

# The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020



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# The Sustainable Development Goals Report **2020**

# Foreword

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched in 2015 to end poverty and set the world on a path of peace, prosperity and opportunity for all on a healthy planet. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demand nothing short of a transformation of the financial, economic and political systems that govern our societies today to guarantee the human rights of all. They require immense political will and ambitious action by all stakeholders. But, as Member States recognized at the SDG Summit held last September, global efforts to date have been insufficient to deliver the change we need, jeopardizing the Agenda's promise to current and future generations.

*The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020* brings together the latest data to show us that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress remained uneven and we were not on track to meet the Goals by 2030. Some gains were visible: the share of children and youth out of school had fallen; the incidence of many communicable diseases was in decline; access to safely managed drinking water had improved; and women's representation in leadership roles was increasing. At the same time, the number of people suffering from food insecurity was on the rise, the natural environment continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate, and dramatic levels of inequality persisted in all regions. Change was still not happening at the speed or scale required.

Now, due to COVID-19, an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis is threatening lives and livelihoods, making the achievement of Goals even more challenging. As of the beginning of June, the death toll had surpassed 400,000 and was continuing to climb, with almost no country spared. Health systems in many countries have been driven to the brink of collapse. The livelihood of half the global workforce has been severely affected. More than 1.6 billion students are out of school, and tens of millions of people are being pushed back into extreme poverty and hunger, erasing the modest progress made in recent years.

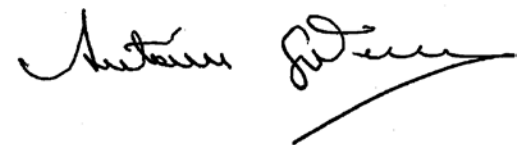
Although the novel coronavirus affects every person and community, it does not do so equally. Instead, it has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities and injustices. In advanced economies, fatality rates have been highest among marginalized groups. In developing countries, the most vulnerable – including those employed in the informal economy, older people, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and refugees – risk being hit even harder.

Across the globe, young people are being disproportionately affected, particularly in the world of work. Women and girls are facing new barriers and new threats, ranging from a shadow pandemic of violence to additional burdens of unpaid care work.

Far from undermining the case for the SDGs, the root causes and uneven impacts of COVID-19 demonstrate precisely why we need the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and underscore the urgency of their implementation. I have therefore consistently called for a coordinated and comprehensive international response and recovery effort, based on sound data and science and guided by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Health systems must be urgently strengthened in countries that are at greatest risk, with increased capacity for testing, tracing and treatment. Universal access to treatments and vaccines, when they become available, is essential. A large-scale multilateral response is needed to ensure that developing countries have the resources they need to protect households and businesses. Recovery packages must facilitate the shift to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and support universal access to quality public services. And leadership and support are needed to ensure statistical organizations have the tools and resources to facilitate timely and smart decision-making. To guide and support these actions, the United Nations system has mobilized at all levels, leveraging the recent reforms of the United Nations development system.

At the start of this Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, I call for renewed ambition, mobilization, leadership and collective action, not just to beat COVID-19 but to recover better, together – winning the race against climate change, decisively tackling poverty and inequality, truly empowering all women and girls and creating more inclusive and equitable societies everywhere.



António GUTERRES

Secretary-General of the United Nations

# Finding transformative pathways in turbulent times

This year marks the start of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It is a critical period to advance a shared vision and accelerate responses to the world's gravest challenges – from eliminating poverty and hunger to reversing climate change. Yet, in only a brief period of time, the precipitous spread of the novel coronavirus turned a public health emergency into one of the worst international crises of our lifetimes, changing the world as we know it. The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020* presents an overview of progress towards the SDGs before the pandemic started, but it also looks at some of the devastating initial impacts of COVID-19 on specific Goals and targets. The report was prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with over 200 experts from more than 40 international agencies using the latest available data and estimates.

## No area has been spared the effects of the pandemic

One third of the way into our SDG journey, the world is not on track to achieve the global Goals by 2030. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, progress had been uneven, and more focused attention was needed in most areas. The pandemic abruptly disrupted implementation towards many of the SDGs and, in some cases, turned back decades of progress.

The crisis has touched all segments of the population, all sectors of the economy, and all areas of the world. Not surprisingly, it is affecting the world's poorest and most vulnerable people the most. It has exposed harsh and profound inequalities in our societies and is further exacerbating existing disparities within and among countries.

Forecasts indicate that the pandemic will push 71 million people back into extreme poverty in 2020, in what would be the first rise in global poverty since 1998. Many of these people are workers in the informal economy, whose incomes dropped by 60 per cent in the first month of the crisis. Half of the global workforce – 1.6 billion people – support themselves and their families through insecure and often unsafe jobs in the informal economy, and have been significantly affected. The impacts of COVID-19 are also increasing the vulnerability of the world's one billion slum dwellers, who already suffer from inadequate housing with limited or no access to basic infrastructure and services.

Older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees are more likely to experience severe effects from COVID-19 due to their specific health and socioeconomic circumstances. Similarly, the pandemic is taking a toll on the world's women and children. Disrupted health care and limited access to food and nutrition services could result in hundreds of thousands of additional under-5 deaths and tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths in 2020. About 70 countries reported moderate-to-severe disruptions or a total suspension of childhood vaccination services during March and April 2020. Many countries have seen a surge in reports of domestic violence against women and children. Millions of unintended pregnancies can be expected as tens of millions of women are unable to access family planning supplies and services.

School closures kept 90 per cent of students out of school and caused over 370 million children to miss out on school meals this spring. Prolonged absence from school results in lower retention

and graduation rates and worsens learning outcomes. It also has an adverse effect on the social and behavioural development of children and youth. As more families fall into extreme poverty, children in poor and disadvantaged communities are at much greater risk of child labour, child marriage and child trafficking. In fact, the global gains in reducing child labour are likely to be reversed for the first time in 20 years. In short, the crisis is having life-altering consequences for millions of children and youth worldwide.

The economic impacts of the crisis are equally sobering: the world is now facing its worst recession in generations. Even the most advanced and developed countries are struggling to cope with the health, social and economic fallout of the pandemic, but the poorest and most disadvantaged countries will inevitably be hit the hardest. Estimates suggest that world trade will plunge by 13 to 32 per cent, foreign direct investment will decline by up to 40 per cent, and remittances to low- and middle-income countries will fall by 20 per cent in 2020. Many poorer countries are already experiencing acute food insecurity. All of these external shocks, together with job losses, fragile health systems, insufficient basic services and low coverage of social protection systems have aggravated their vulnerabilities. Without support from the international community, the crisis could destabilize the economies of already impoverished nations.

## We must hold firm in our convictions

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to its very core. However, we must hold firm in our convictions and not let the crisis derail our hopes and ambitions. In fact, the principles on which the SDGs were established are key to building back better in the post-COVID-19 recovery. The continued pursuit of these universal Goals will keep Governments focused on growth, but also on inclusion, equity and sustainability. Our collective response to the pandemic can serve as a "warm-up" for our preparedness in preventing an even larger crisis – that is, global climate change, whose effects are already becoming all too familiar. Governments and businesses should heed the lessons learned from this wake-up call to formulate the kinds of transitions needed to build a healthier, more resilient and more sustainable world. Central to such transitions are timely and disaggregated data and statistics, from which effective and equitable measures and policies can be shaped.

In September 2020, the United Nations will commemorate its seventy-fifth anniversary amidst extraordinary global challenges. While commitment to the purpose and principles of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda remains strong, the COVID-19 pandemic is a vivid reminder of the need for global cooperation and solidarity. We must strengthen and combine our efforts to leave no one behind and to forge the transformative pathways needed to create a more livable world.



Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General  
for Economic and Social Affairs

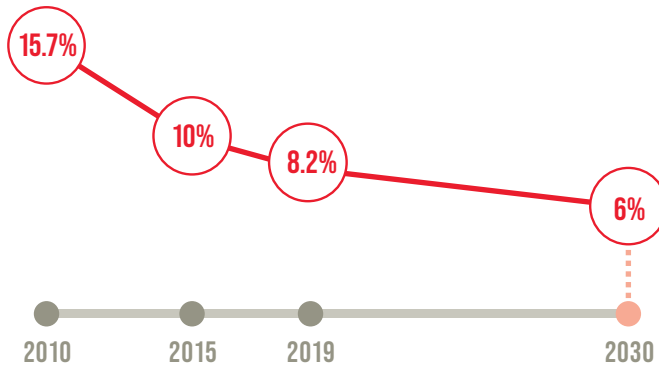
1 NO POVERTY



## END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

### BEFORE COVID-19

THE WORLD  
WAS **OFF TRACK** TO  
END POVERTY BY **2030**



### COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

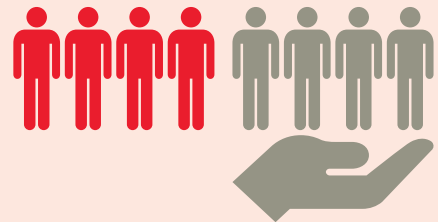


COVID-19 CAUSES  
THE **FIRST INCREASE**  
IN GLOBAL POVERTY IN DECADES

**+71 MILLION** PEOPLE ARE PUSHED  
INTO **EXTREME POVERTY** IN 2020



**YOUNG WORKERS** ARE  
TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE  
LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY  
AS ADULT WORKERS (2019)



**4 BILLION PEOPLE**  
DID NOT BENEFIT  
FROM ANY FORM OF  
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN 2016

NATURAL DISASTERS  
EXACERBATE POVERTY



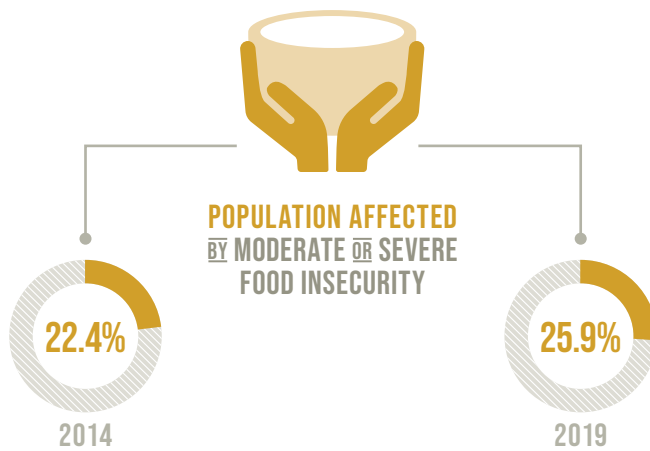
**\$23.6 BILLION**  
DIRECT ECONOMIC LOSSES  
(FROM 63 COUNTRIES IN 2018)



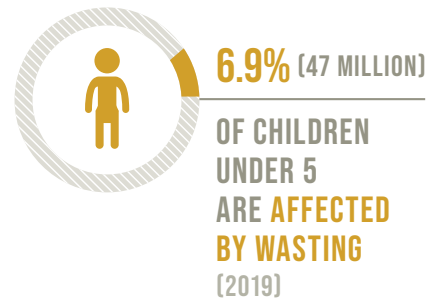
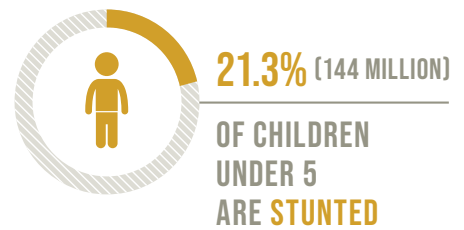
# END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

## BEFORE COVID-19

### FOOD INSECURITY WAS ALREADY ON THE RISE

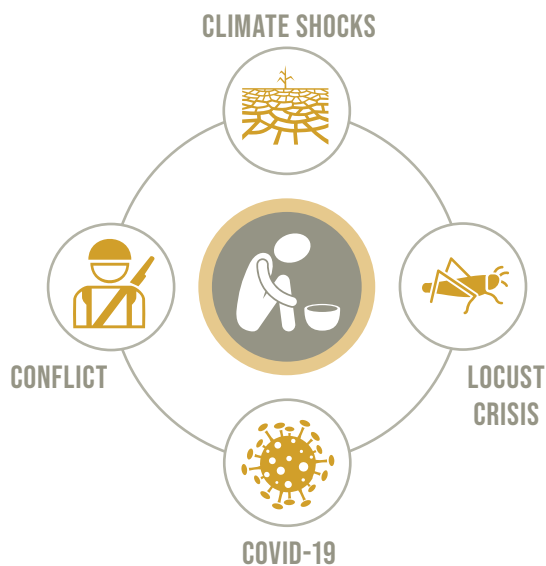


### STUNTING AND WASTING AMONG CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO WORSEN



## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

### THE PANDEMIC IS AN ADDITIONAL THREAT TO FOOD SYSTEMS



### SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS ARE HIT HARD BY THE CRISIS



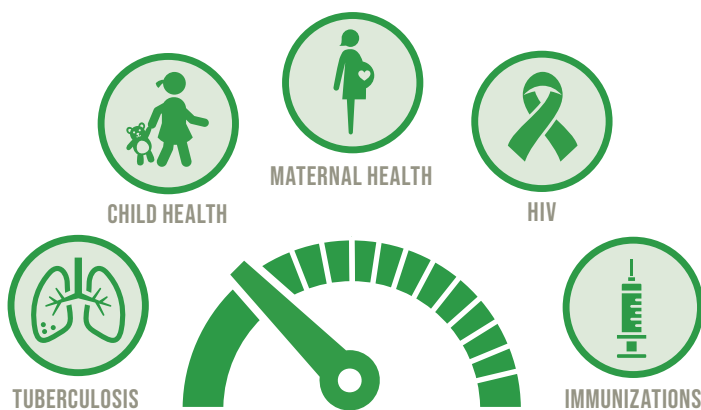
COMPRISING 40%–85% OF ALL FOOD PRODUCERS IN DEVELOPING REGIONS



# ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

## BEFORE COVID-19

PROGRESS IN MANY HEALTH AREAS CONTINUED, BUT NEEDS ACCELERATION

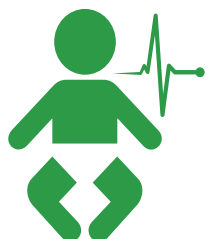


THE PANDEMIC HAS INTERRUPTED CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES IN AROUND 70 COUNTRIES



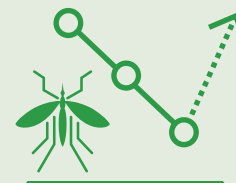
## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

HEALTHCARE DISRUPTIONS COULD REVERSE DECADES OF IMPROVEMENTS



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL UNDER-5 DEATHS MAY BE EXPECTED IN 2020

ILLNESS AND DEATHS FROM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WILL SPIKE



SERVICE CANCELLATIONS WILL LEAD TO 100% INCREASE IN MALARIA DEATHS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

LESS THAN HALF OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION



IS COVERED BY ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

[2017]



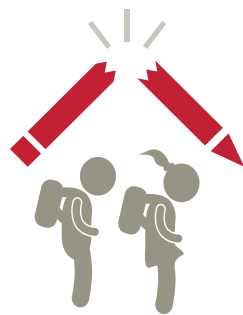




# ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

## BEFORE COVID-19

PROGRESS TOWARDS  
INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY  
EDUCATION WAS **TOO SLOW**



**OVER 200 MILLION** CHILDREN WILL  
STILL BE **OUT OF SCHOOL** IN 2030

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



SCHOOL CLOSURES KEPT  
**90% OF ALL STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL**  
REVERSING YEARS OF PROGRESS ON EDUCATION

## INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION ARE EXACERBATED BY COVID-19

IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES,  
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IS



**79%** IN RICHEST  
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS



**34%** IN POOREST  
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS

REMOTE LEARNING REMAINS  
**OUT OF REACH FOR**  
AT LEAST  
**500 MILLION STUDENTS**



**ONLY 65% OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS**  
HAVE BASIC HANDWASHING FACILITIES  
CRITICAL FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION

# ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

## BEFORE COVID-19

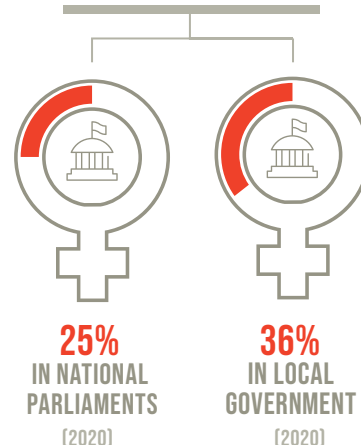
DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS, **FULL GENDER EQUALITY REMAINS UNREACHED**



FEWER GIRLS ARE FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE  
 ...  
 MORE WOMEN ARE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

**WOMEN**  
**MUST BE REPRESENTED FAIRLY**  
 IN PANDEMIC-RELATED LEADERSHIP ROLES

### WOMEN REPRESENT



## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

LOCKDOWNS ARE INCREASING THE RISK OF **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**



PHYSICAL — SEXUAL — PSYCHOLOGICAL

CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **HAVE INCREASED BY 30%** IN SOME COUNTRIES

**WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS**



**WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 70%** OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS



**WOMEN BEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD BURDENS DURING THE PANDEMIC**

↓ ↓ ↓  
 WOMEN ALREADY SPEND ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MANY HOURS IN UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK AS MEN



# ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

## BEFORE COVID-19

DESPITE PROGRESS,  
**BILLIONS STILL LACK**  
WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES



**2.2 BILLION PEOPLE**  
LACK SAFELY MANAGED  
DRINKING WATER  
(2017)



**4.2 BILLION PEOPLE**  
LACK SAFELY MANAGED  
SANITATION  
(2017)



**TWO IN FIVE**  
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES  
WORLDWIDE HAVE  
**NO**  
SOAP AND WATER OR  
ALCOHOL-BASED  
HAND RUB  
(2016)



## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



**3 BILLION**  
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE  
LACK BASIC HANDWASHING  
FACILITIES AT HOME  
↓ ↓ ↓  
THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR  
COVID-19 PREVENTION



**WATER SCARCITY**  
COULD DISPLACE  
**700 MILLION PEOPLE**  
BY 2030



SOME COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE  
A **FUNDING GAP OF 61%** FOR ACHIEVING  
WATER AND SANITATION TARGETS



# ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

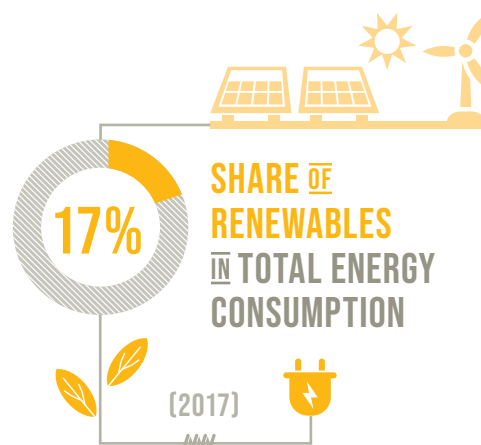
## BEFORE COVID-19

### EFFORTS NEED **SCALING UP** ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

**789 MILLION** PEOPLE LACK ELECTRICITY (2018)

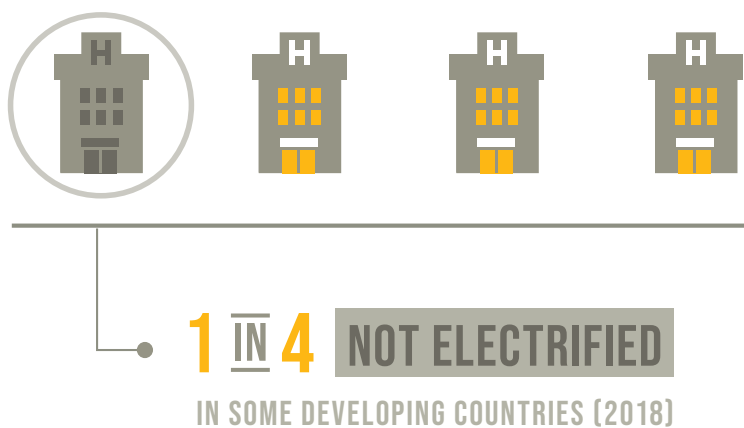


### STEPPED-UP EFFORTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY ARE NEEDED

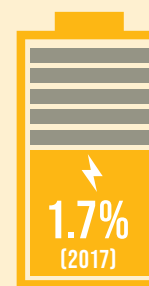


## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

### AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY IS CRITICAL FOR HEALTH FACILITIES



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT RATE **FALLS SHORT** OF 3% NEEDED



FINANCIAL FLOWS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ARE INCREASING

\$21.4 BILLION (2017)



BUT ONLY 12% GOES TO LDCs



# PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

## BEFORE COVID-19

### GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS SLOWING DOWN



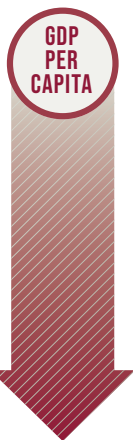
2.0%  
GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH  
(2010-2018)

1.5%  
GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH  
(2019)



DURING THE PANDEMIC  
**1.6 BILLION WORKERS**  
IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY  
RISK LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



THE WORLD FACES THE  
**WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION**  
SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION

GDP PER CAPITA  
EXPECTED TO DECLINE  
BY **4.2% IN 2020**

### TOURISM IS FACING UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

INTERNATIONAL  
TOURIST ARRIVALS  
WITH COVID-19  
2020 SCENARIOS



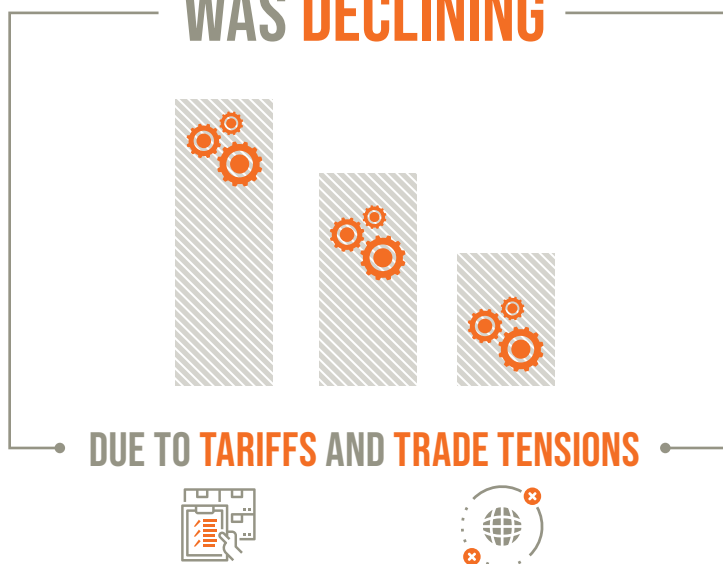
COVID-19 COULD CAUSE THE EQUIVALENT OF  
**400 MILLION JOB LOSSES** IN SECOND QUARTER OF 2020



# BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

## BEFORE COVID-19

### MANUFACTURING GROWTH WAS DECLINING



### FINANCING FOR SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES IS NEEDED FOR THEIR SURVIVAL THROUGH THE CRISIS



**ONLY 35%**  
HAVE ACCESS TO CREDIT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
(2006-2018)

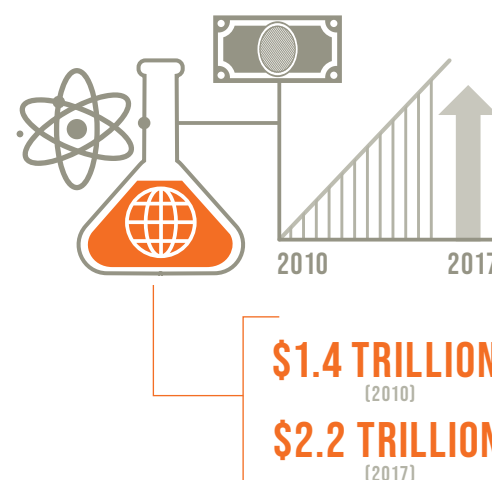
## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

### THE AVIATION INDUSTRY HAS SUFFERED THE STEEPEST DECLINE IN HISTORY



AIR PASSENGER NUMBERS **FELL BY 51%**  
FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2020  
(COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2019)

### INVESTMENT IN R&D IS GROWING BUT NEEDS TO ACCELERATE



### FEWER THAN 1 IN 5 PEOPLE USE THE INTERNET IN LDCs (2019)



# REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

## BEFORE COVID-19

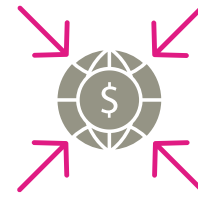
### INCOME INEQUALITY WAS FALLING IN SOME COUNTRIES



**GINI INDEX FELL**  
IN 38 OUT OF 84 COUNTRIES  
(2010-2017)

THE GINI INDEX MEASURES INCOME INEQUALITY AND RANGES FROM 0 TO 100, WHERE 0 INDICATES THAT INCOME IS SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL PEOPLE, AND 100 INDICATES THAT ONE PERSON ACCOUNTS FOR ALL INCOME

### GLOBAL RECESSION COULD SQUEEZE DEVELOPMENT AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



RESOURCE FLOWS FOR DEVELOPMENT

**\$420**  
BILLION  
(2017)



**\$271**  
BILLION  
(2018)

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

### THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE BEING HIT HARDEST BY THE PANDEMIC



OLDER PERSONS



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



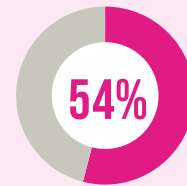
CHILDREN



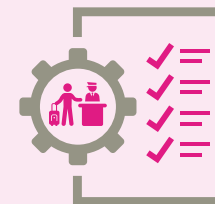
WOMEN



MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



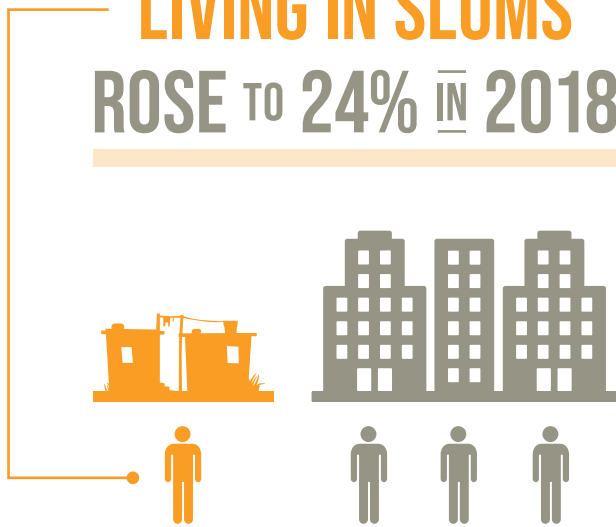
54% OF COUNTRIES WITH DATA HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF MIGRATION POLICIES



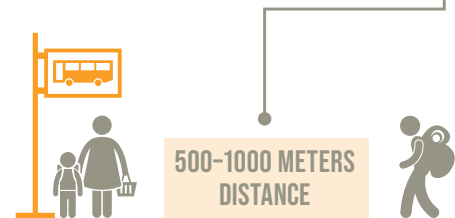
# MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

## BEFORE COVID-19

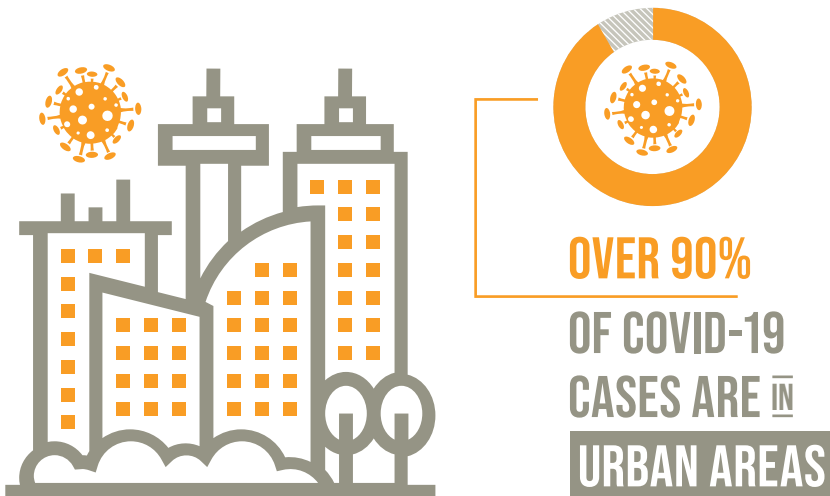
### SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION LIVING IN SLUMS ROSE TO 24% IN 2018



**ONLY HALF** THE WORLD'S URBAN POPULATION HAS **CONVENIENT ACCESS** TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT (2019)



## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



**AIR POLLUTION** CAUSED **4.2 MILLION** PREMATURE DEATHS IN 2016



**47% OF POPULATION** LIVE WITHIN 400 METRES WALKING DISTANCE TO OPEN PUBLIC SPACES



400M

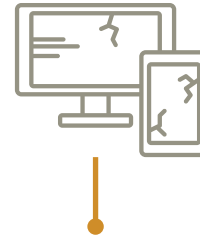
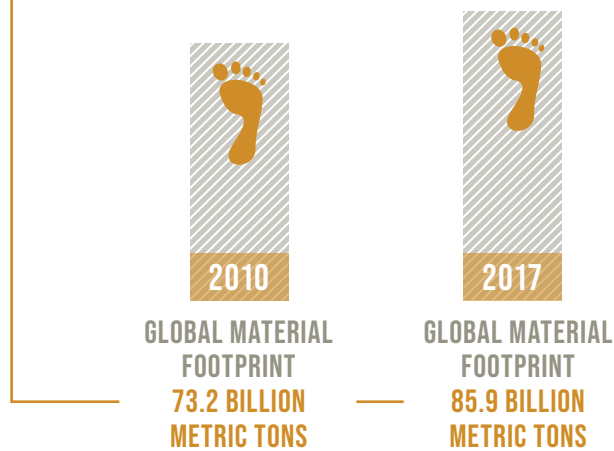




# ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

## BEFORE COVID-19

THE WORLD CONTINUES TO USE NATURAL RESOURCES **UNSUSTAINABLY**



**ELECTRONIC WASTE GREW BY 38%**



**BUT LESS THAN 20% IS RECYCLED**  
(2010-2019)

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE PANDEMIC OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO **DEVELOP RECOVERY PLANS** THAT BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



FROM 2017 TO 2019, 79 COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION REPORTED AT LEAST ONE POLICY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**RISING FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

**\$318 BILLION**  
(2015)

**\$427 BILLION**  
(2018)



HARVESTING



TRANSPORT



STORAGE



PROCESSING



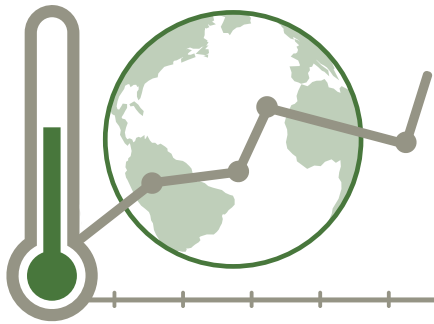
**13.8%**  
OF FOOD IS LOST IN SUPPLY CHAINS (2016)



# TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

## BEFORE COVID-19

GLOBAL COMMUNITY SHIES AWAY FROM COMMITMENTS REQUIRED TO REVERSE **THE CLIMATE CRISIS**



2019 WAS THE SECOND WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES ARE PROJECTED TO RISE BY UP TO 3.2°C BY 2100



**ONLY 85 COUNTRIES** HAVE NATIONAL **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

ALIGNED TO **THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK**

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

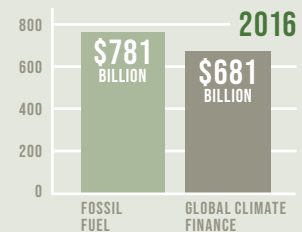


COVID-19 MAY RESULT IN A **6% DROP IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR 2020**

STILL SHORT OF **7.6% ANNUAL REDUCTION REQUIRED TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5°C**

## CLIMATE FINANCE: INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS

CONTINUES TO BE HIGHER THAN INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE ACTIVITIES



CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUES TO EXACERBATE THE FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF **NATURAL DISASTERS**



MASSIVE WILDFIRES



DROUGHTS



HURRICANES



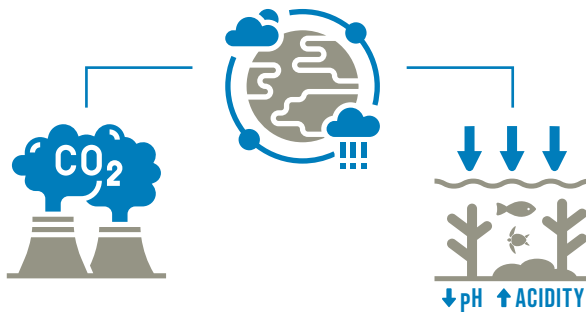
FLOODS

AFFECTING **MORE THAN 39 MILLION PEOPLE** IN 2018

# CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## BEFORE COVID-19

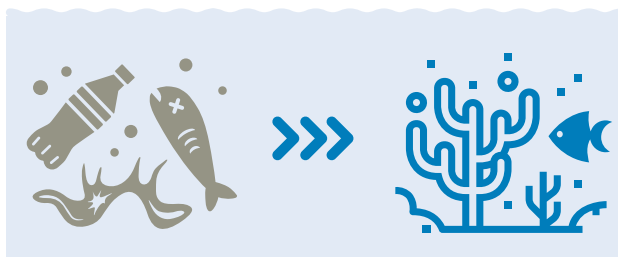
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION CONTINUES TO THREATEN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



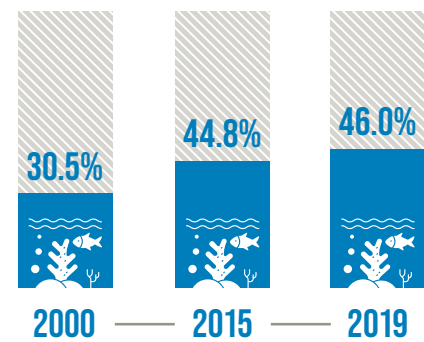
A 100-150% RISE IN OCEAN ACIDITY IS PROJECTED BY 2100, AFFECTING HALF OF ALL MARINE LIFE

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

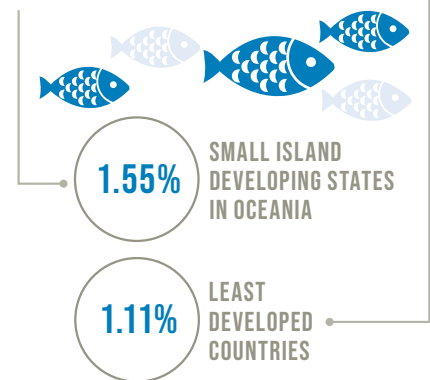
THE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN HUMAN ACTIVITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY COVID-19 MAY BE A CHANCE FOR OCEANS TO RECUPERATE



GLOBAL MARINE KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS COVERED BY PROTECTED AREAS INCREASED

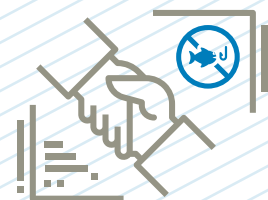


SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CONTRIBUTE TO GDP



10x THE GLOBAL AVERAGE

97 COUNTRIES SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES, THE FIRST BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

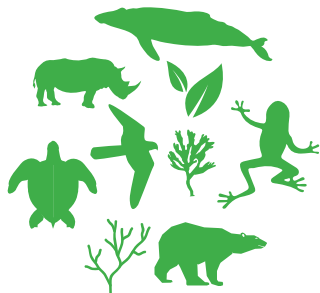




**PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

**BEFORE COVID-19**

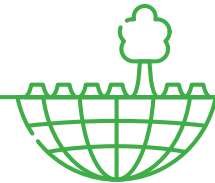
THE WORLD IS FALLING SHORT ON 2020 TARGETS TO HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS



OVER 31,000 SPECIES ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

WHICH IS

27% OF OVER 116,000 ASSESSED SPECIES IN THE IUCN RED LIST

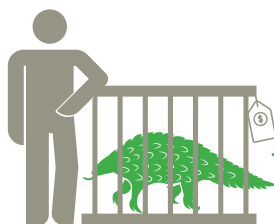


**FOREST AREAS CONTINUE TO DECLINE AT AN ALARMING RATE, DRIVEN MAINLY BY AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION**

EACH YEAR, 10 MILLION HECTARES OF FOREST ARE DESTROYED (2015-2020)

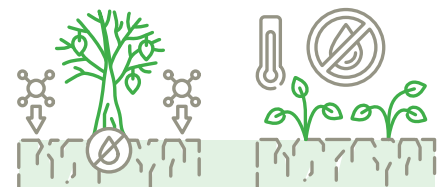
**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

**WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING DISRUPTS ECOSYSTEMS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

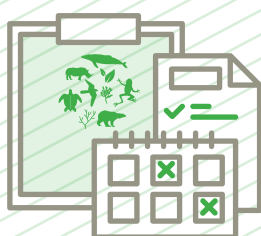


PANGOLINS ARE POSSIBLY THE INTERMEDIARY ANIMAL THAT TRANSFERRED THE CORONAVIRUS

THE EQUIVALENT OF 370,000 PANGOLINS WERE SEIZED GLOBALLY (2014-2018)



TWO BILLION HECTARES OF LAND ON EARTH ARE DEGRADED, AFFECTING SOME 3.2 BILLION PEOPLE, DRIVING SPECIES TO EXTINCTION AND INTENSIFYING CLIMATE CHANGE



ONLY A THIRD OF 113 COUNTRIES WERE ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THEIR NATIONAL TARGET TO INTEGRATE BIODIVERSITY INTO NATIONAL PLANNING

**PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS**

**BEFORE COVID-19**

EVERY DAY,  
**100 CIVILIANS ARE KILLED**  
 IN ARMED CONFLICTS



DESPITE PROTECTIONS  
 UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW



**THE GLOBAL HOMICIDE RATE HAS DECLINED SLOWLY**



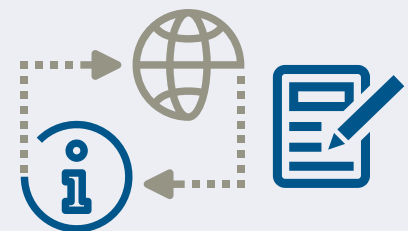
TRANSLATING TO  
**440,000 HOMICIDE VICTIMS**  
 WORLDWIDE

**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS FURTHER THREATEN  
 GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY



ALREADY IN 2019, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FLEEING WAR, PERSECUTION AND CONFLICT EXCEEDED 79.5 MILLION, THE HIGHEST LEVEL EVER RECORDED



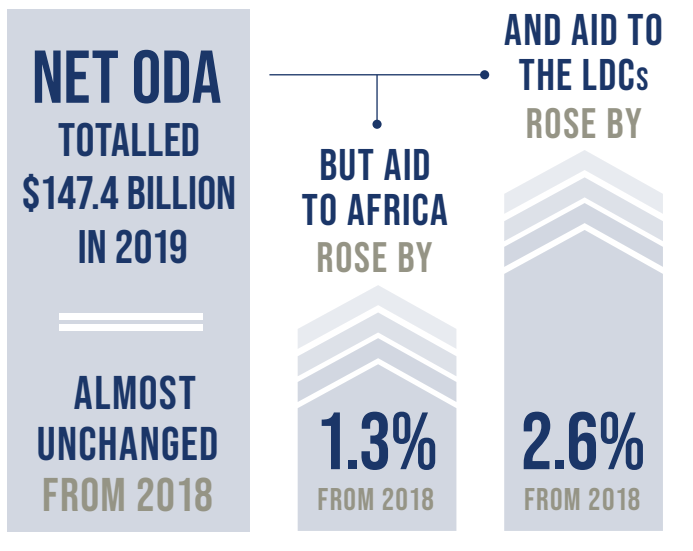
**127 COUNTRIES**  
 HAVE ADOPTED  
 RIGHT-TO-INFORMATION  
 OR  
 FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION  
**LAWS**



**60% OF COUNTRIES HAVE PRISON OVERCROWDING, RISKING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

# STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## BEFORE COVID-19

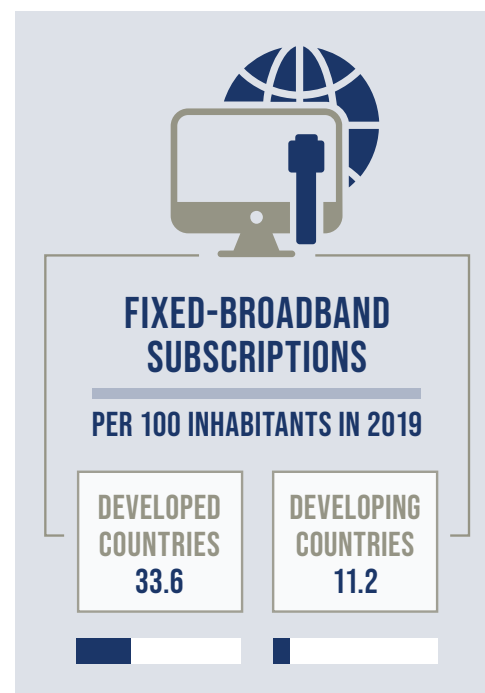


**GLOBAL FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY UP TO 40% IN 2020**

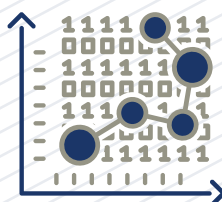
## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



**\$554 BILLION IN 2019** → **\$445 BILLION IN 2020**



**INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR DATA AND STATISTICS WAS \$690 MILLION IN 2017**



**ONLY HALF THE LEVEL IT NEEDS TO BE**

# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

## BEFORE COVID-19

### CHILDREN ARE REGULARLY EXPOSED TO MULTIPLE FORMS OF VIOLENCE



NEARLY  
**8 IN 10 CHILDREN**  
(1-14 YEARS)  
SUFFERED FROM  
PSYCHOLOGICAL OR  
PHYSICAL AGGRESSION  
AT HOME



ALMOST ONE THIRD  
OF DETECTED  
TRAFFICKING  
VICTIMS ARE  
CHILDREN  
(2016)



BASED ON DATA FROM 69 COUNTRIES,  
MOSTLY LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

**80-YEAR-OLDS**  
ARE DYING FROM  
CORONAVIRUS AT  
**5X**  
THE AVERAGE RATE

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

### THE WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



AN ESTIMATED  
**379 MILLION CHILDREN**  
MISSED SCHOOL MEALS  
BECAUSE OF  
SCHOOL CLOSURES  
DURING THE PANDEMIC



THE GLOBAL GAINS IN  
REDUCING CHILD LABOUR  
ARE LIKELY  
**TO BE REVERSED**  
FOR THE FIRST TIME  
IN 20 YEARS



**3 IN 10 PEOPLE**  
WITH DISABILITIES HAVE  
EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION  
(2014-2019)



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

Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain threats to sustainable development. In 2019, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 79.5 million, the highest level recorded since these statistics have been systematically collected. One in four children continues to be deprived of legal identity through lack of birth registration, often limiting their ability to exercise rights in other areas. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to amplify and exploit fragilities across the globe. In March 2020,



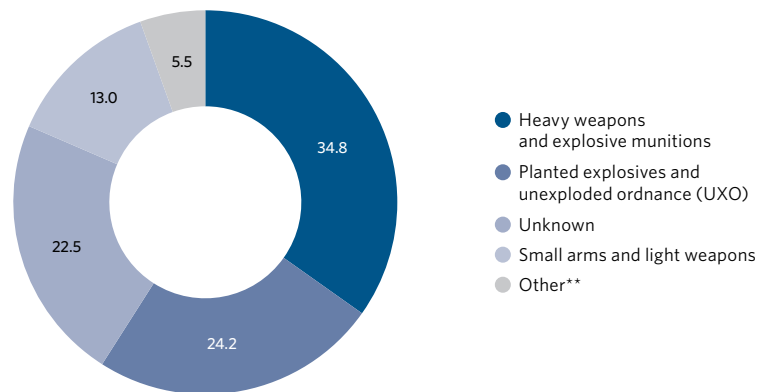
the Secretary-General launched an appeal for an immediate global ceasefire to aid in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and open channels for diplomacy, in particular for those most vulnerable to COVID-19. The measure is being met with support, but implementation challenges still exist.

### Every day, 100 civilians – including women and children – are killed in armed conflicts despite protections under international law

Under international law, civilians are to be protected in armed conflicts. Yet, at least 106,806 civilian deaths were recorded by the United Nations in 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts between 2015 and 2017. This translates to an average of 11.9 civilian deaths per 100,000 population each year; one in eight of those deaths was a woman or child. Most of the civilian deaths were caused by heavy weapons and explosive munitions, followed by planted explosives and unexploded ordnance. More than 20,000 civilians were killed or injured in 10 conflicts in 2019, which is only a fraction of the actual total.

The threat of COVID-19 is greater in situations of armed conflict, where fighting has ravaged health systems, displaced people and forced them to live in overcrowded conditions with marginal or no access to basic services. The terrible suffering of civilians could be significantly reduced if parties to conflict respected international humanitarian and human rights laws. More must be done to prevent, reduce and resolve ongoing conflicts.

Conflict-related civilian deaths, by cause, 2015–2017 (percentage)



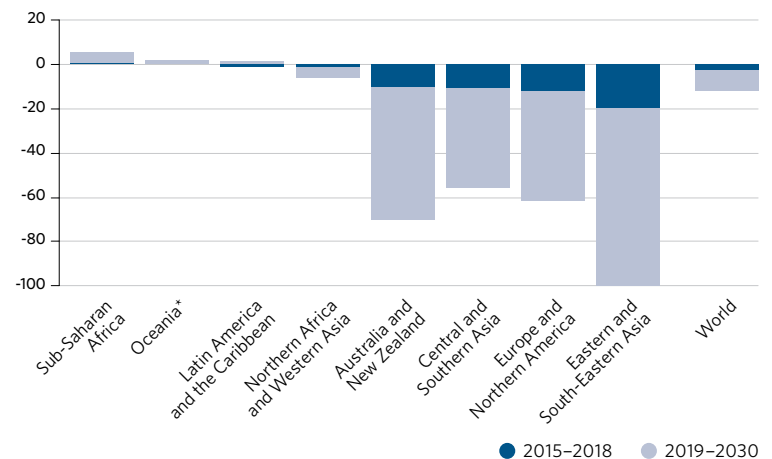
\*\* "Other" refers to weapons that are incendiary; chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear; electromagnetic; or other, less lethal weapons. The category also includes denial of access to or destruction of objects indispensable to survival; accidents related to conflict; use of objects and other means; multiple weapons used and other causes.

### Stronger efforts are needed to reduce the global homicide rate, which is dropping too slowly

The global rate of intentional homicides has declined slowly – from 6.8 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 5.9 in 2015 and 5.8 in 2018. This translates to approximately 440,000 homicide victims worldwide (81 per cent male and 19 per cent female) each year. Two thirds of homicide victims live in sub-Saharan Africa (36 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (33 per cent). To significantly reduce all forms of violence, stronger efforts are needed to cut the global homicide rate. If 2015–2018 trends continue, the rate per 100,000 population would stand at around 5.2 in 2030, an overall decrease of about 12 per cent.

Policies adopted by Governments subsequent to the COVID-19 pandemic have had different impacts on homicide prevalence in various countries. Trends suggest that lockdown measures have hardly affected violence in Latin American countries with high levels of homicides, but the intense lockdown measures in European countries with low levels of homicide seem to have drastically reduced violence.

Change in intentional homicide rates, 2015–2018, and projections for 2019–2030 (percentage)



\* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.



## Children are regularly exposed to multiple forms of violence, many of which are unrecognized and unreported



Children are subject to various forms of violence – physical punishment and psychological aggression, trafficking and sexual violence.

Violent forms of discipline are widespread, despite their detrimental and often long-lasting impact. Nearly eight in ten children from 1 to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of

psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the previous month in 69 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries with available data from 2012 to 2019.

**Trafficking of children** is a global problem, mostly associated with sexual exploitation, but also forced labour. In 2016, children accounted for almost one third of detected trafficking victims worldwide (23 per cent were girls and 7 per cent were boys). Large areas of impunity for this crime still exist, even though most countries have comprehensive trafficking-in-persons legislation in place. However, the number of convictions has recently started to increase in response to improvements in detection.

**Sexual violence**, one of the most disturbing violations of children's rights, is widely underreported. A lack of comparable data also limits understanding of the full extent of the problem. In slightly more than one in four countries with comparable data, at least 5 per cent of women between 18 and 29 years of age reported experiencing sexual violence in childhood.

The impact of **COVID-19** on children's risk of exposure to violence and exploitation due to lockdowns and associated school closures, which have affected the majority of children globally, is still largely unknown. Some countries have seen a surge in reports of violence against children at home. In addition, use of the Internet for remote learning may increase children's exposure to cyberbullying, risky online behaviour and online predators.

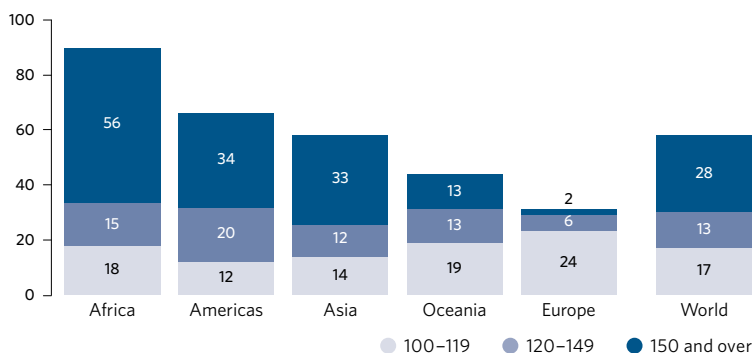
All of these forms of violence can have devastating and lifelong implications for millions of children worldwide. Urgent actions are needed to advocate for and invest in effective child protection solutions.

## Exposure to COVID-19 is among the many inhumane conditions faced by those who are incarcerated, often unsentenced

Access to justice for all should ensure a fair trial within a reasonably short period of time. However, 31 per cent of prisoners worldwide are being held in detention having been being sentenced for a crime – a level that has not declined since 2005. Significant increases over the past three years were recorded in all regions of Asia and in Oceania.

Prison overcrowding remains a serious problem in many countries, often leading to inhumane conditions, violation of human rights, violence among prisoners and reduced prospects for rehabilitation. Overcrowding is accelerating the spread of COVID-19 across jails and prisons worldwide due to cramped quarters, and the frequent lack of protective gear and access to adequate health care. Of 190 countries worldwide with available data, almost 60 per cent had prison populations exceeding prison capacity; 13 per cent of countries had between 120 per cent and 149 per cent of capacity, and 28 per cent had 150 per cent of capacity or more.

**Proportion of countries where prisoners outnumber prison capacity, 2018 or latest year (percentage)**



Note: The regional groupings shown here are different from the SDG regional groupings. They cover Africa (39 countries), the Americas (41 countries), Asia (43 countries), Europe (51 countries), Oceania (16 countries) and the world (190 countries).

## Human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists are too often targets of violent attacks

Across all regions, people defending the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others are the targets of violent attacks. From 2015 to 2019, the United Nations recorded at least 1,940 killings and 106 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists across 81 countries, with over half of killings occurring in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2019, 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances were reported in 47 countries. While the 2019 toll constitutes the lowest number of killings of journalists per year in over a decade, journalists are increasingly experiencing verbal and physical attacks, including online, in connection with their work. Women journalists in particular are targeted by online harassment. This is underscored by a marked rise in widespread hostile rhetoric directed at the media and journalists.

## More countries now have freedom-of-information laws, but their implementation could be stepped up

The right to information held by public authorities is an integral aspect of freedom of expression and serves as a mechanism to support government openness and accountability as well as enhanced empowerment and equality among all social groups. Progress is being made in ensuring this right through policies and binding laws. Such laws have now been adopted by 127 countries, with at least 27 adopting guarantees since 2014. However, of 73 public authorities surveyed, only 58 per cent provided specialized training on the right to information for their information officers. The same percentage reported publishing guidelines for requests for the public. Survey results indicate that oversight and appeals bodies (as opposed to multi-purpose bodies) should be essential components of access-to-information law enforcement and specialized entities.



“ Everything we do during and after this crisis [COVID-19] must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face. ”

— *ANTÓNIO GUTERRES*  
*SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS*

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