

The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024

1 NO POVERTY



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.

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Target 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

Nearly 241 million workers globally were living in extreme poverty in 2023

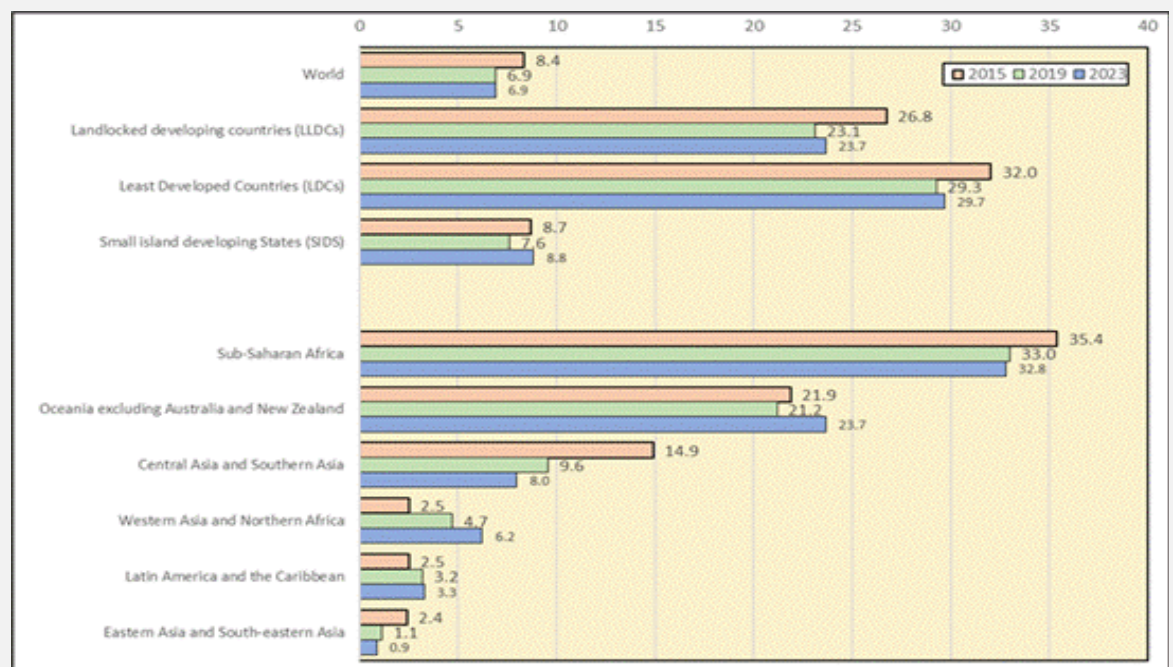
While the working poverty rate slightly increased to 7.7 per cent in 2020, there has been a subsequent decline to 6.9 per cent in 2023. This indicates an overall improvement on a global scale, showcasing a consistent downward trend in working poverty since the benchmark year. Nonetheless, nearly 241 million workers globally were living in extreme poverty in 2023, and little positive change is expected in 2024 based on ILO projections.

Amidst the global trend, regions have displayed varying trajectories. Central Asia and Southern Asia has notably reduced working poverty, showing a decline of 6.9 percentage points from 2015 to 2023. Conversely, regions such as Northern Africa and Western Asia have experienced increases in working poverty, from 2.5 per cent in 2015 to 6.2 per cent in 2023, reflecting challenges in post-pandemic recovery.

Working poverty disproportionately affects some groups more than others. On a global scale, youth are twice as likely as adults to be in working poverty. Similarly, women typically experience a higher working poverty compared to men, with the most pronounced gender gap in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

With the ongoing poly-crisis, informal employment and working poverty – both deeply intertwined – are expected to persist. Achieving the 2030 agenda remains in the distant future in this context, particularly in regions that lack the fiscal capacity to cope with economic stresses. In 2023, sub-Saharan Africa alone had 145 million people in extreme working poverty – almost a third of their employed population.

Working poverty rate (percentage of employed living below US\$2.15 PPP), 2015, 2019 & 2023



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024, https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/WCMS_908142/lang-en/index.htm

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

Extreme poverty is back to pre-COVID-19 levels, but recovery has been slow for low-income countries

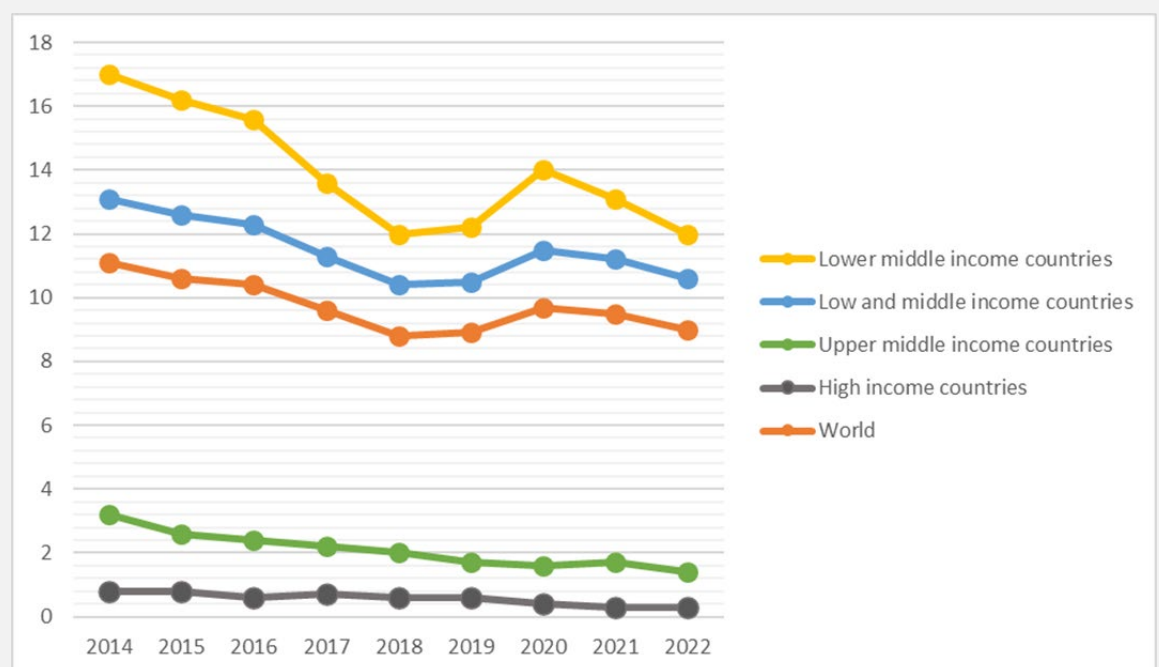
The last decade has been particularly challenging for extreme poverty reduction globally. In the few years prior to 2020 when COVID-19 hit, the pace of poverty reduction was slowing. The rate of extreme poverty increased in 2020 for the first time in decades, reversing progress made globally by 3 years. It has been estimated that 90 million people globally were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 due to the economic and health shocks of COVID-19. While the world was still recovering from the pandemic, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, which led to inflationary pressures in low-, middle- and high-income countries. Outside Europe, conflict situations persisted, and new ones emerged. In addition, there has been a rising trend in the incidence and intensity of climate-related risks, including floods, droughts, and rising temperatures, which have affected the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide.

Despite these risks, extreme poverty levels returned to pre-COVID-19 levels in most countries of the world by 2022, except for low-income countries which have been less resilient and for which the recovery has been slower. Grappling with multiple crises at the same time, poverty reduction undoubtedly became harder in low-income countries.

The share of the world's population living in extreme poverty increased from 8.9 percent in 2019 to 9.7 percent in 2020. This increase in global poverty was driven by low- and lower-middle-income countries, and particularly India. However, in upper-middle- and high-income countries, extreme poverty kept on declining, even in 2020. This finding is explained by the rapid fiscal support extended by many of these countries to people whose livelihoods were hit hard by the pandemic, such as low-wage workers.

Given the resilience of the global economy and the remarkable efforts by many governments to contain the coronavirus, economies started opening from lockdowns and economic recovery took off in 2021. By 2021, extreme poverty in upper-middle-income countries had declined to 1.7 percent, equivalent to the level in 2019. Recovery took a bit longer for lower-middle-income countries, where about 12 percent of the population were living in extreme poverty in 2022, about the same level as in 2019. When low- and middle-income countries are taken together, extreme poverty was marginally higher in 2022 than the level in 2019 – that is, 10.6 versus 10.5 percent. With 80 percent of the population of this group in Sub-Saharan Africa, it suggests that low-income countries experienced a slower recovery from the

Figure 1: Percent of people living in extreme poverty by income group, 2014 -2022



Source: Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: The lack of recent survey data limits the reporting of extreme poverty estimates exclusively for low-income countries. The category "Low and middle income countries" includes low-, lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries.

economic contractions of COVID-19 or have been less resilient in the face of the new global shock of rising inflation. For this reason, the global rate of extreme poverty in 2022 – 9 percent – is 0.1 percentage points higher than the level in 2019.

The lack of recent survey data limits the reporting of extreme poverty estimates exclusively for low-income countries until 2022 and for the rest of the world until today. The latest available nowcasts of global poverty until 2023 confirm the fact that extreme poverty has returned to pre-COVID-19 levels but not for low-income countries.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Castaneda et al. (2024). March 2024 global poverty update from the World Bank: first estimates of global poverty until 2022 from survey data. World Bank Data Blog
- Mahler, D. G., Yonzan, N., & Lakner, C. (2022). The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Inequality and Poverty (No. 10198). Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Wollburg, P., Hallegatte, S., & Mahler, D. G. (2023). Ending extreme poverty has a negligible impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. *Nature*, 623(7989), 982-986.
- World Bank (2022). Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022: Correcting Course. Washington, DC: World Bank
- Yonzan, N., Mahler, D. G., & Lakner, C. (2023). Poverty is back to pre-COVID levels globally, but not for low-income countries. World Bank Data Blog

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Samuel Kofi Tetteh-Baah, World Bank; Daniel Mahler, World Bank; Christoph Lakner, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Target 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Indicator 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

COVID-19 has stagnated progress in halving the proportion of people living in poverty

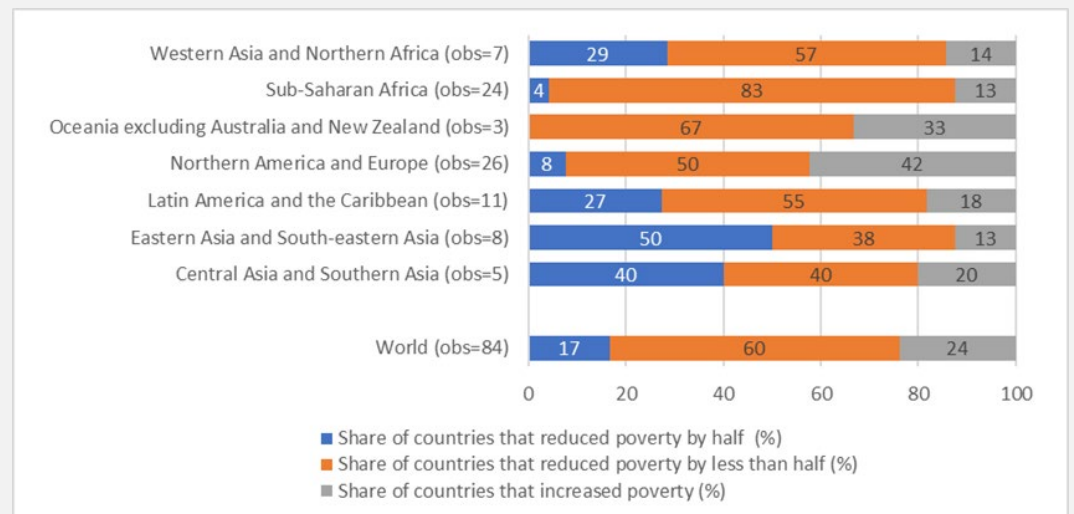
Prior to 2020, less than 2 out of 10 countries with comparable data on national poverty rates had halved the share of their population living in poverty in at least 7 years. Six out of 10 had reduced national poverty rates by less than half, and a quarter had a higher share of their population living in poverty. After 2020, during the period of COVID-19, the limited data available suggest that progress has stagnated globally and worsened for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia. A lack of recent data limits our understanding of the progress in reducing national poverty across regions.

Figure 1 shows a more complete set of 84 countries with comparable data on national poverty rates prior to the pandemic. Typically, the share of population living in poverty, as defined by countries themselves, had been reducing in most regions. However, fewer countries had halved the share of people living in poverty. In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 4 percent of countries had halved their national poverty rates in at least 7 years, compared to 83 percent that reduced their national poverty rates by less than half. Similarly, in Northern America and Europe, only 8 percent of countries had halved their national poverty rates in less than 7 years, and in 4 out of 10 countries the national poverty rate even increased.

Figure 2 focuses on poverty reduction in a subsample of 42 countries with comparable national poverty data up to 2023, covering the period before and after COVID-19 and allowing for an understanding of how poverty reduction might have changed due to COVID-19 shock. This subsample is more representative of more prosperous countries/regions, where more recent survey data are available because of greater statistical capacity. The data from these 42 countries suggest that the pandemic years were lost in the fight against poverty. About a fifth of countries had halved poverty prior to 2020 or until 2023. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there was an increase in the number of countries with higher poverty rates during the pandemic, while the share of countries that have halved their national poverty rates in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia declined post-2019. In Northern America and Europe, on the other hand, safety nets were effective for poverty reduction during the pandemic.

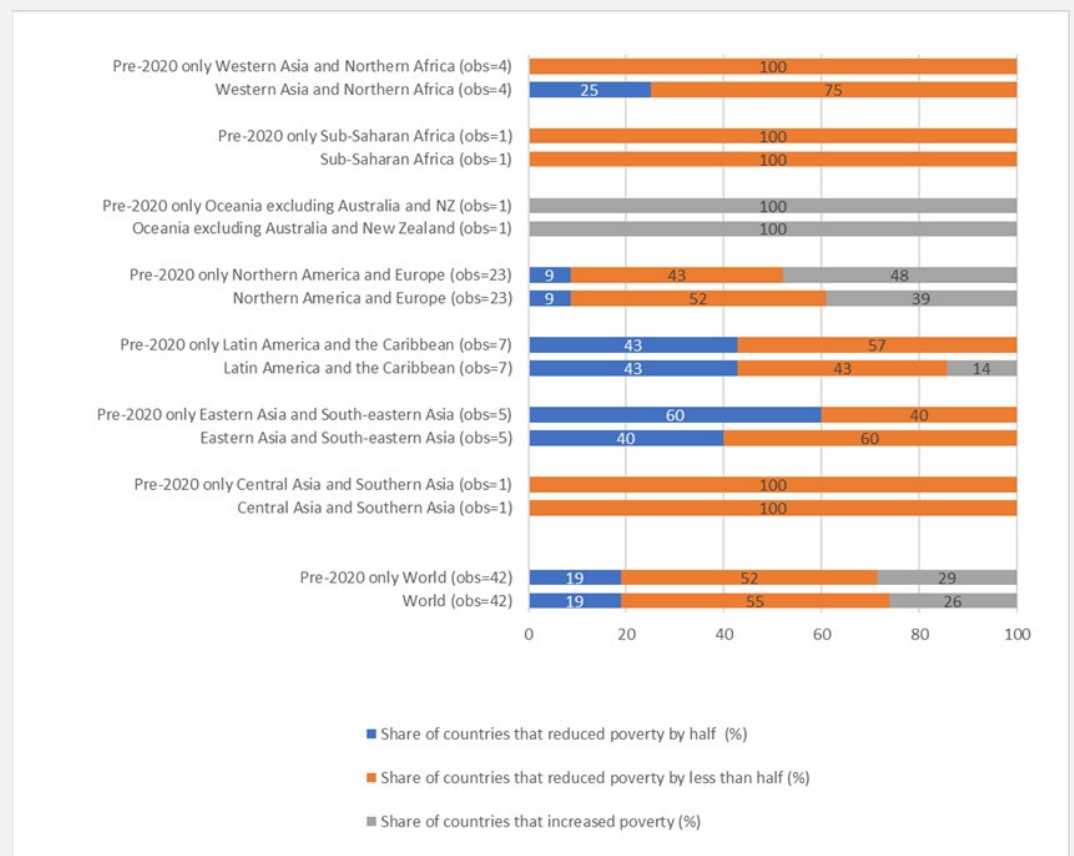
A very simple extrapolation – continuing current trends linearly until 2030 – suggests that less than 30% of countries with available data will have halved poverty by 2030. Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia shows the most promising projections, where about 90% of countries with data are on track to halving poverty by 2030. In all other regions, less than half of countries are expected to halve national poverty rates. The least encouraging projections are in Sub-Saharan Africa, and Northern America and Europe, where 23% and 6% of countries, respectively, will likely halve their national poverty rates by 2030.

Figure 1: Share of countries that reduced poverty by half, less than half, or neither before COVID-19



Source: Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Development Indicators (WDI)

Figure 2: Percent of countries that reduced poverty by half, less than half, or neither until 2023



Source: Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP), World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: Includes countries with at least 7 years between national poverty rate estimates. Includes data up to 2023. Baseline year for each country is the same.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Samuel Kofi Tetteh-Baah, World Bank; Daniel Mahler, World Bank; Christoph Lakner, World Bank

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Indicator 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Custodian agency(ies): National Gov.

Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Indicator 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

Low coverage of children by social protection benefits is more challenging than ever in a context of the climate crisis

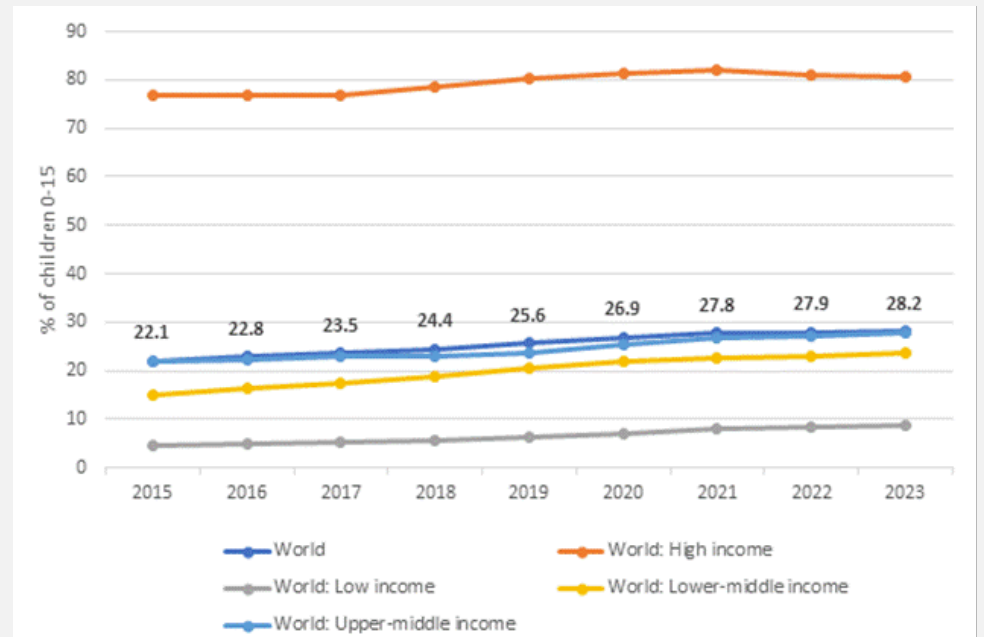
The unfolding climate crisis poses enormous challenges, including the need for universal social protection systems and floors that support persons in the mitigation, adaptation and transition towards a more sustainable development pattern. Social protection benefits for children have shown to be an essential pillar of universal social protection systems and have helped to reach the most vulnerable population in many countries, that is also the most affected one by environmental risks. Strong social protection systems aimed to provide universal coverage can promote equity and social justice by ensuring that all children have access to essential services, resources, and opportunities for development.

Data on effective coverage indicates gradual improvement since the adoption of the SDGs from 22.1 per cent in 2015 to 28.2 per cent in 2023. However, despite the progress, the vast majority of children – 1.4 billion – is still left without any coverage. Regional variations persist, with low-income countries still facing a considerable road ahead to reach the target of universal coverage despite almost doubling the coverage from 4.5 percent in 2015 to 8.7 percent in 2023. For the same period, lower-middle-income and upper-middle income countries have also made substantial progress with coverage increasing from 15.0 per cent to 23.5 per cent and 21.8 per cent to 27.8 per cent, respectively. High-income countries continue approaching universal coverage, with rates mounting from 76.8 to 80.5 per cent.

Given the low coverage rates and limited progress, countries continue to introduce social protection measures to cover children and families: since 2015, 182 countries and territories announced almost 900 social protection measures, mainly through tax-financed programmes, aiming to extend the coverage (one-third of all measures) or increasing the level or duration of benefit, introducing subsidies or increasing the budgetary allocations. However, only one-third of the measures were of a long-term nature with payments in cash or in-kind, the rest aimed to provide a short-term benefit or a one-off payment, especially in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemics.

With a very low level of expenditure, the big challenge for closing the coverage gaps for children lies in filling the social protection financing gap. To guarantee at least a basic level of social security for all children 0-15 years old, upper and lower- middle-income countries would need to invest an additional US\$111.3 and US\$91.4 billion, respectively. Low-income countries would universalize coverage of children with an additional expenditure of US\$72.7 billion.

Proportion of children covered by social protection cash benefits, by income level of country, 2015-2023 (percentage)



Note: Regional and global aggregates are weighted by number of children 0-15.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better future
- World Social Protection Data Dashboards
- Social Protection Monitor
- Financing gaps in social protection Global estimates and strategies for developing countries in light of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond
- More than a billion reasons: The urgent need to build universal social protection for children (Second ILO–UNICEF joint report on social protection for children)
- ILOSTAT
- <https://www.childbenefitstracker.org/>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Valeria Nesterenko, ILO; Helmut Schwarzer, ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Indicator 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#) UN-Habitat

Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#) World Bank, UN-Habitat

Target 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Indicator 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Global disaster mortality is declining over the past decade, showing the impact of steady progress made by countries on managing disaster risk. Disaster affected populations have also been decreasing in recent years, although in the last decade, more people have been affected by disasters than in the previous decade.

As reported by Member States on Sendai Framework Monitor global targets A and B, aligned with SDG Targets 1.5, 11.5, and 13.1, positive progress is seen in reducing global disaster mortality and affected populations in recent years. Global disaster mortality per 100,000 population has decreased from 1.62 in the decade of 2005-2014 to 0.82 in 2013-2022 (COVID-19 related cases excluded). This represents a 49 per cent decline in mortality rates. In absolute terms, this translates to an average annual mortality of 42,553 persons between 2013 and 2022, or a one-third decrease from the average of 2005-2014, when 65,183 persons were reported dead or missing per year.

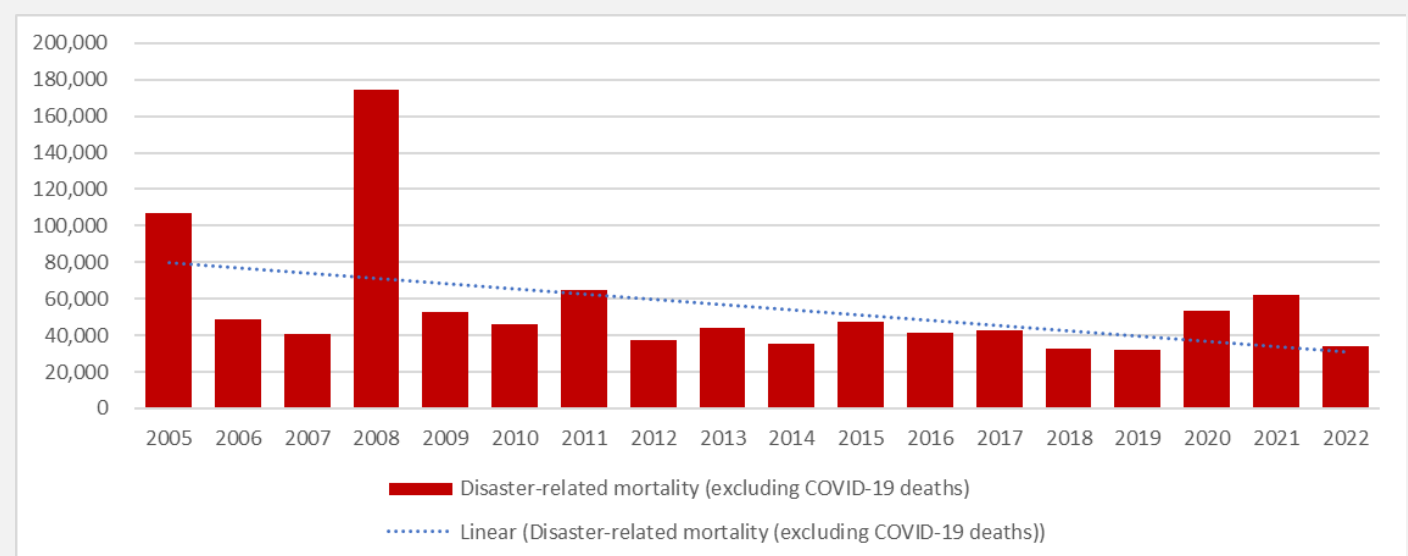
On the other hand, the number of persons affected by disasters per 100,000 population has worsened from 1,169 during the decade 2005 to 2014 to 1,980 in 2013-2022. This corresponds to a 69 per cent increase in disaster affected population over the two decades. The total affected population remained high, as 133 million people were reported affected by disasters annually from 2015 to 2022, significantly higher than 29 million on average from 2005 to 2014.

A declining average mortality, concurrent with increasing disaster affected people, demonstrates a mixed picture of the human cost of disasters. Significant improvements in preparedness, including early warning systems and evacuation measures, have reduced disaster mortality, however, long-term resilience building measures are needed to have a significant dent on the number of affected populations.

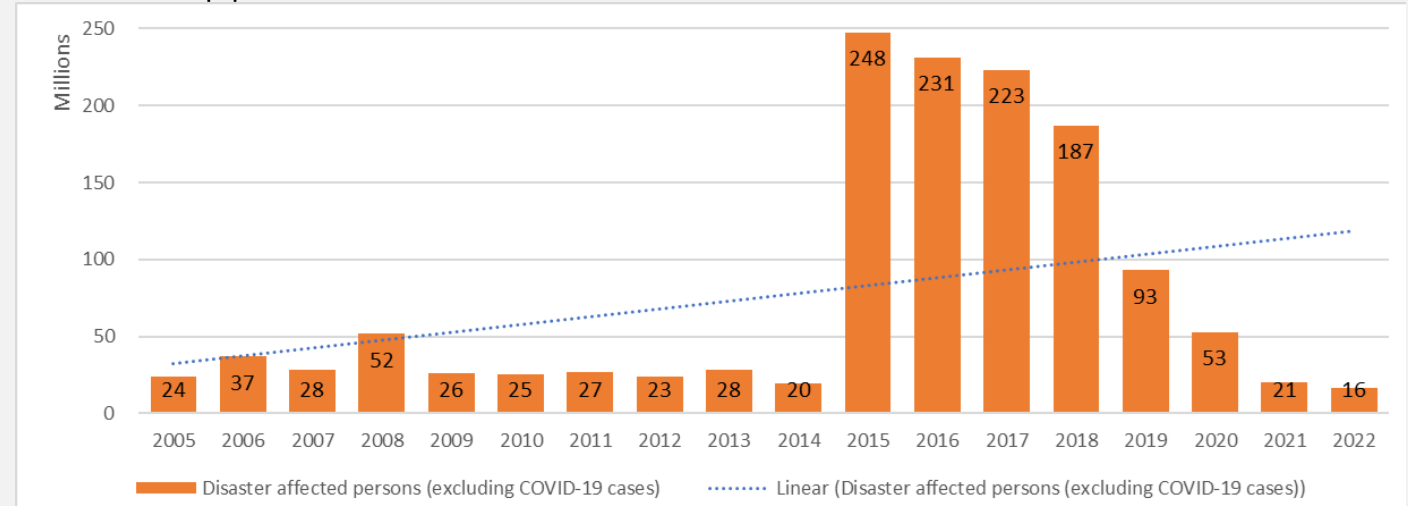
Nonetheless, recent year's data do show that since the adoption of SDGS and the Sendai Framework in 2015, the number of persons affected by disaster is on a decisive downward trend, dropping from 4,086 people per 100,000 in 2015 to 619 people in 2022, which represents a 85 per cent improvement.

When it comes to countries in special situations, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) still show greater disaster vulnerability: Between 2013 and 2022, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS sustained at least twice as heavy the impact on disaster mortality. LDCs reported 26.1 per cent of global disaster-related mortality, while only accounting for 11.5 per cent of the populations of the reporting countries; LLDCs reported 14.3 per cent of global mortality, while accounting for 5.6 per cent of their populations; and SIDS reported 0.6 per cent of global mortality, while accounting for 0.3 per cent of their population.

Disaster related mortality, 2005-2022



Disaster-affected population, 2005-2022



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

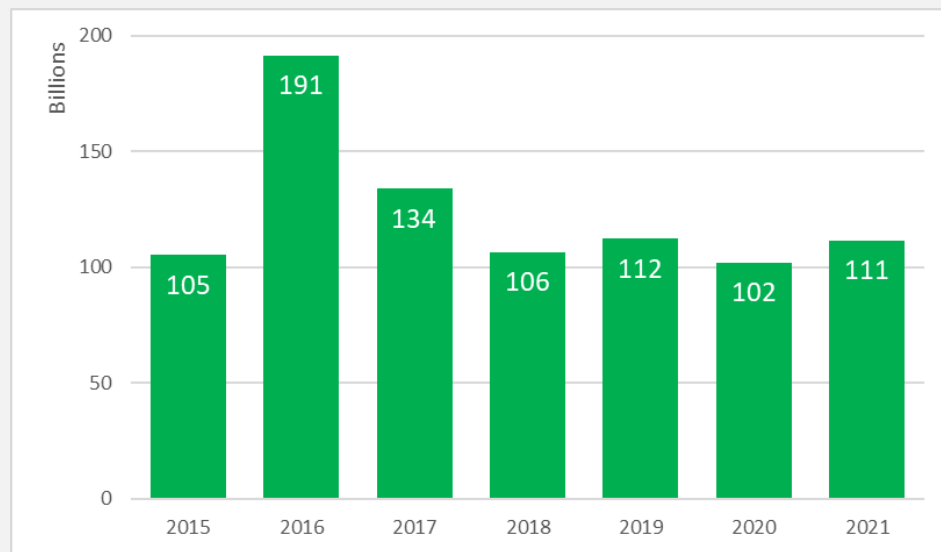
Indicator 1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

Economic losses due to disasters remained stubbornly and consistently high, while LDCs and LLDCs bear a disproportionately heavier burden.

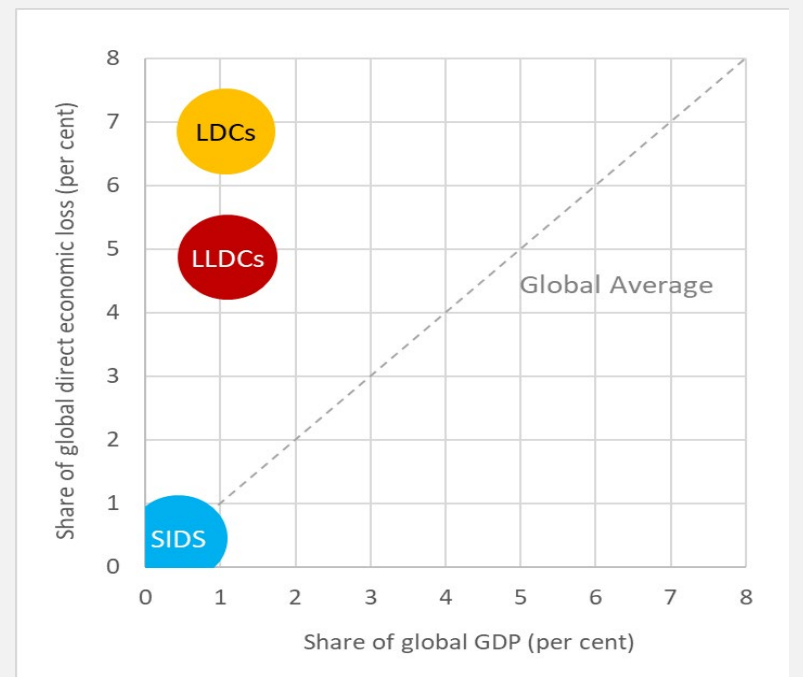
Despite significant efforts undertaken to reduce disaster impacts, economic loss associated with disaster remains stubbornly and consistently high. As reported against Sendai Framework global target C, aligned with SDG targets 1.5 and 11.5, between 2015 and 2022, direct economic loss exceed 115 billion USD annually worldwide, amounting to 0.3 per cent of the GDP of the reporting countries. Since 2015 and up to 2021, there has been no year when global disaster-related economic losses plateaued or dived below the 100 billion USD mark.

LDCs and LLDCs bear a disproportionately high burden of disaster-related economic losses. LDCs suffer over six times higher disaster-related economic loss compared to global average: they accounted for 6.9 per cent of globally reported economic losses during 2015-2022, despite having only 1.1 per cent of total GDP of reporting countries. Similarly, LLDCs reported 4.9 per cent of economic loss while having only 1.1 per cent of GDP, a four times higher burden. Because of the complex nature of measuring economic loss, a high number of countries face difficulties in compiling and reporting to this indicator. As a consequence, the true loss of global economy associated with disasters is expected to be significantly higher than reported. Taking notes on country reported issues, UNDRR, partnering with UNDP and WMO, is supporting countries to strengthen their ability to comprehensively measure the impacts of disasters. Building on the disaster loss database system, (DesInventar Sendai), a new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages is being developed [Link 1]. In addition to a new technological solution for data management, analysis and visualization, the new country-owned tracking system include standards, methodologies and capacity development support to strengthen disaster related data-ecosystem and data application. UNDRR is also working closely with collaborating organizations in enhancing technical capacity in various economic sectors in countries.

Direct disaster economic loss, in billions USD, 2015-2021



Share of direct disaster economic loss vs. GDP for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, 2015-2022



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://www.undrr.org/disaster-losses-and-damages-tracking-system>

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

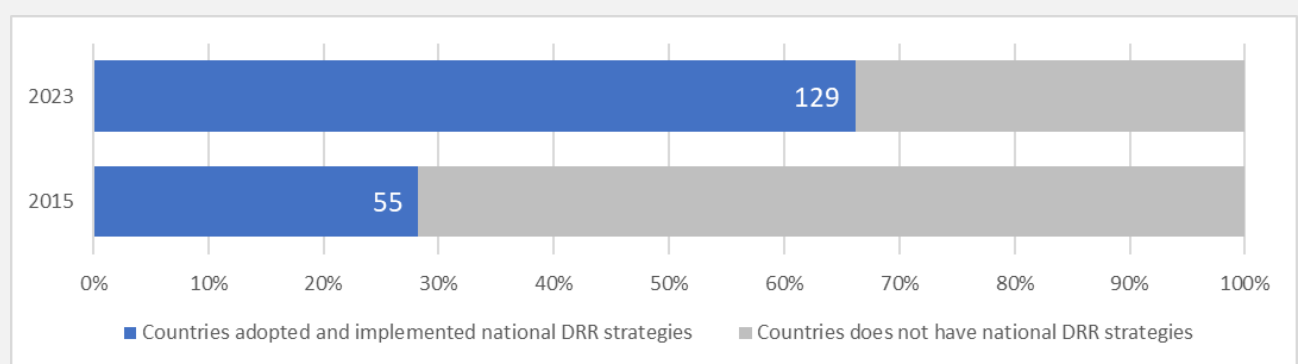
Two-third of the world’s countries now have national disaster risk reduction strategies

More governments have focused on establishing national disaster risk reduction strategies as the main governance framework to generate disaster risk information, and coordinate plans for preparedness and response. Concrete progress has made in the establishment of national DRR strategies worldwide, as 129 countries, or 66 per cent of the world, have reported in Sendai Framework Monitor global target E the adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies by 2023, a high increase from 55 countries in 2015. The average global score for national DRR strategies implementation is 0.67, on a scale of 0 to 1.

Among these countries, 122 have reported that “promoting policy coherence and compliance with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement” is a key element in their national DRR strategies, underlying the importance of integrating climate resilience and sustainable development. In line with a key target of the Global Goal on Adaptation, for all Parties to have national adaptation plans in place by 2030, efforts are being made to leverage the presence of such coherent DRR strategies to build the basis for national adaptation plans through a comprehensive risk management approach [www.undrr.org/crm].

The quality of national DRR strategies also enhance multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS). Published as part of the Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All initiative [<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>], the 2023 Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Report [<https://www.undrr.org/reports/global-status-MHEWS-2023>] showed a high correlation between comprehensive DRR strategies and coverage of life-saving MHEWS. Importantly, the report also found that countries with more comprehensive DRR strategies, also have higher coverage of MHEWS, pointing to the need to adopt a holistic risk governance approach to MHEWS.

Number of countries that have established national DRR strategies



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- www.undrr.org/crm
- <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>
- <https://www.undrr.org/reports/global-status-MHEWS-2023>

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Indicator 1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

82 per cent of the countries with a national DRR strategy also have local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the national strategies

Understanding local risk factors and impacts of disasters is crucial for managing and reducing disasters losses and damages. It serves as a safety net to ensure that no one is left behind in disasters' harmful ways, especially for women, young girls and the marginalized populations. Local-level DRR strategies can promote inclusive, and gender-responsive risk governance, and strengthen the integration of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) into the national strategies.

Local-level risk governance has been improving in recent years, as 106 countries have cumulatively reported having local DRR strategies in place and in line with their national strategies as of 2023. On average, 72 per cent of the local governments in the reporting countries have specified having local DRR strategies.

UNDRR also established the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) Initiative [Link 1] as a cross-stakeholder approach to strengthen the local-level risk knowledge management and to improve local disaster resilience through advocacy, knowledge sharing and experiences. The initiative is establishing mutually-reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government and building partnerships, in an effort to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Animesh Kumar, UNDRR; Xuan Che, UNDRR

Custodian agency(ies): UNDRR

Target 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Indicator 1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income

ODA for poverty reduction on the rise as health expenditures increased

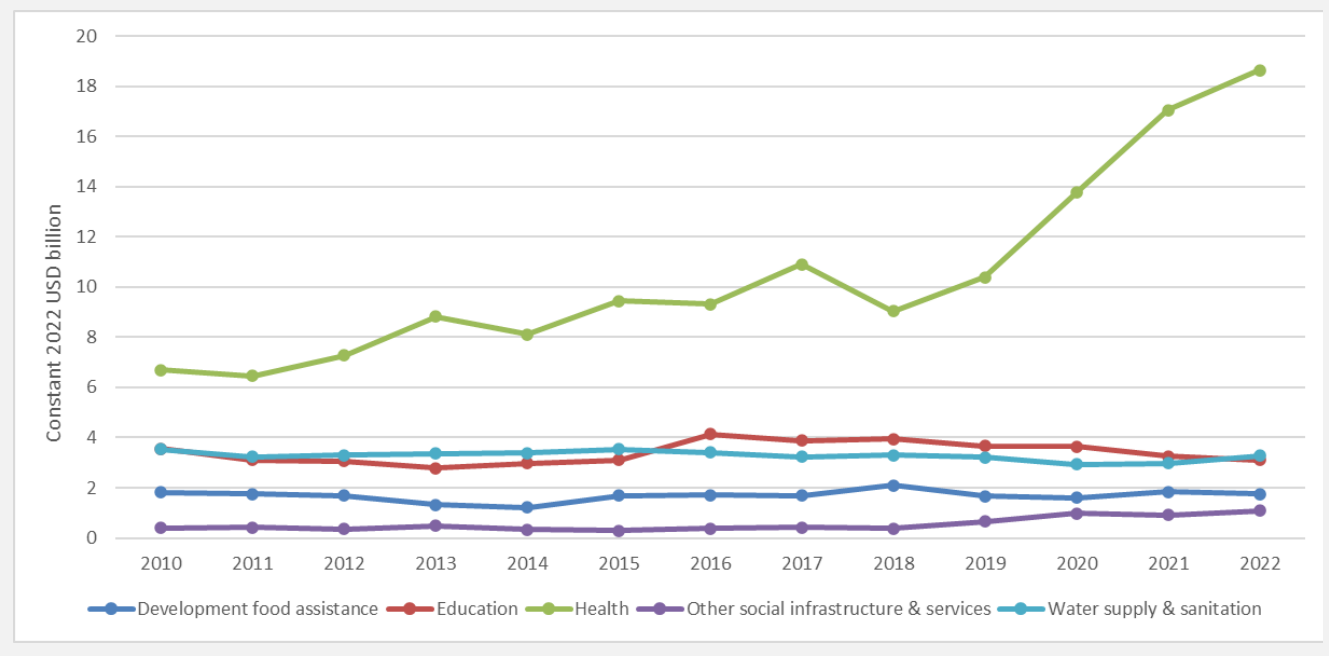
The total volume of grants for basic social services and development food aid, including what is not allocated by recipient country, increased from USD 18 billion (in constant 2022 prices) to USD 27 billion in 2022. Calculated as percentage of the developing countries' combined GNI it also increased from an average of 0.06% during the period 2012-2019 to 0.07% in 2020 and 0.08% in 2022.

The following regions received the highest share of grants which focus on poverty reduction: Oceania (0.12%), Africa (0.06%), Europe (0.02%), whereas Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean received each 0.004%. Least developed countries (LDCs) received 0.12%. Grants for basic social services to all regions have increased in volume compared to 2015 but as percentage of GNI, Oceania was the only region where it decreased from 0.18% to 0.12%.

Within the five basic social service sectors that constitute ODA for poverty reduction, all except basic health have either stagnated or declined over time.

Aid to basic health services increased by 79% from 2019 to 2022, driven by support for COVID-19. This accounted for 67% of total poverty reduction ODA in 2022, an increase from 53% of total poverty reduction aid in 2019. Meanwhile, funding to basic education has been declining in every consecutive year since 2018, while WASH aid in 2022 reached pre-pandemic levels from 2019, after two consecutive years of decline from a peak in 2020. Education and WASH have been declining incrementally as a share of total aid since 2012, as has development food aid, with 2022 marking the lowest value as a share of the total for all three sectors since 2010.

ODA grants for poverty reduction



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

Custodian agency(ies): OECD

Indicator 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

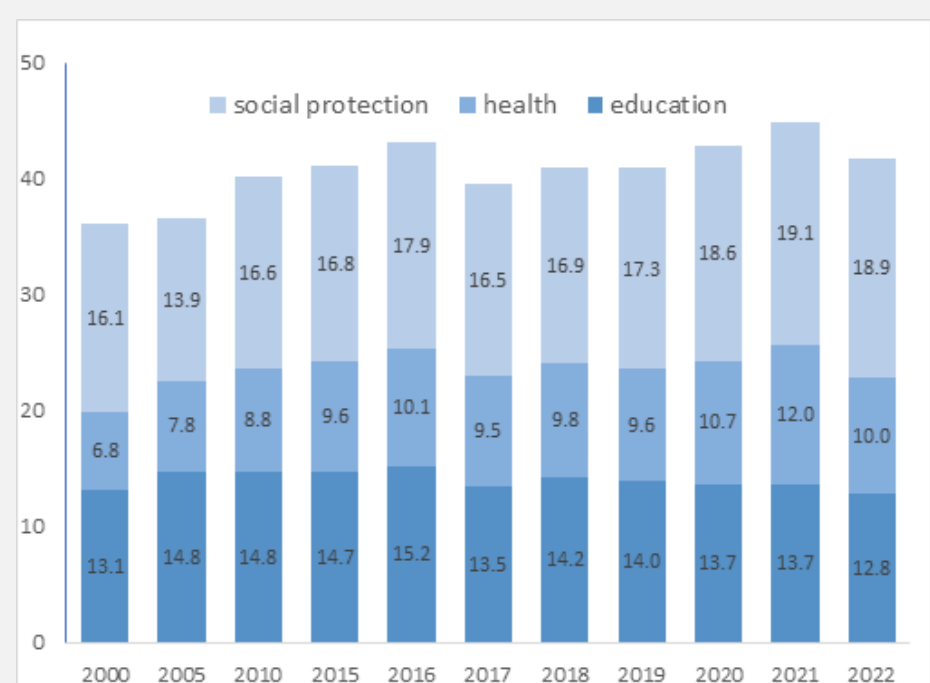
Shifting public resources towards essential services is one of the key policy interventions for reducing poverty and building a better social safety net. Government spending on essential services for the emerging and developing countries is on the rise but remains behind the advanced economies. The policy responses against the Covid-19 crisis are expected to be temporary, yet the adverse impacts could be long-lasting through deterioration of human capital

"Fiscal policy is the use of the level and composition of the general government and public sectors' spending and revenue—and the related accumulation of government assets and liabilities—to achieve such goals as the stabilization of the economy, the reallocation of resources, and the redistribution of income (IMF 2014)." In addition to direct spending on targeted poverty alleviation programs (including cash transfer, food and in-kind transfer), the government can support the poor and the vulnerable in the long term by reallocating resources to activities that promote growth including productive investment spending from "unproductive" public expenditures; and basic education and health care, which build human capital and thus enhance growth and equity. Social protection programs also serve as safety nets including unemployment benefits and pensions, mitigating the adverse impacts and preventing people from falling into poverty.

According to the most recent data for a sample of approximately 100 countries who report to government finance statistics (GFS) database, the proportion of total government spending on essential services (comprising education, health and social protection), world-wide, is approximately 50 percent on average. Across different economies, the overall average is 60 percent amongst the advanced economies (AEs) and 40 percent amongst the emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). While the proportion trends slightly upwards for both economic groups over the past two decades, the gap between them remains stable at approximately 20 percentage points.

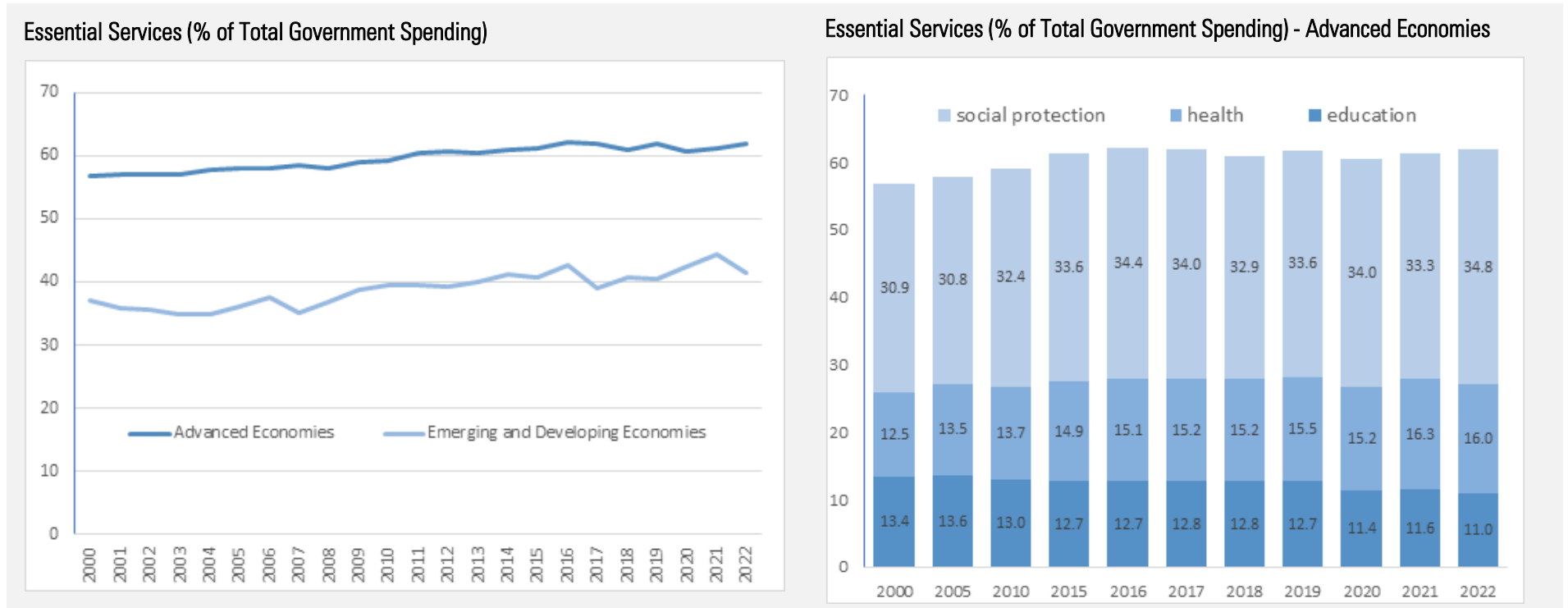
Assessing components of essential services, what separates the two groups of countries is spending on social protection which is higher for AEs than EMDEs by approximately 15 percentage points on average, in part reflecting a higher coverage of pensions for AEs. To a lesser extent, spending on health accounts for approximately 5 percentage points of the differences on average.

Essential Services (% of Total Government Spending) - Emerging and Developing Economies



Reference: International Monetary Fund (IMF). 2014. "Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014." Washington, DC.

Reflecting short-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, spending on social protection and health increased while spending on education declined. The policy measures to the pandemic crisis in terms of social protection and health spending and the adverse impact on education spending in part reflecting the school shutdown are expected to be temporary in nature as the adverse impacts of the pandemic crisis are to dissipate. Nonetheless, prolonged health issues and deprived educational developments on the individuals albeit temporary would potentially have long term impacts through human capital.



Custodian agency(ies): IMF, UNESCO-UIS (co-custodian: education component)

Target 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Indicator 1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF