



# SDG 1: NO POVERTY

*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- The COVID-19 pandemic caused **extreme poverty to rise in 2020** for the first time in decades, reversing global progress by **three years**.
- The share of the world's population living in extreme poverty **rose from 8.9% in 2019 to 9.7% in 2020**, driven by increases in low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- In 2022, **712 million people (or 9% of the world's population)** lived in extreme poverty, an increase of **23 million** people from 2019.
- In the **75 most vulnerable countries**, which qualify for concessional lending from the World Bank's International Development Association, **one in four people** lives on less than \$2.15 a day – **more than eight times** the average extreme poverty rate in the rest of the world.
- The global working poverty rate **slightly increased from 6.9% in 2019 to 7.7% in 2020** before **declining back to 6.9% in 2023**. Despite progress, nearly **241 million** workers globally still lived in extreme poverty in 2023. Little positive change is expected in 2024.
- Globally, young workers are **twice as likely** as adults to be in working poverty and **women** typically experience higher working poverty rates than men.
- To guarantee at least basic social security for all children, **upper- and lower-middle-income countries** would need to invest an **additional \$98.1 billion and \$88.8 billion**, respectively. **Low-income countries** would require an **additional \$59.6 billion**.
- From 2015 to 2022, average annual direct economic losses attributed to disasters **exceeded \$115 billion** worldwide, an amount equivalent to **0.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP)** of reporting countries.
- **LDCs and LLDCs** suffer disproportionately from disasters with disaster-related economic losses of **over six times and four times the global average**, respectively.
- Government spending on essential services **averages 60%** of total government expenditure **among advanced economies**, while in **emerging and developing economies**, it stands at 40%. Over the past two decades, both groups have seen a slight uptick in these shares, but a **persistent 20-percentage-point gap between them** remains.

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POVERTY



To learn more about global progress on the 17 SDGs, [click here](#) to read the latest Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.



## WHERE WE STAND

- By 2030, **590 million** people may still live in extreme poverty if current trends persist.
- Without a substantial acceleration in poverty reduction, **fewer than 3 in 10 countries** are expected to halve national poverty by 2030.
- Despite increasing efforts to expand social protection programmes, significant coverage gaps left **1.4 billion children** uncovered in 2023.
- Ending poverty requires **comprehensive social protection systems, inclusive economic policies, investments in human capital, measures to address inequality and climate resilience, and international cooperation and partnership**.

# SPOTLIGHT

## GLOBAL ACCELERATOR



The **Global Accelerator (GA) on jobs and social protection for just transitions** was launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General, with the aim of fast-tracking much-needed global actions to promote a job-rich recovery, as well as just ecological, technological, and societal transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies. The Global Accelerator operates through three complementary and mutually supportive pillars:

- The development of in-country integrated and coordinated employment and social protection policies and strategies to facilitate just transitions.
- The establishment of national financing frameworks and the mobilization of public and private domestic and international resources to support the implementation of integrated policies and strategies.
- Improved multilateral cooperation on jobs and social protection for just transitions, including with the international financial institutions and multilateral development banks.

These three interlinked pillars aim to increase the level and coordination of the multilateral system's efforts to help countries create 400 million decent jobs, including in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the 4 billion people currently excluded.

For more information, visit <https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/>



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- The ILO's Global Flagship Programme on **Building Social Protection Floors for All**, launched in early 2016, supports the implementation of social protection systems including floors, guided by ILO's social security standards. Working across 50 priority countries, it aims to change the lives of millions of people by 2025 and provide evidence on ILO's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals on social protection.
- The **Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP)** of the **World Bank** provides an interactive computational tool that offers users quick access to the World Bank's estimates of poverty, inequality, and shared prosperity.
- In collaboration with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), **UNDP's Multidimensional Poverty Index** presents a compact update on the state of multidimensional poverty in the world.
- **UNICEF** and around 20 partners in the **Global Coalition to End Child Poverty** work with national, regional and global decision-makers, global campaigners, international organizations, civil society, and other institutions to end child poverty and to achieve a world where all children grow up free from poverty, deprivation and exclusion.
- Through the **SheTrades Initiative**, working with a network of 200 partners across 65 countries, **ITC** aims to eliminate barriers hindering women's involvement in trade. The initiative has already directly assisted a network of over 100,000 women-led businesses.
- **ITC's LDC Trade Tracker** allows users to monitor the trade of least developed countries through thematic reports and interactive indicators, such as exports, imports, concentration and more.
- Through **the Refugees/ Returnees Empowerment through Markets Initiative (REMI)**, **ITC** together with funders and partners supports refugees, IDPs, returnees, and MSMEs in host communities and strive to enhance economic opportunities and resilience for populations facing displacement.
- The **'Digital Finance for Resilience'** is a four-year programme supported by the European Union and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and implemented by the **UN Capital Development Fund**. The programme aims to improve digital finance policies and regulations to provide early response to emergencies and create and strengthen digital finance ecosystems that support low-income individuals in particular women and youth; and MSMEs to mitigate immediate shocks of emergencies and increase economic opportunities.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



**UN DESA, the World Bank, UNCTAD**, with support of interested UN entities, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 1 and its interlinkages with other SDGs** in Geneva, Switzerland on 7 May 2024 to inform the thematic review at the 2024 HLPF. >>> **LEARN MORE**



**UN SYSTEM SDG  
IMPLEMENTATION  
DATABASE**