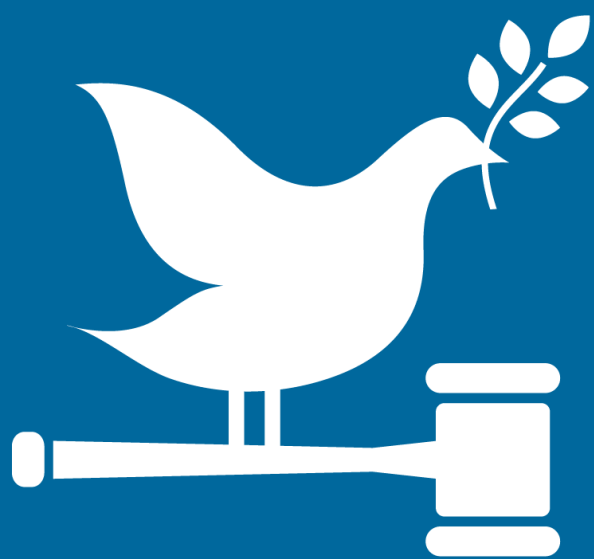


The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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.

Contents

Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age.....	2
Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause.....	4
Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	5
Indicator 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark.....	6
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.....	6
Indicator 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	6
Indicator 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	6
Indicator 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of (a) physical, (b) psychological and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.....	7
Indicator 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	8
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	9
Indicator 16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars).....	9
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	9
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.....	10
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.....	10
Indicator 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	11
Indicator 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	11
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	12
Indicator 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	14
Indicator 16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations.....	15
Indicator 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.....	15
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.....	16
Indicator 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.....	16
Indicator 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	17
Indicator 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.....	18

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

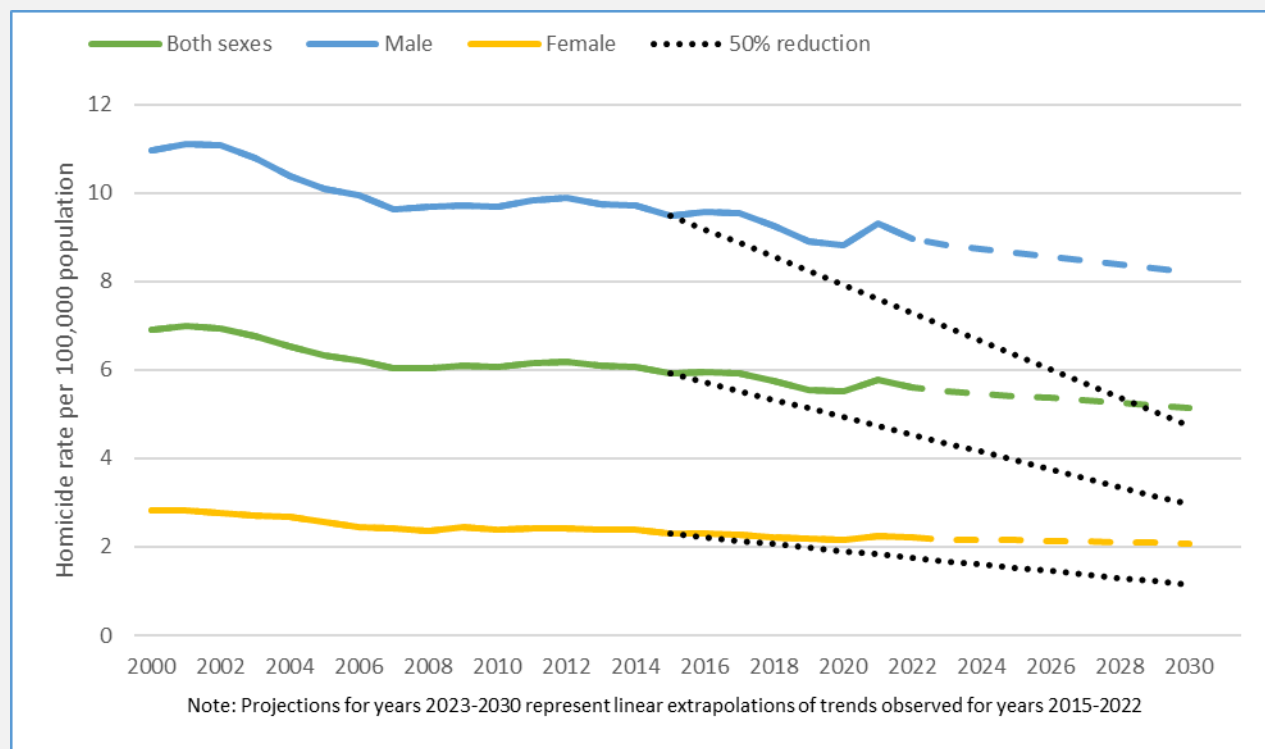
Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

The decline in homicide rates is too slow for the world to fulfill its commitments to significantly reducing violence

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there has been a gradual decrease in global homicide rate, from 5.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.5 in 2020. However, this downward trend was disrupted in 2021, as global homicide rate sharply rose to 5.8 that year and only decreased to 5.6 victims per 100,000 population again in 2022. High levels of violence attributable to organized crime and gang activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa's heightened vulnerability to homicide continue to contribute to these regions having the highest homicide rates and numbers globally.

On average, the global homicide rate declines by 5% between 2015 and 2022, falling short of target 16.1's aim to "significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths rates everywhere" by 2030, which can be interpreted as a minimum decrease of 50% in the global homicide rate between 2015 and 2030.

Figure 1: Trends in and projections of the global homicide rate (per 100,000 population) by sex, 2000–2030



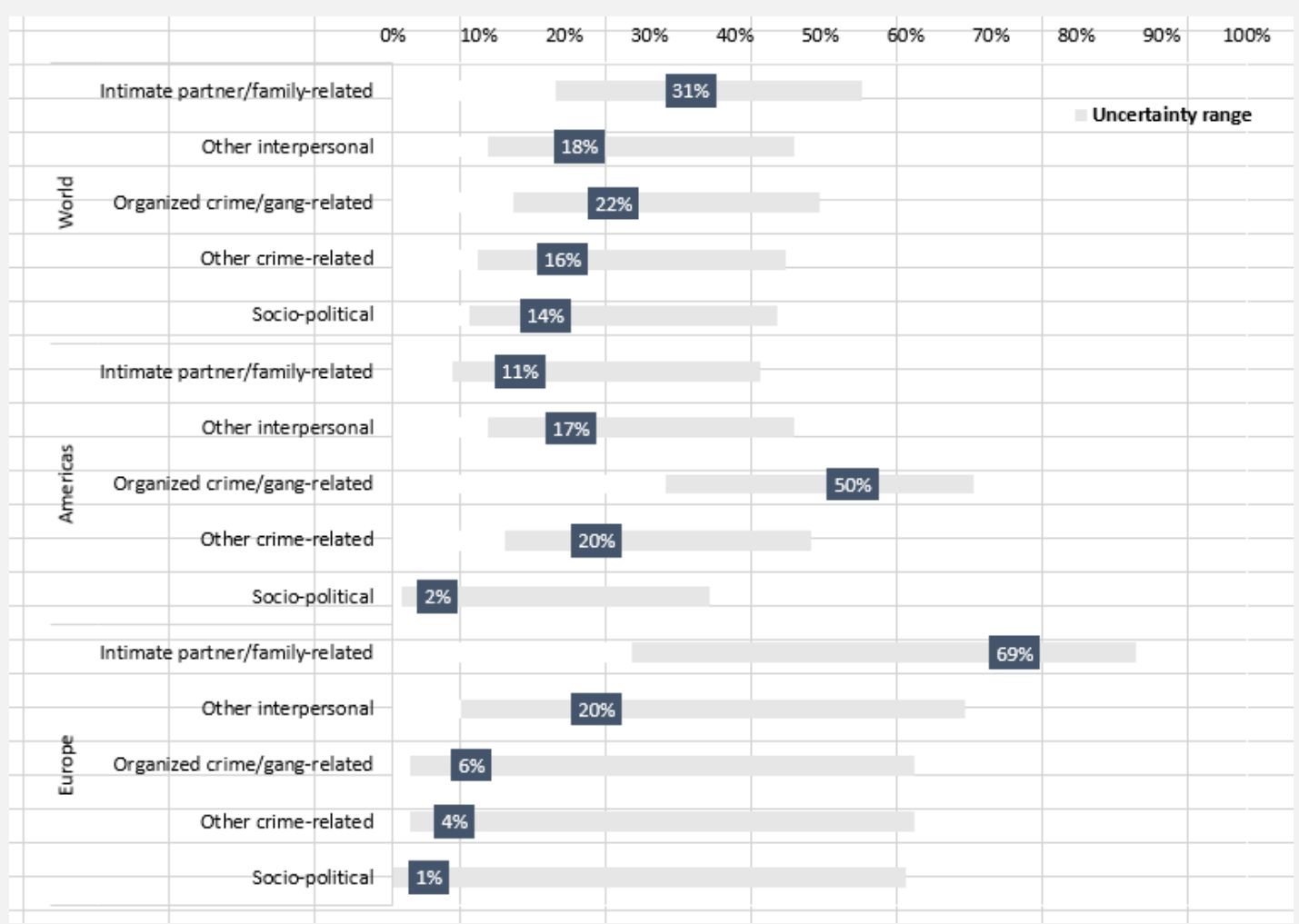
Projecting the trend in the homicide rate from the period 2015-2022 to 2030 suggests that if this pattern of violence persists, the global homicide rate will be in the region of 5.1 per 100,000 population in 2030, resulting in an overall decrease of just 13 per cent from the homicide rate of 5.9 per 100,000 population in 2015. Progress in the reduction of homicide rates is even slower for women. At 2.2 victims per 100,000 female population in 2022, the global female homicide rate decreased by only 2.6% between 2015 and 2022. In absolute number, the number of female victims of homicide stayed stable in 2021 and 2022, at around 88,000 victims each year. This is in sharp contrast with the number of male victims, which decreased from 370,000 in 2021 to about 360,000 in 2022.

Organized crime groups/gangs are driving homicide trends in Latin America and the Caribbean

Information on situational context is lacking for around 36 per cent of all homicides globally. However, looking at the killings for which this information is available, the available data suggest that in 2021, 3 in 10 homicide victims globally (31 per cent) were killed by intimate partners or other family members, while about 2 in 10 victims were killed as a result of another form of interpersonal homicide, such as a means of resolving a conflict or following a dispute between neighbours. Homicides related to organized criminal groups or gangs accounted for 22 per cent of all homicides in 2021, while homicides linked to other crime-related activities, such as robbery, accounted for 16 per cent of all homicides (figure 2).

Nowhere is homicidal violence caused by organized crime more prevalent than in Latin America and the Caribbean, the region with the highest homicide rate worldwide. One reason for this is the dynamic and dense ecosystem of organized criminal groups, including hundreds of drug trafficking organizations, mafia syndicates, gangs and militia, that alternately cooperate, collude and compete for the control of illegal markets. The high incidence of lethal violence in the region can also be attributed to other factors such as illicit drug markets, the proliferation of firearms and militarized crime control interventions.

Figure 2: Share of homicides, by type and selected regions, 2021 or latest year available



A large youth population, more heat days and persisting inequality in Africa could exacerbate lethal violence

Looking ahead, several “megatrends”, including those associated with demographic, economic, technological and climatic trends, may contribute to continued general decline in the global homicide rate in the longer term. However, effects will vary by location.

Africa, with its growing young population (aged 15-29), slow projected reductions in economic inequality and a concentration of climate-related shocks and stresses combined with weaker response capabilities, may emerge as the region most vulnerable to homicidal violence in the future. Africa was already estimated to have the highest absolute number of homicides of all regions of the world in 2021, and unlike other regions, data suggest that the homicide rate is not falling. Nonetheless, substantial data gaps in the region pose challenges to precisely assessing the extent and type of homicidal violence in Africa.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): UNODC, WHO

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC, WHO

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

Record-high increase in the number of civilian conflict-related deaths

The number of civilian deaths in armed conflict skyrocketed in 2023.¹ Between 2022 and 2023, civilian casualties increased by 72%, making it the highest increase since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Despite a decrease in the number of civilians killed in several armed conflicts compared to the previous year, increases, sometimes quite significant, were recorded in others. In 2023, seven out of ten recorded deaths occurred in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel.²

Second consecutive dramatic rise since 2015

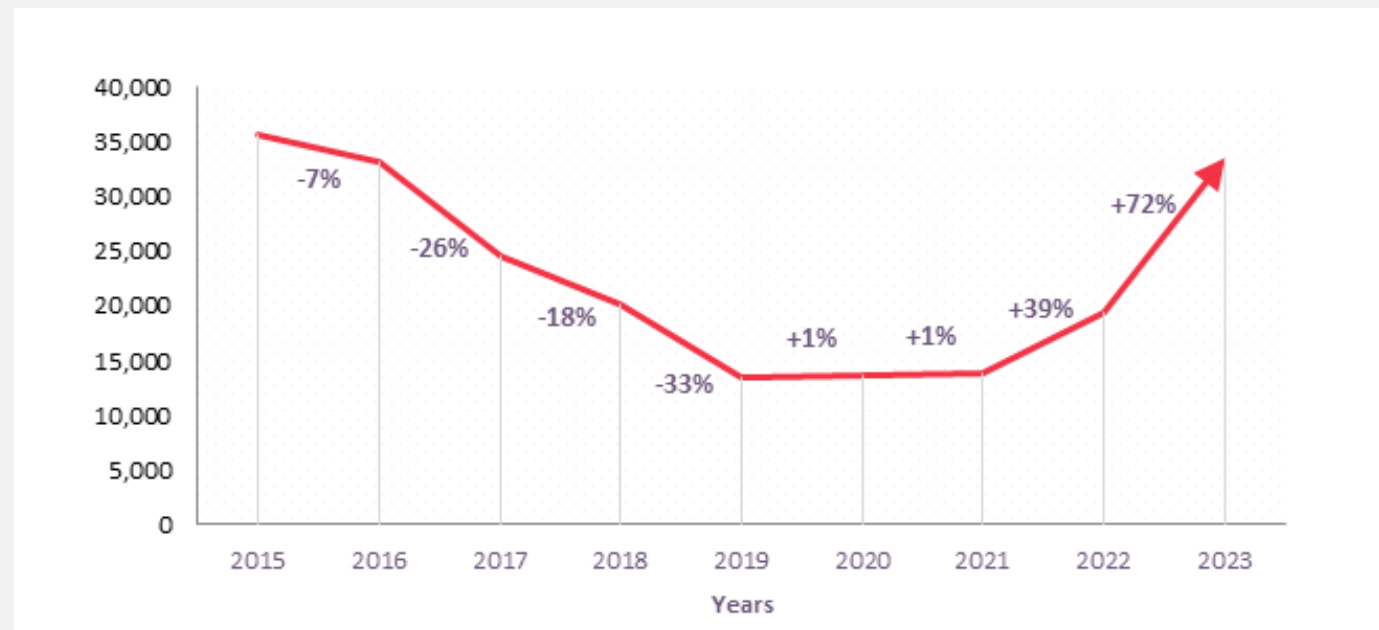
For the second consecutive year, the number of civilians killed in conflict has risen dramatically; reversing the downward trend between 2016 and 2019. By 2023, the number of civilian casualties had risen to over 33,400, almost matching the peak of 2015. The year 2023 saw the first-ever increase in the number of women killed in conflict since 2015.

The proportion of women killed doubled and that of children tripled

In 2022, two out of every ten civilians killed in conflicts were women. By 2023, this proportion had risen to four. Similarly, while in 2022 one in ten civilians killed was a child, by 2023 this figure had risen to three children.

These terrible figures show that the road to global peace and security, without which there can be no sustainable development, has been diverted. To achieve the Goals, this trend must be reversed and parties to conflicts must strictly abide by their international humanitarian and human rights obligations to protect the lives of civilians.

Number of civilian conflict-related deaths and percentage change from previous year, 2015-2023



1. Figures for 2015 include conflict-related civilian deaths documented by OHCHR in 10 armed conflicts: Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen.
2. Figures for the years 2016 to 2019 include conflict-related civilian deaths documented by OHCHR in 12 armed conflicts: the abovementioned countries, as well as Libya and Mali.
3. Figures for 2020 include conflict-related civilian deaths documented by OHCHR in 13 armed conflicts: the conflicts mentioned at points 1 and 2, as well as Ethiopia.
4. Figures for 2021 and 2022 include conflict-related civilian deaths documented by OHCHR in 14 armed conflicts: the conflicts mentioned at points 1, 2 and 3, as well as Myanmar.
5. Figures for 2023 include:
 - Conflict-related civilian deaths documented by OHCHR in 12 countries (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen -10,293-). (N.B. for Mali we only have data on conflict related deaths of civilians from 1 January to 30 June 2023, in light of MINUSMA's closure (373). If we use data based on statistical modelling, the total number of conflict-related deaths in 2023 is 1435. Also for Mali, colleagues were not able to assess the cause of death.)
 - Conflict related deaths (civilian and non-civilian) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel (totalling 23,150 casualties).

The data includes:

- Conflict-related deaths of civilians and non-civilians in Gaza from 7 October to 31 December 2023 (21822) reported by the Ministry of Health in Gaza (MoH). The Ministry provided disaggregated data based on sex and age for some, but not all. OHCHR verified 5278 conflict-related deaths in Gaza from 7 October to 31 December (about 25% of the total reported by MoH), including 2339 children and 1352 adult women, that is 44% and 26% respectively. Disaggregated data on the number of deceased children and adult women in the MoH figures was calculated by applying these percentages to the number of MoH-reported conflict-related deaths. Whilst the MoH did not provide information on the 'status' of the deceased persons, we can assume that the children and adult women were civilians. This means that at least 70% (44% children, 26% adult women) of the conflict-related deaths reported by the MoH were civilians (15275). The 70% may be an underestimation of the real figure of civilians killed, as it is likely that many of the killed men were not combatants. Moreover, it is important to note that OHCHR colleagues in the region indicated that the cause of death of 5275 out of the 5278 casualties documented in Gaza was not verified.
- Conflict-related deaths of civilians verified by OHCHR in the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 1 January to 6 October 2023 (245).
- Conflict-related deaths of civilians verified by OHCHR in the West Bank from 7 October to 31 December 2023 (315).
- Conflict-related deaths of civilians reported by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 7 October 2023 (767). This includes both Israelis and foreigners. No information on the cause of death is available.
- 1 civilian conflict-related death in Israel prior to 7 October 2023 documented by OHCHR.

OHCHR verifications: the details of 14,121 deaths since 7 October 2023 in Gaza (name, sex, and date of birth) were published by the Gaza Ministry of Health on January 5. In other terms, the MOH reported the details of approximately 65% of the total number of casualties since October 7. OHCHR was able to verify 5278 deaths in Gaza between 7 October and 31 December. This represents 37% of the detailed list of deaths published by the Ministry of Health. **In short, at the time of this SDG reporting, almost two-thirds of the total number of deaths reported by the Gaza authorities had been published by the Ministry of Health, and a quarter fully verified by OHCHR.**

Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR

¹ Updated data for 14 armed conflicts, among of the world deadliest conflicts for civilians, over the period: Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen.

² Due to the dire situation on the ground, particularly in Gaza, the United Nations is still in the process of documenting many casualties.

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

While a higher proportion of women than men is experiencing sexual violence, a higher proportion of men are experiencing physical violence

Limited data available outside of Europe and Northern America and Latin America and the Caribbean

Experience of violence are seldom reported to the authorities, making it challenging to gauge the prevalence of physical, sexual, and psychological violence through administrative data. Instead, household surveys are used to monitor indicator 16.1.3. However, few countries regularly conduct victimization surveys or include a victimization module in another household survey. Since 2010, 65 countries have reported at least one data point on the prevalence of a type of violence, with 25 in Europe and Northern America and 20 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Information remains more limited in other regions. Additionally, even surveys suffer from underreporting, notably for stigmatized events such as rape or sexual assault.

Women and men are not impacted by the same forms of violence

Available data show differences in the violence experienced by women and men. Looking at countries with data for at least one year between 2010 and 2022, the median proportion of men experiencing physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is slightly higher than for women, at 3.0% for men as compared to 2.1% for women. By contrast, the median proportion of women subjected to sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is much higher than for men, at respectively 3.0% and 0.8%. Just eight countries have data on the prevalence of psychological violence, making it difficult to draw conclusion at global level. In this sample of countries, the median prevalence rate for psychological violence is higher than for other types of violence (see figure 1).

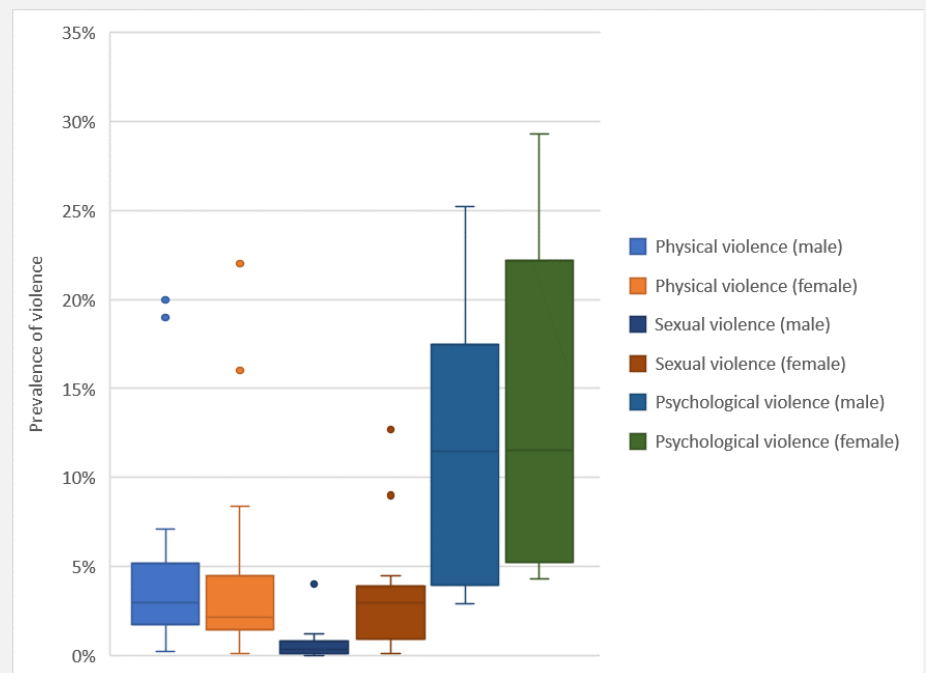
Robbery is more prevalent in Latin America and the Caribbean than in other regions

Data on robbery, which is a component of physical violence, is more widely available globally, with 51 countries reporting data for 2022 or the latest available year since 2010. The median prevalence rate of robbery in the 15 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, at 5.0%, is much higher than in the other regions (see figure 2). However, available data for 44 countries at the global level on physical assault, another component of physical violence, shows a higher median prevalence rate of physical assault in Europe and Northern America (2%) than in Latin America and the Caribbean (1.6%) or in other regions (1.0%).

The prevalence of physical assault has decreased since 2010

Available trend data on the prevalence of physical assault in 25 countries with at least one observation for both the periods 2010-2015 and 2016-2022 show a decrease in the prevalence of physical assault, going from a median annual prevalence rate of 2.5% for 2010-2015 to 1.7% for 2016 to 2022 (see figure 3). Of those 25 countries, 22 had a lower proportion of population subjected to physical assault in the period 2016-2022, highlighting progress towards SDG target 16.1 on reducing violence everywhere.

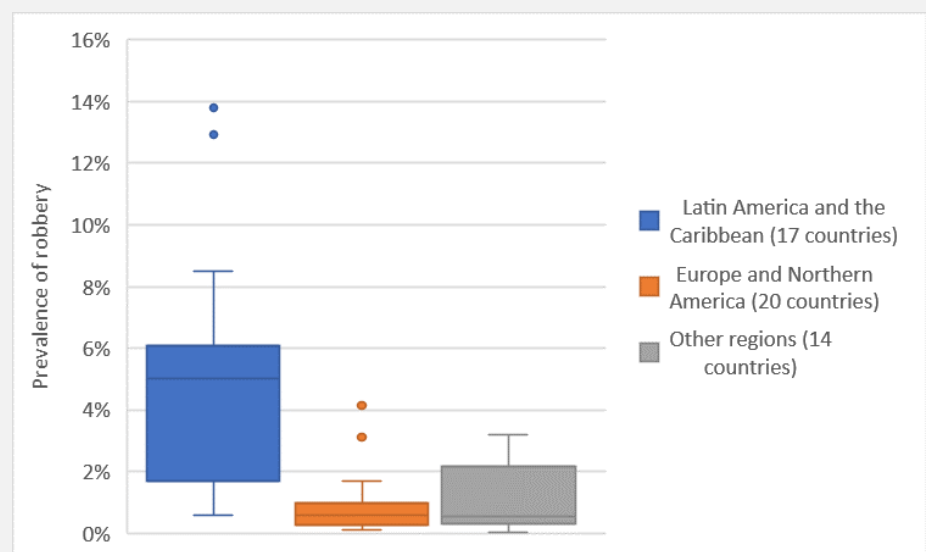
Figure 1: Proportion of population subjected to violence in the previous 12 months, by sex, selected countries, latest available year



Source: Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2010 and 2022 for 22 countries (physical violence), 16 countries (sexual violence) and 8 countries (psychological violence).

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

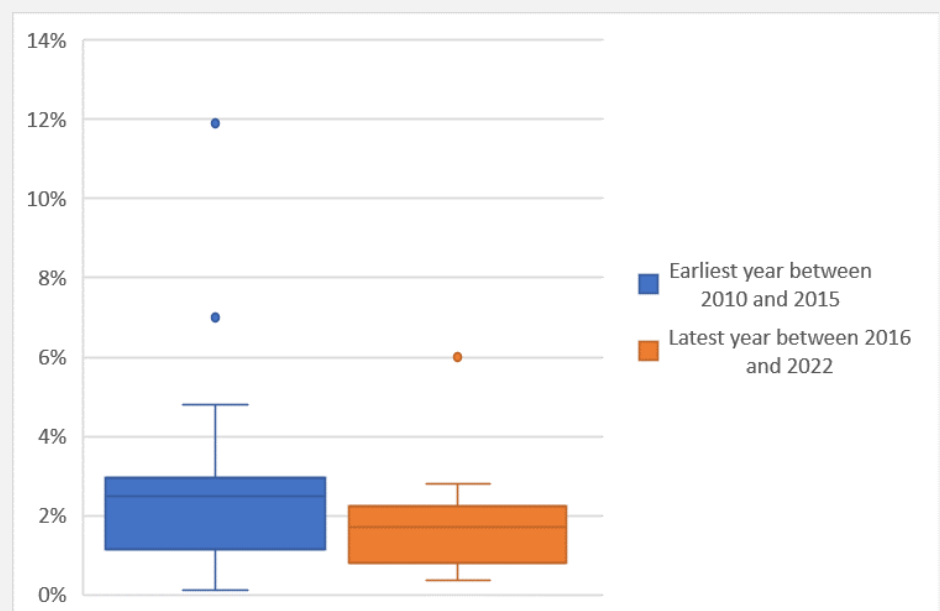
Figure 2: Proportion of population subjected to robbery in the previous 12 months, by region, latest available year



Source: Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2010 and 2022.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

Figure 3: Prevalence of physical assault in the previous 12 months, 25 selected countries, 2010 or earliest year before 2015, 2022 or latest year after 2016



Source: Data based on the earliest available year between 2010 and 2015 and latest available year between 2016 and 2022 for 25 countries.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/sdgs/SDG16_2023.pdf

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): UNODC

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

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

[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

[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

[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

[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 (a) physical, (b) psychological and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

The nature of the crime, notably stigmatized forms of violence such as rape or sexual assault, may impact how willing the victims may be to report to the authorities

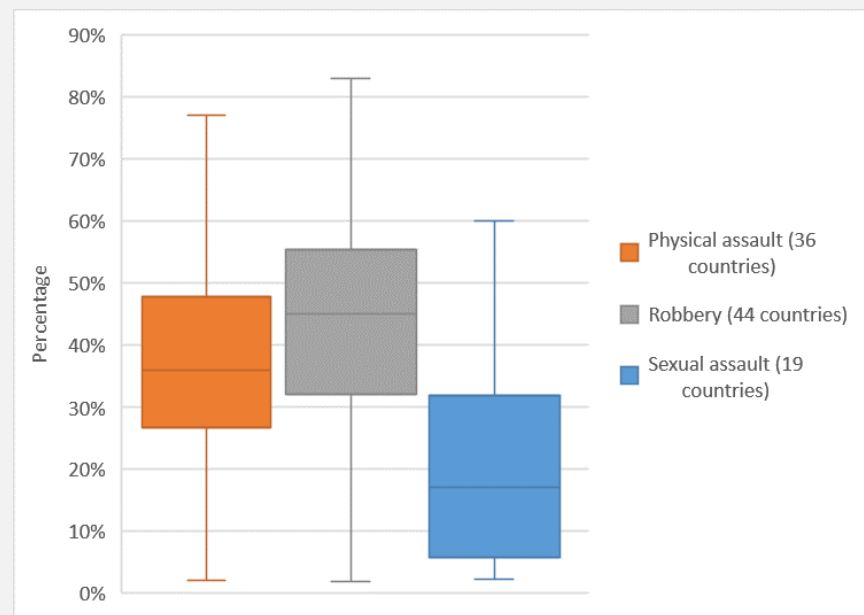
Reporting to competent authorities is the first step for crime victims to seek justice. Without knowledge of the crime, authorities will not conduct investigations and administer justice. Challenges in accessing law enforcement other relevant authorities and a lack of trust and confidence in the ability of the authorities to ensure a follow-up may deter victims from reporting. In addition to reflecting the confidence of crime victims in the ability of the police or other authorities to provide effective redress, reporting rates also provide a measure of the “hidden figure” of crime, meaning the proportion of crimes not reported to the police.

Crime victimization surveys can capture experience and reporting of violence suffered by adult population of both sexes. However, these surveys are not universally conducted across all countries, nor are they conducted at regular intervals. Furthermore, certain forms of violence are not covered by these surveys. Consequently, enhancing data availability takes time. As of early 2024, 53 countries have at least one data point on the reporting of any type of violence covered by indicator 16.3.1 since 2010.

Indicator 16.3.1 focuses on the reporting of physical, sexual and psychological violence. However, data availability in the period 2010-2022 is better for components of these types of violence, such as physical assault and robbery for physical violence and sexual assault for sexual violence. Available data on these forms of violence suggest that the proportion of victims of physical assault and robbery that reported their victimization to the police or other authorities, with a median proportion in countries with data of respectively 36 per cent and 45 per cent, is higher than for sexual assault, for which the median in countries with available data was of 17 per cent (Figure 1). Indeed, the nature of the crime, especially stigmatized forms of violence such as rape or sexual assault, may impact how willing the victims may be to report to the authorities.

In the eight countries of Europe and Northern America with data, the proportion of female victims reporting their victimization is not necessarily higher than for male victims. Only six countries outside of these two regions have data on the reporting of physical assault. Echoing patterns observed in Latin America and the Caribbean, the two countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, Cabo Verde and South Africa, had a higher proportion of female victims of physical assault reporting their victimization than male victims. Other countries outside these regions do not consistently exhibit higher reporting rates to competent authorities among female victims.

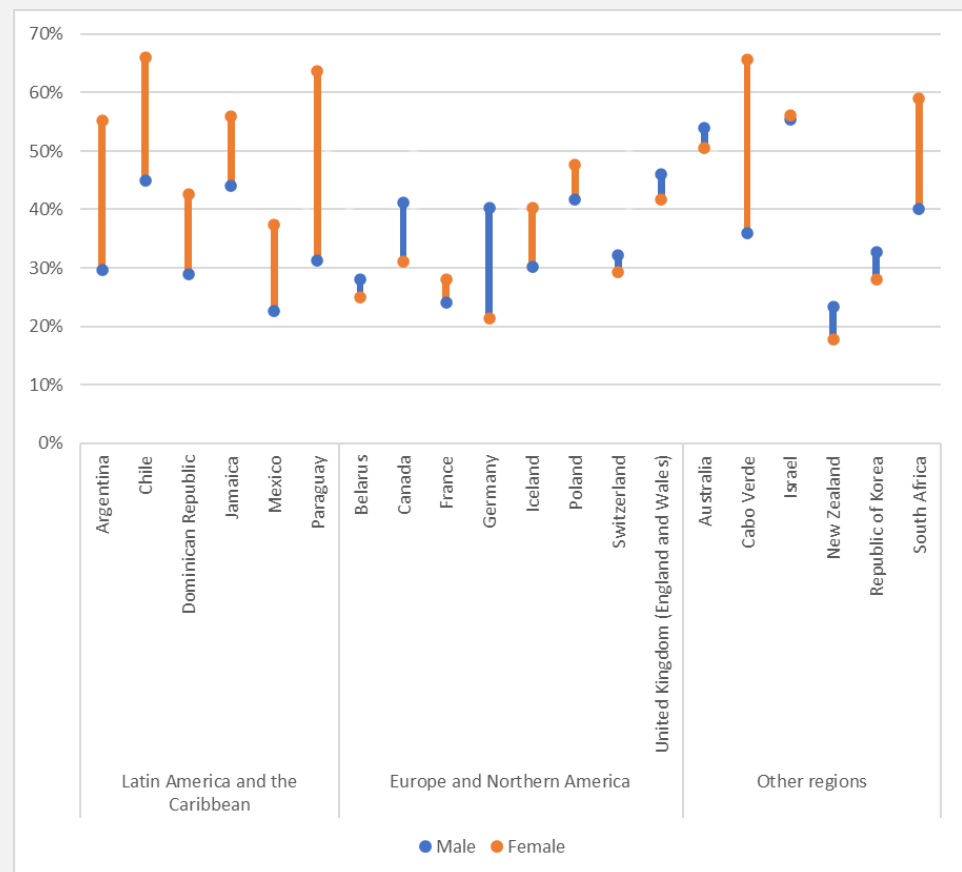
Figure 1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms, by type of crime, selected countries, latest available year since 2010



Source: Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2010 and 2022.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

Figure 2: Proportion of victims of physical assault in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms, selected countries, latest available year since 2016



Source: Data based on the latest available year of survey data since 2016.

Note: The difference between the proportion of male and female victims reporting their victimization is shown by the bars, orange when the proportion is higher for female victims, and blue when the proportion is higher for male victims.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/sdgs/SDG16_2023.pdf

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

Indicator 16.3.2 Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

Ensuring fair access to justice remains crucial, as one out of three prisoners in the world are unsented. Inadequate conditions for unsented detainees underscore the importance of proper prison resources for rehabilitation, reduced recidivism, and societal welfare.

The global prison population is still on the rise, but growth is slowing down. According to the latest global UNODC estimates, there were 11.5 million individuals in detention worldwide in 2022. This represents approximately 144 prisoners per 100,000 population. Despite an overall increase of the number of prisoners during this period from 11.1 to 11.5 million individuals, the growth of the prison population was slower than the world population between 2015 and 2022. As a result, the prisoner-to-population rate in 2022 (142 prisoners per 100,000 population) was smaller than in 2015 (150 prisoners per 100,000 population) (Figure 1). Due to the emergency release of prisoners and fewer conviction rates in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global prisoner-to-population rate was temporarily even lower in 2020 (141 prisoners per 100,000 population).

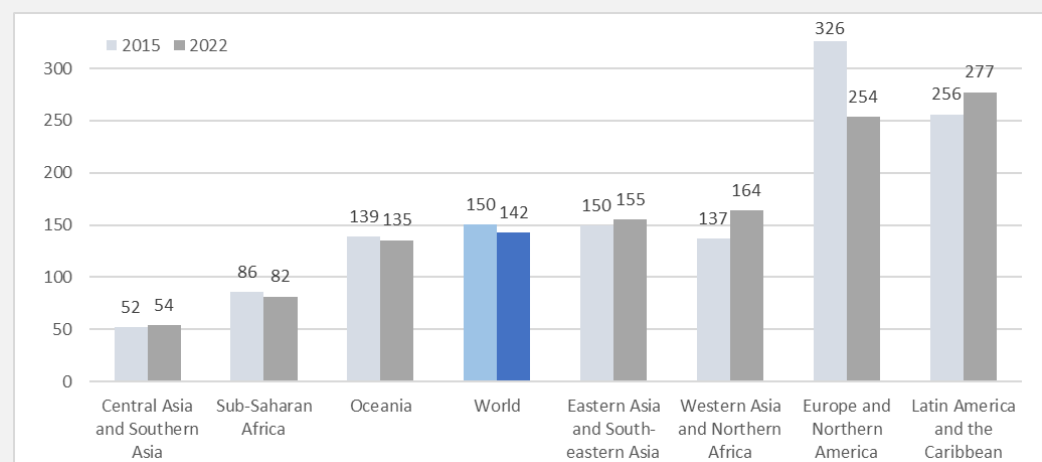
The prisoner-to-population rate varies across SDG regions and the lowest rate of 54 prisoners per 100,000 population was observed in Central Asia and Southern Asia, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (82 prisoners per 100,000 population). The highest rate of 277 prisoners per 100,000 population was observed in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region followed by Europe and Northern America (254 prisoners per 100,000 population).

Access to justice is a fundamental human right. Monitoring progress towards reducing the number of unsented detainees remains critical and little progress has been made in recent years. In 2022, nearly a third (3.5 million) of the global prison population was being held in pre-trial detention and their share remained stable between 2015 and 2022 (around 30%) (Figure 2). Nevertheless, in some SDG regions significant progress can be observed. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the proportion of incarcerated individuals awaiting trial or sentencing decreased from 41% in 2015 to 34% in 2022, similarly in Western Asia and Northern Africa it decreased from 25% to 21% during the same period. However, in many other SDG regions the opposite trend was observed. For instance, in Central Asia and Southern Asia one in two prisoners were unsented in 2015 and the situation has deteriorated further during recent years: In 2022, almost 60% of prisoners were unsented.

Global prison conditions are falling short of the commitments contained in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which recommend that "Member States continue to endeavour to reduce prison overcrowding and, where appropriate, resort to non-custodial measures as alternatives to pretrial detention, to promote increased access to justice and legal defence mechanisms, to reinforce alternatives to imprisonment and to support rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes"³.

Overcrowding in prison is a concern in half of countries with available data, where prisons are operating at over 100 per cent of intended capacity (Figure 3). The situation is particularly concerning in Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa, where more than three fourth of countries with data are reporting overcrowded prison systems. Globally some one in five countries are even operating at over 150 per cent of intended capacity. The adverse effects of overcrowding on prisoner health⁴ and mortality⁵ in prison have been documented.

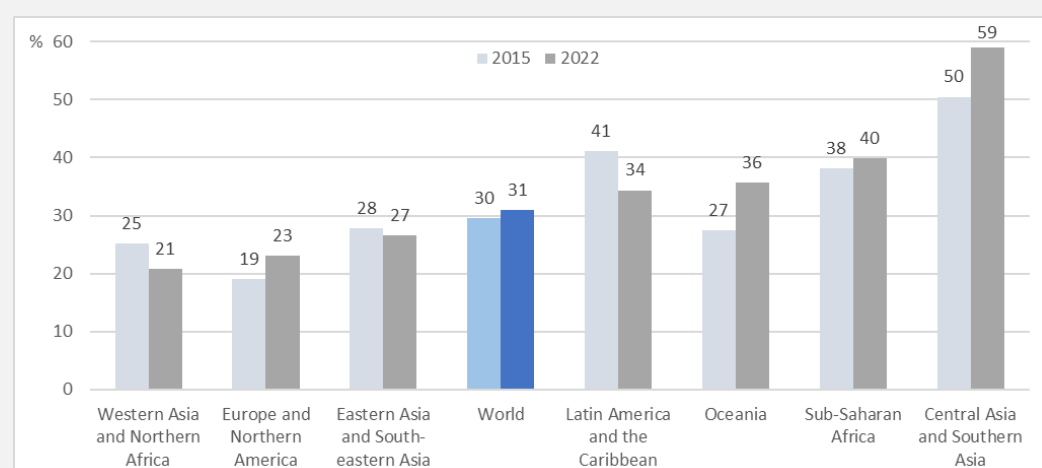
Figure 1: Number of sentenced and unsented detainees per 100.000 population (2015 and 2022)



Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the rate of detainees per 100,000 population in 2022.

Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey.

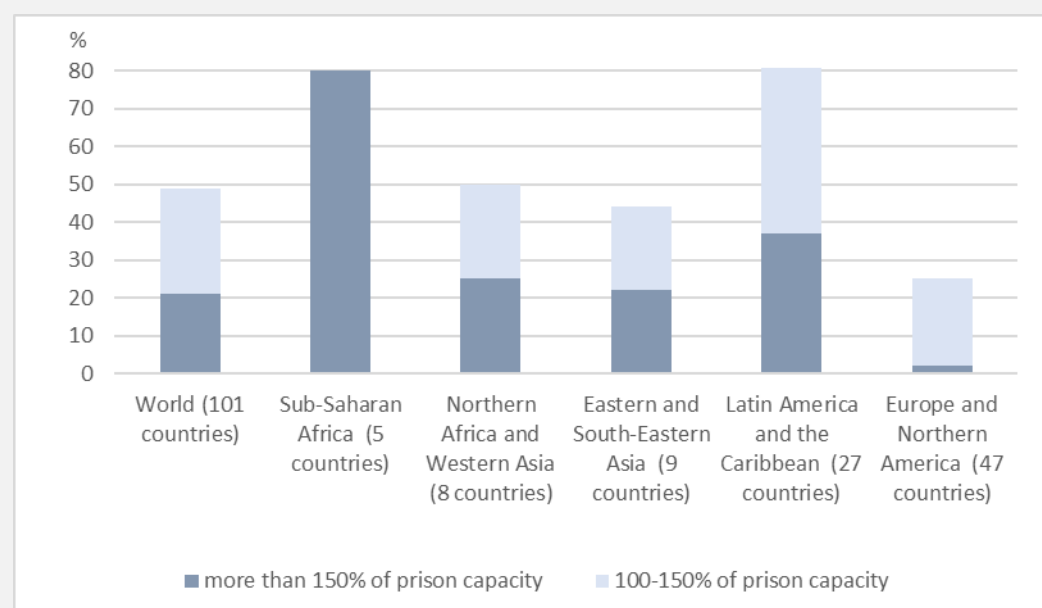
Figure 2: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (2015 and 2022)



Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the proportion of unsented detainees of the overall prison population in 2022.

Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey.

Figure 3: Percentage of countries where prisoners outnumber the prison capacity (2022 or latest year available)



Note: Overcrowding is defined as the number of prisoners in a country exceeds the official prison capacity

Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNODC

³ UN. 2015. A/RES/70/175. Resolution 70/172. United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/443/41/pdf/n1544341.pdf?token=nG3BXUJ3I9jtM2FUDY&fe=true>

⁴ Møller, L., Gatherer, A., & Jürgens, R. 2016. Health in prisons: A WHO guide to the essentials in prison health. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

https://intranet.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/99018/E90174.pdf

⁵ Fazel, S., Ramesh, T., Hawton, K. 2017. Suicide in prisons: An international study of prevalence and contributory factors. The Lancet Public Health, 2(3), e120-e126; Wolff, N., Jing Shi, J., & Bachman, R. 2008. The impact of prison crowding on inmate violence. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 45(2), 200-220.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(17\)30430-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(17)30430-3/fulltext)

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)

Unlocking countries potential to measure and curb IFFs is a key strategy to recover resources and sustain resilience amidst multiple crises

The ability to achieve the SDGs remains fragile when illicit financial flows (IFFs) continue to drain resources that would be needed to fulfil human rights and pursue sustainable development. This exacerbates poverty by limiting the financial capacity of governments to provide essential services and support for vulnerable populations. Crises, such as epidemics, natural disasters, and armed conflicts amplify the negative effects of IFFs. IFFs strain resources critical for development when they leave a country (outflows), but also when they enter a country (inflows), as they may fuel corruption and finance organized crime and terrorism, especially in areas suffering of political turmoil, weak institutions, and conflict.

Since 2018, UNODC has supported countries in the production of estimates for crime-related IFFs. In several of these countries, this work culminated in IFFs estimates which are summarized in "Crime-related illicit financial flows: latest progress". In addition, new data from Afghanistan highlight a dramatic decline in inward illicit financial flows from opiates trafficking in the country. In 2023 opium poppy cultivation and opium production dramatically declined after the ban prohibiting "Poppy Cultivation and All types of Narcotics" was announced by the de-facto authorities in April 2022. If the whole opium harvest from 2023 were exported in the form of opium or heroin, it would yield inward illicit financial flows worth 190 to 260 million USD, which compares to 1.7 to 2.5 billion USD in 2021 (representing a 90 per cent decline). This reduction may have great implications for rural livelihoods, cause a displacement of opium production to other countries and lead to a reduction in purity or replacement of heroin or opium by other substances.

Trade misinvoicing affects trade in various commodities which vary across countries: for example, in Burkina Faso trade in beverages, petroleum and ore; and in South Africa trade in precious metals and stones, and electrical machinery are affected. Early estimates show that illicit financial flows associated with trade misinvoicing are far from being insignificant: they may reach even a half of officially recorded trade in some countries. Preventing illicit flows and recovering proceeds from tax and duty evasion would allow allocating essential funding to enhance social and health services or build resilience against natural disasters.

As co-custodians of SDG indicator 16.4.1, UNCTAD and UNODC continue to support countries by strengthening their national capacity to track and curb IFFs. In 2023, nine countries joined new efforts to develop the first total estimates of IFFs. These will bring together estimates of IFFs from criminal, tax and commercial activities. The project also helps countries to develop evidence-based policy action based on the new data. Pilot testing carried out in 22 countries demonstrate that effective partnership involving national statistical offices, central banks, tax and customs authorities, financial intelligence units and relevant ministries and specialized agencies is crucial for supporting effective monitoring and curbing of IFFs. Beyond offering new data and a better understanding of IFFs, the pilots have enhanced inter-agency collaboration to share data and curb these flows, and they have encouraged countries to compare data with key trading partner countries. Egypt created a dedicated Customs department to measure IFFs. Namibia has bilateral meetings with South Africa to more accurately record trade in selected commodities with significant IFF risks. Zambia now tracks the destinations of copper exports, and Angola uses the new data to redirect recovered funds to education and health.

Country activities, supported by UNCTAD, UNODC and UN Regional Commissions, continue to provide critical information for refining IFFs measurement methods to identify IFFs as accurately as possible from any other flows. In 2023, UNCTAD released 'Towards a Statistical Framework to measure tax and commercial IFFs' to share the methods updated based on the first pilots and to enable all interested countries to track IFFs arising from tax and commercial practices.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UNCTAD webpage: <https://unctad.org/statistics/illicit-financial-flows>
- SDG pulse: <https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/illicit-financial-flows/>
- UNCTAD (2023). Towards a Statistical Framework to measure tax and commercial IFFs. <https://unctad.org/publication/towards-statistical-framework-measurement-tax-and-commercial-illicit-financial-flows>
- UNODC webpage: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/data-and-analysis/iff.html>
- UNODC (2023). Crime-related illicit financial flows. Latest progress. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/IFF/2023/IFFs_Estimates_Report_2023-final-11dec2023.pdf
- UNODC (2023). Afghanistan opium survey 2023. https://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghanistan_opium_survey_2023.pdf

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Diana Camerini, UNCTAD; Bojan Nastav, UNCTAD; Anu Peltola, UNCTAD; Hernan Epstein, UNODC; Martijn Kind, UNODC

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

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Bullet

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

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

The experience of bribery differs depending on the income level of the country

There are major regional differences in the proportion of people who had contact with a public official and who paid a bribe or were asked to pay a bribe in the latest year available between 2015 and 2022. In countries in Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa, a respective annual average 29.7 and 26.6 per cent of the population accessing public services had to pay or was asked to pay a bribe in that period in the 12 months prior to the survey, while the figure was 10.1 per cent in Europe and Northern America. It is important to note, however, that in all regions there was great variability in the national prevalence of bribery experienced by individuals. This was most notable in Oceania, where the national prevalence of bribery ranged between 4 and 54 per cent (figure 1).

The differences between regions correspond with the income levels of countries. As shown in figure 2, there is a marked difference in the average prevalence of bribery between low-income countries (31.6 per cent), lower middle-income countries (26.2 per cent), upper middle-income countries (17.1 per cent) and high-income countries (8.9 per cent). However, there is also variability in the prevalence of bribery between countries within the same income group.

Based on data collected in 18 countries between 2010 and 2021, there is evidence to suggest that men are more likely than women to engage in bribery during their interactions with public officials. Data from 10 countries suggest that this gender difference is primarily influenced by different levels of interaction by women and men with sectors that are typically male dominated, such as the police, customs or the land registry (see UNODC, “Data matters 4: monitoring SDG 16 – a gender perspective” (2022)).

Figure 1: Prevalence of bribery experienced by individuals in the last 12 months by region, latest available year between 2015 and 2022

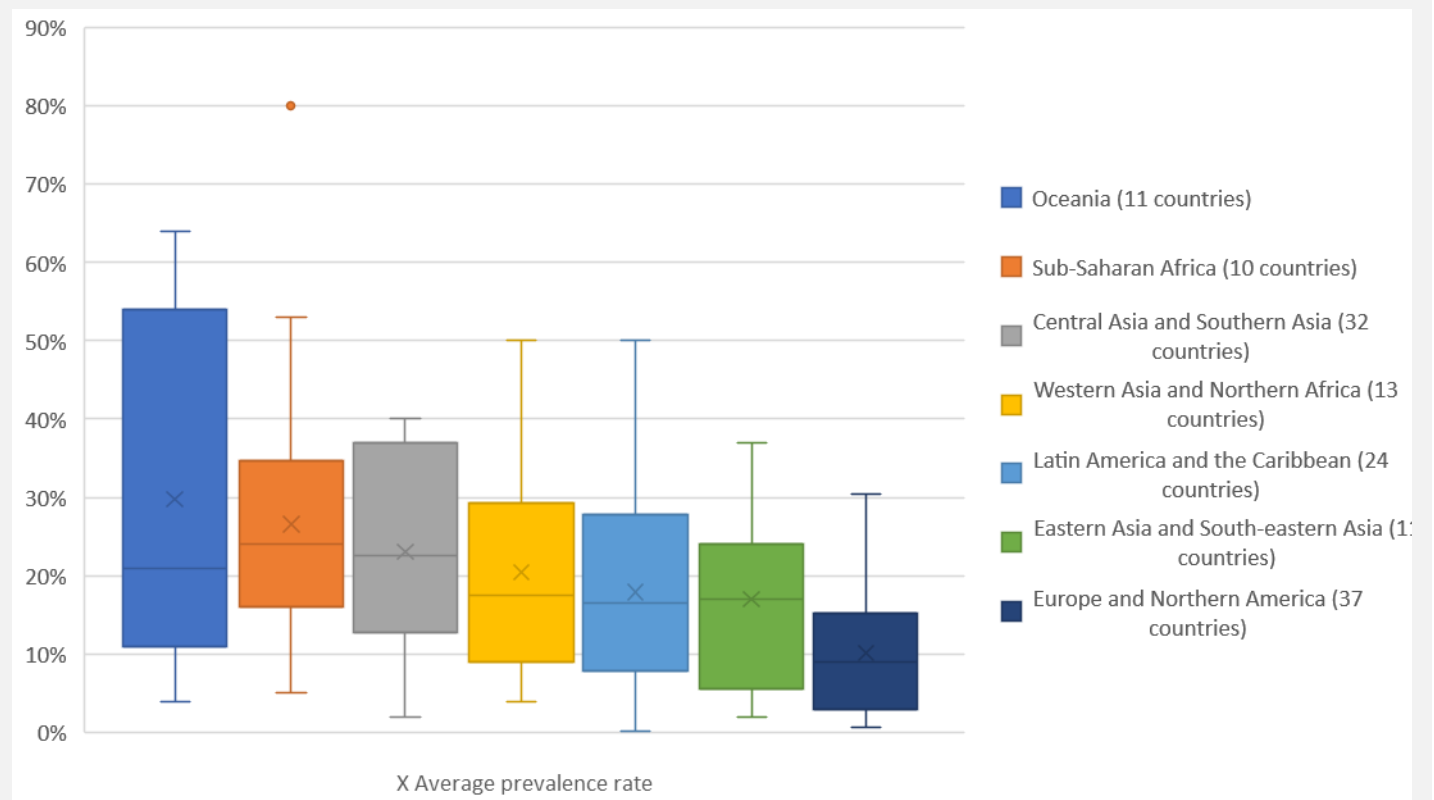
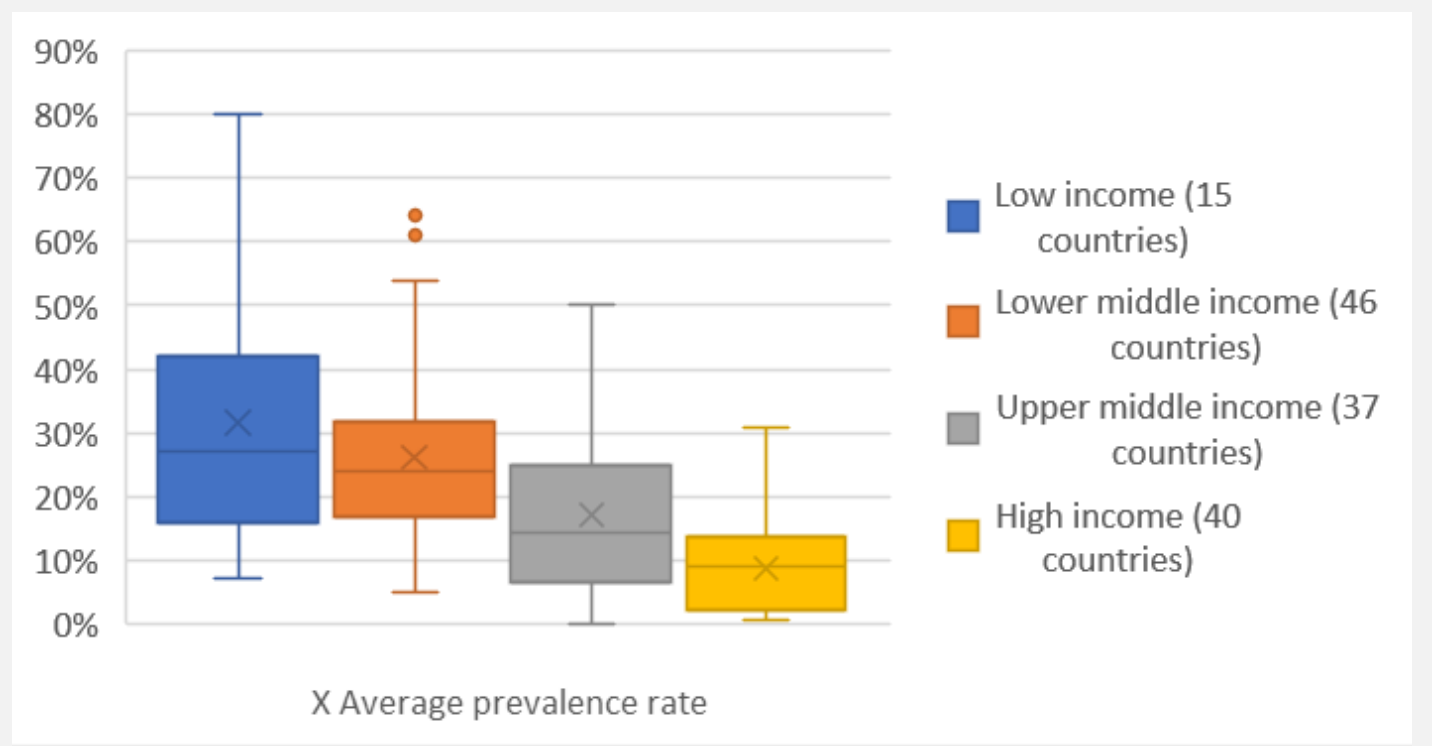


Figure 2: Prevalence of bribery experienced by individuals in the last 12 months by income level of countries, latest available year between 2015 and 2022



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

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

Custodian agency(ies): 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)

Budget reliability affected by multiple crises

Countries sought to return to credible budgets after the COVID-19 pandemic while contending with strong international shocks impacting on their economies. Attempts to support economic activity and address social stresses have resulted in higher budget expenditure than originally approved across all regions. Budget reliability improved in 2021 and 2022 compared with 2020 but remained weaker than pre-pandemic levels.

SDG 16.6.1 performance in the period 2015-2022

Most executed budgets were higher than approved budgets after 2019. Chart 1 illustrates that the difference between actual and approved government expenditure after 2019 was higher than in the pre-COVID period.

The tendency for higher spending was partly due to emergency financial measures for COVID-19. Also, economic stimulus measures to offset other economic shocks such as inflation and natural resource price volatility were important. Higher spending than originally approved budget was most evident in Europe and North Africa.

The variation in country experiences was greater in 2020 and 2021 than in pre-COVID years. In 2022, average deviations from approved budgets across all countries were reduced. That suggests the effects of the pandemic and other global shocks were having less impact on budget variations.

Performance in UN regions during 2015-2022

Chart 2 reveals that Western Asia and Northern Africa, Central Asia and Southern Asia, and Northern America and Europe regions had the highest expenditure deviations relative to the pre-pandemic period. For Central Asia and Europe, geopolitical tensions are likely to have been significant. In Western Asia and Northern Africa the deviations may be attributed to additional spending in response to higher-than-expected revenues and inflation.

Comparison of 2021-2022 (post-pandemic) and 2015-19 (pre-pandemic) reveals that the budget reliability was lower than in the pre-COVID period in most regions except Latin America and the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa, as shown in Chart 3. In Central Asia and Southern Asia the percentage of countries with budget deviations of less than 5% declined from 46.2% in the pre-pandemic era to 30.8% post-pandemic. In Europe, countries with a deviation below 5% plummeted from 69.2% prior to COVID-19 to 28.9% after 2019.

The multiple crises emphasized the need for governments to be better prepared for future emergencies. The experiences since COVID indicate that governments across the world have found it difficult to return to pre-COVID levels of budget reliability, in part due to the incidence of new international challenges including global political stresses, inflation and resource price volatility.

Chart 1. The deviations of government expenditures from approved levels, all countries, %, FY 2015 - FY 2022

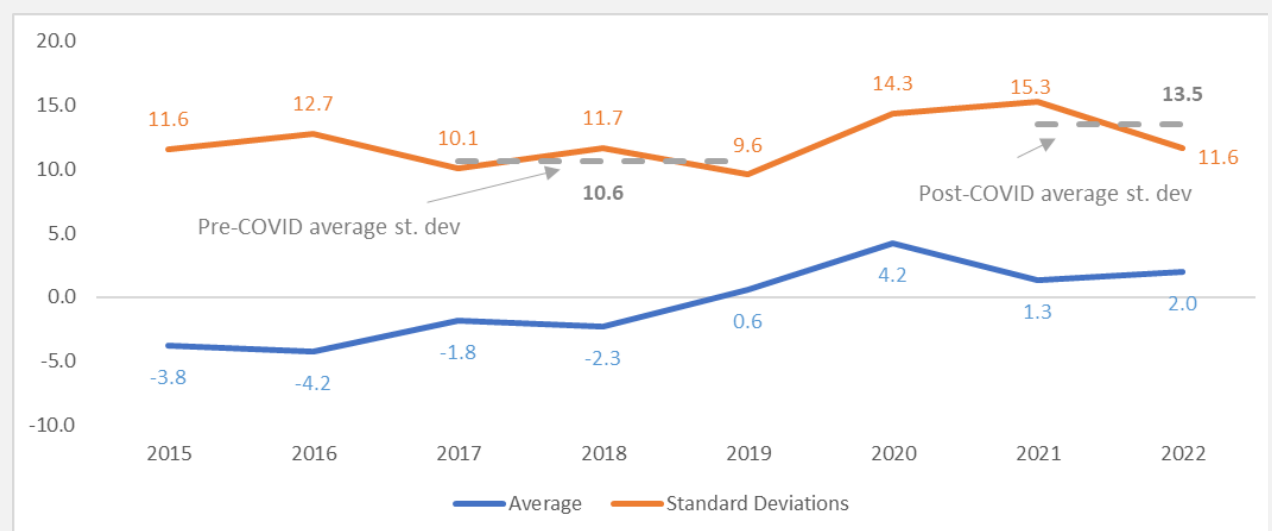
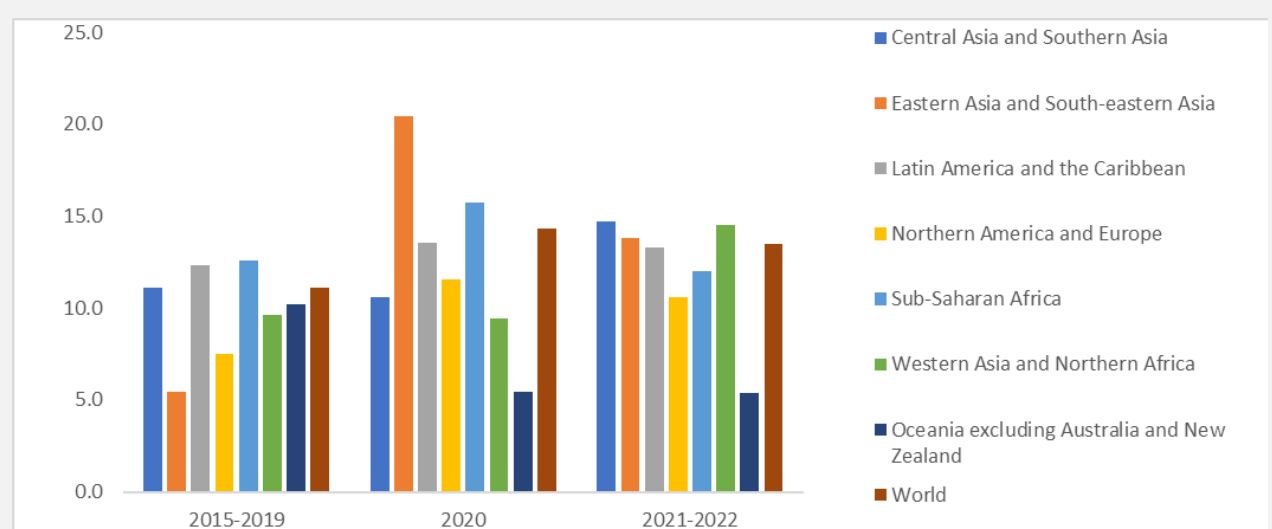
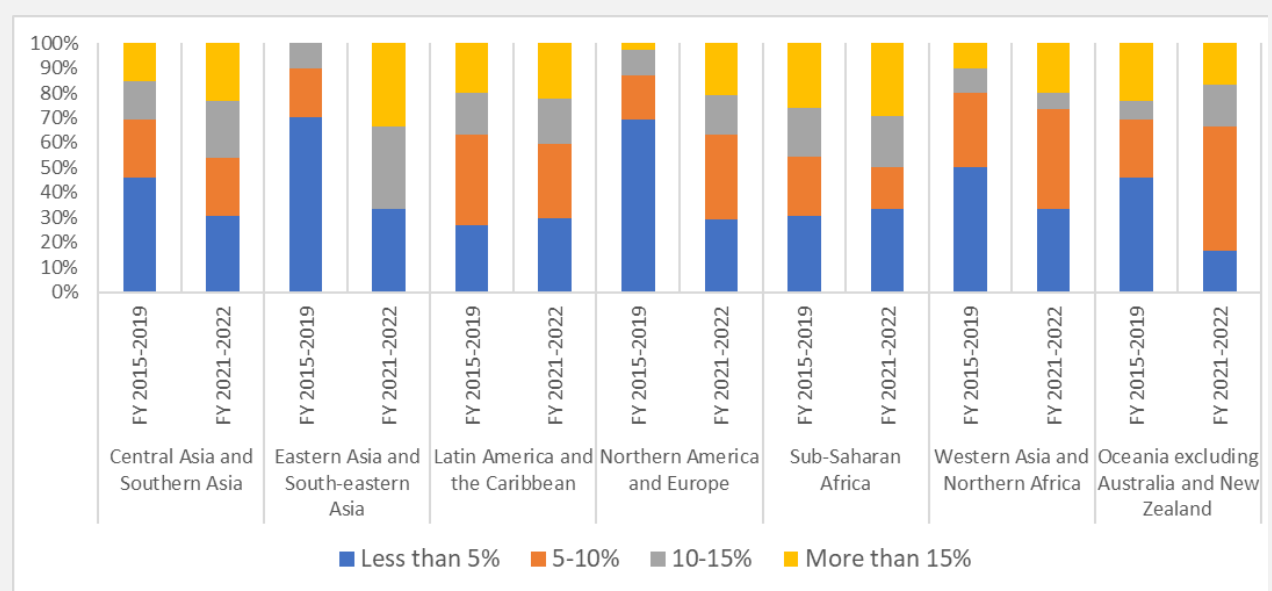


Chart 2. The extent of differences in budget reliability between countries by regions, FY 2015 - FY 2022



* The chart shows the standard deviations of actual and approved budget expenditures by regions.

Chart 3. Comparison of the deviations between approved and executed expenditure, 2015-19 and 2021-22, by region and category



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Srinivas Gurazada, Lewis Hawke, Garik Petrosyan, Silvia Kirova, Ashikur Rahman

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

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

Gender equality committees see women in charge, but men dominate elsewhere, reflecting an uneven leadership landscape in parliaments

Globally, at 1 January 2024, women chaired 27.2% (268 of 984) of parliamentary committees on defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights (Chart 1). However, excluding gender equality committees from the analysis, women's share drops to 18.9% across all regions. This is a slight improvement compared to the past five years where women's share fluctuated between 17.2% to 18.1% (excluding gender equality) and 25.7% to 26.8% for all committees considered.

Few women chair committees on defence (13.2%) and finance (13.4%) with slightly better representation as chairs of committees on foreign affairs (20.1%) and human rights (30.6% - up from 23.3% in 2023). This disparity is also evident regionally. Europe had the highest proportion of women chairing all five types of committees (34.3%), while this share was lowest in the Pacific (11.1%). Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region with gender parity among chairs of gender equality committees. In the Pacific, no committee on human rights or gender equality was chaired by a woman. Europe accounts for more than half of the female chairs of finance committees (17 out of 31), while none in the MENA region have a female chair. Similarly, few women chair defence committees (25 out of 189 globally): 8 in Europe, 6 in the Americas and in Sub-Saharan Africa each, 2 in Asia and MENA each, and 1 in the Pacific.

Women account for 23.8% of Speakers of parliament worldwide (up by +2.9 points since 2021) which is below their global share of parliamentary seats (26.9%) (Charts 3 & 4). In the Americas, over one-third (34%) of all Speakers were women as of 1 January 2024 – the highest among all regions. The second-highest ranking region in terms of women's representation among Speakers was sub-Saharan Africa (28.4%), followed by Europe (27.1%), Asia (15.4%) and the Pacific (12.5%). There were no women Speakers in the MENA region as of 1 January 2024.

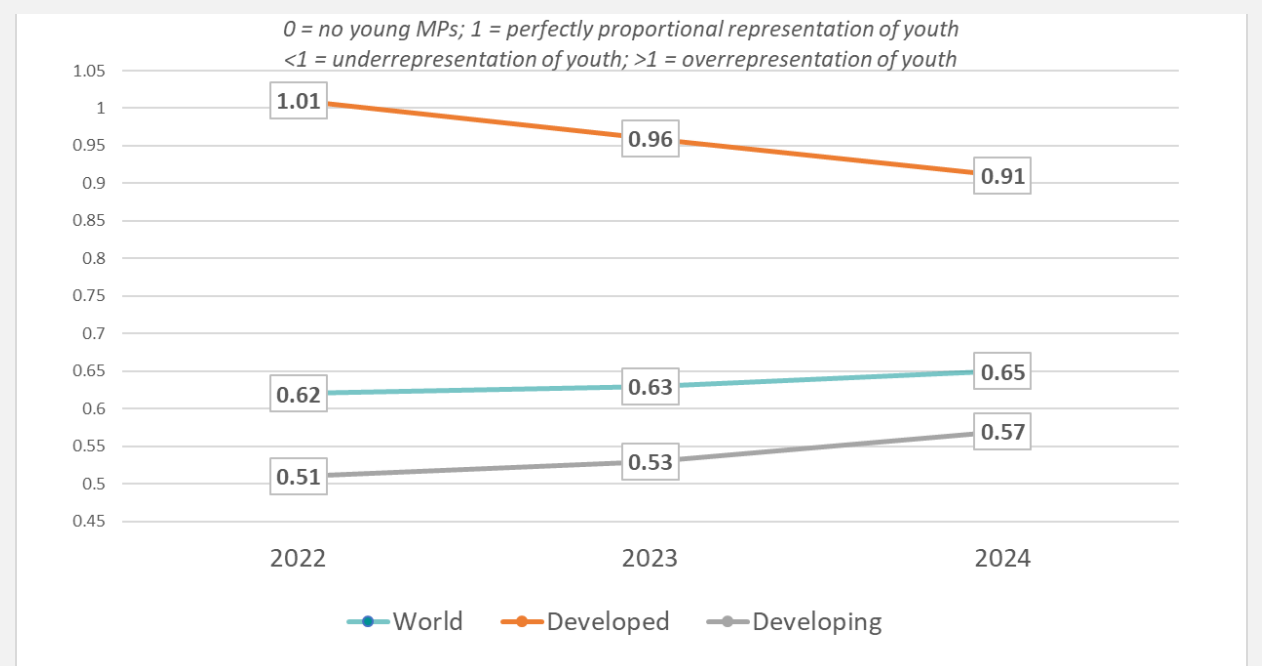
Young MPs (age 45 or less) have maintained between 8.5% to 10% of Speaker posts in recent years, but have seen a decline in committee chair posts in 2024 (17.3%), the lowest in five years (Chart 4).

Globally, young MPs (age 45 or less) hold 31.8% of seats across all parliamentary chambers and are still underrepresented, especially within younger age cohorts of 40 and under (18.6%) and 30 and under (2.9%).

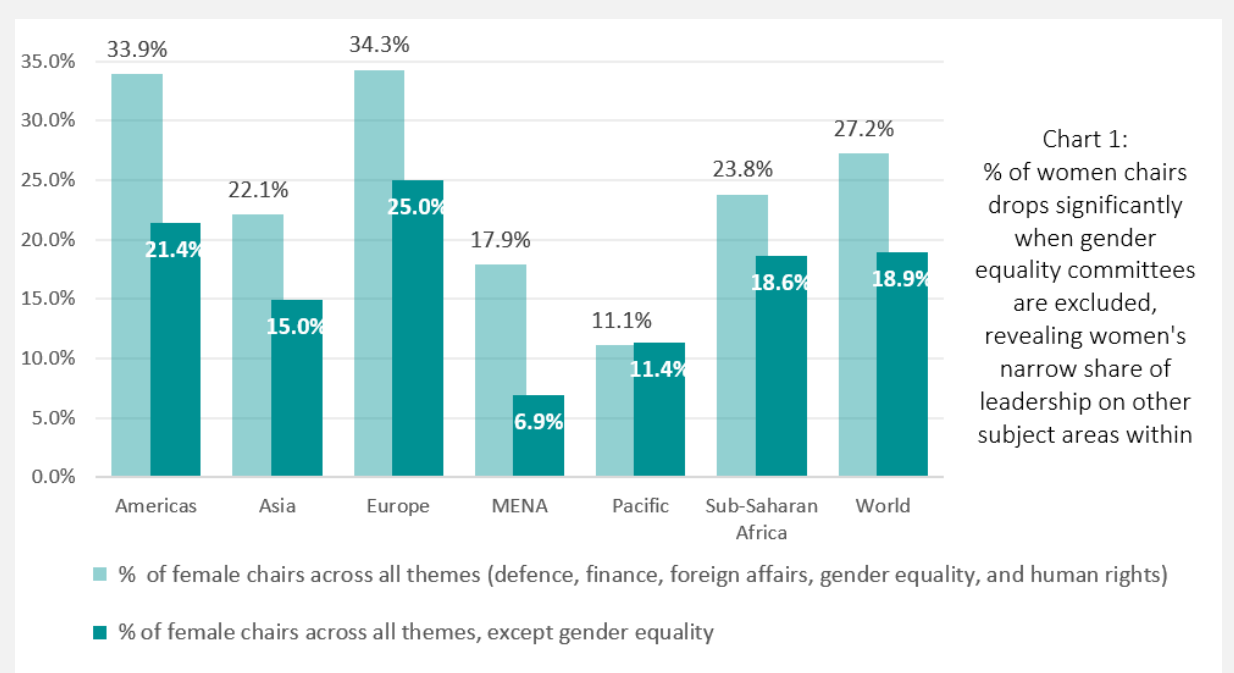
The representation of young MPs in unicameral or lower chambers of parliaments of developed countries is higher and more closely corresponds to their share of the national population (Chart 5). But this has begun to regress in the past couple of years. The ratio in developed countries dropped from 1.01 in 2022 (proportional) to 0.91 in 2024 (underrepresented), corresponding with a drop in total seats from 41.1% (2022) to 37.7% (2024). These losses are offset by gains in developing countries, where the total share of seats held by young MPs has increased from 28.8% (2022) to 33.5% (2024) in unicameral and lower chambers of parliament and the ratio of young MPs has increased from 0.49 in 2021 to 0.65 in 2024. In sum, incremental growth of youth representation continues at the global level, despite a regression in developed regions.

Regionally, Europe continues to have the highest proportion of young MPs (age 45 or under) relative to the national population, followed by the Americas (Chart 6). Last year, Asia and the Americas made the most progress. Africa remained stagnated, and proportional youth representation in Europe and Oceania receded (Chart 6).

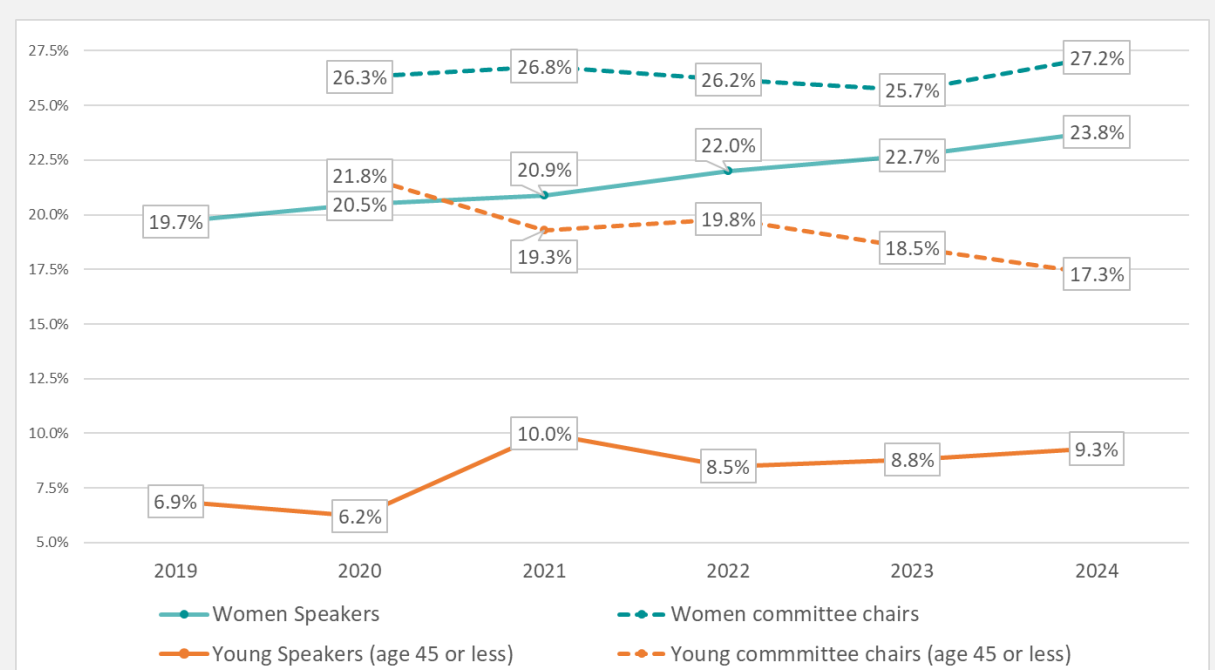
Proportion of young MPs (age 45 or less) declining in developed regions



Gender equality committees see women in charge, but male chairs dominate elsewhere, reflecting an uneven leadership landscape in parliaments



Representation of youth and women in parliamentary leadership



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, "Speakers in Parliament," <https://data.ipu.org/speakers>
- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, "Specialized bodies," <https://data.ipu.org/specialized-bodies/>
- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, "Data on age: By country," <https://data.ipu.org/age-brackets/>

- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, “Data on age: Global and regional aggregates”, <https://data.ipu.org/age-brackets-aggregate/>
- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, “Minimum age of eligibility”, <https://data.ipu.org>
- IPU (2024). Women in Parliament in 2023: The year in review <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2024-03/women-in-parliament-2023>
- IPU and UN Women (2023). Women in Politics map, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/infographics/2023-03/women-in-politics-2023>
- IPU (2023). Youth participation in national parliaments, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2023-10/youth-participation-in-national-parliaments-2023>
- IPU (2022). Women in parliament in 2021, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2022-03/women-in-parliament-in-2021>.
- IPU (2021). Women in parliament in 2020, <https://www.ipu.org/women-in-parliament-2020>
- IPU (2021). Youth participation in national parliaments, <https://www.ipu.org/youth2021>
- IPU (2020). Women in parliament: 1995-2020 – 25 years in review, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2020-03/women-in-parliament-1995-2020-25-years-in-review>
- IPU (2018). Women in parliament in 2018: The year in review, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2019-03/women-in-parliament-in-2018-year-in-review>
- IPU (2018). Youth participation in national parliaments, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-12/youth-participation-in-national-parliaments-2018>
- IPU (2017). Women in parliament in 2017: The year in review, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-03/women-in-parliament-in-2017-year-in-review>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Addie Erwin, Data Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Custodian agency(ies): IPU, UNDP

Globally, women remain underrepresented in public service institutions and in the judiciary

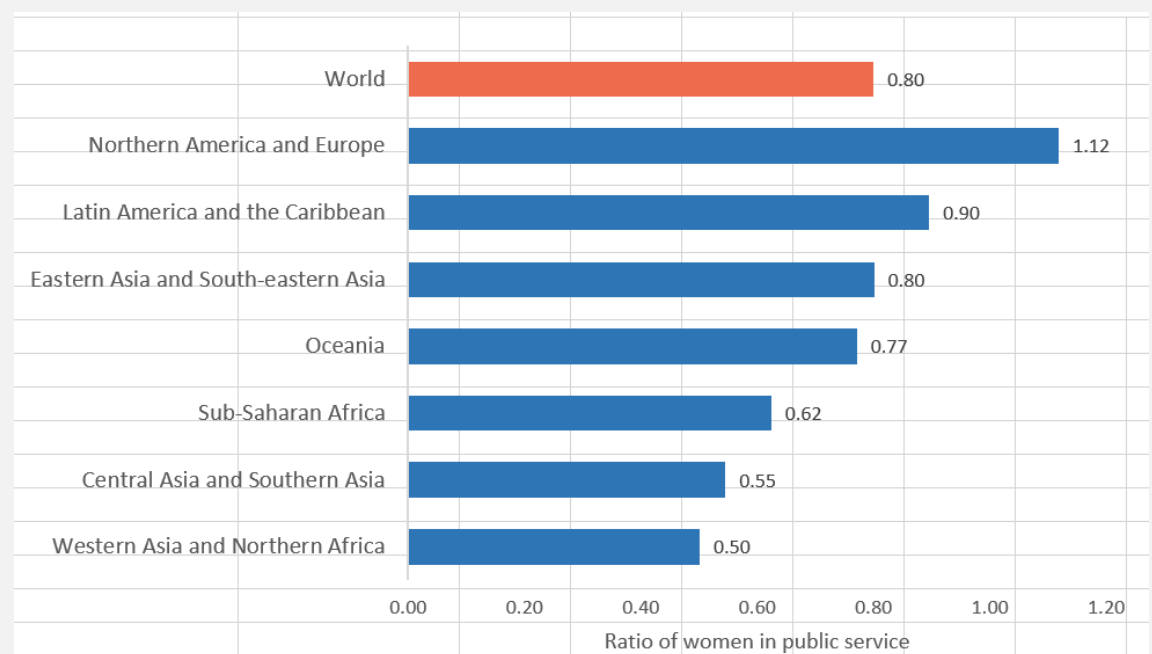
Globally, 53.5% of working age women (15-64 years old) participate in the labor force in 2022, a rate that has shown almost no change over the past three decades. In contrast, the participation rate for men stands notably higher than that for women at 78.8%. This significant gender gap in labor force participation is mirrored by a notable gap in representation.

An analysis of data from 126 countries and areas reveals that achieving parity in public service employment remains a distant goal on a global scale. Globally, women continue to be conspicuously underrepresented in public service roles, with a ratio of 0.80. This ratio suggests that, on average, for every 80 women employed in public service, there are 100 women within the working-age population. The data also highlights significant regional disparities. In Europe and North America, women are, on average, overrepresented in public service, with 112 women for every 100 women in the working-age population. Conversely, in Western Asia and Northern Africa closely followed by Central Asia and Southern Asia, the figures are strikingly low, with just 50 and 55 women respectively for every 100 within the working-age population.

Available data with occupational disaggregation from 20 countries suggest that women tend to be overrepresented at lower levels of decision-making within public service while being noticeably underrepresented at higher levels. These patterns may suggest the presence of a glass ceiling that limits their career progression aspirations in public service. At the general and clerical levels, there are, on average, 148 women for every 100 working-age women, while at the senior government official level, the ratio drops to 84 women for every 100 working-age.

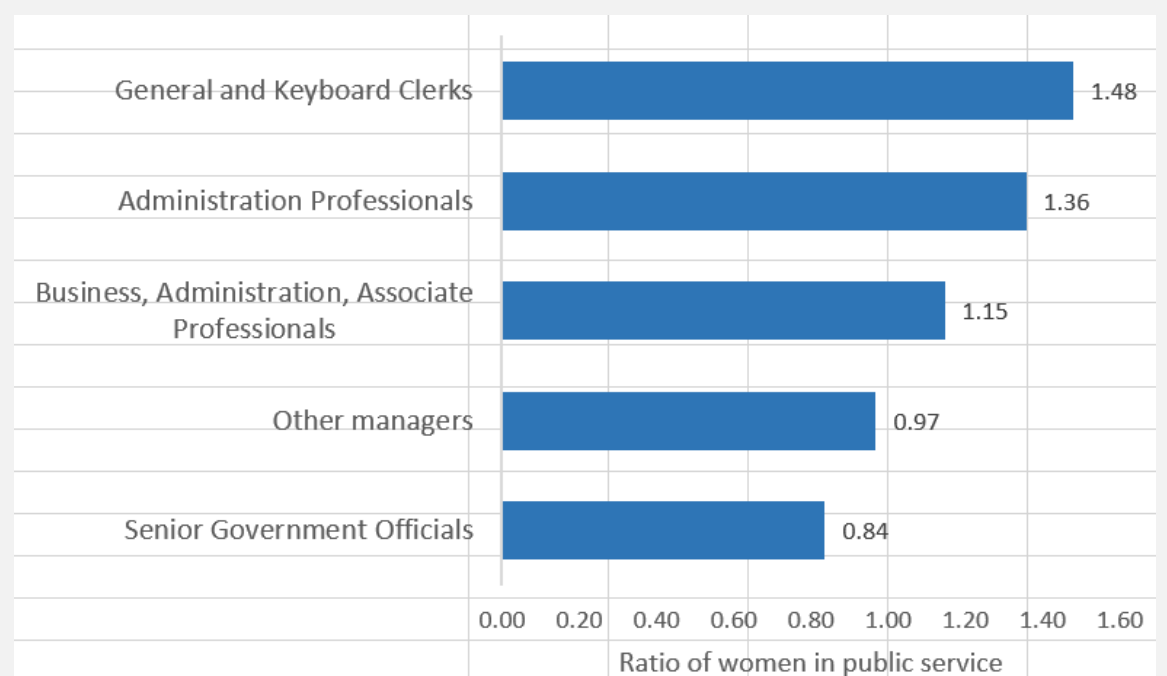
When examining the judiciary, the data presents a more positive picture. Data from 78 countries reveal that there is almost parity (0.95) in the number of female judges in the judiciary, with an average of 95 women judges for every 100 working-age women. However, disaggregated data available from 44 countries shows that there are variations across different court levels. Lower-level courts show overrepresentation (1.15) of women judges, while higher-level courts exhibit parity (0.99). Conversely, there is notable underrepresentation (0.74) of women in constitutional and supreme courts highlighting again the gender gap in representation at higher level positions.

Figure 1: Ratio of women in public service to the proportion of women in the working age population, by region (2022)



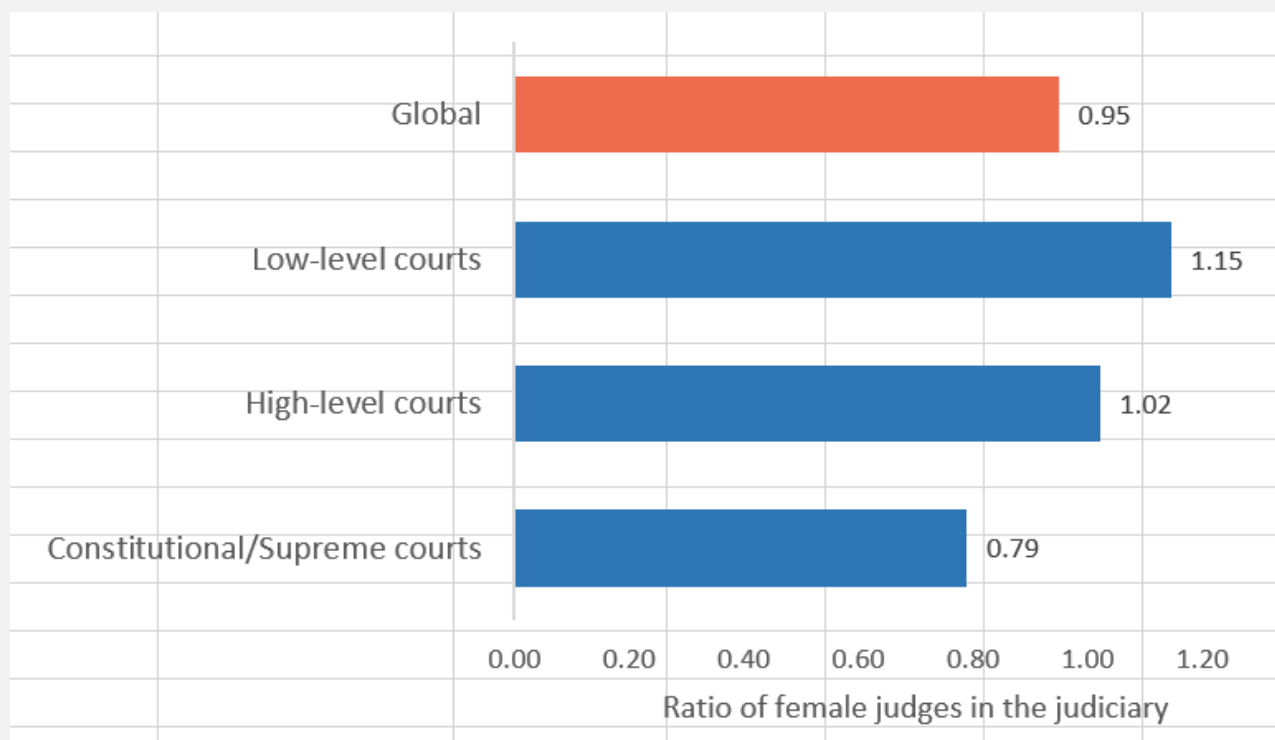
Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b), and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on 126 countries using the latest available data in the period 2015-2022. Previously published estimates for the same time period were based on 101 countries.

Figure 2: Ratio of women in public service to the proportion of women in the working age population, by occupation (2022)



Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b) and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on 20 countries using the latest available data in the period 2015-2022. Only countries that provided data on all occupational disaggregations are included in the analysis.

Figure 3: Ratio of female judges in the judiciary to the proportion of working age women, by level of court (2023)



Note: SDG indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b) and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Global estimates are derived based on 78 countries using the latest available data in the period 2015-2023. Previously published global estimates for the same time period were based on 67 countries. Only countries that provided data on all courts are included in the analysis by level of court (44 countries).

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Advancing Inclusive Decision-Making for Sustainable Development: Representation in the Public Service through SDG 16.7.1b, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre SDG 16 Policy Brief, 2021

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Mariana Neves, UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance; Fatma Usheva, UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance

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 16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

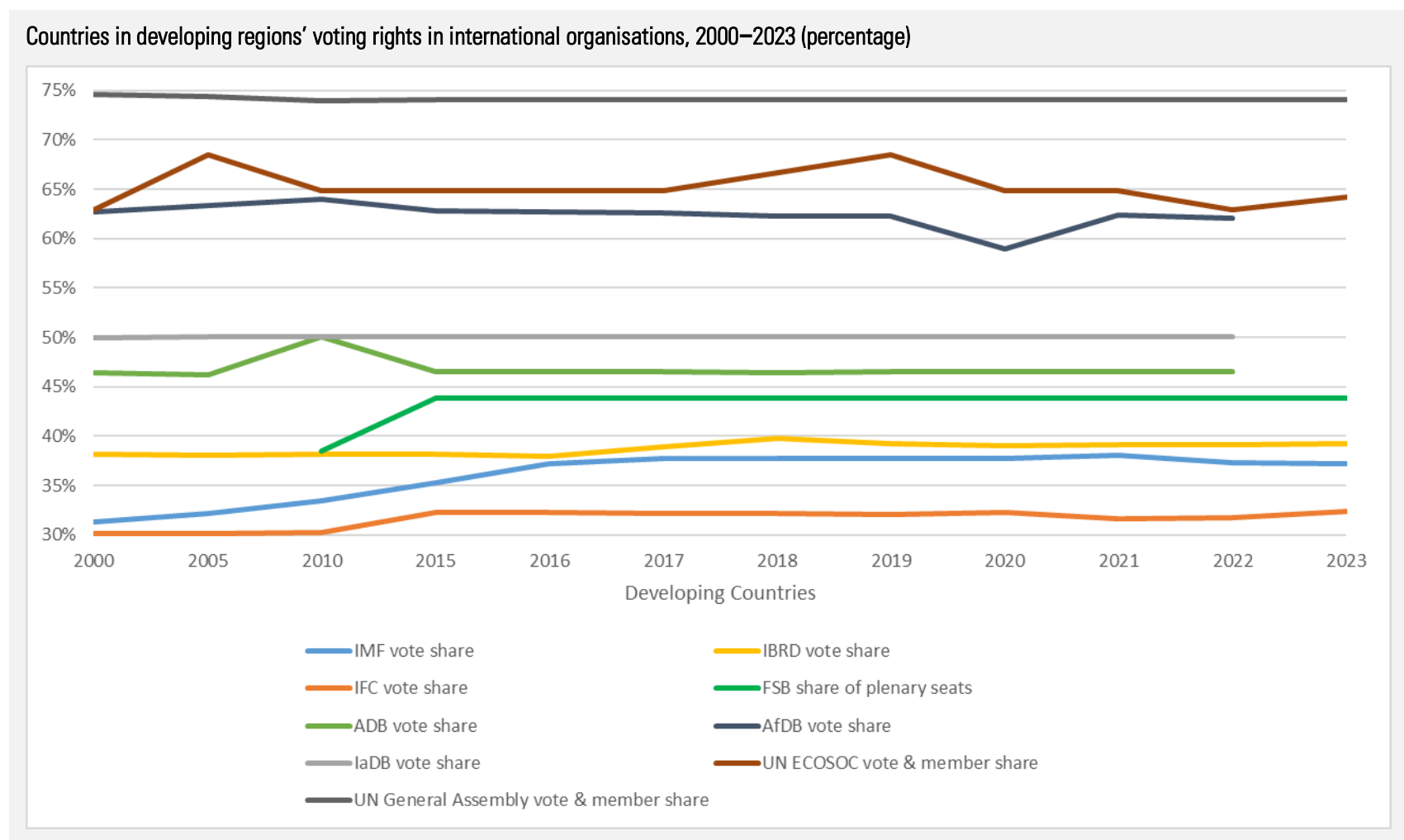
The voice and participation of developing countries⁶ in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance needs to be broadened and strengthened

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 per cent 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.



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

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNSD, UNICEF

⁶ 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 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

Killings have decreased but remain elevated, enforced disappearance of human rights defenders continued to surge, and more journalists were killed in conflict zones in 2023

Overall trends

In 2023, there was a decline in the killings of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists. Whilst 2022 was a 4-year high point where 448 were killed across 36 countries, in 2023 there were at least 320 cases observed by national human rights institutions (SDG indicator 16.a.1) and the United Nations in 40 countries. This included 71 journalists killed in 2023 compared to 88 in 2022. However, two alarming trends also featured in 2023. First, enforced disappearance cases have nearly doubled for the second consecutive year, and have increased to 54 cases reported across 14 countries in 2023. In addition, the world once again witnessed more journalists killed in conflict affected countries. In total, 40 journalists and media workers were killed while working in conflict zones in 2023, compared to 28 in 2022 and 20 in 2021.

Nearly a decade since member States agreed to aim for zero killings and other attacks against those who stand up for the rights of others and those seeking to keep everyone well-informed, it is sobering to note that killings and enforced disappearance of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists have been observed in at least 97 countries and territories, and across all regions of the world. While the total number of killings have fluctuated since 2015, with noticeable peaks in 2018 and 2022, they have never gone below 300. It remains the case that on average more than 1 human rights defender, journalist or trade unionist is killed every day.

Geographic distribution and victim profiles

Breaking down the geographical impact of killings, it is notable that despite experiencing a decline in the number of cases, Latin America, and the Caribbean remain the region with the highest number of killings, accounting for 70% of verified cases. Eastern and Southeastern Asia, however, stand out with 4 out of 10 enforced disappearance cases in this region. Peasant leaders and land and environmental human rights defenders continue to withstand the worst of violence, accounting for over half of victims of killings and enforced disappearances.

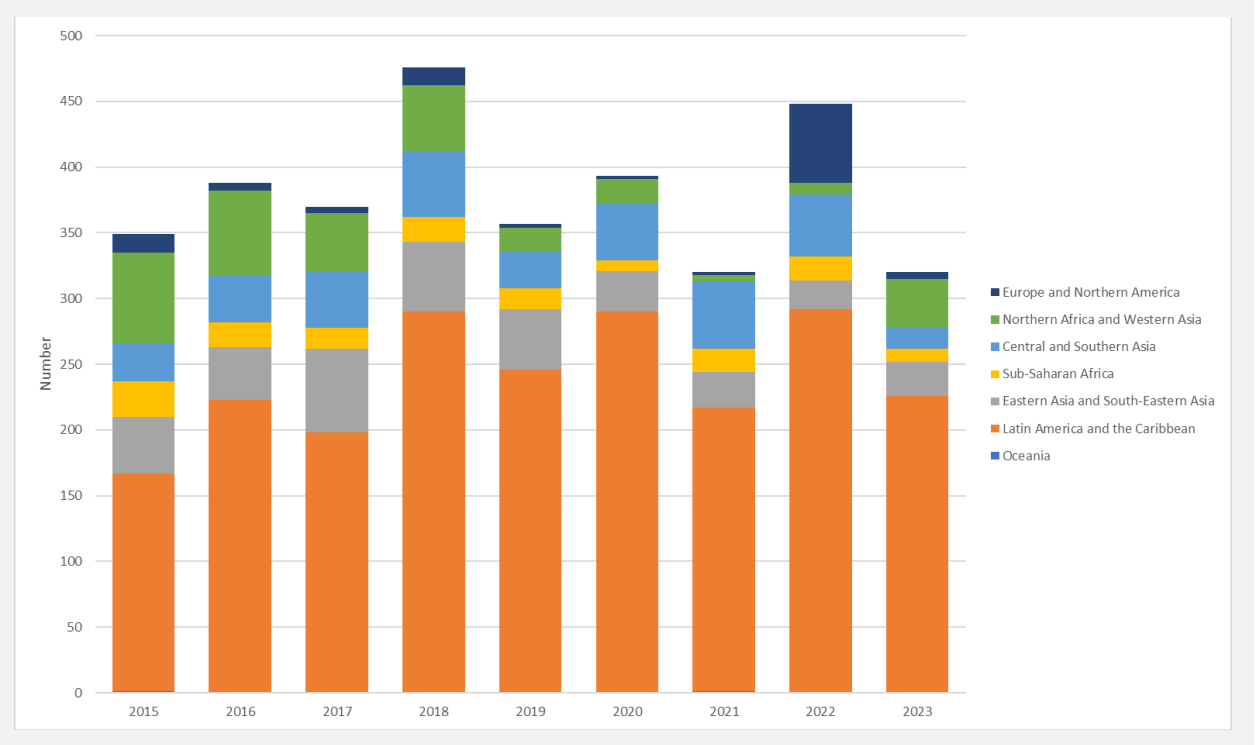
Killings overall rose sharply in Northern Africa and Western Asia as the conflict in Gaza and Israel escalated in October 2023. The ongoing hostilities in this region accounted for 65 per cent of journalist and media workers killed last year. The toll extends beyond fatalities, with widespread damage to media infrastructure, physical attacks, detention, equipment confiscation, and denial of access to reporting sites. Many journalists have been forced into exile or compelled to cease working, creating zones of silence that deprive local populations and the global community of access to information. The worrying rise in killings in conflict zones comes despite an overall decrease in killings of journalists compared to 2022, which can be primarily attributed to a sustained decline in such attacks outside conflict zones. Notably, Latin America and the Caribbean reported 19 killings, down from 43 in 2022. The sharp increase in killings of journalists in conflict zones effectively reversed the trend since 2017. Up until 2023, more journalists were killed in non-conflict situations than in conflict scenarios, and the number of killings was steadily decreasing in both contexts.

In 2023, 1 in 10 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists killed was a woman. At least one victim was a transwoman human rights defenders. Among the journalists and media workers who were killed, 94 per cent were men. When it comes to enforced disappearance cases, more than 1 in 4 victims were women.

Policy implications

In addition to killings and enforced disappearances, human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists, particularly women, continue to be threatened with multiple forms of attacks ranging from kidnapping and arbitrary detention to legal harassment, and online attacks. The data analysis points to the impact of the absence of strong legal and protection frameworks for human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists, which render them particularly exposed to harm, often with fatal consequences, whenever violent conflict or social unrest erupts or escalates. States need to work with the United Nations, national human rights institutions, and civil society organizations to establish or strengthen these mechanisms, and to ensure that data on attacks are collected regularly.

Killings of HRD, Journalists and Trade Unionists, 2015-2023, regional distribution



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/2023-alarming-increase-journalists-killed-conflict-zones>
- <https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists/observatory>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-human-rights-defenders>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/report-killings-human-right-defenders>
- <https://www.undp.org/policy-centre/oslo/publications/global-progress-report-sdg-16>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Marc Titus Cebreros, OHCHR; Nicolas Fasel, OHCHR; John Bosco Mayiga, UNESCO

Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR

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

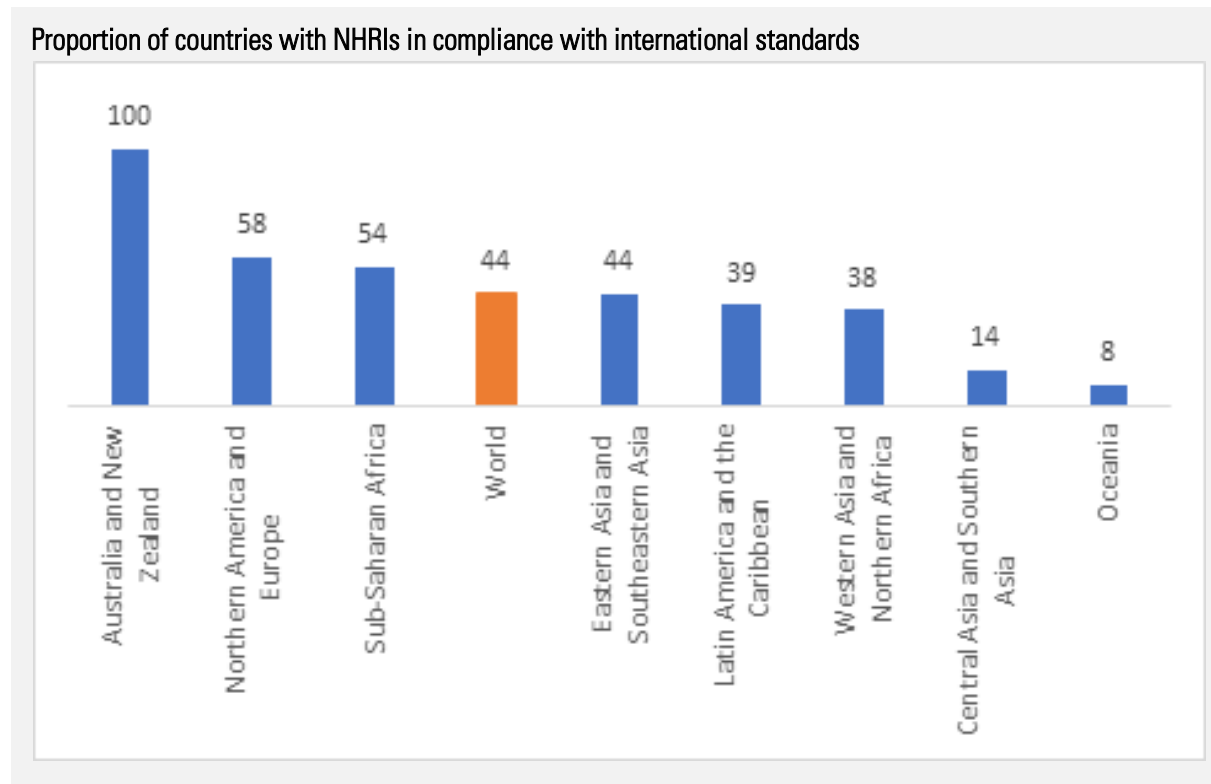
Custodian agency(ies): UNESCO-UIS

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

After years of progress, the strengthening of national human rights institutions is stagnating, a wake-up call is needed

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the world has showed a positive trend in establishing independent institutions to promote and protect human rights at national level. The number of countries with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) adhering to international standards increased by 23% between 2015 and 2023, with improvements observed in most regions. More than 4 out of 10 countries have an independent NHRIs, and 6 out of 10 have taken steps in this direction. Last year, however, progress stagnated. Advancement in Eastern and Southeastern Asia was counterbalanced by a deterioration in Europe. The war in Ukraine has had devastating repercussions on the protection of human rights, and a direct impact on the status of an NHRI. As a result, the number of independent NHRIs in the North America and Europe region fell for the first time since 2015. The current average growth rate (2.6%) of NHRIs compliant with international standards is insufficient. A wake-up call is urgently needed to have any chance of getting over the next seven years closer to a growth rate of 12%; a rate that would allow most countries to have compliant NHRIs.



Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR

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

Indicator 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

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.

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

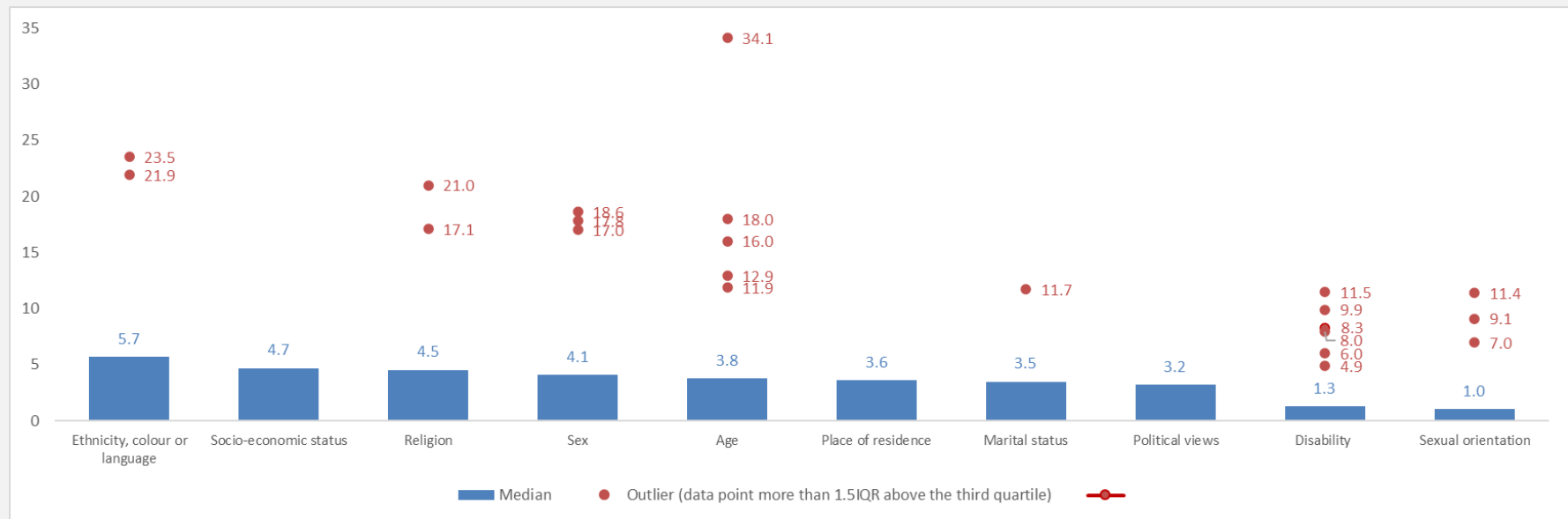
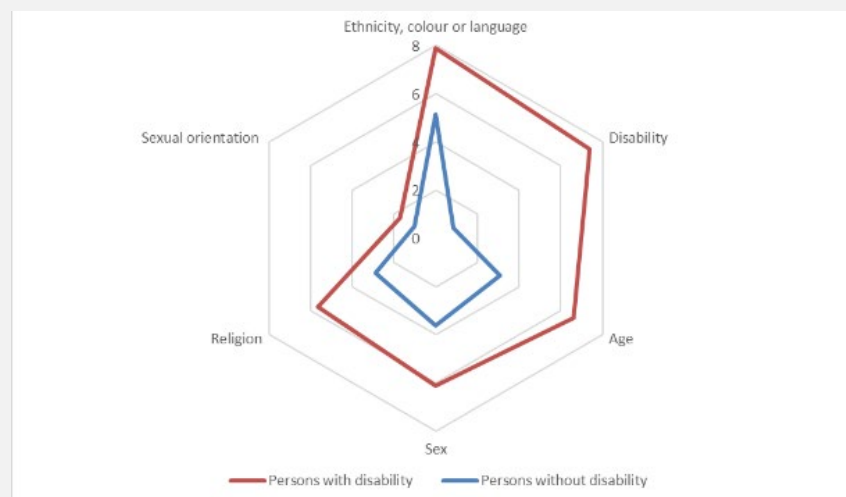


Figure 2: Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and disability status, 2015-2023



Custodian agency(ies): OHCHR

