

COVID-19 took a major toll on education around the world. Restoring children's access to quality schooling is essential to realize the 2030 Agenda. (Ruzizi Plain, Democratic Republic of the Congo; February 2022) © OCHA/Antoine Lemonnier



Promotion of Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development



KEY PROGRAMMES

- Support to global policymaking organs
- International cooperation for development
- Regional cooperation for development
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women



INDICATIVE RESOURCES

\$1.8B

\$508M regular assessed and \$1.3B voluntary contributions



SELECT MANDATES

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 70/1
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, General Assembly resolution 69/313
- Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 74/15
- Addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, General Assembly resolutions 74/3 and 76/203
- Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, General Assembly resolution 75/233
- Review of the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement, General Assembly resolution 76/4
- New Urban Agenda, General Assembly resolution 71/256
- Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, General Assembly resolution 76/258



SELECT ENTITIES

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Development Coordination Office
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Regional Commissions
- UN-Women
- UN-Habitat
- United Nations Environment Programme



The United Nations Food Systems Summit brought together actors from around the world to leverage the power of food systems to deliver progress on all Sustainable Development Goals. (Rome; September 2021) © UN Photo



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had catastrophic effects on people's lives and on efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, with 77 million more people in extreme poverty in 2021 than in 2019. The climate emergency threatens the lives and livelihoods of many more people and future generations, and global instability is on the rise. Only international cooperation will enable the world to respond to these interlinked crises.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Organization fosters international cooperation on transformative global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Resident coordinators serving in 162 countries and territories lead United Nations country teams, mobilizing the United Nations development system to deliver on cooperation frameworks agreed with host Governments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.



“Resident coordinators have led UN teams through another challenging year, responding to COVID-19 while safeguarding the SDGs, through better policy advice to Governments and direct benefits for millions of people.”

Robert Piper, Former Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination



“We face unprecedented, interconnected crises. If we do not swiftly reverse course, the 2030 Agenda may fall out of reach. It is a battle we can't afford to lose.”

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

KEY OUTCOMES

Implementing the 2030 agenda

The focus of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021* was on resilience and recovery in the context of COVID-19. The report underscored the need to strengthen public finance and debt sustainability, mobilize private investment, revitalize trade, combat inequality, expand social protection, promote climate action and bridge digital divides, all of which will require a strong and more effective multilateral system that can complement national efforts to firmly put the world on the trajectory of sustainable development.

To inform and bring urgency to the pandemic response and monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, we supported an exercise showing that global excess mortality associated with COVID-19 was at nearly 15 million deaths in 2020–2021, almost three times the number of deaths officially reported.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS STOCKTAKING



110 senior government officials convened in 2021



42 countries examined their progress



276 side events on the Goals



4,500+ media articles published as a result



A COVID-19 prevention programme informs women and children about how to protect themselves and their communities against COVID-19. (Nglinggi Peace Village in Klaten, Indonesia; February 2021) © UN-Women/Putra Djohan and Ali Lutfi

The 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development was focused on COVID-19 recovery, highlighting deepening inequality and urging strong multilateralism and solidarity. The Economic and Social Council youth forum proved its value as a platform for young people to engage with Member States on development challenges and attracted over 19,000 participants.

Barbados hosted the fifteenth quadrennial session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which resulted in the adoption of the Bridgetown Covenant to address debt burdens; make economies more diverse, sustainable and resilient; improve development financing;

and reimagine multilateralism to cope with shared global challenges.

To maximize the impact of voluntary national reviews on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, we organized three global and five regional workshops for the 42 countries presenting their reviews in 2021.

We answered Member States' call for stronger country-level data on innovation in the COVID-19 context. Over 50 developing countries participated in the 2021–2022 Development Cooperation Forum survey, helping us to align development cooperation resources with pandemic response and recovery.

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

The active engagement of the United Nations in outreach and proactive diplomacy has supported countries in becoming members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia became the newest States members of the Committee, bringing the total membership of this intergovernmental platform to 100 and making it one of the fastest-growing committees in the United Nations system.

THE "SPACE2030" AGENDA

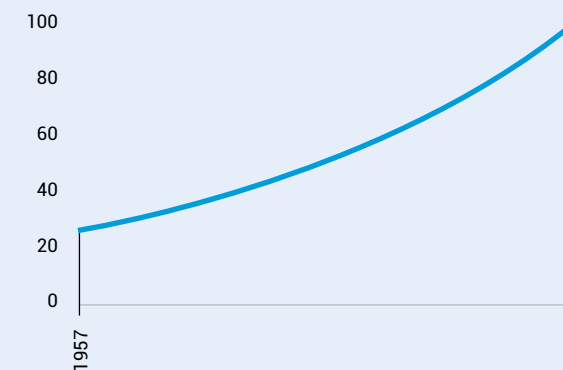
The "'Space2030' Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development" was launched in a dedicated General Assembly resolution to harness the potential of space for development and to align space policies with the Sustainable Development Goals.



“As the prominence of space keeps growing, the UN remains committed to facilitating a sustainable future in space and to promote its benefits for a better future for everyone, everywhere.”

Niklas Hedman, Acting Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs

COPUOS MEMBERSHIP EVOLUTION



Scaling up financing for development

The *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021* highlighted the risk of a sharply diverging post-pandemic world recovery and sent the message that immediate action is needed to avoid another lost decade for development. It emphasized the need to finance investments in sustainability and resilience.

Under the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, I issued a policy brief on possible liquidity and debt solutions and, with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica, jointly convened a meeting of Heads of State and Government on the international debt architecture and liquidity to advance thinking and action around these options. Cognizant of the fact that 4.2 billion people do not have any form of social protection and of the potential of the digital, care and green economies to deliver a job-rich recovery, I issued a policy brief on the topic and, at a meeting with Heads of State and Government, launched the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition, an initiative supported by the International Labour Organization.



“Trade, investment, finance and technology must be leveraged to address inequalities, the debt crisis, the digital divide and climate adaptation to especially benefit developing countries.”

Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

JOINT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FUND

Since its inception, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund has channelled \$236 million to United Nations entities covering 117 countries and territories. The funding goes to joint programmes that incorporate innovative ways to support the most vulnerable and develop financial instruments for the Goals. In 2021, the Fund launched a dedicated window for 42 small island developing States worth \$30 million.

\$1.7B
in additional financing for SDGs catalysed through the Fund's portfolio

147M
people in 39 countries accessed new or extended social protection



Learn more



“As the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in Asia and the Pacific for the past 75 years, we have advocated the complementarity of development approaches that remain crucial for regional transformation.”

Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

THE GLOBAL INVESTORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

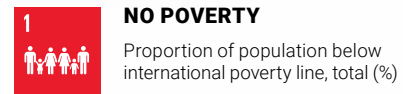
Convened by the United Nations, the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance, comprising leaders of major financial institutions and corporations around the world, works to scale up long-term finance and investment in sustainable development and better align the finance and investment ecosystem with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Alliance's achievements include guidance to asset owners on integrating sustainability considerations and the Goals into their mandates; Goal-aligned metrics for eight sectors; and ongoing collaboration to create a blended finance fund for mobilizing capital for sustainable infrastructure projects.



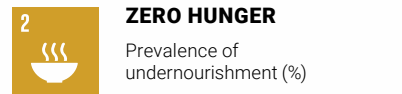
Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, attends the high-level event on jobs and social protection for poverty eradication, held under the aegis of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative. (New York; September 2021) © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: AN OVERVIEW

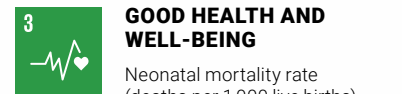
Variations in the frequency of data collection across the Goals contribute to variations in cut-off dates in the charts below.



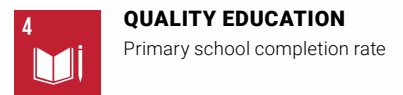
COVID-19 has created major setbacks in the reduction of poverty.



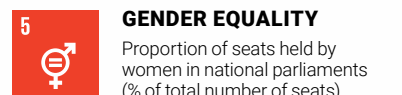
Global undernourishment has decreased since 2000. Estimates are based on projected values.



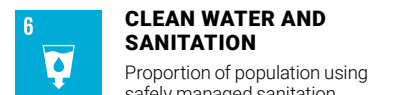
The neonatal mortality rate has consistently declined.



Universal and equitable access to primary education is yet to be achieved.



Major progress has been made towards addressing female underrepresentation in national parliaments.



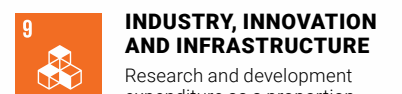
More people have access to safely managed sanitation services today than in 2000.



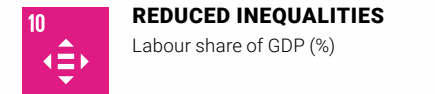
The vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity.



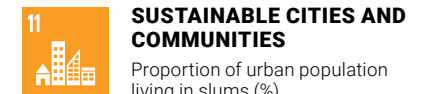
Global unemployment has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, erasing progress made over the past two decades.



Research and development is increasingly prioritized across the globe.



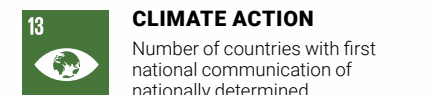
The share of national income going to labour has shown a downward trend.



The number of people living in informal urban settlements has declined since 2000.



The global material footprint per capita has increased.



All 191 Parties to the Paris Agreement, and Eritrea, have communicated their first NDCs.



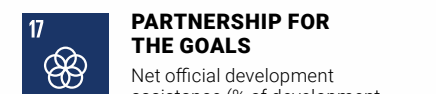
The proportion of key areas placed under conservation designation has increased since 2000.



More efforts are needed to conserve and restore forests around the world.



Less than 50% of countries have human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.



The 0.7% aid/gross national income target for international aid has yet to be collectively achieved. Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

ACCELERATING PROGRESS

The Goals are not on track to being achieved by 2030, despite progress in some areas. Further, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has slowed and in some cases been reversed across the 17 Goals. This makes the Decade of Action all the more urgent, requiring the support of Member States and other partners.

Learn more

At the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair, eight countries presented over \$10 billion in investment opportunities to financial institutions and companies in sustainable infrastructure, health care, green energy and agribusiness. The Investment Fair is growing as a platform for showcasing ready investment pipelines to help channel resources to investments aligned with the Goals.

Leaving no one behind

The pandemic, coupled with high levels of poverty and inequalities, threatens to stall development progress. In March 2022, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group issued a good practice note for United Nations country teams to support Member States in fulfilling their pledge to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first. The *World Social Report 2021* set out strategies to build resilience to shocks, preserve natural resources and reduce inequality of opportunity in rural areas. The fifth volume of the *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* highlighted the inequalities faced by indigenous peoples in ensuring their rights to lands, territories and resources.



“ The needs of the world’s most vulnerable must take top priority. By signing the Doha Programme of Action, we say to the world: solidarity cannot be a zero-sum game. ”

Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Acting High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

The report on Our Common Agenda, released in September 2021, was also designed to help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides specific recommendations on how to strengthen our common efforts to ensure no one is left behind, including through a last-mile alliance to reach those furthest behind and boost investments.

A new Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031 was adopted in March 2022, with renewed commitments to tackle the pandemic, reverse its socio-economic impacts, address climate change and help countries to graduate from the least developed country category.

In support of landlocked developing countries, we ramped up implementation of the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including megaprojects on renewable energy and transport infrastructure.

Support to small island developing States was strengthened through the implementation of a road map on multi-country offices, including the establishment in 2021 of the multi-country office in the Federated States of Micronesia, and further work on a multidimensional vulnerability index.



“ Health emergencies, climate crisis and conflicts disproportionately affect cities. We need to mobilize local action to return us on the path of sustainable recovery. ”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat



After years of war, some schools have emerged from the rubble to reopen. This school in Qminas opened with the support of its principal and volunteer teachers but is still badly damaged. (Idlib, Syrian Arab Republic; April 2022) © OCHA/Anwar Abdullatif



A giant sculpture spewing plastics sourced from the Kibera slum area greeted 1,500 representatives from 193 countries at the United Nations Environment Assembly, held to discuss a global plastic treaty. (Nairobi; February 2022) © UNEP

Climate action

At the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, Member States committed to recasting efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to reach net zero emissions by mid-century. They also committed to the phasing down of unabated coal power and phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. We are now pushing for Governments and the private sector to live up to those pledges and secure a credible, rapid and just transition to renewables. Ahead of the twenty-sixth session, in support of these efforts, we coordinated five regional round tables to discuss challenges and opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Member States also urged developed countries to at least double the provision to developing countries of climate finance for adaptation from 2019 levels by 2025. Noting the urgent need to close the gaps in implementation towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Conference of the Parties invited the Secretary-General to convene world leaders in 2023 to review ambitions until 2030.

Young people play a key role in tackling the climate crisis. They were specifically addressed in the sixth edition of the *Global Environment Outlook*, with tools and information for bringing about a more sustainable future.

The Statistical Commission adopted a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, as well as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting, a key framework for measuring the contribution of nature to the economy and supporting nature-based solutions.

With 37 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions generated through food production, I called for the holding of the first Food Systems Summit in September 2021, which set the stage for transforming global food systems to drive COVID-19 recovery and help us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



“ We have a responsibility to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This means safeguarding that which sustains the entire sustainable development agenda: the environment. ”

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

To advance disaster risk reduction, the systemic nature of drought and its impacts on people and ecosystems were explored in the *Global Assessment Report: Special Report on Drought 2021*. The report contributed to risk assessments, including in the Arab States and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The high-level dialogue on energy, which we convened in September 2021, resulted in over 150 energy compacts from Governments, businesses and other organizations, and new commitments of more than \$400 billion. I also issued a global road map for clean energy for all by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal 7), which set out the key milestones needed.

The second Global Sustainable Transport Conference was convened in a hybrid format in October 2021, positioning sustainable transport as an essential means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

In Focus: Gender Equality

The pandemic exposed deep structural inequalities, reversed decades of progress on women's labour force participation, raised the numbers of women living in extreme poverty and multiplied women's and girls' vulnerability to violence.

We mobilized action on the prevention of and response to survivors of gender-based violence by enhancing investments in social protection systems and delivering comprehensive and transformative programming through our partnership with the European Union on the Spotlight Initiative, a flagship initiative under the United Nations development system reforms. In Spotlight Initiative countries, we doubled the number of gender-based violence-related convictions, educated 1.3 million men and boys on positive masculinity, allocated \$48 million to civil society and women's grassroots organizations and strengthened national action plans to eliminate violence against women and girls in more than 30 countries across the globe. In addition, the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women supported projects worth nearly \$74 million and reaching over 41 million people.

Through our nationally representative survey on COVID-19 and violence against women, we let older women be heard and highlighted the pandemic's toll on their welfare. The COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker and 78 rapid gender assessments resulted in over 20 countries enacting gender-sensitive policies.

We launched a plan to implement the recommendations of the High-level Task Force on Financing for Gender Equality. The aims of the plan are to strengthen gender mainstreaming in pooled funds, integrate gender equality in strategic plans and budgetary frameworks, harmonize reporting on finances for gender equality and expand the use of the gender equality marker.

We improved the integration of gender considerations into our development work. Over 60 per cent of United Nations country teams use the gender equality marker to track progress in this area, and 113 out of 130 country teams reported one or more joint programmes with a gender equality focus.

The Generation Equality Forum marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, catalysing ambitious policy, programme and advocacy commitments and \$40 billion in financial commitments.

Through the Women Count programme, we supported nine surveys and strengthened national data systems to increase the availability of gender-sensitive Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

To ensure a safe workplace for our own personnel, we finalized guidance on a survivor-centred approach to sexual harassment within United Nations system organizations.



“When we foster and invest in women's resilience and rights, we are building the defences of the future as well as the assets of today.”

Sima Bahous, Executive Director, UN-Women

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE



Learn more


Despite a global surge in gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spotlight Initiative continued to make significant progress towards ending violence against women and girls.


130M 
people reached through campaigns in 29+ languages

1.6M+ 
women and girls accessed services to address gender-based violence

198 
laws or policies on violence against women signed or strengthened in 41 countries

5,000 
convictions of perpetrators of gender-based violence in 2021, more than double the number in 2020

1.3M+ 
men and boys attended community programmes and transformative activities on gender that promoted positive masculinity in 2021

2.5M+ 
young people participated in in-school and out-of-school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours since 2019

\$179M 
has been allocated to civil society organizations (49% of activity funds) since the start of the Initiative



Women participate in an event on the theme “Combating political violence against women”. (Al-Muwaqqar, Jordan; December 2021) © UN-Women/Ye Ji Lee

Regional support

Regional collaborative platforms are now fully established in all regions, providing a robust foundation for improved regional support to countries, based on country demand. In addition, progress has been made in mobilizing in a timely manner experts and expertise through regional knowledge management hubs; strengthening the coherence of the Sustainable Development Goal data architecture; and finalizing regional business operations strategies to support efficiency initiatives. Results achieved are captured in the platforms' results reports.

Progress will continue in the years ahead, with the overall objective to deploy our regional assets optimally to meet country teams' demand in real time, in support of Sustainable Development Goal implementation.

The annual regional forums on sustainable development organized by the five regional commissions enabled discussions on recovering better from COVID-19 while advancing the 2030 Agenda and prepared the regional inputs to the high-level political forum.



“Gaps have widened in access to vaccines, financing and capacities for economic recovery, affecting disproportionately middle-income countries. We need accelerated action and effective multilateralism to transform the prevailing development model.”

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



“We have an obligation to provide our children with a promising future. Not to burden them with our failures, for our failures today are their future crises.”

Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



“With the multifaceted economic and financial impacts of the war in Ukraine adding to the climate crisis and the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, the pan-European region is at a crucial moment for sustainable development.”

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe



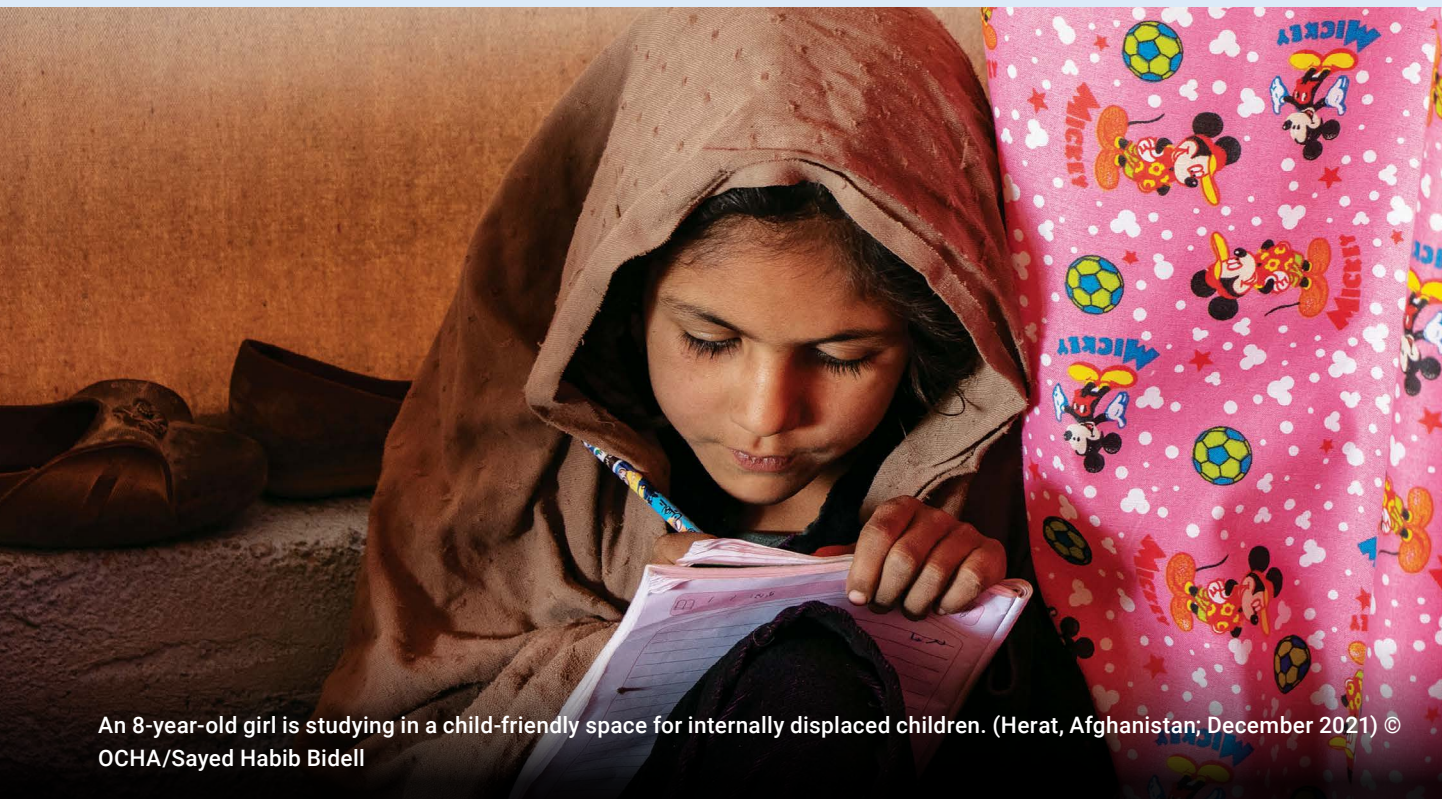
Protecting the welfare and rights of children is at the heart of the work of the United Nations to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. (Terekeka, South Sudan, April 2021) © UN Photo/Gregorio Cunha

In Focus: United Nations Development System

As global challenges grow in complexity, a new generation of United Nations country teams has emerged, under revitalized, independent and impartial leadership from the resident coordinator system, to ensure the optimal deployment of United Nations assets to support countries in their efforts to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and realize the 2030 Agenda.

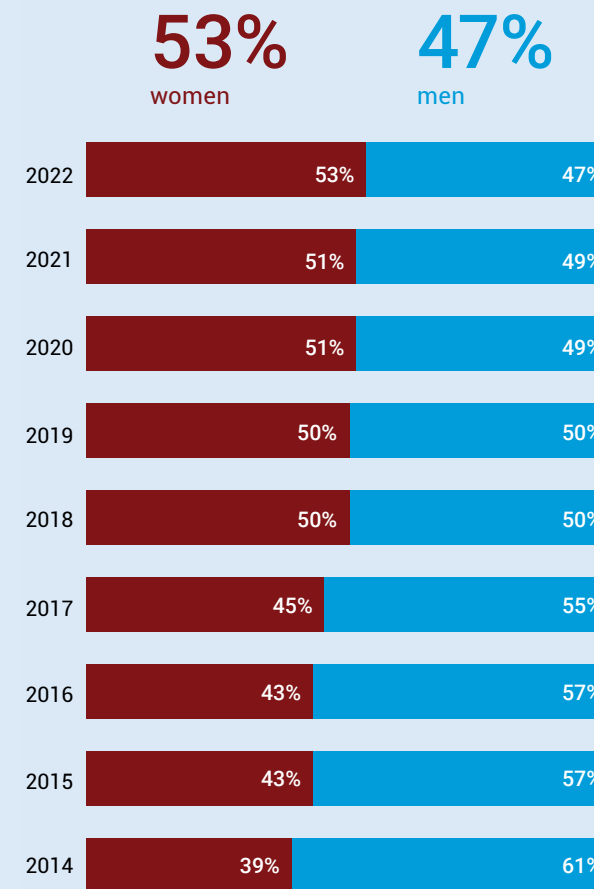
With a stronger development coordination system, country teams are taking results to scale. Our responses have become more integrated and effective, going beyond sectoral approaches and better drawing on expertise from across the system. Host Governments benefit when the United Nations collaborates better, providing integrated solutions in line with countries' priorities.

Resident coordinators and their teams are delivering improved leadership, coordination and convening. Nearly 90 per cent of host Governments say that resident coordinators lead country teams effectively in support of their countries' needs, and 92 per cent indicate that resident coordinators ensured a coherent health, humanitarian and socio-economic response to the pandemic. The success of the resident coordinator system was validated in 2021 by a General Assembly review of the system's functioning and funding. Adequate and predictable financing of the United Nations development system will be critical to sustained efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



An 8-year-old girl is studying in a child-friendly space for internally displaced children. (Herat, Afghanistan; December 2021) © OCHA/Sayed Habib Bidell

GENDER-EQUAL RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM DELIVERS FOR COUNTRIES



89% say that resident coordinators effectively lead United Nations teams

92% say that resident coordinators have ensured a coherent United Nations response to the COVID-19 pandemic

96% indicate that cooperation frameworks ensure alignment between United Nations support and national priorities

85% agree that United Nations country team staff in their countries have the right mix of capacities and skills to support the country's development

87% say that the United Nations development system's socioeconomic response to COVID-19 has been timely

Survey results from participating Governments as part of the 2021 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

UNITED NATIONS HELPS TO TACKLE COVID-19 AND REACH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

162 countries and territories supported to rescue the Goals



\$17B delivered in operational activities for development



77M tons of CO₂ emissions prevented through clean energy initiatives with United Nations support



\$95M in trade investment deals facilitated by support to South-South agreements



138M workers protected from work-related deaths, injuries and disease



183M children supported with access to remote learning

