

UN 2.0 and the Sustainable Development Goals



Some **670 million people live in extreme poverty**.⁴⁵ Demographic and non-traditional data, combined with machine learning, can help to identify poverty risks and inform policy. Targeted nudges can promote financial inclusion in communities at risk, with particular benefits in lifting women out of poverty and into labour markets.



Approximately **2.2 billion people lack access to safe water**.⁴⁹ Internet of things-based sensors can **enable quality and leakage monitoring** in water systems. Innovations such as solar-powered water pumps or desalination can help to **improve access** in fragile settings.



Around **900 million people are severely food-insecure**.⁴⁶ Satellite data on soil and weather conditions can help with **picking better crops** and improving harvests. Gender-sensitive data ensure the consideration of the needs of women, the largest category of subsistence farmers. Digital tools improve market access.



Some **675 million people are not connected to the grid**.⁵⁰ Artificial intelligence-powered data models can forecast energy needs. Behavioural science can help to **foster norms** around energy conservation. Smart grids, with sensors, can enable predictive maintenance to **reduce outages**.



Half of the world's population has **no access to basic health care**.⁴⁷ In remote communities, mobile apps can **connect doctors to patients**, and drones can **support the delivery** of blood transfusions and vaccines. Globally, artificial intelligence and genomic data can **boost the discovery of new drugs**.



Around **60 per cent of the global workforce is hidden** in informal sectors, including care work provided by women.⁵¹ Better data can help to **value their contributions** more accurately. Digital platforms can **unlock access** to formal markets and jobs and match suppliers with clients.



Some **244 million children and young people are out of school**.⁴⁸ Digital platforms can offer accessible, inclusive and **affordable learning**. Insights into their job aspirations help to **tailor content**. Foresight of the future of work can help to **reshape curricula**.



Some **23 per cent of global emissions come from industry**.⁵² New technologies, such as carbon capture and storage and electrification, as well as measures to optimize designs, can reduce the carbon footprint of steel and cement producers.



Gender equality remains distant. UN 2.0 approaches can help to address the scarcity of **gender-disaggregated data**; inclusion gaps in **science, technology, engineering and mathematics education**; divides and risks in **digital spaces**; lack of diversity in foresight and analysis; and **social norms** or **behaviours** according to which women are perceived as unequal.



Sending remittances still costs more than twice the Sustainable Development Goal target of 3 per cent per \$200.⁵³ Better data can help users to **compare prices**. Better digital public infrastructure can lower costs. Behavioural science can help to optimize apps and **prevent fraud**.



Approximately 1.1 billion people live in urban slums.⁵⁴ Three-dimensional printing can **enable rapid and cost-effective construction** using sustainable materials. Foresight tools **help to better plan city layouts** to account for possible changes in climate – ensuring resilient housing infrastructure.



Around 100 million hectares of forest have been lost in the past 20 years.⁵⁸ Satellite imagery and analytics can **track changes** in forest cover, wildlife populations and fragmentation – which, coupled with scenario analysis, can help to **inform conservation** action plans.



At least 1 billion tons of food are wasted every year.⁵⁵ Internet-of-things sensors can **provide real-time data** on demand, reducing overproduction. Artificial intelligence predictions **guide harvest planning**. Gamification incentivizes waste reduction. Innovative packaging **increases shelf life**.



One in four children are unregistered at birth.⁵⁹ Mobile registration systems can increase access. Predictive modelling can be used to anticipate unregistered populations. Behavioural nudges **encourage registration**. Biometrics **assure identity**, reducing exploitation risks.



At least 3.3 billion people live in contexts highly vulnerable to climate change.⁵⁶ Foresight techniques can help with **supporting communities** threatened by rising sea levels, **anticipating areas** prone to flooding and **adjusting land management** and infrastructure accordingly.



Only 45 per cent of Sustainable Development Goal data series at the global level are complete.⁶⁰ Clear dashboards with gender-disaggregated data can **clarify Goal data gaps** – informing priorities and resource mobilization. Digital platforms **enable best-practice sharing** and foster collaboration. Behavioural science helps with **designing effective campaigns**.



The ocean is 30 per cent more acidic today than in pre-industrial times.⁵⁷ Remote sensing can **monitor marine ecosystems** and changes in temperature, acidity and biodiversity in real time. Innovative solutions, such as the large-scale cultivation of seaweeds, can help to **mitigate acidification**.



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