



SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



FACTS AND FIGURES

- The **global homicide rate** decreased from 5.9 per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.5 in 2020, but then sharply rose to 5.8 in 2021 and slightly decreased to 5.6 in 2022.
- **Civilian deaths in armed conflicts surged by 72% in 2023** compared to 2022, reaching over 33,400 - nearly matching the 2015 peak.
- In 2023, **seven out of ten** recorded civilian deaths in armed conflicts occurred in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel.
- In 2022, **2 in 10 civilians killed in conflicts were women; 1 in 10 were children**. By 2023, **4 in 10 were women and 3 in 10 were children**.
- In 2022, nearly a **third (3.5 million)** of the **global prison population** of 11.5 million was being held in pre-trial detention.
- Based on data from **138 countries**, **19% of people who had contact with public officials** reported being asked to pay or paid a bribe, ranging from **32% in low-income countries** to **9% in high-income countries**.
- In 2023, **320 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 40 countries** were killed, down from 448 cases in 36 countries in 2022.
- Conflict zones saw a **sharp increase in the killings of journalists and media workers**, with 40 lives lost, reversing a downward trend since 2017.
- Between 2015 and 2023, the number of countries **with independent national human rights institutions meeting international standards** increased by 23%.
- **Youth representation in parliaments** is increasing globally, but **women's leadership roles** are growing slowly. As of January 2024, women hold **23.8% of parliamentary speaker positions and 27.2% of committee chair posts**.
- While a few regions like Northern America and Europe and Australia and New Zealand have achieved **universal birth registration**, **only half of African children under five have had their births registered**.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



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



WHERE WE STAND

- **Rising conflicts and violent organized crime** persist around the world, causing immense human suffering and hampering sustainable development.
- **Forcibly displaced people** reached **unprecedented 120 million** in May 2024. **Civilian casualties in armed conflicts** surged by 72% in 2023.
- Corruption continues to divert resources from sustainable development, with **one in five people** reporting being asked to pay or having paid a bribe to a public official in the last 12 months.
- Governments globally **struggle to restore pre-COVID-19 budget reliability** amid new international pressures affecting economies that have increased budget expenditures beyond initial approvals.

SPOTLIGHT



UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

FUTUREGOV

**BUILDING PUBLIC SECTOR
CAPABILITIES FOR THE FUTURE**

Launched at the SDG Action Weekend in September 2023 by **UN DESA, UNDP**, and a coalition of countries and organizations committed to enhancing the public sector to support the SDGs and national priorities, **the High-Impact Initiative FutureGov** will help member states build three public sector capabilities to unlock accelerated delivery of the SDGs.

- adapting and learning at an institutional level in the face of incomplete information and radical uncertainty;
- using systems thinking and foresight to govern effectively, making the most of data and digital solutions; and
- tapping into social and policy innovation beyond digitalization.

Guided by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administrations (CEPA), FutureGov will support member states through their 'transformation journeys' focusing on three elements:

- **Skillsets:** Building public sector skillsets for adaptable and resilient institutions through a shared toolbox.
- **Mindsets:** Shifting mindsets towards systems thinking and foresight for effective governance and inclusive service delivery, including through digital and data tools.
- **Innovation:** Enabling broader and more impactful social and policy innovation in public sectors, supported by the requisite enabling environment.

To learn more, [visit here](#).

- Through **the Surge Initiative (SI)**, OHCHR works closely with **UN Country Teams (UNCTs), Resident Coordinators' Offices (RCOs), RCO** and other economists, state authorities, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national statistical offices, rights-holders and other key stakeholders, to accelerate the realization of economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights, to create conditions to build back better, leave no one behind, reduce inequalities and strengthen the link between human rights and economies.
- **STRIVE Juvenile**, an initiative of the EU, **UNODC**, Indonesia, Iraq and Nigeria, aims to disrupt terrorist groups' recruitment of children support children's rehabilitation and reintegration and strengthen their resilience against violent extremism.
- **GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East**, is an initiative of the EU, **UNODC** and **IOM**, working alongside partner countries in developing and implementing more effective national and international responses to trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, enhancing the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, both supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).
- **The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)**, a coordinated global response to wildlife crime involving the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), **INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank Group**, and the World Customs Organization (WCO), seeks to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international levels to combat wildlife and forest crime.
- Established in 2023, **the CLIMB Database** by **IOM** and Platform for Disaster Displacement, focuses on policy and legal instruments and practices addressing human mobility in the context of the adverse effects of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation. The database is a living repository, regularly updated as national and regional policy review efforts progress.
- **The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees** is a collaborative effort between the Mayors Mechanism, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Mayors Migration Council, **IOM in partnership with UNHCR**, following the model of robust local efforts to localize the SDGs and achieve the Paris Agreement. This call enables cities to make pledges towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration.

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

**Expert
Group
Meeting
on SDG 16**



UN DESA, UNODC, UNDP, with support of interested UN entities, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 16 and its interlinkages with other SDGs** in New York on 7 May 2024, back-to-back with **the SDG16 Conference (UNDESA, Permanent Mission of Italy and IDLO)** on 6 May, to inform the thematic review at 2024 HLPF.



**UN SYSTEM SDG
IMPLEMENTATION
DATABASE**