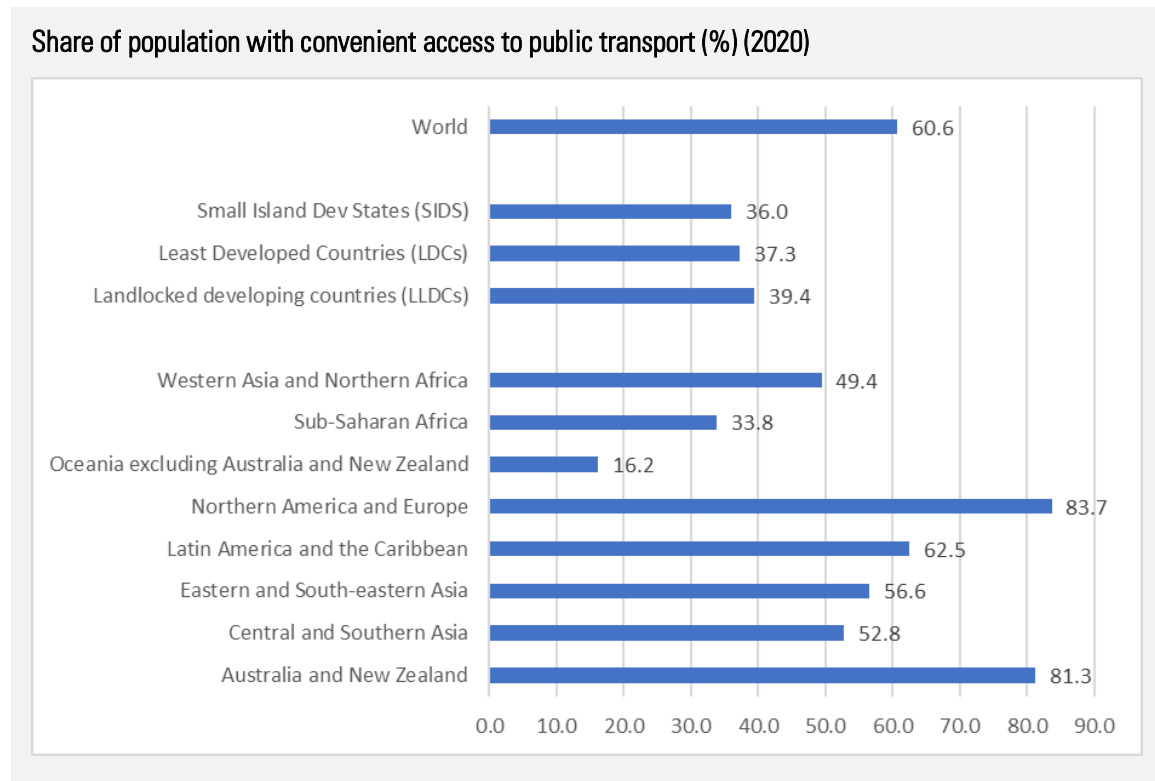
Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Target 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Indicator 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Unequitable access to public transport, implies limited opportunities to a majority of the urban poor

Equitable access to urban opportunities, particularly among the urban poor is key to ensuring their livelihoods and enhancing their quality of life. In many cities around the world, access to public transport remains a challenge, with non-availability of transport nodes within proximal distances, amidst poor quality and reliability of the transport systems. Globally, only 6 out of every 10 urban residents have convenient physical access to public transport, according to data from 2,039 cities compiled from 188 countries. Significant regional variations are noted, with the more developed regions enjoying higher levels of access to public transport than countries from the developing regions. The data shows that, about 4 in every 10 people in the least developed countries have convenient access to public transport, against an average of 8 in every 10 in the more developed regions. With only 6 years left to 2030, accelerated investments are needed to reach the last mile of communities that still lack access to public transport in urban areas. From the data, it is clear that these populations are in the developing regions, and other urban poor neighbourhoods in the developed world.



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Dennis Mwaniki, UN-Habitat; Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat

[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#) UN-Habitat

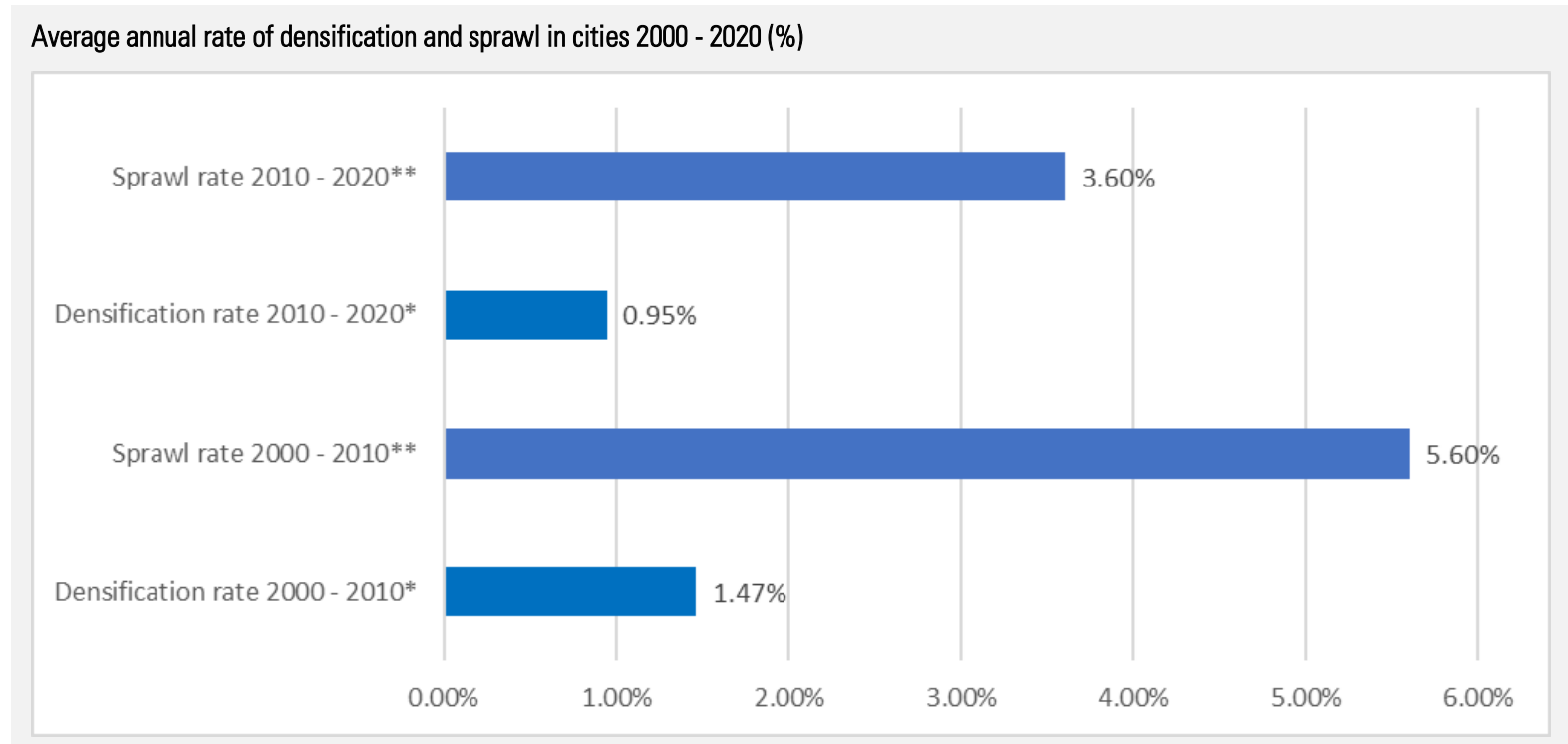
Target 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Indicator 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Cities are sprawling faster than they are densifying

Uncontrolled and unplanned urbanization has a direct impact on the attainment of harmonious and sustainable development, with unregulated growth often impacting negatively on natural environments and areas traditionally dedicated to productive land uses such as agriculture. While it is difficult to recommend a perfect urban density without considering other urban phenomena such as access to urban services and overcrowding, to maximize on the benefits of agglomeration that is synonymous with cities, governments should always strive to encourage densification as opposed to rapid (and uncontrolled) sprawl¹.

Data compiled from 1217 cities from 185 countries in 2023 re-confirms a trend observed over the years, where cities continue to grow spatially at a faster rate than their population change – resulting in faster sprawl. New analysis of the sample of 1217 cities indicates that, during the period 2000 – 2020, the rate at which cities sprawled was up to 3.7 faster than the rates of their densification. Globally, the average rate of sprawl (measured as the rate of built up area change outside 2000 urban boundaries) averaged 5.6% per annum, against a densification rate of 1.47% per annum during the same period. The sprawl rate declined to 3.6% per annum during the period 2010 – 2020, while the densification rate also declined to 0.95% per annum during the same period. These faster rates of sprawl have resulted in displacement of ecologically friendly land uses such as natural environments and agriculturally productive areas – with adverse effects on sustainability. The target to achieve the 2030 aspirations, where a balance is attained between people, prosperity, and planet, requires deliberate and enforceable actions to reduce urban sprawl at the local, sub-national and national scales.



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Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Indicator 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

¹ The annual rate of sprawl is calculated as the annual rate of change in built up areas outside urban boundaries in 2000 (the area outside 2000 urban boundaries but within 2020 urban boundaries per city) while the annual rate of densification is calculated as annualized rate of built up area change within the 2000 urban boundaries per city.

Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Indicator 11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/

Custodian agency(ies): UNESCO-UIS

Target 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Global disaster mortality is declining over the past decade, showing the impact of steady progress made by countries on managing disaster risk

As reported by Member States on Sendai Framework Monitor global targets A and B, aligned with SDG Targets 1.5, 11.5, and 13.1, positive progress is seen in reducing global disaster mortality and affected populations in recent years. Global disaster mortality per 100,000 population has decreased from 1.62 in the decade of 2005-2014 to 0.82 in 2013-2022 (COVID-19 related cases excluded). This represents a 49 per cent decline in mortality rates. In absolute terms, this translates to an average annual mortality of 42,553 persons between 2013 and 2022, or a one-third decrease from the average of 2005-2014, when 65,183 persons were reported dead or missing per year.

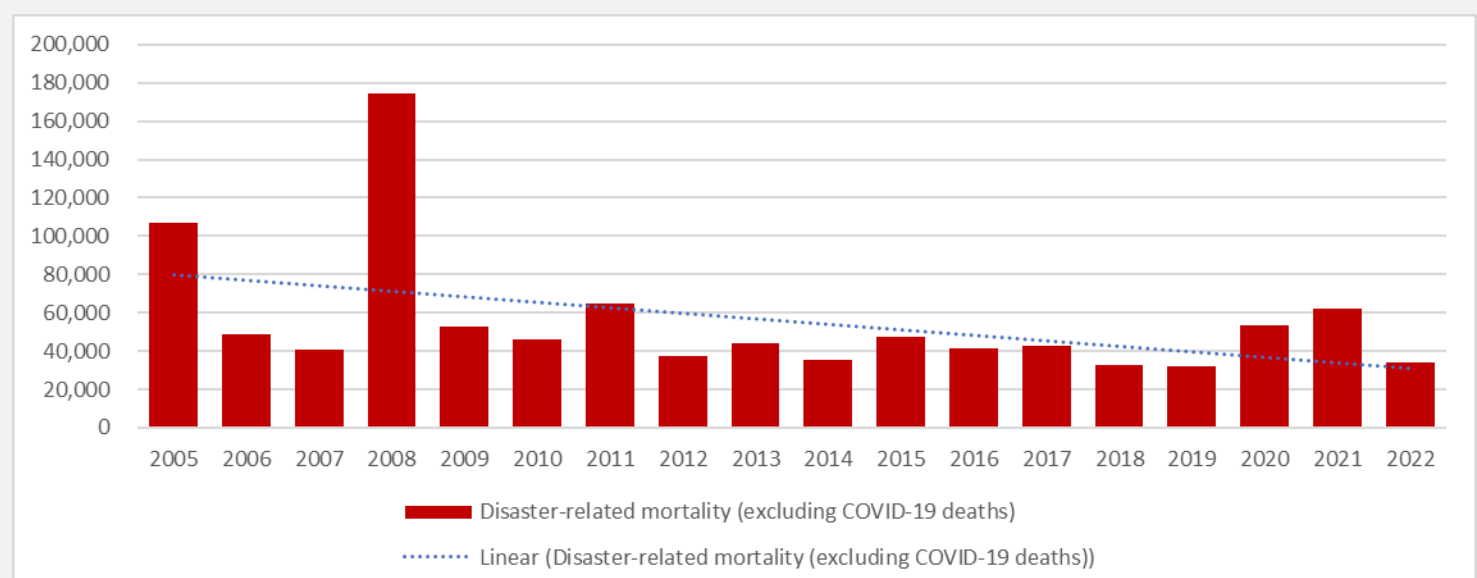
On the other hand, the number of persons affected by disasters per 100,000 population has worsened from 1,169 during the decade 2005 to 2014 to 1,980 in 2013-2022. This corresponds to a 69 per cent increase in disaster affected population over the two decades. The total affected population remained high, as 133 million people were reported affected by disasters annually from 2015 to 2022, significantly higher than 29 million on average from 2005 to 2014.

A declining average mortality, concurrent with increasing disaster affected people, demonstrates a mixed picture of the human cost of disasters. Significant improvements in preparedness, including early warning systems and evacuation measures, have reduced disaster mortality, however, long-term resilience building measures are needed to have a significant dent on the number of affected populations.

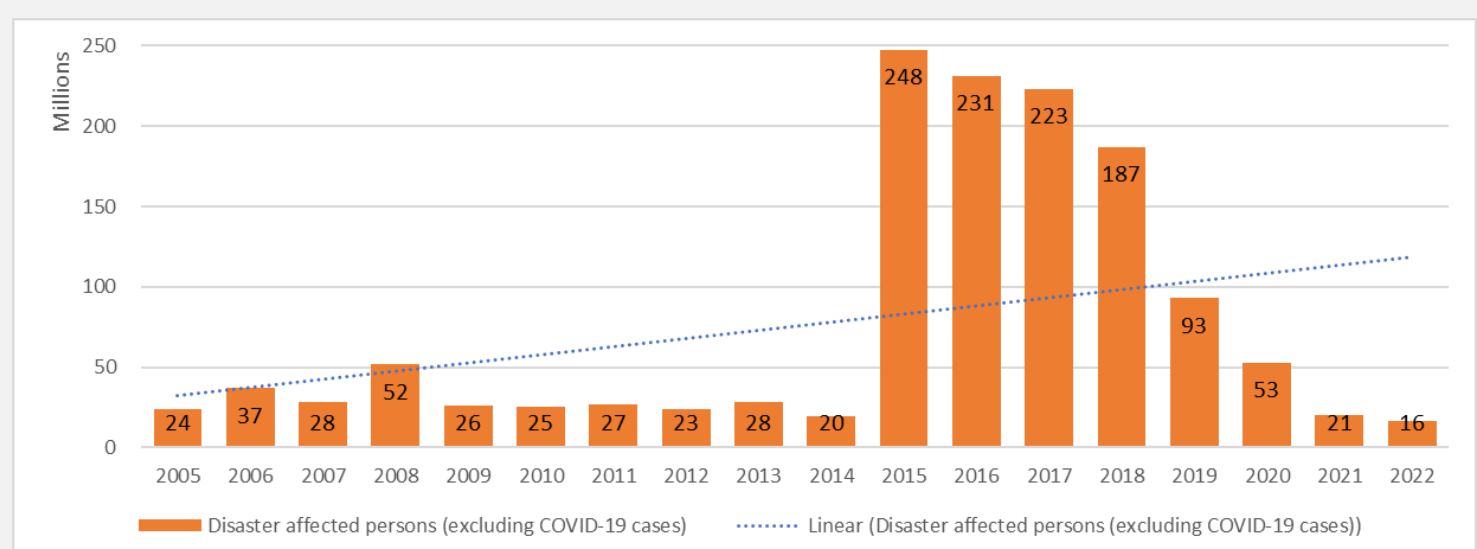
Nonetheless, recent year's data do show that since the adoption of SDGS and the Sendai Framework in 2015, the number of persons affected by disaster is on a decisive downward trend, dropping from 4,086 people per 100,000 in 2015 to 619 people in 2022, which represents a 85 per cent improvement.

When it comes to countries in special situations, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) still show greater disaster vulnerability: Between 2013 and 2022, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS sustained at least twice as heavy the impact on disaster mortality. LDCs reported 26.1 per cent of global disaster-related mortality, while only accounting for 11.5 per cent of the populations of the reporting countries; LLDCs reported 14.3 per cent of global mortality, while accounting for 5.6 per cent of their populations; and SIDS reported 0.6 per cent of global mortality, while accounting for 0.3 per cent of their population.

Disaster related mortality, 2005-2022



Disaster-affected population, 2005-2022



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

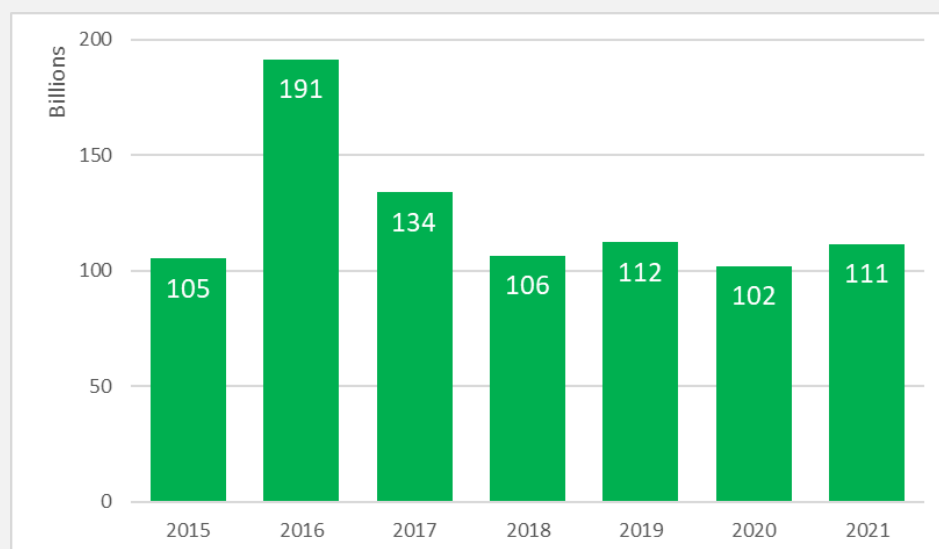
Indicator 11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

Economic losses due to disasters remained stubbornly and consistently high, while LDCs and LLDCs bear a disproportionately heavier burden.

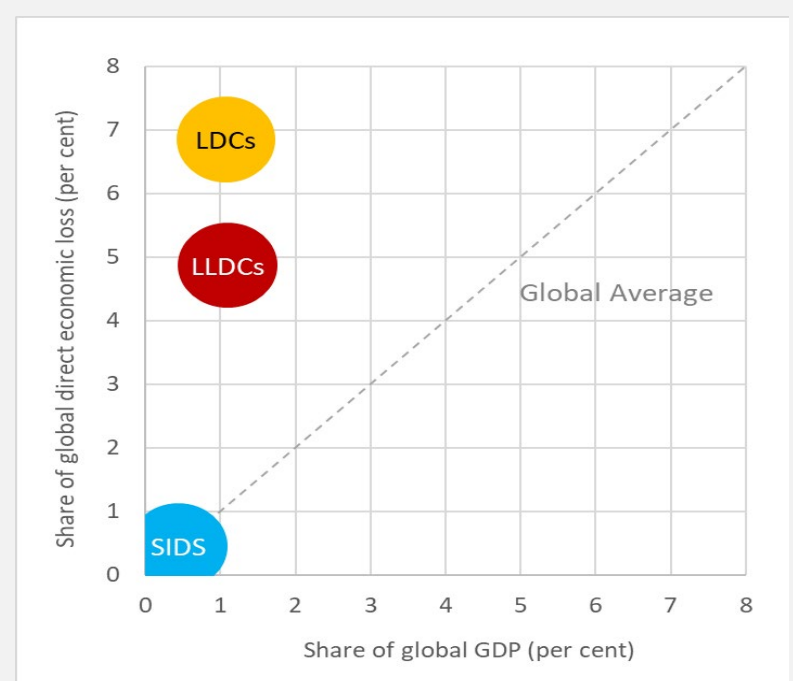
Despite significant efforts undertaken to reduce disaster impacts, economic loss associated with disaster remains stubbornly and consistently high. As reported against Sendai Framework global target C, aligned with SDG targets 1.5 and 11.5, between 2015 and 2022, direct economic loss exceeded 115 billion USD annually worldwide, amounting to 0.3 per cent of the GDP of the reporting countries. Since 2015 and up to 2021, there has been no year when global disaster-related economic losses plateaued or dived below the 100 billion USD mark.

LDCs and LLDCs bear a disproportionately high burden of disaster-related economic losses. LDCs suffer over six times higher disaster-related economic loss compared to global average: they accounted for 6.9 per cent of globally reported economic losses during 2015-2022, despite having only 1.1 per cent of total GDP of reporting countries. Similarly, LLDCs reported 4.9 per cent of economic loss while having only 1.1 per cent of GDP, a four times higher burden. Because of the complex nature of measuring economic loss, a high number of countries face difficulties in compiling and reporting to this indicator. As a consequence, the true loss of global economy associated with disasters is expected to be significantly higher than reported. Taking notes on country reported issues, UNDRR, partnering with UNDP and WMO, is supporting countries to strengthen their ability to comprehensively measure the impacts of disasters. Building on the disaster loss database system, (DesInventar Sendai), a new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages is being developed [Link 1]. In addition to a new technological solution for data management, analysis and visualization, the new country-owned tracking system include standards, methodologies and capacity development support to strengthen disaster related data-ecosystem and data application. UNDRR is also working closely with collaborating organizations in enhancing technical capacity in various economic sectors in countries.

Direct disaster economic loss, in billions USD, 2015-2021



Share of direct disaster economic loss vs. GDP for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, 2015-2022



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://www.undrr.org/disaster-losses-and-damages-tracking-system>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 11.5.3 (a) Damage to critical infrastructure and (b) number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters

Disasters destroy or damage over 100,000 critical infrastructure units and facilities each year

Critical infrastructure and basic services are the blood veins of national economies, and disasters cause significant damages and disruptions to these critical elements. The average annual number of critical infrastructure units and facilities destroyed or damaged by disasters was 104,049 during 2015-2022 (Sendai Framework global target D, aligned with SDG target 11.5). Additionally, more than 1.6 million basic services, including educational and health services, were disrupted by disasters each year. Investing and building disaster and climate change resilient infrastructure remain a key priority for many Member States.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Indicator 11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities

Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat, UNSD

Indicator 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

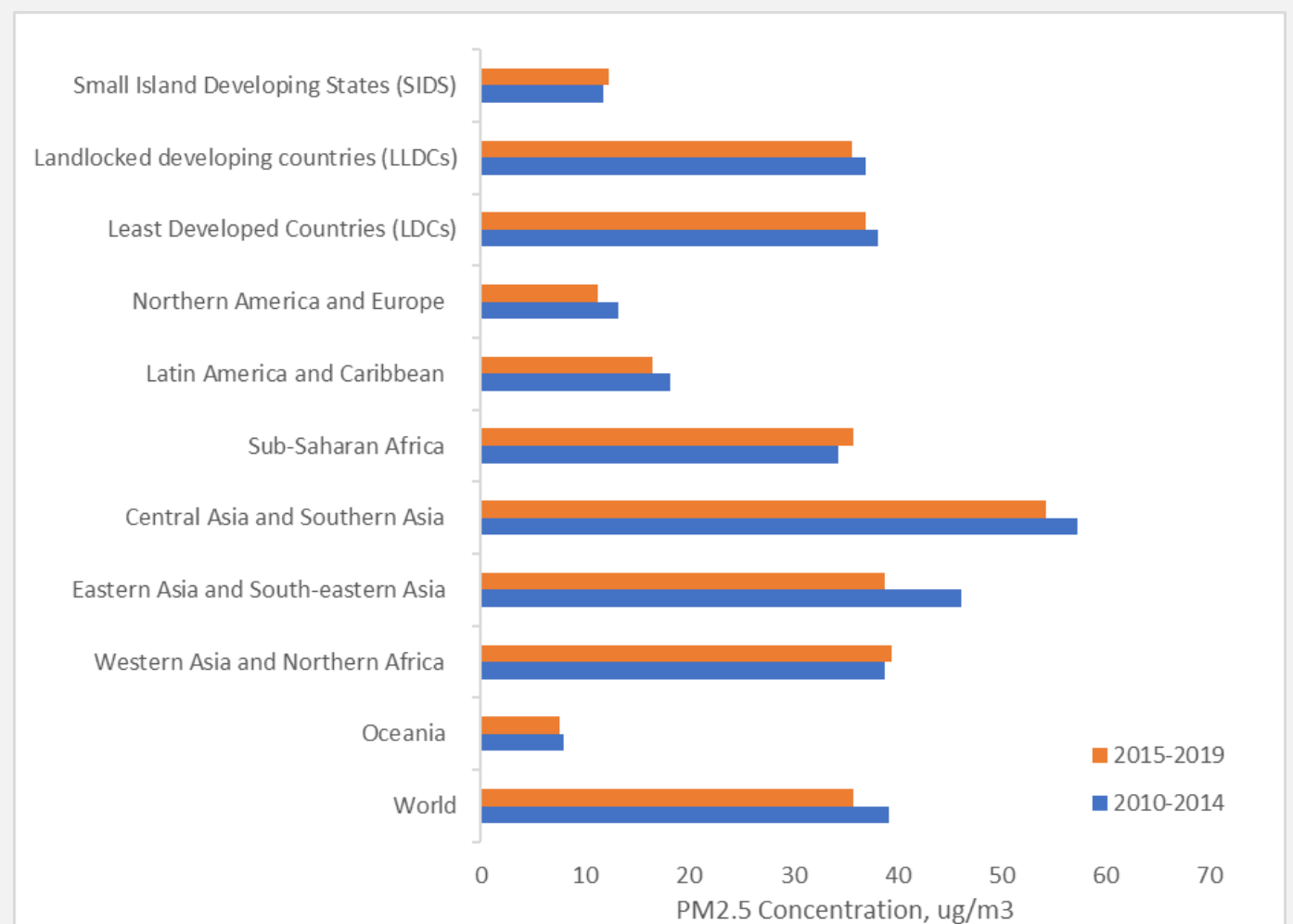
To have the air quality we want, we have to know what air quality we have

Since the beginning of the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring and reporting in 2015, the world can breathe better air. Across the globe, the five-year average of fine particulate matter from 2015 to 2019 has decreased by 9% and now stands at around the WHO Air Quality Guideline (AQG) Interim Target 1 value of 35 ug/m3. The magnitude of lives lost to noncommunicable diseases from exposure to air pollution comes second only tobacco smoking. Any action countries take to reduce their air pollution and work towards the WHO AQG Interim Targets is a step in the right direction as it helps to reduce their local burden of air pollution on health as well as the global burden of 4.2 million deaths every year.

Despite the insidious nature of this silent killer, air pollution has not decreased in all regions. More worrying is the fact that regions where air pollution have increased are also areas with fast growing populations. While this trend is very concerning, it is encouraging to observe that the Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia region which had the second highest five-year average PM2.5 concentrations from 2010 to 2014, has made tremendous progress in improving its air quality during 2015 and 2019. Drastic improvements in air quality can also be seen in Europe and North America thanks to international cooperation and legislations such as the Air Convention.

This showcase of success highlights that better air quality is possible through international cooperation and multisectoral actions. Pivotal to the recognition of these regional achievements is the improvement of countries monitoring capacity. Since 2011, there has been a six-fold increase in air quality monitoring in cities across the globe. While this increased emphasis on the importance of air quality is a welcomed trend, the unequal monitoring capabilities in high-income countries vs low-middle income countries (LMIC) needed to be addressed. In the 2022 WHO air quality database, an integral input data for SDG modelled estimates, local air quality from LIC and LMIC were only 0.3% and 7.7%. If we are to truly leave no one behind, we must ensure that all countries, regardless of their income status have access to clean air.

5-yr average in population weighted PM2.5 concentrations in urban areas for each SDG region before and after 2015



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240047693>
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073494>
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074446>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10680116/>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Kerolyn Shairsingh, WHO; Sophie Gummy, WHO

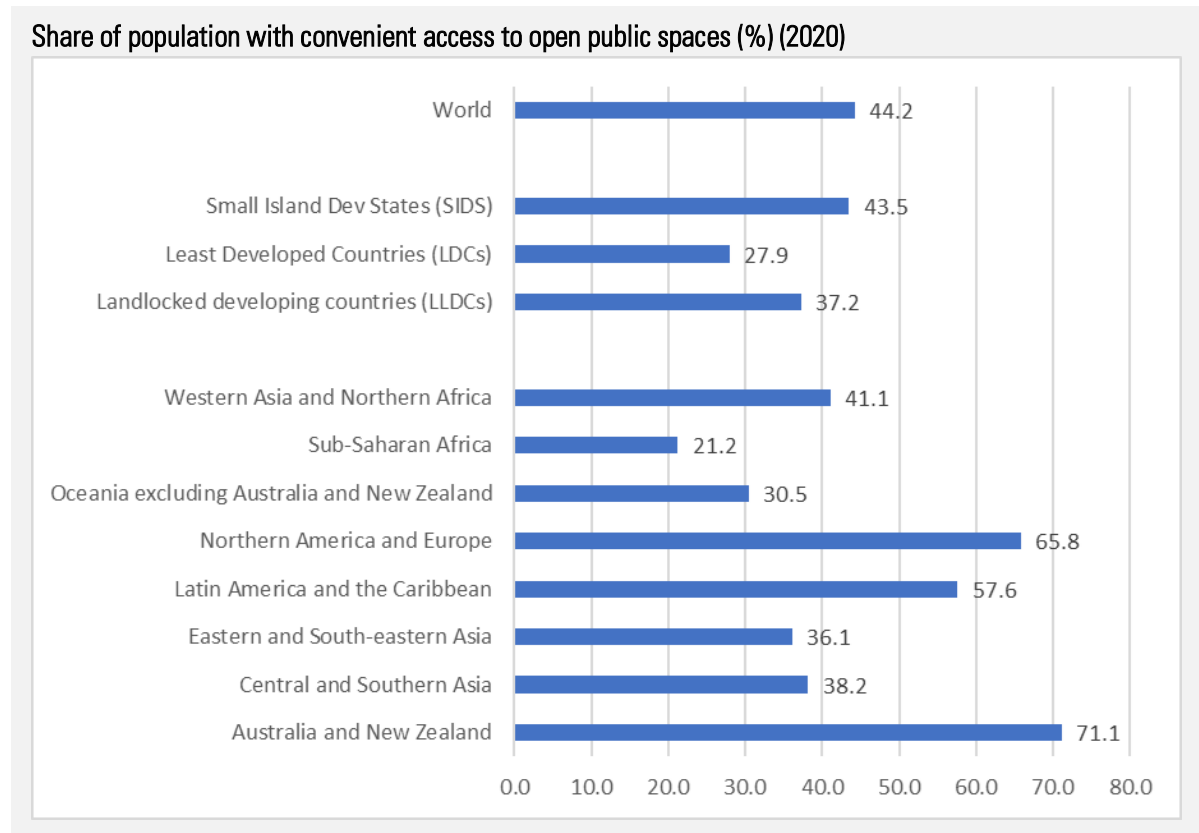
Custodian agency(ies): WHO

Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Indicator 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Accelerated action is needed to scale up access to open public spaces for everyone, everywhere

Globally, only 4 in every 10 urban residents can access an open public space within a convenient walking distance of 400 meters (or 5 minutes' walk), posing serious challenges to the urban quality of life for a majority of the urban populations. According to data compiled from 1,365 cities from 187 countries, the access an open public space is worst in the least developed countries, where less than 3 out of every 10 people can conveniently access an open public space. For high performing regions, such as Australia and New Zealand and North America and Europe, about 6 – 7 out of every 10 urban residents have convenient access to open public spaces, pointing to a cross-cutting global challenge. Unless concerted efforts and urgent investments are put in place in cities around the world, majority of the urban populations will continue to struggle to enhance their quality of life, with the urban poor impacted disproportionately at the local and regional levels.



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Dennis Mwaniki, UN-Habitat; Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat
Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Indicator 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of non-sexual or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

Target 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

Indicator 11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space

Custodian agency(ies): UN-Habitat

Target 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

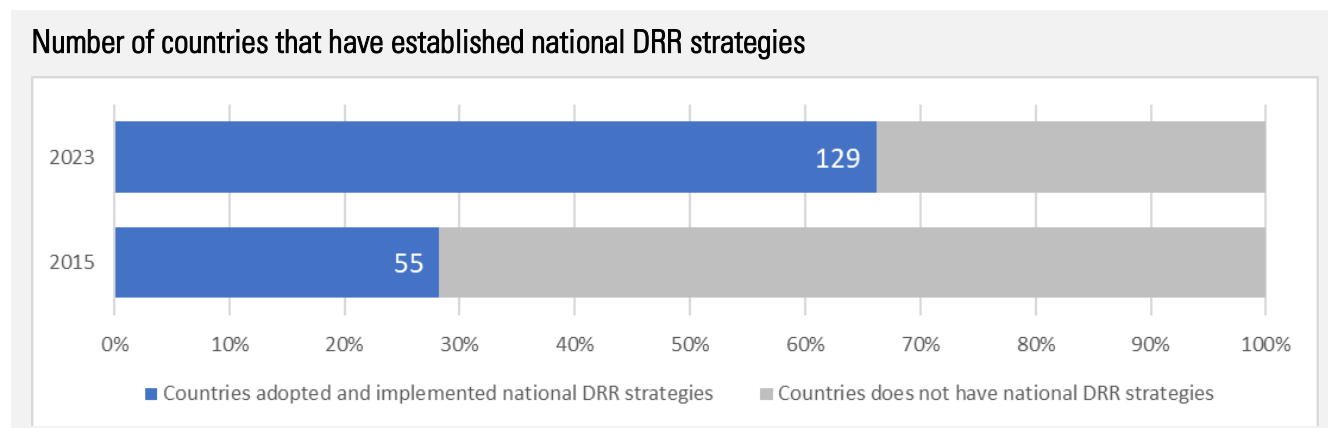
Indicator 11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Two-third of the world’s countries now have national disaster risk reduction strategies

More governments have focused on establishing national disaster risk reduction strategies as the main governance framework to generate disaster risk information, and coordinate plans for preparedness and response. Concrete progress has made in the establishment of national DRR strategies worldwide, as 129 countries, or 66 per cent of the world, have reported in Sendai Framework Monitor global target E the adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies by 2023, a high increase from 55 countries in 2015. The average global score for national DRR strategies implementation is 0.67, on a scale of 0 to 1.

Among these countries, 122 have reported that “promoting policy coherence and compliance with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement” is a key element in their national DRR strategies, underlying the importance of integrating climate resilience and sustainable development. In line with a key target of the Global Goal on Adaptation, for all Parties to have national adaptation plans in place by 2030, efforts are being made to leverage the presence of such coherent DRR strategies to build the basis for national adaptation plans through a comprehensive risk management approach [www.undrr.org/crm].

The quality of national DRR strategies also enhance multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS). Published as part of the Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All initiative [<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>], the 2023 Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Report [<https://www.undrr.org/reports/global-status-MHEWS-2023>] showed a high correlation between comprehensive DRR strategies and coverage of life-saving MHEWS. Importantly, the report also found that countries with more comprehensive DRR strategies, also have higher coverage of MHEWS, pointing to the need to adopt a holistic risk governance approach to MHEWS.



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- www.undrr.org/crm
- <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>
- <https://www.undrr.org/reports/global-status-MHEWS-2023>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

82 per cent of the countries with a national DRR strategy also have local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the national strategies

Understanding local risk factors and impacts of disasters is crucial for managing and reducing disasters losses and damages. It serves as a safety net to ensure that no one is left behind in disasters’ harmful ways, especially for women, young girls and the marginalized populations. Local-level DRR strategies can promote inclusive, and gender-responsive risk governance, and strengthen the integration of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) into the national strategies.

Local-level risk governance has been improving in recent years, as 106 countries have cumulatively reported having local DRR strategies in place and in line with their national strategies as of 2023. On average, 72 per cent of the local governments in the reporting countries have specified having local DRR strategies.

UNDRR also established the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) Initiative [Link 1] as a cross-stakeholder approach to strengthen the local-level risk knowledge management and to improve local disaster resilience through advocacy, knowledge sharing and experiences. The initiative is establishing mutually-reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government and building partnerships, in an effort to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Target 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Custodian agency(ies):