

Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators

At the Crossroads: Breakdown or Breakthrough
for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



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July, 2024

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Preface

Every individual has an inherent right to dignity, equality, and respect – a right to a life with full participation in society, free from violence, discrimination and injustice. Our collective commitment to these principles is essential and we must transform these ideals into reality. In a world that is more connected than ever, achieving global goals requires a deep understanding of the complex and evolving challenges we face. Time is of the essence; every second counts in identifying threats and making the necessary changes to achieve our goals.

This report represents a unique and pivotal inter-agency effort toward realizing the global 2030 Agenda, raising awareness of goal 16's significance and contributing to its achievement. Released in 2023, the first Global Progress Report on goal 16 served as a wake-up call for collective action. The report portrayed a sobering picture, revealing that progress toward the 2030 Agenda was alarmingly off track, with advancements on goal 16 worryingly slow, and in some areas, even regressing.

This second report dedicated to goal 16 presents the most comprehensive national, regional and global data that the UN system can offer across all targets and indicators. It uncovers critical trends that threaten the collective aspirations of the international community. The world is at a critical juncture for breakdown or breakthrough on peace, justice and inclusion. With limited resources and time and amid multiple crises – from conflicts to climate change-induced droughts and floods causing food insecurity and displacing millions of people – policy responses must be efficient and effective. Accurate and robust data are essential to understanding what works and what does not, and to devising appropriate policy responses.

When the 2030 Agenda was adopted, data for goal 16 indicators were limited. As we approach 2030, significant progress has been made, yet there is still a long way to go in closing data gaps and accelerating progress. The UN, through efforts like this report, continues to shed light on hidden challenges and drive the global community toward a more peaceful, just, and inclusive world.

As we navigate through 2024, a year marked by numerous conflicts and a record number of elections shaping the future of democratic governance, the complexities of the global landscape underscore the importance of urgent action for the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda. Reflecting on the findings presented in this report, urgent and sustained efforts are required to reverse these troubling trends. Only through concerted global action can we hope to build a safer, more just, and inclusive world for all – a world where every individual thrives with dignity, equality, and freedom.

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Acronyms


CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CHRP	Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
DIHR	Danish Institute for Human Rights
EHRDs	Environmental Human Rights Defenders
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GPCG	Global Policy Centre for Governance
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICS-TIP	International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons
ICVAC	International Classification of Violence Against Children
IFFs	Illicit Financial Flows
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNCHR	Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MPs	Members of Parliament
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutes
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PEFA	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Program
PSA	Philippine Statistical Authority
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCTAD	UN Trade and Development
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UN-CTS	United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
WG	Washington Group on Disability Statistics
WG-SS	Washington Group on Disability Statistics Short Set on Functioning
WHO	World Health Organization





Executive Summary

 **Organized crime threatens peace and development.** Organized crime poses a significant obstacle to peace and development, accounting for 22 percent of global homicides in 2021, particularly in the Americas, where it accounted for 50 percent of homicides. Trafficking in persons is predominantly organized with a majority of convicted offenders and detected victims stemming from organized crime structured like a business. Illicit financial flows from drug markets can surpass certain agricultural exports and can drain critical resources, fuel corruption and finance organized crime, and terrorism. Furthermore, establishing the origin of illicit firearms seized, found and surrendered is crucial in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and constitutes a key step towards reducing illicit arms flows. However, tracing remains a challenge in many countries. Between 2016 and 2022, roughly 45 percent of firearms were successfully traced in the 29 countries with available data. This, coupled with the destabilizing effect of organized crime, undermines development efforts.


 **Failing to make the world safer.** Despite concerted global efforts, the progress toward creating a safer world remains challenging. Since 2017, public perceptions of safety have stagnated. From 2015 to 2022, the global homicide rate saw a mere 5 percent decrease, falling drastically short of the ambitious goal set to significantly reduce homicides, that is interpreted as a reduction of the homicide rate by 50 percent.

 **2023 saw a surge in civilian deaths.** The number of civilian deaths in armed conflict skyrocketed in 2023. Between 2022 and 2023, civilian casualties increased by 72 percent, making it the highest increase since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The proportion of women and children among these casualties has seen an unprecedented increase — the rate of women killed has doubled, and that of children tripled.


 **Rising disappearances and journalist deaths in conflict affected countries.** While 2023 saw a decline in the killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists – from 448 in 2022 to 320 in 2023 – 2023 also witnessed an increase in enforced disappearance cases. On average, more than one human rights defender, journalist or trade unionist was killed or disappeared every day in 2023. In addition, the world witnessed more journalists killed in conflict affected countries. In total, 40 journalists and media workers were killed while working in conflict zones in 2023, compared to 28 in 2022 and 20 in 2021.


 **Stronger detection has been crucial in the fight against trafficking in persons.** The world is being continuously reshaped by economic crises, conflicts, forced displacement and climate change. These powerful forces create a fertile environment for trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable


individuals. In 2022, there was an increase in the number of detected trafficking victims. Globally two in every five detected victims is a child, a share that has progressively increased from 30 percent in 2016 to 38 percent in 2022.

 **The reality of child discipline at home.** Children are subjected to violence in what is supposed to be the safest places for them. Violent discipline at home is the most common and widespread form of violence against children. In countries with available data, nearly 8 in 10 children from 1 to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the past month.


 **Half of all children under five in Africa are not registered and have no formal identity.** Society first acknowledges a child's existence and identity through birth registration. While a few regions like Northern America and Europe and Australia and New Zealand have achieved universal birth registration, only half of African children under the age of five have had their births registered, and more effort is needed to ensure timely registration given that less than half of infants in sub-Saharan Africa have been registered.

 **A long way to bridge the gap in access to justice.** Access to justice, both civil and criminal, is not a privilege – it is a fundamental human right. However, there remains a persistent gap in people's willingness to seek and access justice. Data indicate that less than half of those who experience physical violence report the incident to the competent authorities, with the reporting of sexual violence being significantly lower. In 2022, nearly a third of the global prison population, 3.5 million people, was being held untried, in pre-trial or awaiting a first instance decision on their case, and their share has remained stable since 2015 (around 30 percent).


 **Discrimination stalls progress on sustainable development.** Discrimination persists and constitutes a formidable barrier to the realization of sustainable development and human rights in every country. Globally, statistics reveal that one in six individuals encountered discrimination on any of the internationally prohibited grounds within the past 12 months. These are race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Persons with disabilities face discrimination nearly twice as frequently as those without disabilities.


 **Slowly turning the tide against bribery and corruption.** Data on bribery provide a glimmer of hope indicating notable global progress. Recent trends show a decline in bribery rates in the population – from an average of 18.3 percent in 2010 to 17.0 percent in 2023. Similarly, bribery prevalence among business reveals a moderate decline across countries of all income levels between 2010 and 2023. Lower and lower-middle-income countries showed most improvement, with a decrease on average from 24.1 percent to 14.2 and 28.8 percent to 18.9 percent, respectively. This progress suggests that global efforts aimed at promoting transparent governance and combating corruption are beginning to bear fruit.




 **Notable positive trends but achieving representative and inclusive institutions remains a distant goal on a global scale.** Parliaments have shown a gradual increase in women and young members globally, but with contrasting trends. Between 2022 and 2024, the representation of young MPs (age 45 and less) increased in developing countries from a ratio of 0.51 to 0.57. Although this is an improvement, there remains a significant gap in achieving parity with a ratio of 1. In developed countries, where parity had been achieved in 2022 (ratio of 1.01), the representation of young MPs decreased to 0.91 in 2024. This could suggest potential barriers or shifts in engagement among young populations in these countries. Despite some positive trends, both women and young MPs remain underrepresented in leadership positions.


Representation and inclusiveness of women within public service institutions remain a challenge in many countries across the world. While high-income countries have achieved parity in women's representation (ratio of 1.06), low-income countries continue to show significant underrepresentation of women in public service roles, with a ratio of 0.40.

 **The transnational nature of many of the targets of goal 16 requires multilateral solutions and international cooperation.** Achieving goal 16 requires international collaboration. Much of the violence experienced today in public spaces and the trafficking in all its forms does not stop at the border. Powerful transnational organized crime challenges the achievements of goal 16. Through for example, drug trafficking, money-laundering, trafficking in persons, and trafficking in firearms, organized crime fuels violence and corruption, undermines the rule of law, operating across countries and exploiting fragile situations. Only international cooperation can break these translational links.


 **The persistent gendered disparities of not achieving goal 16.** Men, especially young men, constitute the majority of homicide victims and conflict-related deaths. They dominate the prison population, including those in pre-trial detention. From a gender perspective, the year 2023 marked a grim milestone, with the highest proportion of women and children's casualties in conflicts since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Women are disproportionately affected by specific forms of violence, such as sexual violence and human trafficking. They are also the principal victims of intentional homicides committed by intimate partners or family members. Simultaneously, children are increasingly targeted in human trafficking and subjected to violent discipline at home.

Women face higher levels of discrimination compared to men and are significantly underrepresented in leadership positions and public service roles. Young people, too, remain notably absent from political decision-making positions.

 **Data gaps undermine progress for persons with disabilities.** The existing data paint a troubling picture, as indicators show that persons with disabilities are at a higher risk of unfair treatment, exclusion and violence. Persons with disabilities experience discrimination nearly twice as frequently as those without disabilities. Children with disabilities are also affected. They are less likely to be registered at birth, especially those living in rural areas and the poorest households. Furthermore, these children are more likely to be subjected to violent forms of discipline compared with their peers. These findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive data collection to better understand the forms of exclusion, their extent and impact, so targeted actions can be designed and implemented.

 **Better data for better decision-making.** High-quality data on goal 16 is necessary to inform policies that uphold human rights and ensure just and inclusive governance. While data is available across all goal 16 indicators, regional and country coverage remains low. The current data availability shows a considerable increase compared to 2015, but it is still largely insufficient to monitor progress at the national level, which impacts global progress assessment. Significant efforts are required to strengthen national statistical capacities to provide the necessary data and statistics for monitoring peace, justice and inclusion at national level, including through the goal 16 indicators. National statistical systems are the primary entity mandated at national level to produce, compile and report data for the global goal 16 indicators.

 **Goal 16 is deeply interlinked with all other goals.** The interlinkages between goal 16 and goal 13 on climate change are at the fore for many countries. Although there's insufficient statistical evidence, the available literature indicates that good governance, strong and effective institutions and participation matter for climate change mitigation and adapting capacities for climate change policies. Progress on goal 16 can enable transformative, more inclusive, equitable and effective climate action ensuring that the costs and benefits of climate mitigation and adaptation measures are distributed equitably, and that the most climate vulnerable people and communities are not left behind. Goal 16 is also an enabler for the institutional and policy transformations needed to address the cross-cutting effects of climate change in areas such as conflict, migration, food and nutrition, health, gender equality, etc.

 **Without focused attention on gender-specific issues, women and girls risk being left behind when it comes to achieving goal 16.** The following table summarizes the main findings for men, women, boys and girls.^{1,2}



1 Only targets with available sex and age disaggregated data are included in the table. Some targets/indicators do not allow for sex disaggregation because their unit of measure is not percent population. For example, indicator 16.4.1 measures the total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars). Indicator 16.4.2 measures the proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instrument. Indicator 16.5.2 has businesses as main unit of analysis. Other indicators that do not allow for sex disaggregated data are 16.6.1, 16.8.1, 16.10.2 and 16.a.1.

2 Indicators that recommend the collection of sex-disaggregated data but are not included in the table indicate that data is not yet available for such analysis.



 Men / Boys	Women / Girls 
16.1	
<p>Men are significantly more likely to become victims of lethal violence, and the large majority are killed outside of their home. The number of male victims stood at 359,300 in 2022.</p> <p>Between 2015 and 2022, the male homicide rate decreased by 5.6 percent.</p> <p>Men constitute the majority of conflict-related deaths.</p> <p>Men are more likely to be victims of physical violence than women (3 percent versus 2.1 percent).</p> <p>77 percent of men feel safe in their community.</p>	<p>Women are mostly affected by killings in the home, perpetrated by intimate partners and family members. In 2022, an estimated 48,800 women and girls were killed globally by their intimate partners or family members.</p> <p>The total number of female victims to homicide stood at 88,400 in 2022, the highest yearly number recorded in the past 20 years. Between 2015 and 2022, the female homicide rate decreased by 2.6 percent, as compared to 5.6 percent for males.</p> <p>In 2023, women represented 36 percent of civilian deaths in armed conflicts, and children 31 percent. These figures represent the highest proportion of women and children casualties since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Women are more likely to be victims of sexual violence such as sexual assault (3.0 percent versus 0.8 percent for men).</p> <p>Women are more likely than men to feel unsafe in their community. 65 percent of women feel safe in their community.</p>
16.2	
<p style="text-align: center;">Boys and girls are equally likely to experience violent discipline at home.</p> <p>The paucity of data documenting the experiences of sexual violence among boys has contributed to the erroneous perception that this form of violence is relatively infrequent among them.</p> <p>Men and boys represented 40 percent of detected victims of trafficking in persons in 2022. Boys constituted 17 percent of victims.</p> <p>Data suggest that girls are generally also at a heightened risk of sexual violence, in line with the findings that adult women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence.</p> <p>Women and girls made up 60 percent of victims of trafficking in persons detected globally in 2022. Girls constituted 21 percent of victims.</p>	
16.3	
<p>Victims of sexual assaults are less likely to report their victimization to competent authorities or other conflict resolution mechanisms than victims of physical violence like physical assault and robbery. These are important gender disparities as women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence while men experience physical violence more than women.</p> <p>Men represent most of the total prison population. In 2022, there were 10.8 million male prisoners. An equal share of the male and female prison population is held unsentenced (30 percent).</p> <p>In 2022, there were 0.7 million female prisoners. An equal share of male and female prison population is held unsentenced (30 percent).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There is still very limited data to assess access to civil justice among men and women.</p>	



 Men / Boys	Women / Girls 
16.5	
Men are more likely to experience bribery than women.	
16.7	
<p>73.1 percent of parliamentarians are men. 76.2 percent of parliamentary Speakers are men. Men chair 72.8 percent of 5 key parliamentary committees. Notably, men chair committees on defence (86.8 percent) and finance (86.6 percent). By contrast, men chair only 31.5 percent of gender equality committees.</p>	<p>Only 26.9 percent of parliamentarians are women. Women remain underrepresented in leadership positions. 23.8 percent of parliamentary Speakers are women. Women chair 27.2 percent of 5 key parliamentary committees. Notably, few women chair committees on defence (13.2 percent) and finance (13.4 percent). Women chair 68.5 percent of gender equality committees.</p> <p>Globally, women are conspicuously underrepresented in public service roles, with a ratio of 0.80 (equal representation is a ratio of 1). Women continue to be overrepresented at lower levels of decision-making within public service while being noticeably underrepresented at higher levels.</p>
16.9	
No significant differences in birth registration prevalence between boys and girls in any region or country with available data.	
16.10	
<p>On average, one human rights defender, journalist or trade unionist is killed or disappears every day. The majority are men.</p>	<p>1 in 10 human rights defenders, journalists or trade unionists killed is a woman. In the case of enforced disappearances, 1 in 4 is a woman.</p>
16.b	
	<p>The global prevalence of discrimination is typically higher for women.</p>

Chapter 1



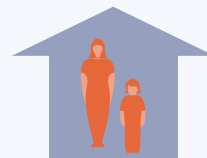
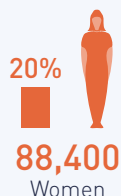
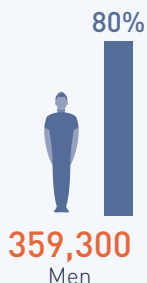
Key Findings and Policy Implications

Target 16.1

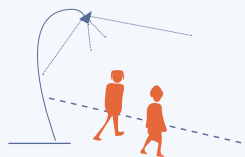
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere



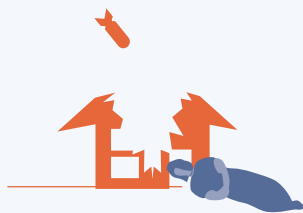
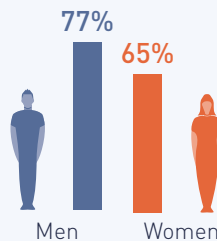
447,700
Homicides
2022



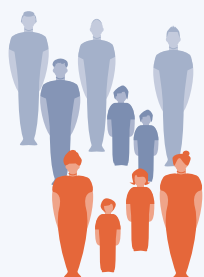
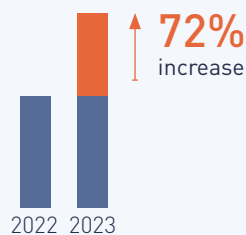
48,800
women and girls
killed by intimate partners
or family members
2022



70%
Feeling safe walking alone after dark
2017-2022



33,400
Civilian deaths in armed conflicts
2023



4 in 10
victims
in armed conflicts
are women and girls



3 in 10
victims
in armed conflicts
are children

From 2015 to 2022, the global homicide rate decreased, on average, by only 5 percent, falling short of achieving target 16.1 which can be interpreted as a minimum decrease of 50 percent in the global homicide rate between 2015 and 2030. Projections indicate that if this trend and pattern of violence persists, the global homicide rate will be around 5.1 per 100,000 by 2030, a modest 13 percent drop from 5.9 per 100,000 in 2015. Reduction in the female homicide rate is significantly slower than that



for men. Between 2015 and 2022, the female homicide rate declined by only 2.6 percent in comparison to that of men which was estimated at 5.6 percent. Most female victims (55 percent) are killed by an intimate partner or a family member, whereas men are largely killed outside the home (88 percent), necessitating gender-specific violence mitigation policies.

Between 2022 and 2023, civilian deaths in armed conflicts surged by 72 percent, the highest increase since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The proportion of women and children among these casualties has seen an unprecedented increase – the rate of women killed has doubled, and that of children tripled.



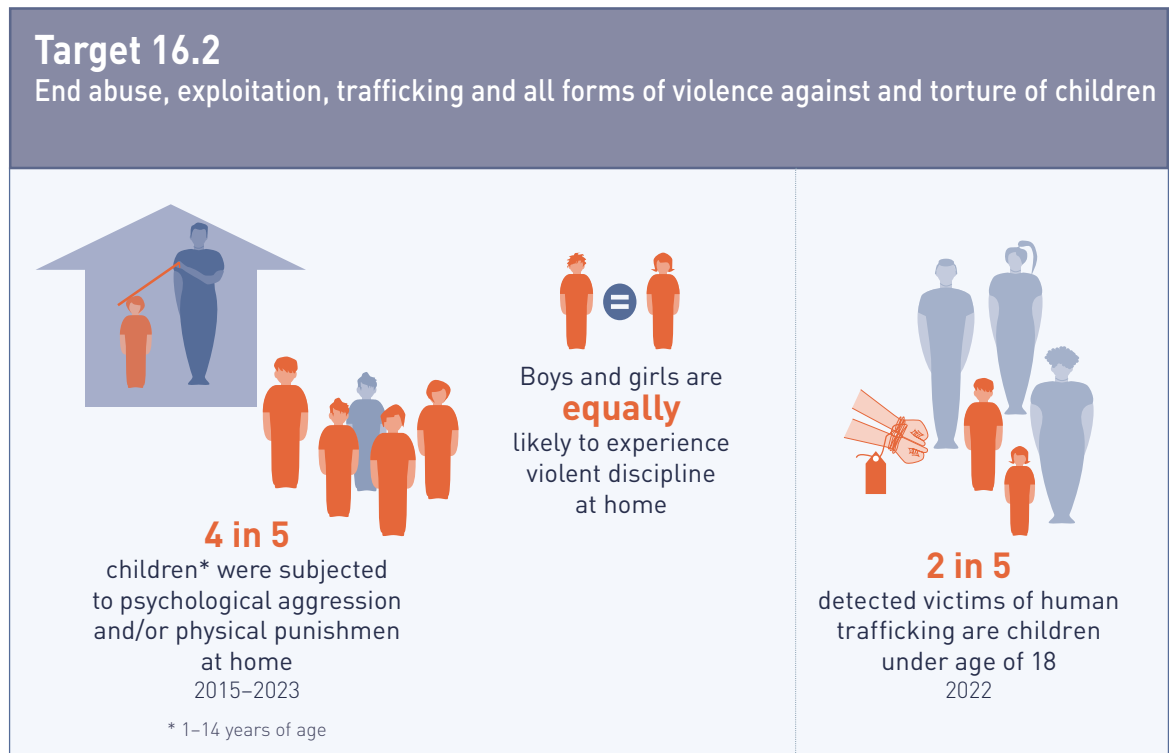
Key Policy Implications:

- ➔ Immediate action and radical changes are needed for countries to meet their commitment to halve violence and related deaths by 2030. To protect the lives of civilians from the impact of conflict, parties to the conflict must strictly abide by their international humanitarian and human rights law obligations. Limited information/data availability on conflict-related deaths hinders, among other things, protection, prevention and accountability. In a moment when conflict-related deaths skyrocketed, it is crucial to support casualty recorders and their work on the ground.
- ➔ The reduction of violence outside of armed conflicts has shown little sign of progress. Member States and the United Nations should allocate more resources to effectively address persistent violence outside armed conflicts, as called for in the United Nations Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace policy brief.*
- ➔ Experiences in violence prevention from different countries underscore the need for evidence-based interventions at different administrative levels, including specific programmes for neighborhoods with high levels of violence. The type of intervention is also contingent on the type of violence and the gender of the victims. Actions to reduce violence against women, including the gender-related killing of women and girls, differ from those designed to reduce organized-crime and gang violence. Since men, mostly young, remain the most likely victims and perpetrators of homicide, violence prevention programmes should focus on providing support to young men to prevent them from being lured into a subculture of violence, including in organized crime or gangs, and those already involved need to receive help through social work and rehabilitation programmes. Interventions may also be systematic, such as alcohol restrictions and strict gun laws, or more targeted, for example, by providing vocational skills to young men at high risk of engaging in violence. Mental health may also play an important role in non-conflict violence. Interventions should therefore also look at improving the circumstances of disadvantaged patients, treating substance abuse and reducing access to weapons.
- ➔ Despite women being less likely to experience lethal violence compared to men, they are more impacted by intimate partner/family-related homicides and sexual violence. Actions to reduce violence against women differ from those designed to reduce organized-crime and gang violence. Future policy options should be designed to act more directly to prevent violence against women, for example, by implementing some of the strategies presented in the RESPECT framework** or the Spotlight Initiative*** and scaling up the ones that work. Indeed, reducing all forms of violence is critical to improve safety among women, and thus facilitate their community engagement and development and improve their well-being.

* <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf>.

** RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019.

*** Spotlight Initiative is the United Nations high-impact initiative to end violence against women and girls: <https://spotlightinitiative.org/>.



Trafficking in persons is, in general, a very hidden crime which makes it considerably difficult to measure. Data from 2021 and 2022 show a global increasing trend in recorded child victims of trafficking in persons, highlighting emerging forms of exploitation and new patterns in sexual exploitation. Among detected victims, sexual exploitation is the main purpose of trafficking of girls. Boys are predominantly trafficked for forced labour, begging and forced criminal activity.

While both boys and girls are the target of sexual violence, data suggest that girls are generally at heightened risk. That said, the paucity of data documenting the experiences of sexual violence among boys has contributed to the erroneous perception that they are relatively immune from this form of violence.



Key Policy Implications:

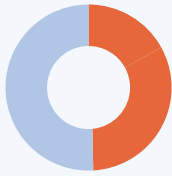
➔ A crucial step towards ending all forms of violence against children is the mobilization of political will and the promotion of evidence-based strategies to address the multiple factors which contribute to its perpetuation. Central to these efforts is the strengthening of legal and policy frameworks that prohibit these acts and protect children from violence, the scaling-up of high-quality and evidence-based parenting programmes that promote positive parenting practices, including the use of non-violent discipline, improving services for victims, and investing in effective violence prevention and response systems.* Member States should continue to improve their capacity to identify, assist and protect child victims of all forms of trafficking in persons, particularly through improved cooperation between law enforcement and social service providers.

* United Nations Children’s Fund, A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents, UNICEF, New York, 2017.

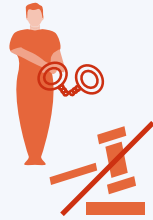


Target 16.3

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all



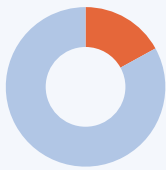
Less than
50%
of victims report
their victimization
of physical assault
and robbery



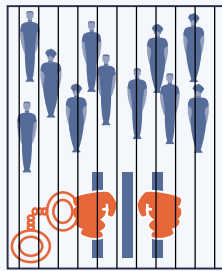
31%
of detainees
are unsentenced
2022



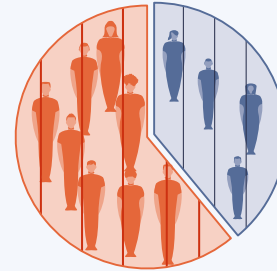
1 in 4
countries
are operating prisons with over
150%
of intended capacity
2022



17%
median reporting
rate of
sexual assault



11.5 million
persons in detention
2022



61%
of countries have prison overcrowding
2022

Access to justice, encompassing both civil and criminal justice, is a fundamental human right. This includes access to conflict-resolution mechanisms, access to legal information, legal representation for those in conflict with the law, access to legal advice and other services for victims of crime.

For various reasons – from lack of follow up by the authorities to the risk of secondary victimization – not all crimes are reported to the authorities. Available statistics indicate that less than 50 percent of victims report to the authorities offenses like physical assault, robbery and sexual assault. Crime victimization surveys can uncover violence that is not reported to the authorities and provide insights into both the experiences and reporting behaviour of the adult population. However, these surveys are not conducted across all countries, nor are they conducted at regular intervals. Data on access to civil justice is even more scarce as the methodology for the indicator was only approved in 2020. Efforts and investments are being made to improve data collection and analysis to better understand existing trends on access to civil and criminal justice.

Another important aspect of access to justice concerns pre-trial detention. The deprivation of liberty of innocent citizens represents a procedural injustice, and long periods of detention due to delays in adjudication may represent a violation of human rights.* As of 2022, the estimated number of persons in detention was 11.5 million, with a prison-population rate of 144 prisoners per 100,000 population. Notably, nearly a third (3.5 million) of these individuals were being held unsentenced (that is untried, in pre-trial or awaiting a first instance decision on their case) and their share remained stable between 2015 and 2022 (around 30 percent).



Key Policy Implications:

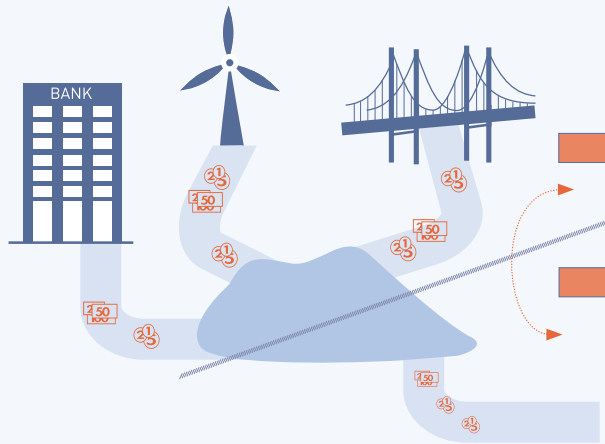
- ➔ The absence of progress in reducing the share of unsentenced detainees and the continuous issue of prison overcrowding, coupled with the low reporting rates for violent crimes, especially sexual violence and other gender-based violence, highlight the urgent need to improve trust in the justice systems and achieve more effective and equitable access to justice for all. This can be done through victim- and people-centered approaches to criminal and civil justice, including through promoting gender justice, engagement with non-state justice actors such as customary justice systems and e-justice. Future policies aimed at reducing the share of unsentenced detainees, in particular among women in some regions, should consider potential structural inequalities within the justice system that could be contributing to these gender differences and focus on delivering justice services, including through legal aid and alternative resolution mechanisms for the most vulnerable, but also through the effectiveness of justice sectors more broadly. Future policies should also be developed to facilitate the reporting of violence, notably for sexual and other forms of gender-based violence. This includes, among others, ensuring victims are treated with respect when reporting their victimization, cases are followed-up on and perpetrators are prosecuted, impunity is reduced, and there are no repercussions for the victim such as revictimization.

* UNODC, Crime-related illicit financial flows: latest progress. IFFs_Estimates_Report_2023-final-11dec2023.pdf (unodc.org).

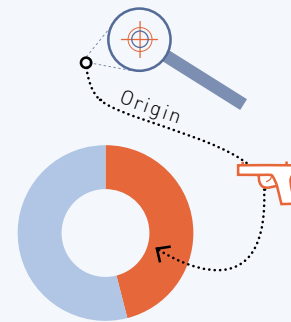


Target 16.4

By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime



Illicit financial flows
drain
resources critical
for poverty reduction programs
and infrastructure



45%
of seized firearms
were successfully traceable
2016–2022

In essence, illicit financial flows (IFFs) are flows that are illicit in origin, transfer or use, that reflect an exchange of value and that cross country borders. These flows can be illicitly generated (e.g., originate from criminal activities or tax evasion), illicitly transferred (e.g., violating currency controls) or illicitly used (e.g., for financing terrorism). Illicit commercial practices and criminal activities are major sources of inward and outward illicit financial flows. The few countries where elements of illicit financial flows have been measured suggest that the share of such flows related to drug markets can be substantial, even surpassing the value of some country's agriculture exports.* Early estimates show that IFFs associated with trade misinvoicing** are far from insignificant: they may even reach half of officially recorded trade in some African countries***.

* Trade misinvoicing occurs when licit transactions between trading partners are misreported to fiscal and control authorities in order to shift money among countries (or evade custom duties).

** United Nations Economic Commission for Africa & UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Counting the cost: Defining, estimating and disseminating statistics on illicit financial flows in Africa (United Nations publication, 2023); UN Trade and Development, "First official estimates on illicit financial flows – UNCTAD SDG Pulse 2023". Available at <https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/illicit-financial-flows/>.



Establishing the illicit origin of weapons seized, found and surrendered is crucial in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and constitutes a key step towards reducing illicit arms flows. Tracing is essential for the purpose of assisting competent authorities in detecting, investigating and analysing the illicit trafficking of arms. However, tracing remains a challenge in many countries. Roughly 45 percent of firearms were successfully traced in the 29 countries with available data between 2016 and 2022. A significant share of firearms is traced internationally to a foreign registry (20 percent of all successfully traced firearms), highlighting the importance of cooperative practices at the international level.



Key Policy Implications:

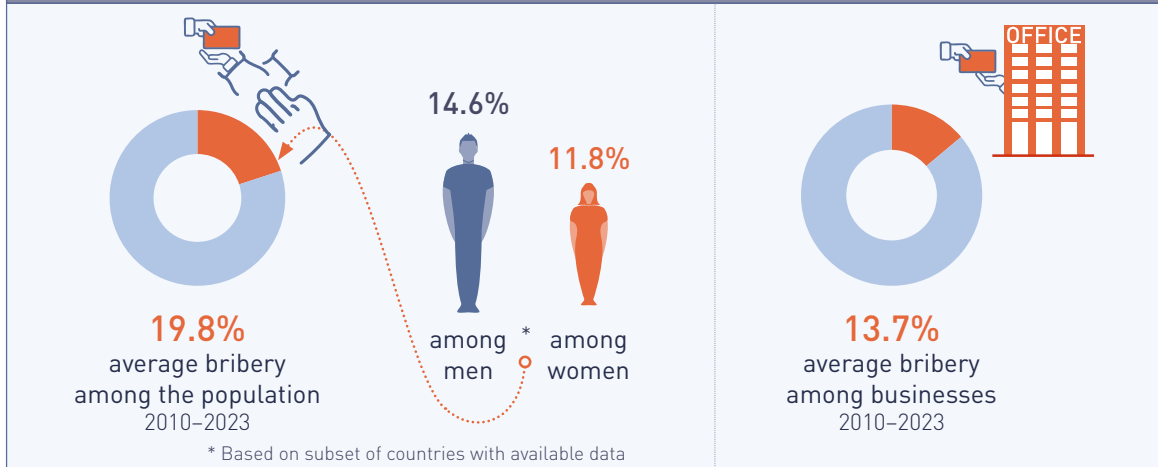
- Combating illicit financial flows is a key strategy to combat organized crime, support domestic resource mobilization and provide resources for sustainable development. Strengthening the capacity to produce data to monitor illicit financial flows and enhancing collaboration and data exchange both among relevant national agencies and across borders are essential building blocks for formulating effective evidence-based policies to curb illicit financial flows.
- The destruction of weapons* constitutes one effective method of reducing the number of small arms on the illicit market (more than 1 million weapons were destroyed between 2018 and 2021**). But several other actions are needed to prevent potential diversion of weapons to the illicit market. Marking and recordkeeping are the prerequisites for effective tracing operations. As such, efforts taken by countries to mark and record the weapons collected constitute key measures to reducing illicit arms flows in accordance with target 16.4.

* The terms "arms" and "weapons" refer to small arms and light weapons and can be used interchangeably.

** Overall, considering also weapons collected in previous years and obsolete weapons from national stockpiles, more than 1,046,000 weapons were destroyed between 2018 and 2021. Based on data from 96 countries for the 2020 national reports and 90 countries for the 2022 national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapon.

Target 16.5

Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms



There are significant differences across regions in the percentage of individuals who interact with public officials and either pay a bribe or are asked to pay a bribe. In 2023,* the annual prevalence of bribery in countries with data was on average 29.7 percent in Oceania and 26.0 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, the corresponding figure was 10.8 percent in Europe and Northern America.

Comparing data from the earliest available data point from 2010-2016 to the latest available data point from 2017-2023, reveals a moderate global decline in bribery prevalence (as experienced by the population) from an average of 18.3 percent to 17.0 percent in countries with data for both periods, although this decline did not occur in all regions.

The proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid or were asked to pay a bribe also varies significantly across regions, reflecting diverse socio-economic circumstances. Indeed, in 2023,** low-income countries had an average prevalence of 25.0 percent, followed by lower-middle-income countries at 19.9 percent, upper-middle-income countries at 10.4 percent, and high-income countries at 3.6 percent. Nonetheless, examining bribery prevalence trends among businesses over time reveals a moderate decline, on average, across all national income levels.

**Key Policy Implications:**

- Despite the moderate decline in the global average of bribe prevalence, the percentage of people and businesses that must pay bribes to obtain a public service remains unacceptably high, and efforts need to be redoubled to tackle corruption. This will require strengthening the capacity of national institutions to detect the presence of corruption and implement anticorruption policies. It will also require strengthening internal and external oversight, accountability and integrity processes, institutions and practices in police and other criminal justice institutions.

*, ** Data refers to 2023 or the most recent year since 2010.

Target 16.6

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels



1 in 3

countries have good budget performance
2022

Since COVID, experience indicates that governments across the world have found it difficult to return to pre-COVID levels of budget reliability, in part due to the incidence of new international challenges, including global political stresses, inflation and resource price volatility.

Measuring satisfaction with public services is essential for ensuring they are people-centered, efficient and continuously improving. Efforts towards globally comparable data on people’s satisfaction with public services are accelerating but not at the required pace to track and measure progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.



Key Policy Implications:

- ➔ Information from Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) reports and analysis of the budget credibility data indicates that better budget execution performance, closer to the initially planned budget, relates to better revenue execution, inclusion of all activities of central governments in budgets and financial reports, more predictable disbursement of resources, better internal controls on non-salary expenditures, more effective management of financial data and strong external audit systems. Furthermore, countries should invest in producing data, assessing and strengthening gender responsive public financial management, acknowledging the different needs of men women and different subgroups of these categories, and promoting gender equality.
- ➔ Governments have an obligation to provide a wide range of public services that should meet the expectations of their citizens in terms of access, responsiveness and reliability/quality. A better understanding of people’s challenges and needs in using public services can ensure that no service user is left behind and that public services are delivered in an equitable and inclusive way. The first crucial step towards building inclusive, responsive, and equitable institutions is to improve data availability.



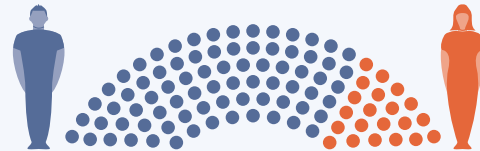
Target 16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



Women are **significantly** underrepresented in the public service roles in low-income countries with gender parity* of **0.39** 2015–2022

* A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation.



26.9% of parliamentarians are women 2024

Despite a visible presence in specific roles, women and youth continue to be underrepresented in parliaments and key parliamentary roles. Only 26.9 percent of parliamentarians are women while youth MPs hold 37.7 percent of seats in developing countries and 33.5 percent in developed countries. Women are overrepresented in the leadership of parliamentary Gender Equality committees but remain underrepresented in the leadership of all other types of committees. The predominance of men as Speakers and committee chairs underscores an uneven leadership landscape in parliaments. Young MPs instead hold only 37.7 percent parliamentary seats.

Achieving gender parity in public service roles remains a distant goal on a global scale. Women are overrepresented at lower levels of decision-making positions within public service but are noticeably underrepresented at higher levels. The ratio of women in public service to the proportion of women in the working age population is 0.80.* The ratio of women at lower levels of decision-making positions is 1.48 while for senior, government positions it is 0.84. In the judiciary, the global ratio of female judges is 0.95

As of 2023, six countries have reported data on the share of the population who think decision-making is representative and inclusive. Although these data are not sufficient to measure global progress or trends or draw conclusions, it is indicative that less than 50 percent of the population in these countries believes decision-making is inclusive and responsive.

* A value of 1 indicates parity while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and a value over 1 indicates overrepresentation.



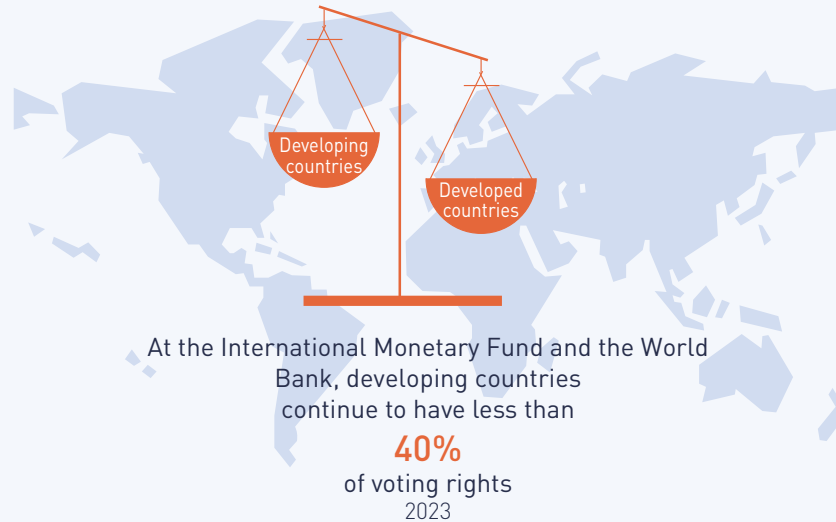
Key Policy Implications:

→ Quotas continue to be a significant factor in women's representation in parliament. In 2023, the 43 parliamentary chambers that had some form of quotas elected 28.8 percent women on average, versus 23.2 percent in chambers with no quotas. Countries should establish targeted recruitment programs, including gender quotas, or enhance existing ones to increase the number of women in public service roles, aiming for equitable representation relative to their proportion in the working-age population. Furthermore, countries should prioritize public administration reforms that are gender responsive, including reforms of workplace culture, tackling gender stereotypes in the workplace through awareness-raising campaigns, implementing inclusive human resource policies, including work-life balance, flexible work arrangements and childcare policies, equal pay, gender responsive recruitment, retention and promotion, etc. Countries can enhance transparency and accountability in public service appointments by investing in gender-disaggregated data and improving Human Resources Management Systems, as it allows tracking of government investment in human resources -- both the good practices and the deficiencies. Such data would not only highlight disparities but also promote a data-driven approach to policy development aimed at reducing gender gaps in public service employment, especially in decision-making and leadership roles where the gaps are significant. Moreover, beyond gender, countries should also invest in increasing representation based on age and disability status.



Target 16.8

Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance



Despite representing more than 74 percent of the membership in the United Nations General Assembly, which operates on a one-member-one-vote system, developing countries have significantly less voting power in other international organizations. Their membership in various United Nations bodies fluctuates annually.

At the World Bank's main lending arm, developing countries hold only 39 percent of the voting rights, far below their 75 percent share in the World Bank's membership. Similarly, at the International Monetary Fund, they retain just 37 percent of the voting rights.*



Key Policy Implications:

- The voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance needs to be broadened and strengthened to ensure equitable decision-making processes. International organizations should reform their voting structures, or accelerate the implementation of existing ones, to better reflect the actual membership proportions of developing countries.

* This indicator is not under the custodianship of one of the agencies producing or contributing to this report. The findings presented are based on "The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024. Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024", the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024.

Target 16.9

By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration



1 in 5

children under the age of 5 do not have
their births registered
2023

On average, in countries with data, children with disabilities are less likely to be registered in comparison with children without disabilities.*



Key Policy Implications:

→ To promote legal identity for all, starting from birth, countries should consider the following actions: revise laws and policies to remove all discriminatory provisions and make registration and certification free within the legally permissible time period and beyond; make the birth registration process interoperable with health and immunization services; invest in safe and innovative technological and digital solutions; and improve and strengthen the functioning of national civil registration systems.*

* United Nations Children’s Fund, Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?, UNICEF, New York, 2019.

* <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021/>



Target 16.10

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements



374 cases

of killings or disappearances
of human rights defenders,
journalists and trade unionists
2023



more

journalists killed
in conflict zones
2023



more than 1
is killed or disappears
every day
2023



138

countries have adopted
laws to guarantee public
access to information
2023

The number of killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists recorded by national human rights institutions and the United Nations decreased in 2023 to 320 cases, compared to 448 cases in 2022, which was a 4-year high. These figures reflect the global data available for each respective year. In conflict zones, however, there was sharp increase in journalists and media workers killed – 40 lives lost – reversing the downward trend since 2017. Additionally, enforced disappearances have nearly doubled for the second consecutive year, with at least 54 cases reported across 14 countries in 2023. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, killings and enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists have been observed in about a hundred countries and territories, and across all regions of the world.

There has been moderate increase in the number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information. As of now, 138 UN Member States have adopted legal or policy frameworks for access to information. Accelerated efforts are needed by all Member States to ensure access to information by 2030.



Key Policy Implications:

- To protect human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists from violence, threats and legal harassment, especially during conflicts or unrest, robust legal and protection frameworks are essential. The lack of such systems leaves them vulnerable to attacks, sometimes fatal. Collaboration between Member States, the United Nations, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society is crucial to develop these frameworks and ensure consistent data collection on attacks.
- Strengthening national Human rights institutions is vital for gathering data on attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists as well as collaborating with national statistical offices and NGOs.
- Member States and their respective oversight institutions on access to information (such as Information or Human Rights commissions), the United Nations and civil society organizations should work to establish or strengthen constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information. Legal frameworks guaranteeing public access to information are needed in nearly fifty countries that have not yet adopted such frameworks. In addition to strong laws on public access to information, consistent and effective implementation based on international standards must be ensured. Further investment in the digitalization of access to information processes and dedicated oversight bodies plays an important role in effectively implementing access to information laws.



Target 16.a

Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime



3 in 5
countries
have an accredited
national human rights institution
2023



The number of countries
with national human rights institutions
adhering to international standards
increased by
23%
between 2015 and 2023

The number of countries with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) adhering to international standards increased by 23 percent between 2015 and 2023. More than 4 out of 10 countries have a fully compliant NHRIs. Last year, however, progress stagnated. Advancement in Eastern and Southeastern Asia was counterbalanced by a deterioration in Europe.




Key Policy Implications:

- The role of NHRIs in supporting the identification of and access to groups at risk of being left behind, and in collecting quality, disaggregated data on goal 16 and other goals is crucial. Efforts to improve the capacity of NHRIs to ensure their compliance with international standards must be accelerated, as well as supporting countries to establish and/or operationalize their NHRIs.



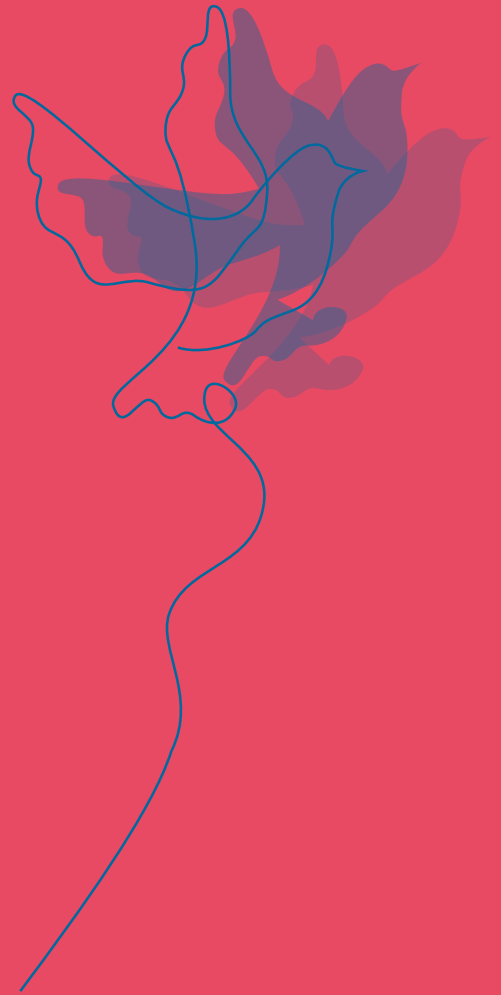
Global average rates of discrimination hide significant disparities. Racial discrimination is the most pervasive ground of discrimination. One in six individuals globally report to have been a victim of discrimination; this proportion rises to one in three in some contexts. There has been a significant increase in the number of countries collecting and reporting data on the prevalence of discrimination. However, limited data collection, disaggregation and alignment with internationally agreed methodology continue to hamper analysis and efforts to eliminate discrimination on grounds prohibited by international and national human rights standards.



Key Policy Implications:

- Data shows that discrimination, on all grounds, is present in all countries. There is an urgent need to improve the collection and analysis of statistical data measuring the prevalence of discrimination, in line with the internationally agreed methodology. National stakeholders should collect data in a manner consistent with the survey modules available in the SDG 16 survey initiatives supported by UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR, and in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS7) supported by UNICEF.
- Enhanced capacity building and collaboration between national statistical offices and national human rights institutions are needed to operationalize the recommended human rights-based approach to data to leave no one behind. This will help identify discriminated groups and improve data quality, dissemination and analysis.

Chapter 2



Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 Based on Measurement of Indicators



Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

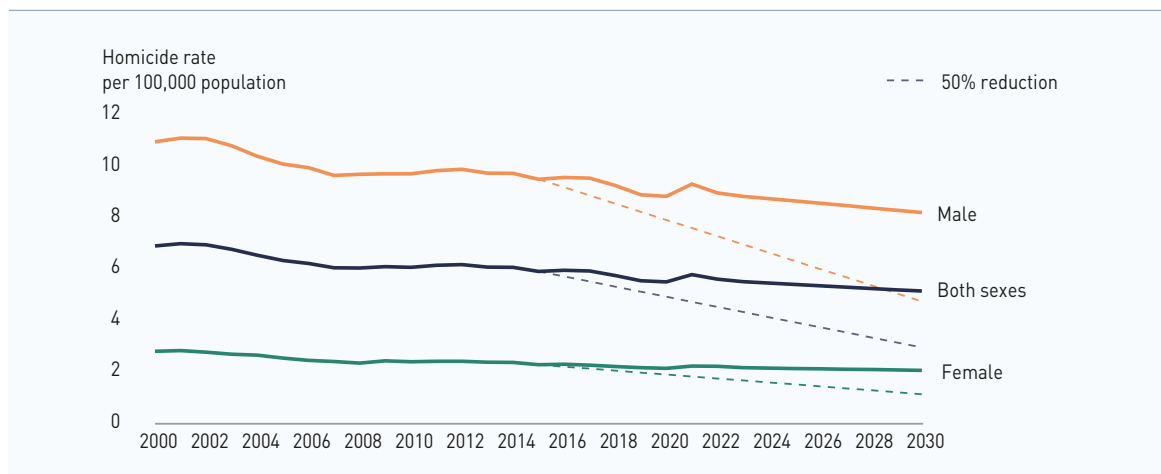
Indicator 16.1.1

Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Since the adoption of the Agenda 2030, there had initially been a gradual decrease in the global homicide rate, from 5.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.5 in 2020. However, this downward trend was disrupted in 2021, as global homicide rate sharply rose to 5.8 per 100,000 population that year and only decreased to 5.6 victims again in 2022. High levels of violence attributable to organized crime and gang activities resulted in the highest homicide rate in Latin America and the Caribbean while Africa has emerged as the region with the highest number of homicides.

On average, the global homicide rate declined by 5 percent between 2015 and 2022. Target 16.1 aims to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths rates everywhere” by 2030, which can be interpreted as a minimum decrease of 50 percent in the global homicide rate between 2015 and 2030.

Figure 1: Trends in and projections of the global homicide rate (per 100,000 population) by sex, 2000–2030

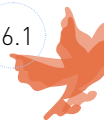


Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States.

Note: Projections for the years 2023 to 2030 represent linear extrapolations of trends observed for the years 2015 to 2022.

Projecting the trend in the homicide rate from the period 2015–2022 to 2030 suggests that if the current pattern of violence persists, the global homicide rate will be about 5.1 per 100,000 population in 2030, resulting in an overall decrease of just 13 percent from the homicide rate of 5.9 per 100,000 population in 2015.

Although the homicide rate in 2022 was higher for men than for women, at 5.6 victims per 100,000 male population and 2.2 victims per 100,000 female population respectively, progress in the reduction of homicide rates is slower for women than for men. Indeed, the global female homicide rate decreased

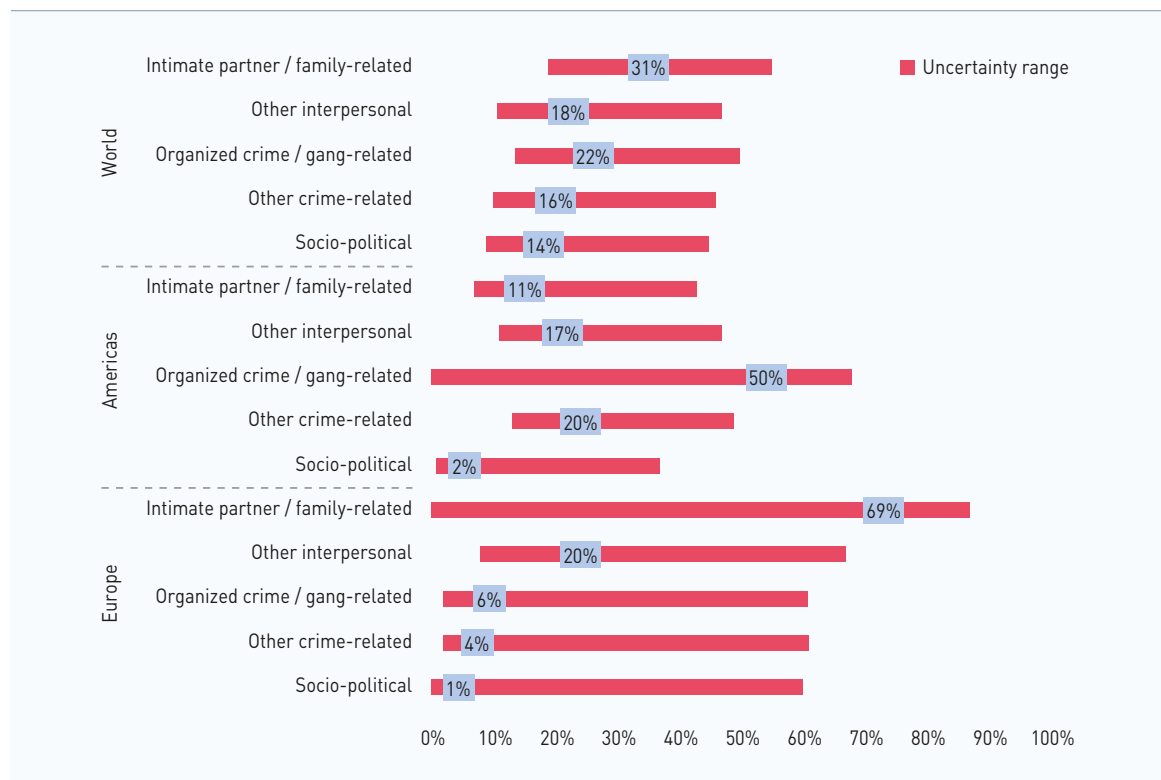


by only 2.6 percent between 2015 and 2022. In absolute terms, the number of female victims of homicide in 2021 and 2022, at around 88,000 victims each year, was higher than at any point in the previous two decades. The number of male victims, however, decreased from 370,000 in 2021 to about 360,000 in 2022.

The majority of intentional homicides of women and girls are gender related. Based on available data, the largest share of gender-related killings of women and girls are homicides perpetrated by intimate partners or family members. In 2022, an estimated 48,800 women and girls were killed globally by their intimate partners or family members.

While there is enough data to calculate global and some regional estimates of homicide by situational context,¹ this information is still lacking for around 36 percent of all homicides. Nowhere is homicidal violence caused by organized crime more prevalent than in Latin America and the Caribbean, the region with the highest homicide rate worldwide. One reason for this is the dynamic and dense ecosystem of organized criminal groups, including hundreds of drug trafficking organizations, mafia syndicates, gangs and militia, that alternately cooperate, collude and compete for the control of illegal markets. The high incidence of lethal violence in the region can also be attributed to other factors such as illicit drug markets and the proliferation of firearms.

Figure 2: Share of homicides, by type and selected regions, 2021 or latest year available



Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States.

1 While some homicides are related to disputes between individuals who know one another, others are linked to various factors such as organized crime or politically motivated violence. The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) provides a typology for disaggregation of homicide data according to the “situational context”, helping distinguish between interpersonal homicides, socio-political homicides and crime-related homicides.

Looking ahead, several “megatrends”, including those associated with demographic, economic, technological and climatic trends, may contribute to continued general decline in the global homicide rate in the longer term. However, effects will vary by location.

Africa, with its growing youth population (aged 15–29), slow projected reductions in economic inequality and a concentration of climate-related shocks and stresses combined with weaker response capabilities, may emerge as the region most vulnerable to homicidal violence in the future. In 2021, Africa was already estimated to have the highest absolute number of homicides among all regions of the world, and unlike other regions, data suggest that the homicide rate is not falling. Nonetheless, substantial data gaps in the region pose challenges to precisely assessing the extent and type of homicidal violence in Africa.

Homicide, violence and climate change – a linkage between goal 16 and goal 13



The relation between climate change and homicidal violence is complex and uncertain.¹ The precise impact depends in part on the type of climate change involved, be it in terms of short-term shocks such as wildfires, cyclones and floods, or longer-term stresses such as rises in temperatures and sea level. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that climate change and the associated shocks and stresses are increasing in intensity and frequency.

Resource scarcity and climate change have been linked to outbursts of violence and conflict by acting as “threat multipliers” that interact with other risk factors and drivers, such as weak governance structures and poverty, contributing to the outbreak and perpetuation of violence.² Owing to the effects of climate change, the depletion of natural resources is increasingly an issue because the rate of regeneration is higher than the rate of consumption.³ One of the most devastating impacts of climate change is how it exacerbates water scarcity and water-related hazards, be they floods and droughts, as rising temperatures cause disruptions in the natural water cycle.⁴

Data from the Pacific Institute show that the number of incidents of violence associated with water resources has risen substantially since 2015, with most incidents reported in Southern Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Central America.⁵ Although systematic and cross-national data on the number of homicides related to this type of dispute are unavailable, country-specific data can highlight the potential gravity of the issue. Between January and September 2018, for example, over 1,700 violent deaths resulting from violence between farmers and pastoralists over the scarcity of water and land resources were reported in western and central Nigeria.⁶ About 0.5 percent of all interpersonal homicides recorded in India in the period 2019–2021 can be attributed to conflict over water. Kenya witnessed a 170 percent increase in deaths resulting from cattle rustling, a situation caused by competition for water and grazing land for animals, which has led to an increase in raids and violence.^{7,8}

Finally, researchers have identified moderate and strong causal relationships in the United States between various types of climate-related shocks and stresses and violent crime, concluding that changes in the climate and environment could generate a sharp increase in urban criminal violence, in vulnerable neighbourhoods and households in particular.⁹

Though already felt now, the impact of climate change will only grow in the future. If left unchecked, it could impede progress in development made in recent years, including in the reduction of violence. It is thus critical for policymaking and resource allocation to consider the future impact of climate change on homicides.

This theoretical projection of trends in the homicide rate based on future estimates of the number of hot days is based on rigid and somehow unrealistic assumptions.¹⁰ Nonetheless, it shows an increasing homicide rate owing to a rising number of dangerously hot days, particularly in Africa and the Americas, the two regions with the highest homicide rates worldwide. By contrast, Europe, which already has a relatively low level of homicide, is likely to remain largely unaffected by the increase in extreme hot temperatures. Although the projection of lethal violence is an imprecise science, it shows that climate change could have a growing effect on homicide in the future.

- 1 See Muggah, R., "Climate change and crime in cities", Global Bulletin of Igarape (Igarape Institute, 2021).
- 2 Evans, A. et al., "Resource scarcity, climate change and the risk of violent conflict", World Bank Development Report (2011).
- 3 Di Santo, N., Russo, I. and Sisto, R., "Climate change and natural resource scarcity: a literature review on dry farming", *Land MDPI*, vol. 11, No. 12 (November 2022).
- 6 UN-Water, "Climate change and water", Policy brief, September 2019.
- 5 See Pacific Institute, "Water conflict", Water conflict chronology.
- 6 Gleick, P., Iceland, C. and Trivedi, A., *Ending Conflicts over Water: Solutions to Water and Security Challenges* (World Resource Institute, 2020).
- 7 Deaths resulting from cattle rustling and stock theft incidents have been on the rise since 2017, with the number of killings increasing sharply (by 170 percent) from 2020 to 2021.
- 8 See Kenya, National Police Service, Annual Report (2021).
- 9 See Harp, R. and Karnauskas, K. B., "Global warming to increase violent crime in the United States", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 15, No. 3 (March 2020).
- 10 The following assumptions are used in the projections: i) the forecasted climate indicators are accurate; ii) the estimate of the association between the two climate indicators and the homicide rate is correct, remains constant overtime, and is the same across all countries; iii) no other factor besides climate change will impact homicide trends.

Indicator 16.1.2

Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

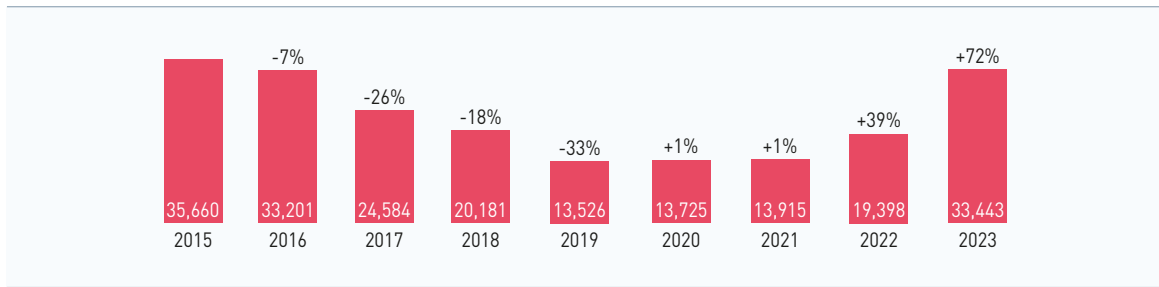
In 2023,² the number of civilian casualties skyrocketed, totaling more than 33,400. The figure almost matched the peak of 2015.³ Seven out of ten recorded deaths occurred in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, making it the deadliest conflict for civilians in 2023.⁴ The year also saw a sharp increase in the use of heavy weapons and explosive munitions. Indeed, while in 2022, four out of ten civilians were killed by heavy weapons and explosive munitions, in 2023, this proportion rose to seven out of ten.

2 The data has been updated to enhance both the coverage of countries and the estimates for previous years, compared to the findings published in the 2023 SDG16 Global Progress Report. OHCHR analyzed available data on conflict related deaths between 2015 and 2023 for a total of 14 armed conflicts, which rank among the deadliest in the world for civilians. These conflicts occurred in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.

3 In 2015, OHCHR recorded 35,660 civilian deaths, the highest number of deaths since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the start of the monitoring and compilation of this global SDG indicator.

4 Due to the continuing intensity of the conflict in Gaza, the United Nations is still in the process of verifying casualties.

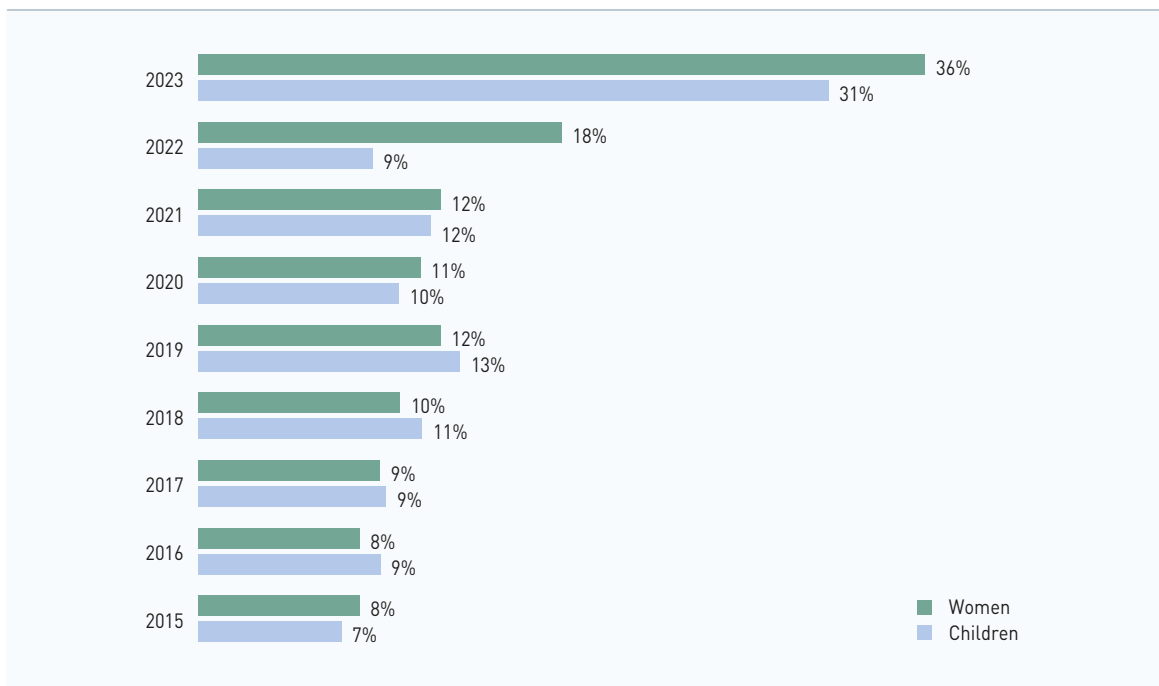
Figure 3: Number of recorded civilian conflict-related deaths and percentage change from previous year, 2015–2023



Source: Data collected by the OHCHR for indicator 16.1.2

In 2023, the proportion of women⁵ and children under age 18 affected saw a dramatic increase: the rate of women killed doubled and that of children tripled from the previous year. Specifically, women and girls represented four out of ten civilian deaths, up from two in 2022, and children three out of ten, up from one. These figures represent the highest proportion of women and children casualties since the adoption of the Agenda 2030.

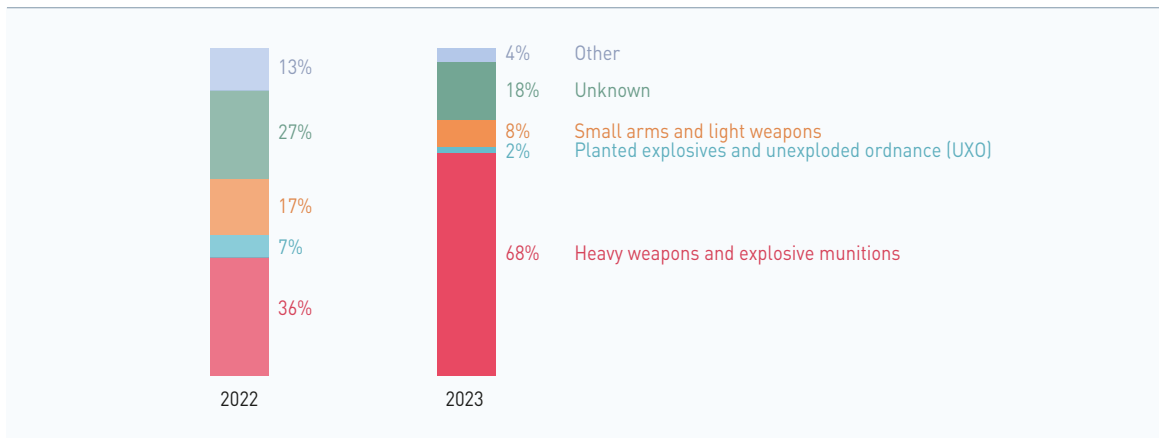
Figure 4: Proportion of women and children among civilian conflict-related deaths, 2015–2023



Source: Data collected by the OHCHR for indicator 16.1.2

⁵ This category comprises both adult women and girls.

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of conflict related deaths, by cause of death, 2022–2023



Source: Data collected by the OHCHR for indicator 16.1.2

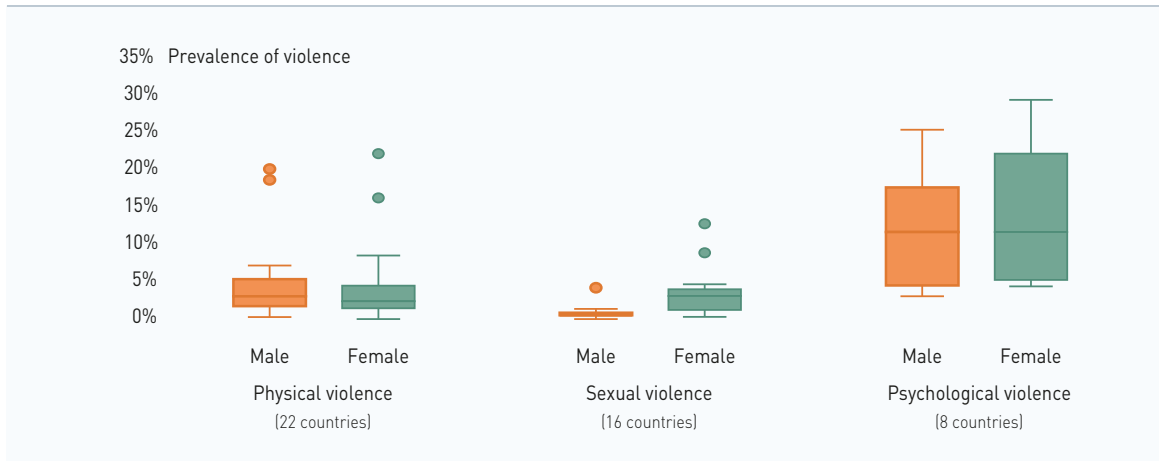
Indicator 16.1.3

Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

The negative impact of non-lethal violence is manifold. It can, among other things, lead to poor health conditions, poor educational outcomes and the inability to work, resulting in loss of income. However, measuring the extent and impact of non-lethal violence remains a challenge because experiences of violence are seldom reported to the authorities. Therefore, the most effective and accurate way to gauge the prevalence of physical, sexual, and psychological violence is through household surveys. However, few countries regularly conduct victimization surveys or include a victimization module in another household survey. Since 2010, 65 countries have reported at least one data point on the proportion of the population subjected to any of the following forms of violence, that is physical, psychological, or sexual violence, including 25 in Europe and Northern America and 20 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Information remains more limited in other regions. Additionally, even surveys suffer from underreporting, notably for stigmatized events such as rape or sexual assault.

Available data show differences in the violence experienced by women and men. Looking at countries with data for at least one year between 2010 and 2022, the median proportion of men experiencing physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is slightly higher than for women, at 3.0 percent for men as compared to 2.1 percent for women. By contrast, the median proportion of women subjected to sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is much higher than for men, at respectively 3.0 percent and 0.8 percent. Just eight countries have data on the prevalence of psychological violence, making it difficult to draw conclusions at global level. In this sample of countries, the median prevalence rate for psychological violence is higher than for other types of violence.

Figure 6: Proportions of the population subjected to violence within the past 12 months, by sex, selected countries, 2022 or latest available year

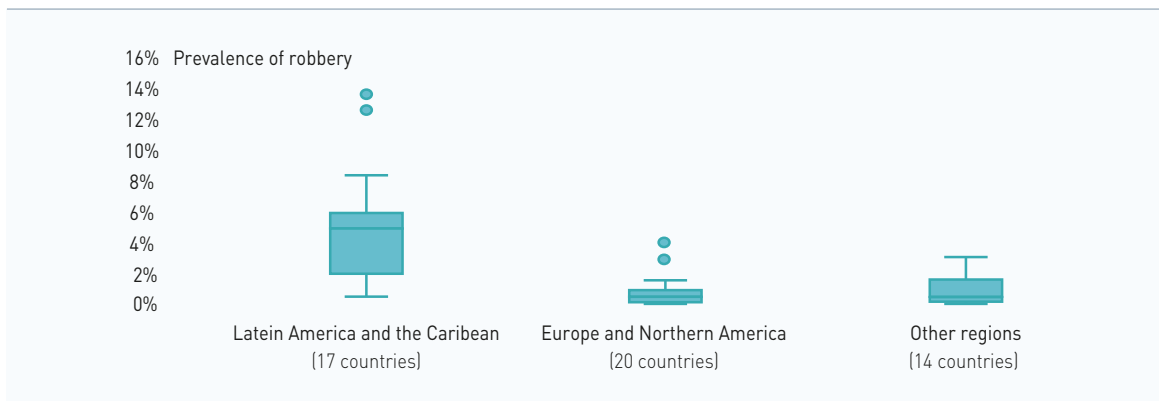


Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

Most acts of physical violence correspond to robbery or physical assault. Data on robbery is more widely available globally, with 51 countries reporting data for 2022 or the most recent year available since 2010. The median prevalence rate of robbery in the 15 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with available data, at 5.0 percent, was much higher than in the other regions. However, available data for 44 countries at the global level on physical assault, another component of physical violence, shows a higher median prevalence rate of physical assault in Europe and Northern America (2 percent) than in Latin America and the Caribbean (1.6 percent) or in other regions (1.0 percent).

Figure 7: Proportion of the population subjected to robbery in the previous 12 months, by region, 2022 or latest available year



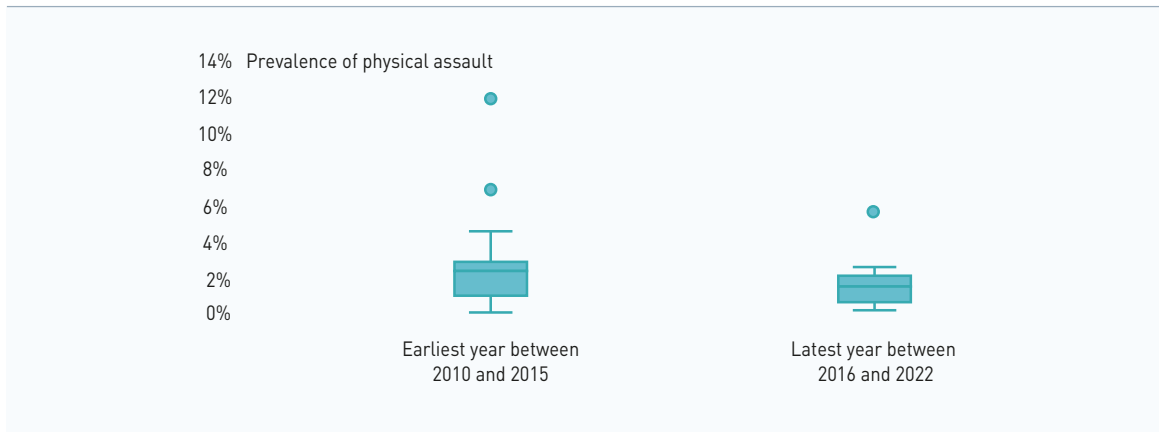
Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States. Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2010 and 2022.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

Trend data on the proportion of the population subjected to physical assault in the 12 months before the survey with at least one observation for both the periods 2010–2015 and 2016–2022 is available in 25 countries. They show a decrease in the prevalence of physical assault, going from a median annual

prevalence rate of 2.5 percent for 2010–2015 to 1.7 percent for 2016 to 2022. Of those 25 countries, 22 had a lower proportion of population subjected to physical assault in the period 2016–2022. While the data available for a very small number of countries show some progress, they are not sufficient to draw conclusions on progress towards target 16.1 on reducing violence.

Figure 8: Proportion of population subjected to physical assault in the previous 12 months, 25 countries with available data for 2010 or earliest year before 2015 and 2022 or latest year after 2016



Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle. Data based on the earliest available year between 2010 and 2015 and latest available year between 2016 and 2022 for 25 countries. The countries are from the following regions: Africa (1), Americas (8), Asia (4), Europe (11) and Oceania (1).

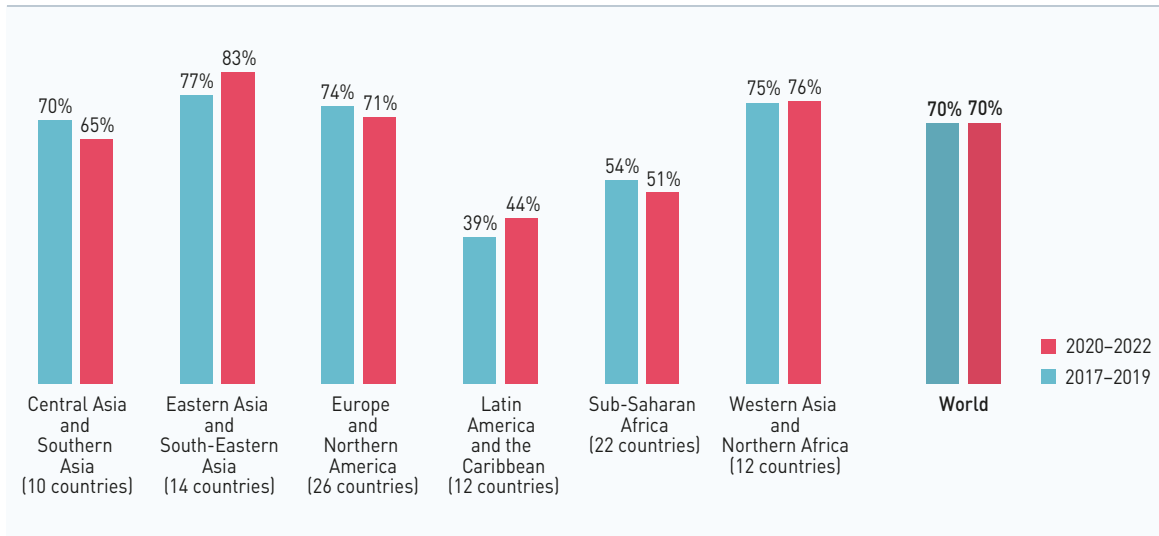
Indicator 16.1.4

Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

Feeling unsafe in public can have significant implications for both individual well-being and community development. While reducing violence and related deaths is a key focus of target 16.1, these statistics alone provide an incomplete picture of insecurity in daily life. Indicator 16.1.4, which measures perceptions of safety, offers a more comprehensive view of safety experiences, acknowledging that perceptions can be influenced by various factors beyond direct and indirect experiences of violence. Factors like media coverage and public discourse on crime also shape these perceptions. Consequently, feeling unsafe in public not only impacts personal well-being by reducing social interactions and trust but also presents a barrier to community engagement and development.

On a global scale, about 70 percent of people across different world regions report feeling safe walking alone in their area after dark. This worldwide average has remained stable from 2017 to 2022. However, some differences in perceptions of safety are evident between regions. For instance, in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Sub-Saharan Africa, only around 44 percent and 51 percent of the population, respectively, reported feeling safe walking alone after dark on average during the period 2020 to 2022. By contrast, in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, the corresponding percentage was notably higher at 83 percent.

Figure 9: Proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone at night around the area they live in, by region and period, 2017–2022

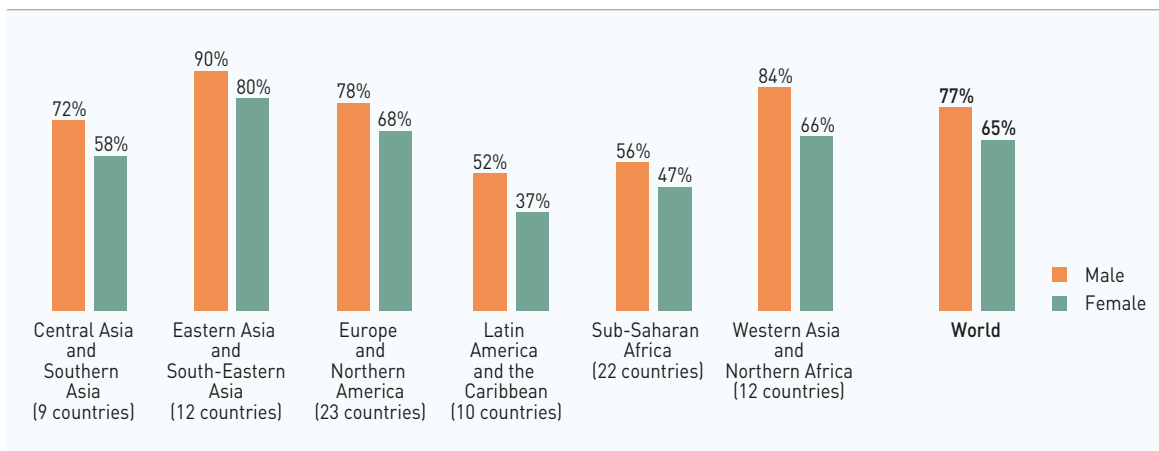


Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and the Gallup World Poll.

Note: Regional aggregates refer to 3-year averages weighted by countries' population size. Most surveys include the qualifications "after dark" or "at night" in the question wording. Data coverage: Averages for Oceania were removed, as only data for one country was available.

Women generally feel less safe than men across all regions. Globally, among 88 countries surveyed from 2020 to 2022, the proportion of women reporting feeling safe walking alone in their area at night was, on average, 12 percentage points lower (at 65 percent) compared to men (at 77 percent). This trend is evident across all regions, with particularly notable disparities in Western Asia and Northern Africa. This indicates that, despite women being less likely to experience lethal violence compared to men in open spaces (as reflected in homicide data), other factors may contribute to shaping women's perceptions of safety such as non-lethal violence (e.g., rape, robbery, harassment) and sociocultural influences.

Figure 10: Proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone at night around the area they live in, by region and sex, 2020–2022



Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and the Gallup World Poll.

Note: Regional aggregates refer to 3-year averages weighted by countries' population size. Most surveys include the qualifications "after dark" or "at night" in the question wording. Data coverage: Averages for Oceania were removed, as only data for one country was available.

When examining the correlation between male homicide rates (a suitable proxy for levels of insecurity in public spaces⁶) and the proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone at night around their area at country level, the data show that in countries with higher male homicide rates, both men and women tend to feel less safe. However, women's perception of safety is less correlated with male homicide rates, a suitable proxy for violent crime in public spaces, compared to men's perceptions. The figure below suggests that women's perception of safety has a very weak correlation with the actual violence occurring outside home and other factors such as non-violent crime and sociocultural influences may contribute to shaping women's perceptions of safety.

Figure 11: Correlation of male homicide rates and the proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone at night around the area they live in, by sex, 2020–2022



Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and the Gallup World Poll from 64 countries.

Note: Homicide rates and average perceptions of safety refer to 3-year averages from 2020–2022.



Target 16.2

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Indicator 16.2.1

Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

The protection of children from all forms of violence is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights treaties and standards. Yet violence remains an all-too-real part of life for children around the globe, regardless of their economic and social circumstances, culture, religion or ethnicity. Violence occurs in many settings, including

⁶ Intentional Homicide serves as a reasonable proxy for violent crime and a robust indicator of levels of violence within states. Furthermore, unlike female victims of homicides, which predominantly occur in family/domestic sphere, the majority of male victims (88 percent in 2022) are killed by individuals that are neither intimate partners or family members. As a result, killings of men and boys are more likely to indicate insecurity in public spaces than killings of women and girls, which indicate insecurity in the domestic sphere.

the home, school, community and over the Internet. Similarly, a wide range of perpetrators commit violence against children, such as family members, intimate partners, teachers, neighbours, strangers and other children.⁷

Recognition of the pervasive nature and impact of violence against children has grown over the years. Still, measurement challenges remain. For instance, underreporting can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including the fact that some forms of violence against children are socially accepted, tacitly condoned or not perceived as being abusive. Many victims are too young or too vulnerable to disclose their experience or to protect themselves. And all too often when victims do denounce an abuse, the legal system fails to respond, or child protection services are unavailable or inadequate.⁸

Although the inclusion of a dedicated SDG target on ending violence against children draws much needed attention to the importance of preventing and responding to the issue as essential to ensuring just and peaceful societies, the availability of robust internationally comparable data remains limited. For some forms of violence, the available data are not entirely comparable, largely due to differences in the definitions used to classify acts as violence and variations in implementation and data collection protocols.

Violent discipline at home is the most common and widespread form of violence against children. While teaching children self-control and acceptable behaviour is an integral part of child rearing in all cultures, many caregivers rely on the use of violent methods, both physical and psychological, to punish unwanted behaviours and encourage desired ones.⁹ In 83 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries with available data from 2015 to 2023, nearly 8 in 10 children from 1 to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the past month.¹⁰ In most countries, boys and girls are equally likely to experience violent discipline at home.¹¹

Indicator 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

Globally, two in every five victims of trafficking in persons detected in 2022 was a child. Since 2004, when the UNODC first started collecting these data, the proportion of children among the detected victims of trafficking has progressively increased from 13 percent to 38 percent. In 2022, preliminary results indicate that 38 percent of the victims of trafficking detected worldwide were children. The number of victims (adult and children) identified worldwide also grew in absolute number. In 2022, slightly more girls than boys were detected worldwide (preliminary results – 21 percent vs. 17 percent).

7 Extracted from <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/>.

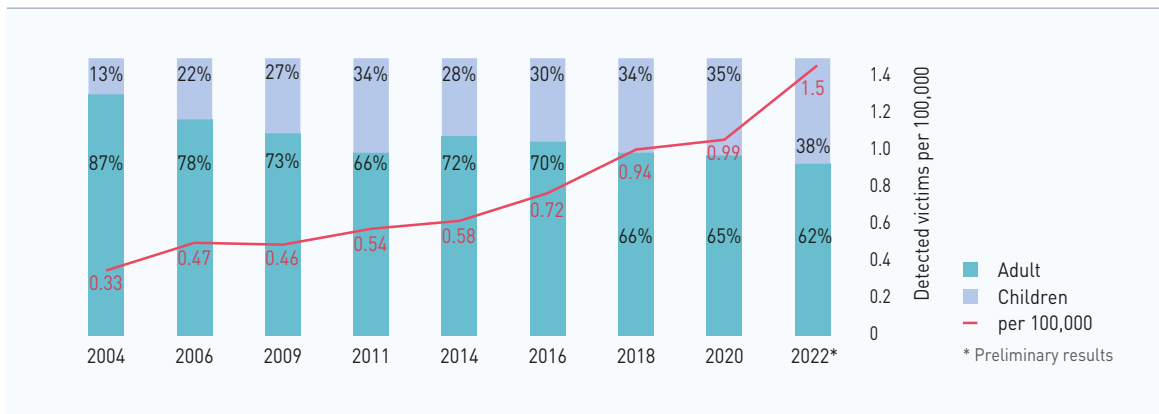
8 Ibid.

9 United Nations Children’s Fund, *A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*, UNICEF, New York, 2017.

10 Report of the Secretary-General on Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals, 2 May 2024 (advanced unedited version).

11 United Nations Children’s Fund, *A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*, UNICEF, New York, 2017.

Figure 12: Detected victims of trafficking in persons per 100,000 population (right axis) and percentage distribution of victims by age group, 2004–2022



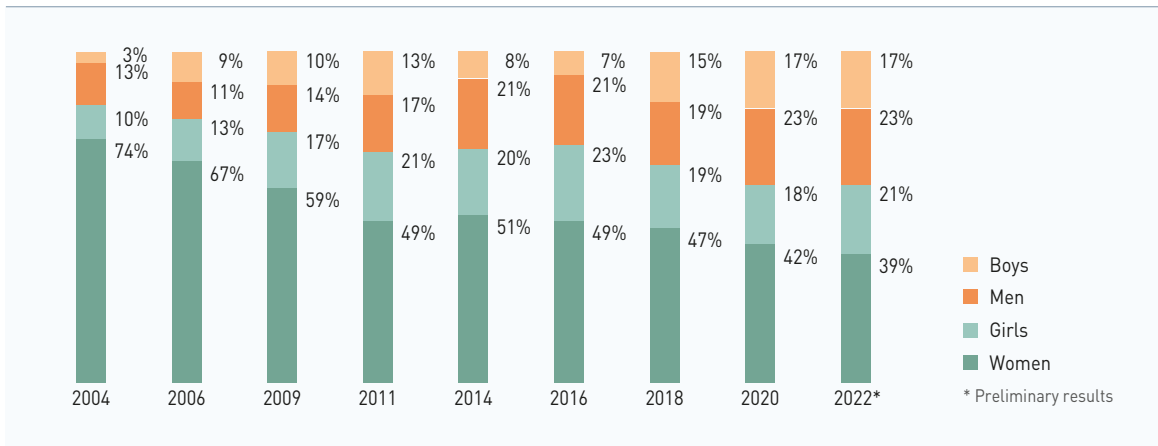
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data

Detected forms of exploitation also change across age groups. While adult victims detected in 2022 were mostly trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour, children are trafficked for the purpose of forced criminal activity, forced begging and sexual exploitation. Gender lines explain the distribution of child victims detected across these forms of exploitation, with girl victims having mostly suffered from sexual exploitation and boys being primarily subjected to forced criminal activity. Cases of trafficking of boys for the purpose of forced criminal activities, such as drug trafficking among other crimes, have been increasingly reported in many regions of the world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Western and Southern Europe. In 2022, preliminary results indicate that 37 percent of the victims trafficked for other purposes outside sexual exploitation and forced labour were boys and 30 percent were men. Girls instead are mostly detected among victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (26 percent of all victims detected). Regardless of the form of exploitation, an analysis of court case summaries involving children suggests that the average age of detected child victims ranges between 14–15 years of age.¹² Traffickers in these cases often leverage fragile emotional ties, trying to create a sense of belonging for the victim. While little information is available on the profile of traffickers, case summaries and research show that perpetrators involved in child trafficking are often family members or known acquaintances, in situations of socio-economic deprivation, rather than strangers driven by high profit-seeking ambitions.¹³

12 For child victims of trafficking for forced labour reported in the collection of case summaries, the median age is 17, average age is 15. For those in sexual exploitation, median age is 16 and average is 15. Based on 335 reported cases of trafficking involving 343 child victims and 222 adult victims that concluded with a conviction between 2012 and 2020. This analysis made use of the narratives of court case summaries collected by UNODC over the years. A total of 800 cases of trafficking in persons were shared by 85 Member States. These cases involved more than 4,000 victims and 3,000 offenders. Analyses based on this data are referred to as “GLOTIP collection of court case summaries.” These cases can be found in more detail in a dedicated document published in the UNODC Global Report webpage (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>) and in the UNODC Knowledge Portal on Trafficking in Persons and its dedicated Case-law Database, Sherlock (<https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/en/st/home.html>).

13 UNODC. Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020.

Figure 13: Percentage distribution of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2004–2022

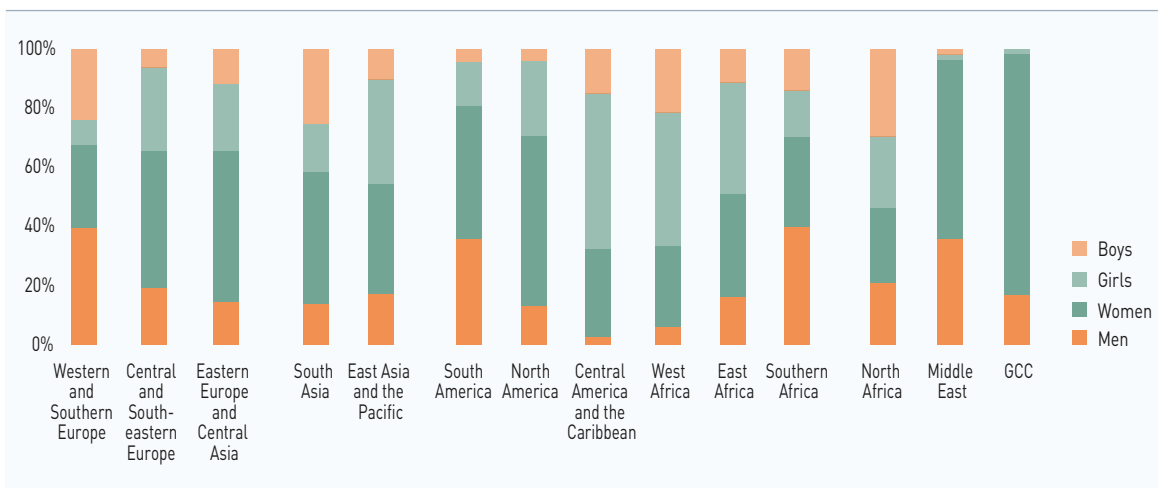


Source: UNODC elaboration of national data

Child victims are detected in every region of the world. Patterns about the age profile of the victims, however, appear to change drastically across regions. Some regions detect more children than adults among victims of trafficking in persons. This is the case of Central America and the Caribbean, and West Africa, where two in every three victims detected in 2022 were children, mostly girls. In Central America and the Caribbean specifically, most victims detected in 2022 were girls (about 52 percent). Similar proportions were also reported by countries in West Africa, where 45 percent of the detected victims were girls, although a high number of boys was also reported.

While child victims detected in West Africa and Central American and the Caribbean are mostly girls, countries in North Africa detected a slightly higher proportion of boys (55 percent of the detected child victims). A higher number of boys was also reported by countries in South Asia. In 2022, one in every four victims detected in South Asia was a boy. The remaining regions of the world detected more adult than child victims in 2022.

Figure 14: Percentage distribution of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group, sex, and region, 2022



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data



Compared to the pre-Covid period, more girls and less women have been identified to be sexually exploited, suggesting a reduction of the age for the victims in sexual exploitation. In addition, over the same period, the expansion of trafficking for forced criminality is resulting in an increasing number of boys victims being detected. In the identification, Member States shall continue to improve their capacity to identify, assist, and protect child victims of every form of trafficking in persons, especially by enhancing cooperation between law enforcement and social service providers.¹⁴

Indicator 16.2.3

Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Sexual violence is one of the most unsettling of children's rights violations. Acts of sexual violence, which often occur together and with other forms of violence, can range from direct physical contact to unwanted exposure to sexual language and images.¹⁵ 'Sexual violence' is often used as an umbrella term to cover all types of sexual victimization.¹⁶ While both boys and girls can be the target of sexual violence, data suggest that girls are generally at a heightened risk. That said, the paucity of data documenting the experiences of sexual violence among boys has contributed to the erroneous perception that they are relatively immune from this form of violence.¹⁷ While data coverage has generally improved over time, important data gaps remain. The majority of the 60 countries with available data between 2014 and 2022 for young women reflect a narrower definition of sexual violence that includes only forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts. Data coverage is insufficient to calculate representative estimates for young men given that only 12 countries have internationally comparable data.¹⁸



Target 16.3

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Indicator 16.3.1

Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

Reporting to competent authorities is the first step for crime victims to seek justice. Without knowledge of the crime, authorities will not conduct investigations and administer justice. Challenges in accessing law enforcement and other relevant authorities and a lack of trust and confidence in the ability of the authorities to ensure a follow-up may deter victims from reporting. In addition to reflecting the

14 UNODC. Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022.

15 Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children, *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*, ECPAT International and ECPAT Luxembourg, Rachathewi, Bangkok, June 2016, p. 16.

16 Ibid.

17 United Nations Children's Fund, *A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*, UNICEF, New York, 2017.

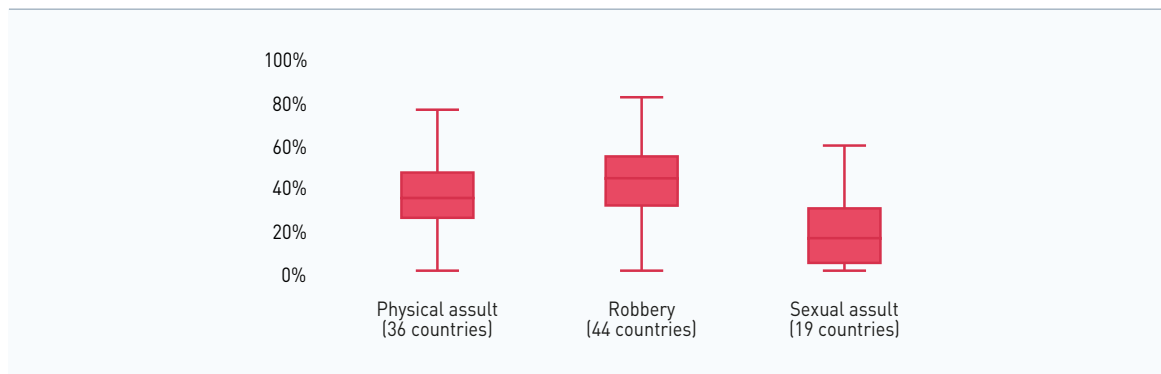
18 Report of the Secretary-General on Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals, 2 May 2024 (advanced unedited version).

confidence of crime victims in the ability of the police or other authorities to provide effective redress, and the safety of doing so, reporting rates also provide a measure of the “hidden figure” of crime, meaning the proportion of crimes not reported to the police.

Crime victimization surveys can capture experience and reporting of violence suffered by the adult population of all genders. However, these surveys are neither universally conducted across all countries, nor are they conducted at regular intervals. Furthermore, certain forms of violence are not covered by these surveys. Consequently, enhancing data availability takes time. As of early 2024, 53 countries have at least one data point on the reporting of any type of violence covered by indicator 16.3.1 since 2010.

Indicator 16.3.1 focuses on the reporting of physical, sexual and psychological violence. Physical violence includes physical assault and robbery, while sexual violence includes, among others, sexual assault. Data availability in the period 2010–2022, though limited, is higher for physical assault, robbery and sexual assault than for physical violence and sexual violence. The proportion of victims of physical assault and robbery that reported their victimization to the police or other authorities, with a median proportion in countries with data of respectively 36 percent and 45 percent, is higher than for sexual assault, for which the median in countries with available data was of 17 percent. Indeed, the nature of the crime, especially stigmatized forms of violence such as rape or sexual assault, and previous experiences victims had in interacting with the authorities may impact how willing they become to report their victimization.

Figure 15: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms, by type of crime, selected countries, latest available year since 2010



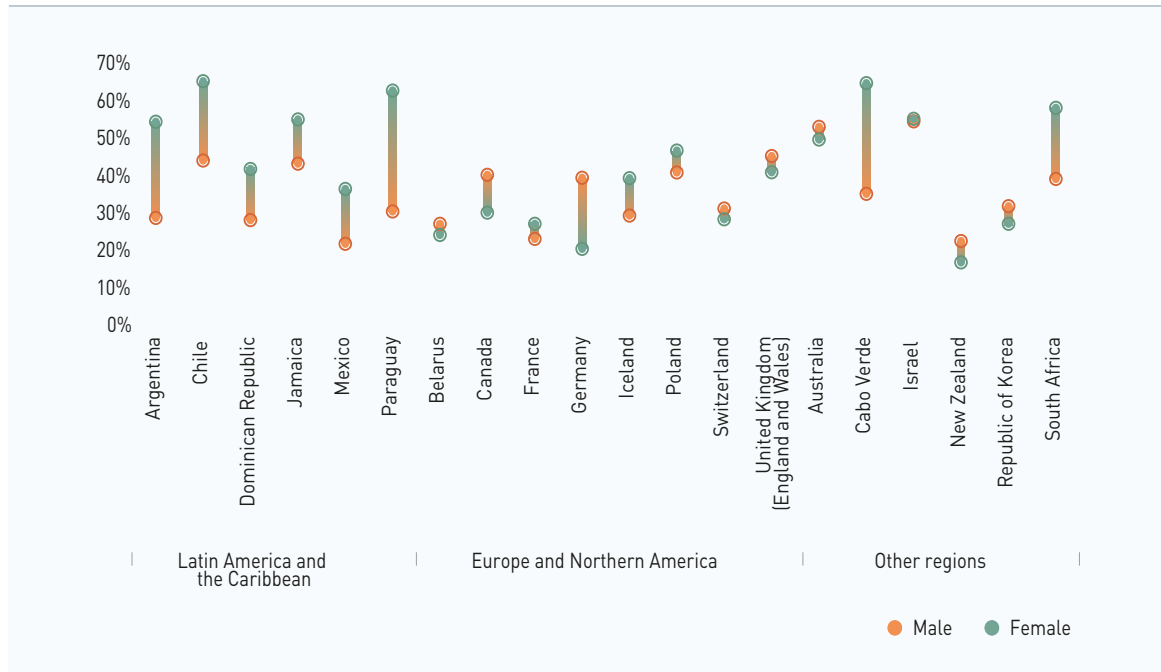
Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States. Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2010 and 2022.

Note: The boxes show the middle half of the data (interquartile range). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: they exceed a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile and below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in the middle.

Sex-disaggregated data on the reporting of violence remain sparse. Physical assault is the form of violence with the highest number of countries having sex-disaggregated data on the proportion of victims in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities. These data for the period 2016–2022 suggest regional disparities. In the six countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with data, a greater proportion of female victims of physical assault reported their victimization compared to male victims. Conversely, in the eight countries of Europe and Northern America with available data, the proportion of female victims reporting their victimization was not

necessarily higher than for male victims. Only six countries outside of these two regions have data on the reporting of physical assault. Echoing patterns observed in Latin America and the Caribbean, the two countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, Cabo Verde and South Africa, had a higher proportion of female victims of physical assault reporting their victimization than male victims. Other countries outside these regions do not consistently exhibit higher reporting rates to competent authorities among female victims.

Figure 16: Proportion of victims of physical assault in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms, selected countries, latest available year



Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from other sources reviewed by Member States. Data based on the latest available year of survey data since 2016.

Note: The difference between the proportion of male and female victims reporting their victimization is shown by the bars, green when the proportion is higher for female victims, and orange when the proportion is higher for male victims.

Indicator 16.3.2

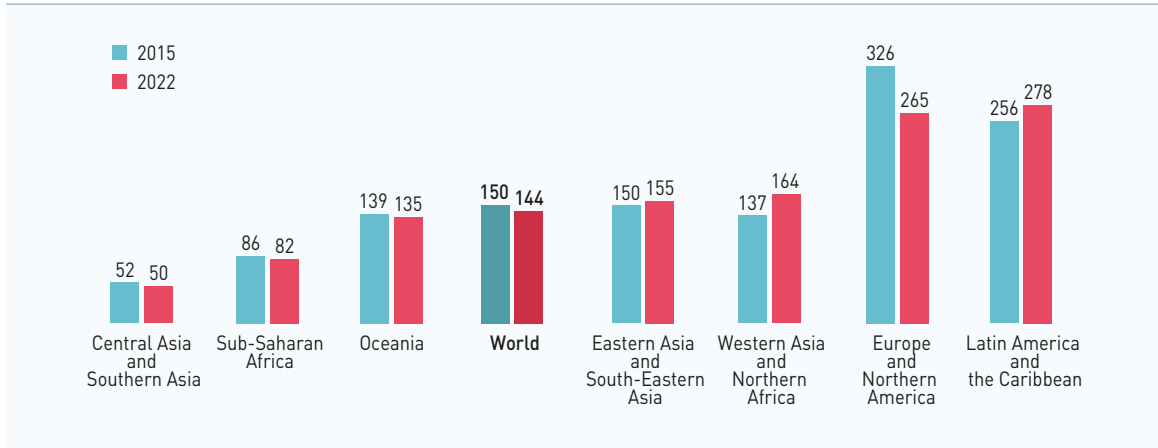
Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

The global prison population is still on the rise, but the rate of growth is slowing down. According to the latest global estimates, there were 11.5 million individuals in detention worldwide in 2022¹⁹. This represents approximately 144 prisoners per 100,000 population. Despite an overall increase in the number of prisoners between 2015 and 2022 from 11.1 to 11.5 million individuals, the growth of the prison population was slower than the world population during this period. As a result, the prisoner-to-population rate in 2022 (144 prisoners per 100,000 population) was smaller than in 2015 (150 prisoners per 100,000 population). Due to the emergency release of prisoners and fewer conviction rates in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global prisoner-to-population rate was temporarily even lower in 2020 than in 2015 (141 prisoners per 100,000 population).

¹⁹ UNODC estimate (2024).

The prisoner-to-population rate varies across regions and the lowest rate of 50 prisoners per 100,000 population was observed in Central Asia and Southern Asia, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (82 prisoners per 100,000 population). The highest rate of 278 prisoners per 100,000 population was observed in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region followed by Europe and Northern America (265 prisoners per 100,000 population).

Figure 17: Number of persons held in detention per 100,000 population, total and by region, 2015 and 2022



Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, data from the World Prison Brief (Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research) and national sources reviewed by Member States.

Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the rate of detainees per 100,000 population in 2022.

Most prisoners are men. In 2022, there were 10.8 million male prisoners and 0.7 million female prisoners worldwide. While globally 94 percent of all prisoners are men, the proportion is slightly higher in Western Asia and Northern Africa (97 percent), Central Asia and Southern Asia (96 percent) and Sub-Saharan Africa (96 percent) and significantly lower in Europe and Northern America (92 percent).

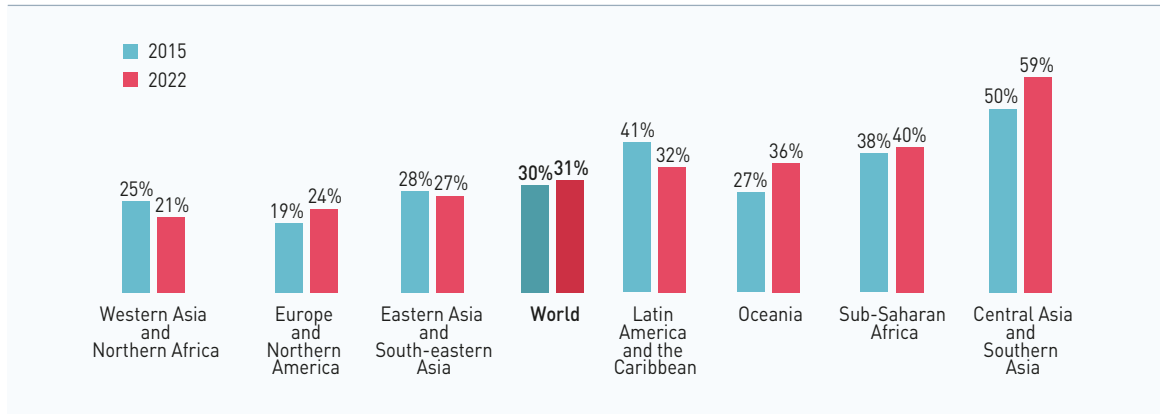
Access to justice is a fundamental human right. Monitoring progress towards reducing the number of unsentenced detainees remains critical and little progress in reducing the number has been made in recent years. In 2022, 3.5 million prisoners were being held untried, in pre-trial or awaiting a first instance decision on their case. Their share of the total prison population remained stable between 2015 and 2022 (around 30 percent). Nevertheless, significant progress can be observed in some regions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the proportion of unsentenced detainees decreased from 41 percent in 2015 to 32 percent in 2022; similarly, in Western Asia and Northern Africa it decreased from 25 percent to 21 percent during the same period. However, in many other regions the opposite trend was observed.

Globally, the share of unsentenced men and women among the male and female prison population is about 30 percent for both men and women. Nevertheless, in some regions women are more likely to be held unsentenced than men. For instance, in Oceania, 43 percent of female prisoners compared to 35 percent of male are held unsentenced and in Western Asia and Northern Africa 27 percent of female prisoners compared to 21 percent of male prisoners are held unsentenced.

The commitments contained in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the ‘Nelson Mandela Rules’), recommend that “Member States continue to endeavour to

reduce prison overcrowding and, where appropriate, resort to non-custodial measures as alternatives to pretrial detention, to promote increased access to justice and legal defence mechanisms, to reinforce alternatives to imprisonment and to support rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes”²⁰

Figure 18: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population, total and by region, 2015 and 2022

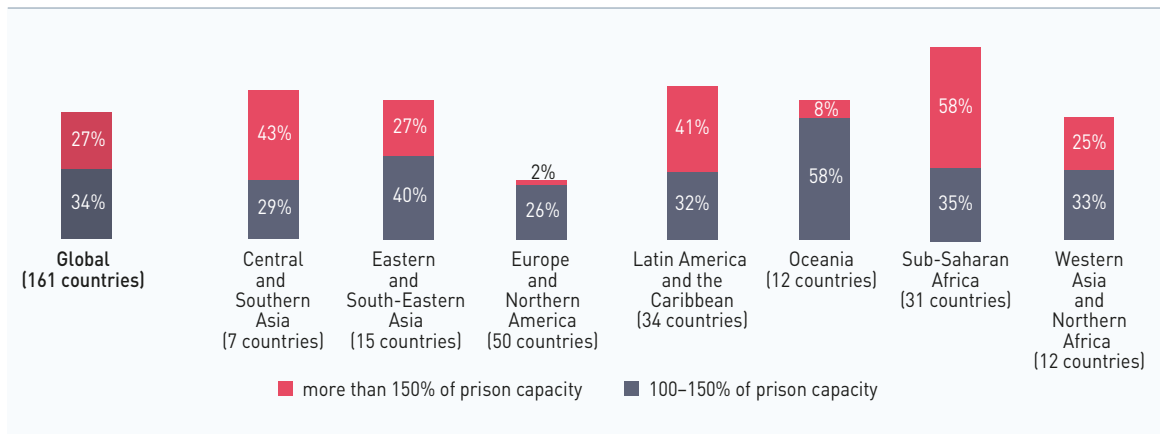


Source: UNODC estimates based on national data collected via the United Nations Crime Trends Survey.

Note: Regions are ranked in ascending order of the proportion of unsentenced detainees of the overall prison population in 2022.

Overcrowding in prison is a concern in 3 out of 5 countries with available data, where prisons are operating at over 100 percent of intended capacity. The situation is particularly concerning in Africa, where almost all countries (91 percent) with data are reporting overcrowded prison systems. Globally some 1 in 4 countries are even operating at over 150 percent of intended capacity. The adverse effects of overcrowding on prisoner health²¹ and mortality²² in prison have been documented.

Figure 19: Percentage of countries where prisoners outnumber the prison capacity, 2022 or latest year available



Source: UNODC estimates based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from the World Prison Brief (Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research).

Note: Overcrowding is defined as the number of prisoners in a country exceeds the official prison capacity.

20 UN. 2015. A/RES/70/175. Resolution 70/172. United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/443/41/pdf/n1544341.pdf?token=5qxLyz7MfIDmbVnALT&fe=true>

21 Möller, L., Gatherer, A., & Jürgens, R. 2016. *Health in prisons: A WHO guide to the essentials in prison health*. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

22 Fazel, S., Ramesh, T., Hawton, K. 2017. Suicide in prisons: An international study of prevalence and contributory factors. *The Lancet Public Health*, 2(3), e120-e126; Wolff, N., Jing Shi, J., & Bachman, R. 2008. The impact of prison crowding on inmate violence. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 45(2), p. 200-220. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(17\)30430-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(17)30430-3/fulltext)

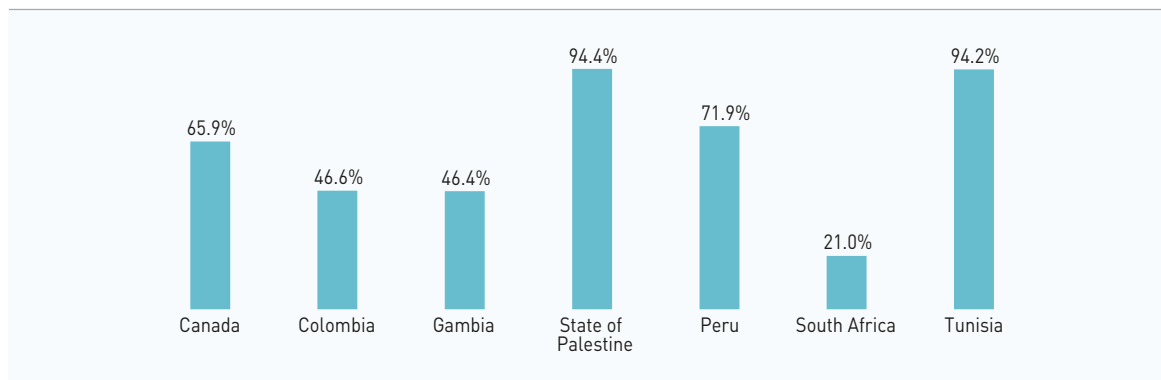
Indicator 16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

Measuring access to civil justice is essential to identify the civil disputes people experience as well as service gaps, barriers faced by different populations, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, reasons for exclusion, and the channels people use to enforce or defend their rights. Such data is crucial for policy makers to develop evidence-based interventions that promote equity, fairness and accountability ensuring equal access to justice for all.

Indicator 16.3.3 has transformative potential for achieving the 2030 Agenda, and it marks a crucial step towards measuring and monitoring people’s access to civil justice. This people-centered indicator measures actual experiences of the population rather than opinion or perceptions, focusing on the accessibility of justice institutions and the type of mechanisms, both formal and informal, available to those experiencing justiciable problems. The indicator provides critical data about the overall accessibility of civil justice institutions and processes, it highlights barriers, and reasons for exclusion of some people thus offering valuable information for achieving inclusivity and fairness in the justice system.

The indicator, however, was adopted in March 2020, right at the beginning of the unfolding of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic severely hampered the statistical systems’ ability for conducting population surveys and compiling data for this new indicator, leaving its global progress still difficult to assess. Despite these initial setbacks and constraints in data collection, it is encouraging to note an increase in the number of countries that have begun to collect data and report on this indicator or are planning data collection activities and reporting. Currently, data are available for seven countries. Among these, there are significant differences in the proportion of the population that has experienced a dispute and accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism. In some countries, this share is as low as 21 percent, while in others, access to a dispute mechanism is highly accessible with 94 percent of the population seeking resolutions through formal or informal dispute resolution mechanisms.

Figure 20: Proportion of population who have experienced a civil dispute in the past 2 years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, 2023 or latest data available since 2015



Source: UNDP



Target 16.4

By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

Indicator 16.4.1

Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

The ability to achieve the SDGs remains fragile when illicit financial flows continue to drain resources that could otherwise be used to sustain strong governance and institutions, fulfil human rights obligations and pursue sustainable development. Illicit financial flows limit the financial capacity of governments to provide essential services and support for sub-population groups, especially women, children and marginalized communities in the poorest countries. Crises, such as epidemics, natural disasters, and armed conflicts, amplify the negative effects of illicit financial flows. Illicit financial flows drain resources critical for development when they leave a country (outflows), but also when they enter a country (inflows), as they may fuel corruption and finance organized crime and terrorism, especially in areas exposed to political instability and conflict, and where the rule of law is weak.

National data on illicit financial flows remain very limited. However, anecdotal information suggests that they can be quite substantial when compared with legal trade. Drug trafficking, for example, is a major proceeds-generating crime. Work on crime-related illicit financial flows to date has resulted in the production of estimates for nine countries, which are summarized in the UNODC publication *Crime-related illicit financial flows: latest progress*.²³ To illustrate, in Nepal, heroin trafficking is estimated to have generated outward illicit financial flows of between US\$1.8 and \$10.9 million annually between 2019 and 2021 (8 to 45 percent of tea exports in 2021²⁴). Similarly, in Bangladesh, heroin trafficking is estimated to have generated outward illicit financial flows of between \$12.2 and \$249.9 million annually between 2017 and 2021.

Looking at inward illicit financial flows, Mexican drug cartels generated an estimated \$12.1 billion between 2015 and 2018,²⁵ an amount comparable to the combined value of the country's exports of avocados, tomatoes, beer and iron and steel in 2018 (\$12.4 billion).²⁶ Similarly, in Colombia, cocaine trafficking is estimated to have generated inward illicit financial flows of between \$1.2 and \$8.6 billion (3 to 22 percent of legal commodity exports in 2019) between 2015 and 2019, and cocaine trafficking-related inward illicit financial flows of between \$1.3 to \$1.7 billion in Peru represented 2.9 to 3.7 percent of total export value in 2019.

23 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Crime-related illicit financial flows: latest progress".

Available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/IFF/2023/IFFs_Estimates_Report_2023-final-11dec2023.pdf

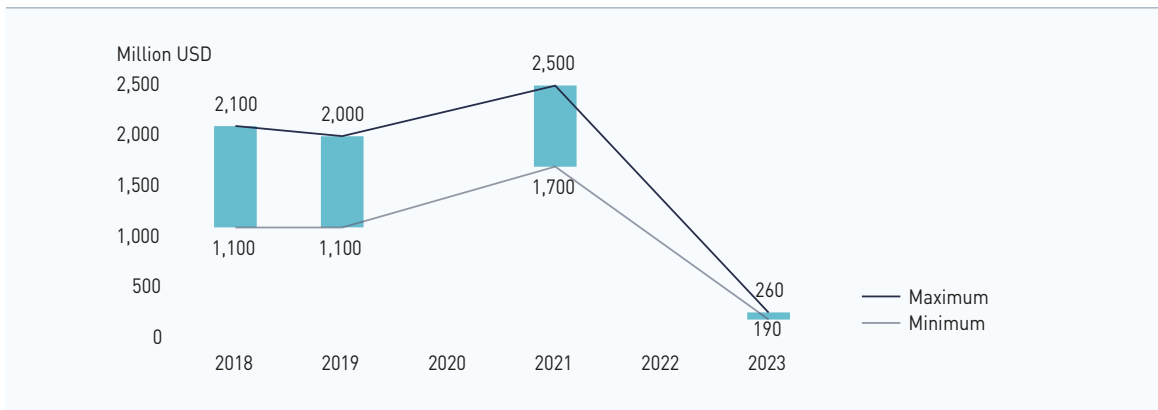
24 United Nations Statistics Division, "Trade Data", UN Comtrade Database. Available at <https://comtradeplus.un.org/> (accessed on 11 April 2024).

25 From trafficking in cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. The estimate does not include exports of other drugs such as cannabis.

26 Data on legal trade for comparison were obtained from UN Comtrade.

New data from Afghanistan highlight a dramatic decline in inward illicit financial flows from opiates trafficking in the country. In 2023 opium poppy cultivation and opium production dramatically declined after the ban prohibiting “Poppy Cultivation and All types of Narcotics” was announced by the de-facto authorities in April 2022. If the whole opium harvest from 2023 were exported in the form of opium or heroin, it would have yielded inward illicit financial flows worth \$190 to \$260 million, which compares to \$1.7 to \$2.5 billion in 2021 (representing a 90 percent decline). This reduction may have great implications for rural livelihoods, cause a displacement of opium production to other countries, and lead to a reduction in purity or replacement of heroin or opium by other substances.

Figure 21: Estimated inward illicit financial flows from the export of opiates in Afghanistan, 2018–2023



Source: UNODC estimates

Trade misinvoicing affects trade in various commodities which vary across countries. For example, in Burkina Faso, trade in beverages, petroleum and ore; and in South Africa, trade in precious metals and stones and electrical machinery is affected. Early estimates show that illicit financial flows associated with trade mis-invoicing are far from insignificant; they may reach even half of officially recorded trade in some countries. Preventing illicit financial flows and recovering proceeds from tax and duty evasion would allow allocating essential resources to support good governance and strong institutions. Countries are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of tracking tax and commercial illicit financial flows and are developing concrete institutional responses to monitor them.

National efforts to measure tax and commercial IFFs

To date, 14 countries, 12 in Africa and 2 in Asia, participated in national efforts to measure selected types of tax and commercial illicit financial flows using datasets available to customs or tax and revenue authorities. 12 countries, 7 in Africa, 1 in Latin America, 3 in Asia and 1 in the Arab region, continue measurement and policy work on illicit financial flows as part of projects supported by custodian agencies.

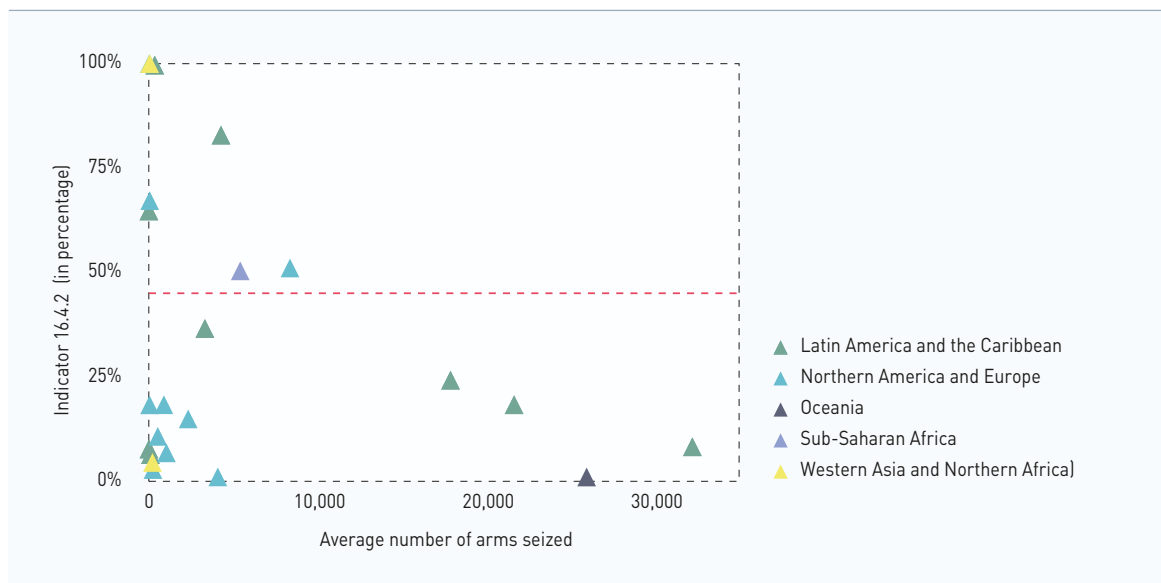
To further support the measurement of IFFs, Egypt created a dedicated customs department to measure illicit financial flows; Namibia established regular bilateral meetings with South Africa to more accurately record trade in selected commodities with significant illicit financial flow risks; Zambia now tracks the destinations of copper exports; and Angola uses the new data to redirect recovered funds to education and health.

Indicator 16.4.2

Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

Establishing the illicit origin of weapons seized, found and surrendered is crucial in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and constitutes a key step towards reducing illicit arms flows. Undertaking tracing of these weapons to identify their origin, as well as their point of diversion to the illicit market, is an important step to address illicit trade. However, tracing remains a challenge for many countries due to a lack of resources and capacity and lack of effective international cooperation. Based on data from 65 countries, on average, around 77 percent of firearms seized are potentially traceable,²⁷ consisting mainly of firearms that have unique markings that can be used for identifying their illicit origin. Levels of successful tracing (indicator 16.4.2) vary widely between and within regions and are partly influenced by the volume of arms seized. In countries where the yearly average number of firearm seizures exceed 10,000 – the majority of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean, the indicator value falls below the global average of 45 percent and does not exceed 25 percent,²⁸ potentially highlighting the burden of establishing the illicit context of seized arms. By contrast, countries with low levels of arms seized exhibit greater variability in the proportion of their successful tracing. In Northern America and Europe, for example, a relatively low success rate²⁹ of firearms tracing was reported for 7 out of 12 countries.

Figure 22: Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments (indicator 16.4.2) compared to the average number of arms seized, average 2016–2022



Source: UNODC, Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (IAFQ)

Note: Simple averages calculated based on data submitted by 29 countries between 2016 and 2022.

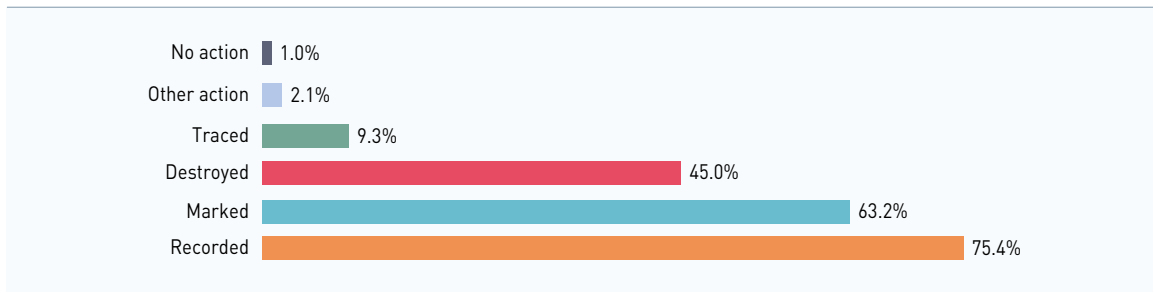
27 Potentially traceable firearms exclude firearms seized from their legitimate owners. Firearms whose marking status was not recorded are also included and considered as “unsuccessful” instances of the efforts to identify the illicit origin. Based on data for 2016 and 2021 reported through the Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (UN-IAFQ).

28 Based on simple average on data from 29 Member States between 2016 and 2022 reported through the Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (UN-IAFQ).

29 Below the average of 45 percent.

In the majority of successful tracing cases, firearms are traced domestically to a national registry (56 percent of all successfully traced firearms),³⁰ but a significant share are traced internationally to a foreign registry (20 percent of all successfully traced firearms), meaning that cooperative practices at the international level are very important, even if improvements in this area are still needed.

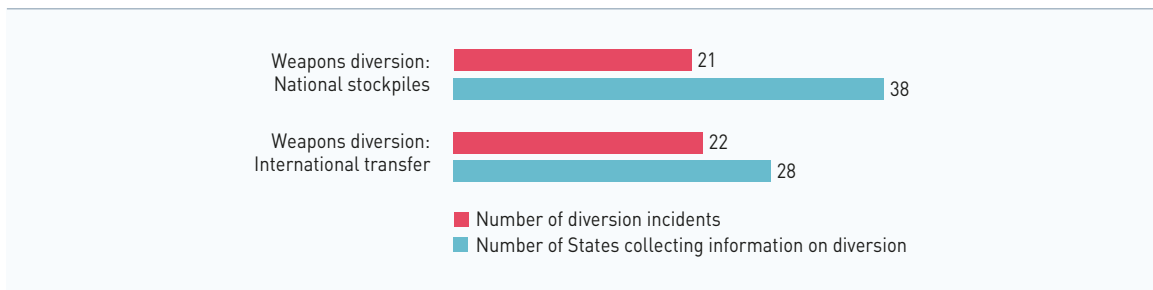
Figure 23: Follow-up action with respect to the weapons seized, found and surrendered, 2020–2021



Source: 2022 national reports of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (PoA)
Note: Simple averages calculated based on data submitted by 35 Member States for the period 2020–2021.

Efforts taken by countries to mark and record the weapons collected constitute key measures to reducing illicit arms flows in accordance with target 16.4. In 2020–2021, national authorities marked on average 63 percent and recorded 75 percent of the weapons seized, found and surrendered in that period,³¹ highlighting an increase compared to 2018–2019.³² To reduce illicit arms flows, information on specific cases and incidents, in which weapons are diverted to illicit markets, also needs to be collected and shared by national authorities. The two main sources of weapons diversion are ‘diversion during international transfers’ and ‘diversion from national stockpile.’ In 2020–2021, national authorities reported 22 incidents of diversion related to international arms transfers, and 21 incidents of weapons diverted from national stockpiles.³³

Figure 24: Incidents of diversions of weapons, 2020–2021



Source: 2022 national reports of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

30 For 3 over 33 percent of the successfully traced arms, the point of diversion was otherwise established by a competent authority.
31 Simple average based on data from 35 Member States reported through the 2022 national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.
32 In 2018–2019, national authorities marked on average 14 percent of the weapons collected and recorded 58 percent of the weapons. Simple average based on data from 29 Member States reported through the 2020 national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.
33 Among 90 States which submitted PoA/ITI national reports 2022, 28 States provided information on diversion incidents related to international transfers, and 38 countries shared data on diversion incidents related to national stockpile management.



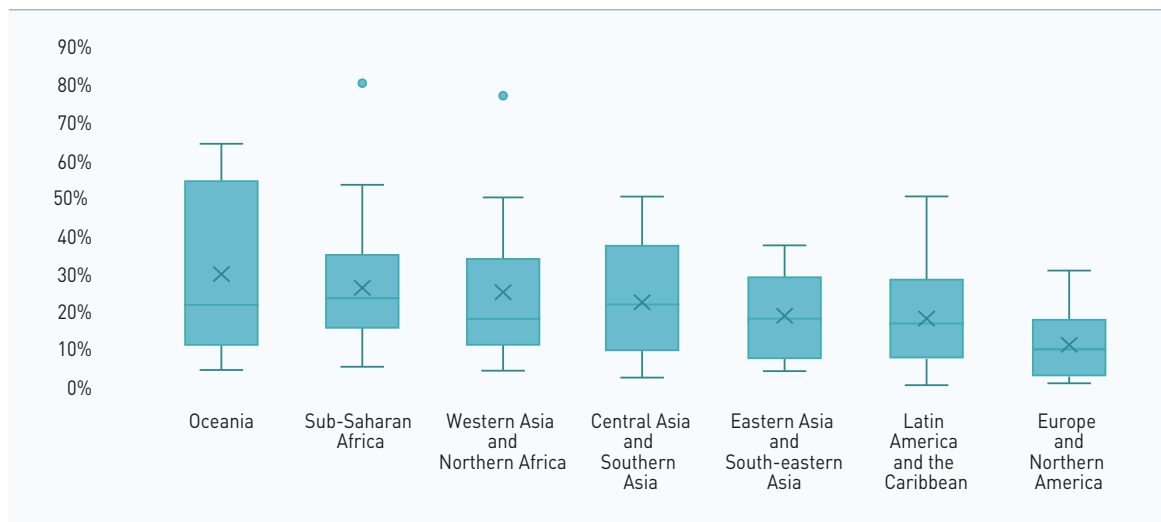
Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Indicator 16.5.1

Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

There are significant differences across regions in the percentage of individuals who interacted with public officials and either paid a bribe or were asked to pay a bribe in 2023.³⁴ In countries with data in Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa, an average of 29.7 percent and 26.0 percent of the population utilizing public services respectively had to pay a bribe or were asked to do so. In contrast, the corresponding figure was 10.8 percent in Europe and Northern America. Nevertheless, across all regions, there was considerable variability in the prevalence of bribery at the national level experienced by individuals. This variability was particularly pronounced in Oceania, where the prevalence of bribery ranged from 4 percent (Australia) to 64 percent (Kiribati).

Figure 25: Proportion of persons that experienced bribery during the previous 12 months, by region, 2023 or latest year since 2010



Source: UNODC, based on responses to the UNODC United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) and Global Corruption Barometer.

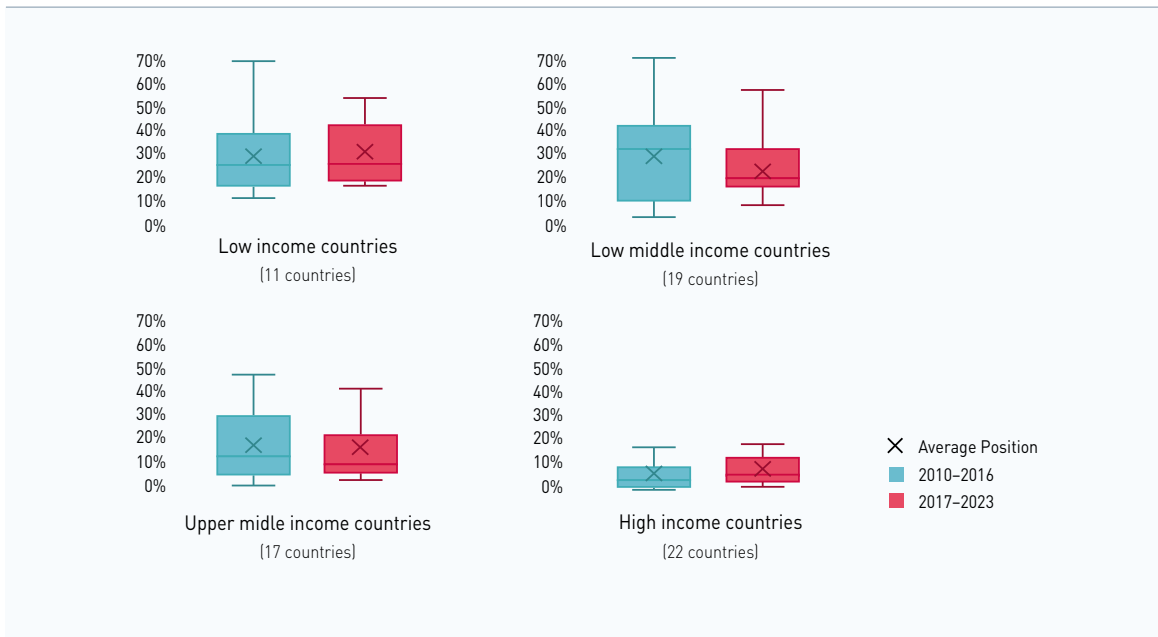
Note: Boxes represent interquartile ranges. Whiskers represent the minimum and maximum value of the data set that falls within a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range. Points beyond the whiskers represent outliers. The horizontal line indicates the median and the x represents the average.

When looking at countries grouped by their income levels, a negative correlation between income levels and bribery rates experienced by individuals can be observed. In 2023, or the most recent year since 2010, the average prevalence of bribery in low-income countries was 31.5 percent, 27.0 percent in lower middle-income countries, 15.3 percent in upper middle-income countries, and 8.4 percent

34 2023 or the latest available year since 2010.

in high-income countries. However, there are also significant differences in bribery rates among countries within the same income bracket, indicating that income level is not the sole determinant of corruption levels. Furthermore, data from 23 countries suggests that women generally experience less bribery than men. Examining bribery trends among individuals, by comparing data from 2010–2016, the earliest available data point, to the latest available data point of 2017–2023, reveals a global decline from an average of 18.3 percent to 17.0 percent in countries with data available for both periods. However, this trend cannot be translated to each income level. While lower- and upper middle-income countries have reported a decline (27.4 percent in the first time period to 22.3 percent in the last period and 18.4 percent to 15.9 percent, respectively), low- and high-income countries have reported an increase (28.3 percent to 29.5 percent and 5.3 percent to 7.0 percent, respectively). The same trend analysis by regions reveals that countries with data in Central Asia and Southern Asia (42.0 percent to 27.5 percent), Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (29.6 percent to 18.7 percent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (23.4 percent to 16.7 percent) have all had a lower average prevalence of bribery among individuals in the second period, while Europe and Northern America (5.2 percent to 7.2 percent), Western Asia and Northern Africa (11.1 percent to 16.8 percent) and Sub-Saharan Africa (21.6 percent to 24.0 percent)³⁵ reported an increasing trend.

Figure 26: Proportion of individuals that experienced bribery during the previous 12 months, by income level, 2010–2016 and 2017–2023



Source: UNODC, based on responses to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) and Global Corruption Barometer.

Note: Boxes represent interquartile ranges. Whiskers represent the minimum and maximum value of the data set that falls within a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range. Points beyond the whiskers represent outliers. The horizontal line indicates the median and the x represents the average.

35 Data availability per region are as follows: Central Asia and Southern Asia (2 countries), Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (9 countries), Latin America and the Caribbean (12 countries), Europe and Northern America (19 countries), Western Asia and Northern Africa (5 countries), Sub-Saharan Africa (22 countries).



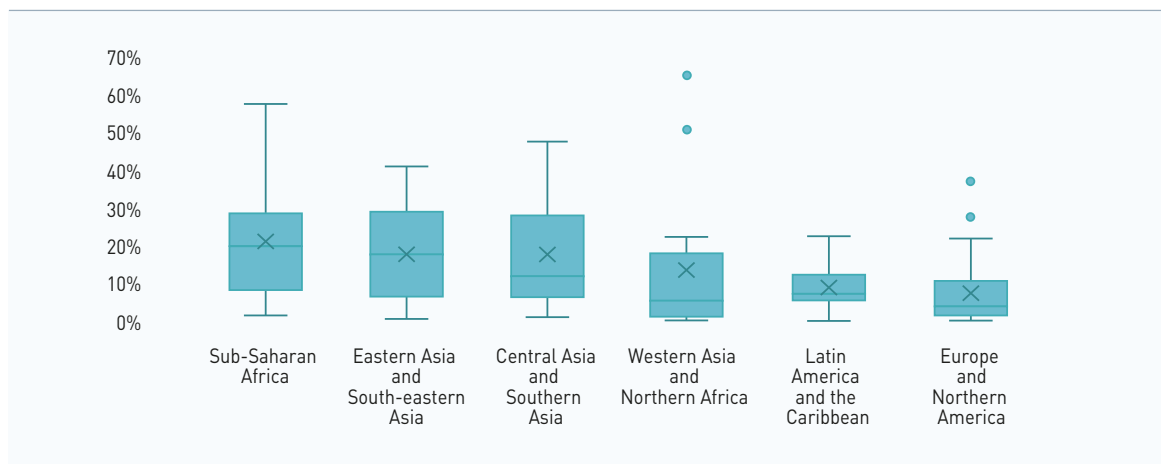
Indicator 16.5.2

Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

The proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid or were asked to pay a bribe is usually lower than that for individuals.³⁶ However, businesses may be more likely to under-report bribery than individuals in surveys, for example, due to the potential legal consequences they might face for reporting it. Businesses are also likely to pay higher bribes. The prevalence of bribery among businesses varies significantly across different regions, reflecting diverse socio-economic circumstances. Based on countries with data for 2023, or the latest available year since 2010, Sub-Saharan Africa (20.9 percent), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (17.3 percent) and Central and South-Eastern Asia (17.3 percent) were the regions with the highest average prevalence of bribery reported by businesses. Other regions had lower average levels of bribery, ranging from 13.3 percent in Western Asia and Northern Africa to 7.2 percent in Europe and Northern America. Importantly, there were significant disparities between countries within these regions.

When examining countries categorized by income levels, a clear correlation emerges between income levels and the prevalence of bribery among businesses, similar to what was observed for bribery among the population. In 2023, or the latest available year since 2010, low-income countries had an average prevalence of 25.0 percent, followed by lower-middle-income countries at 19.9 percent, upper-middle-income countries at 10.4 percent, and high-income countries at 3.6 percent.

Figure 27: Proportion of businesses that experienced bribery during the previous 12 months, by region, 2023 or latest year since 2010



Source: World Bank Enterprise Surveys

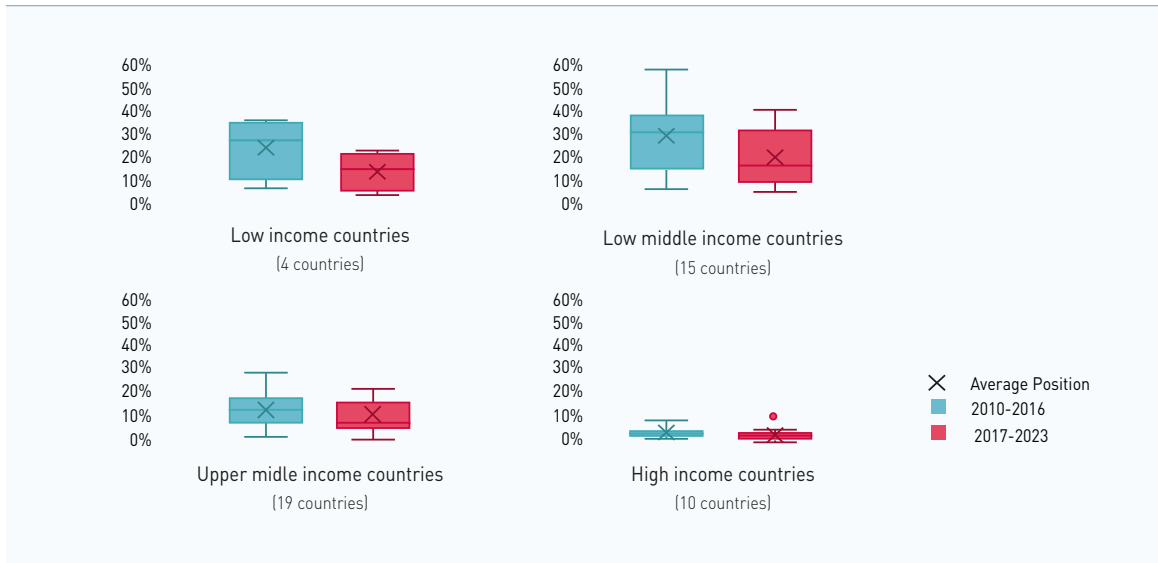
Note: Boxes represent interquartile ranges. Whiskers represent the minimum and maximum value of the data set that falls within a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range. Points beyond the whiskers represent outliers. The horizontal line indicates the median and the x represents the average.

Examining bribery prevalence trends among businesses over time reveals a moderate decline, on average, across all country income levels. Comparing data from the earliest available data point from 2010–2016 to the latest available data point from 2017–2023, lower and lower-middle-income countries

³⁶ See UNODC, UNDP, OHCHR, *Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators: A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion* (2023), p. 38.

showed the most improvement, with a decrease in average bribery prevalence among businesses from 24.1 percent to 14.2 and 28.8 percent to 18.9 percent, respectively. Upper-middle-income countries went from 12.7 percent to 10.9 percent, while high-income countries decreased from 3.0 percent to 2.3 percent. Although based on a small number of countries with available trend data, these findings may indicate that efforts towards transparent governance and reducing corruption are starting to pay off globally.

Figure 28: Proportion of businesses that experienced bribery during the previous 12 months, by income level, 2010–2016 and 2017–2023



Source: World Bank Enterprise Surveys

Note: Boxes represent interquartile ranges. Whiskers represent the minimum and maximum value of the data set that falls within a distance of 1.5 times the interquartile range. Points beyond the whiskers represent outliers. The horizontal line indicates the median and the x represents the average above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in box. The inclusive method was used for calculating the interquartile range.



Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Indicator 16.6.1

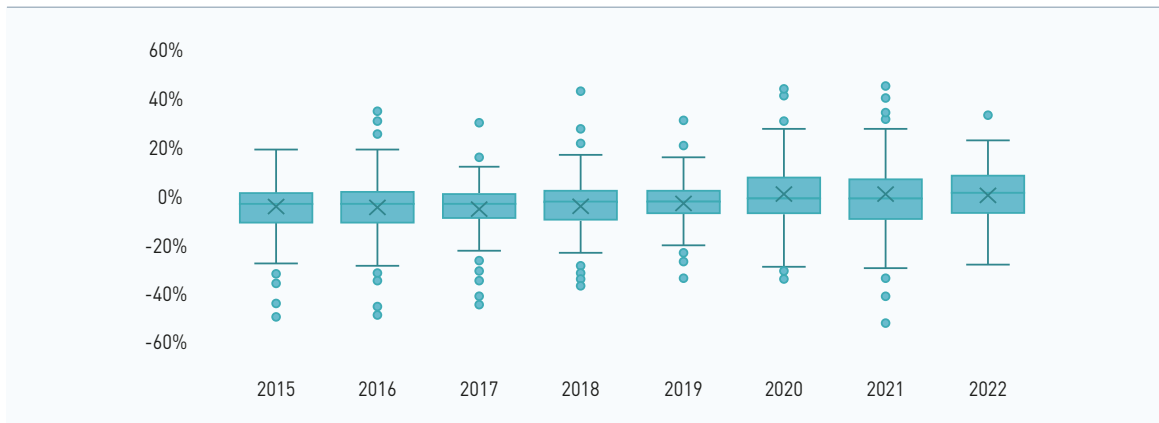
Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

The national budget is the key policy tool used by governments to implement strategies, policies and programs. Indicator 16.6.1 identifies the difference between the legislated annual budget and actual expenditure for the same year. It provides a guide to the dependability and efficiency of government budget execution. International good practice is achieved when actual expenditure deviates within 5 percent of the approved budget. Deviations exceeding 15 percent indicate low reliability of approved budgets as a predictor of expenditure results.

Data collected for 173 countries covering the period 2008–2022 reveals that on average almost 50 percent of countries show less than 5 percent deviation in budget execution, a third deviates within a range of 5–10 percent, and the remaining countries show deviations beyond 10 percent.

Although globally most countries are performing well, the distribution of the size of deviation between executed and planned budget expenditures has increased within and across countries in recent years (2015–2022).

Figure 29: Distribution of average percent deviations between planned and executed budget expenditures across all countries, 2015–2022

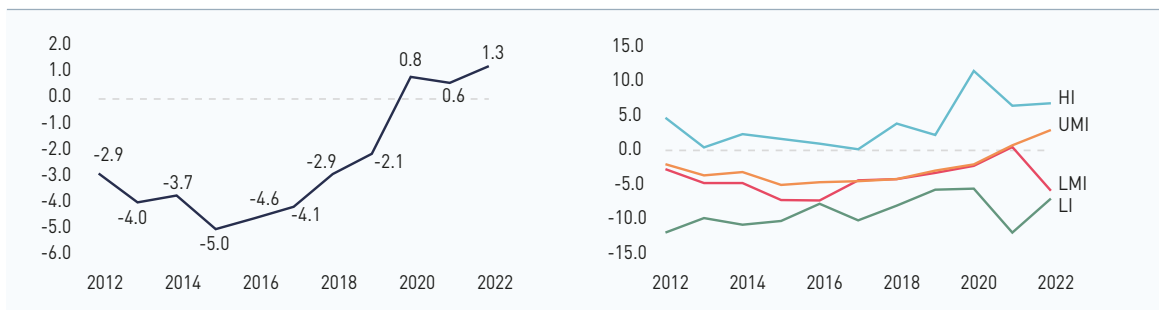


Source: SDG Data, PEFA Secretariat Public Reports, www.pefa.org

Note: The information for measuring indicator 16.6.1 is similar to Performance Indicator PI-1 in the PEFA Framework. The PEFA Framework provides a system for assessing the status of Public Financial Management (PFM) in a country and for reporting on its capabilities and performance against international good practices.

Only a few countries were able to withstand the shock of COVID-19 on aggregate annual budgets. Most countries found it necessary to finance substantial emergency spending and additional investments to address the impact of the pandemic. This led to exceeding the originally approved budgets after 2020. In analysing the average percentage deviations by country income levels, it is apparent that in high-income countries, budgets were over-executed, while in lower-income countries they were under-executed.

Figure 30: Aggregate Deviation between executed and planned expenditures, average for all countries, percent of planned expenditures (left) and Aggregate Deviation by income groups (right), 2012–2022



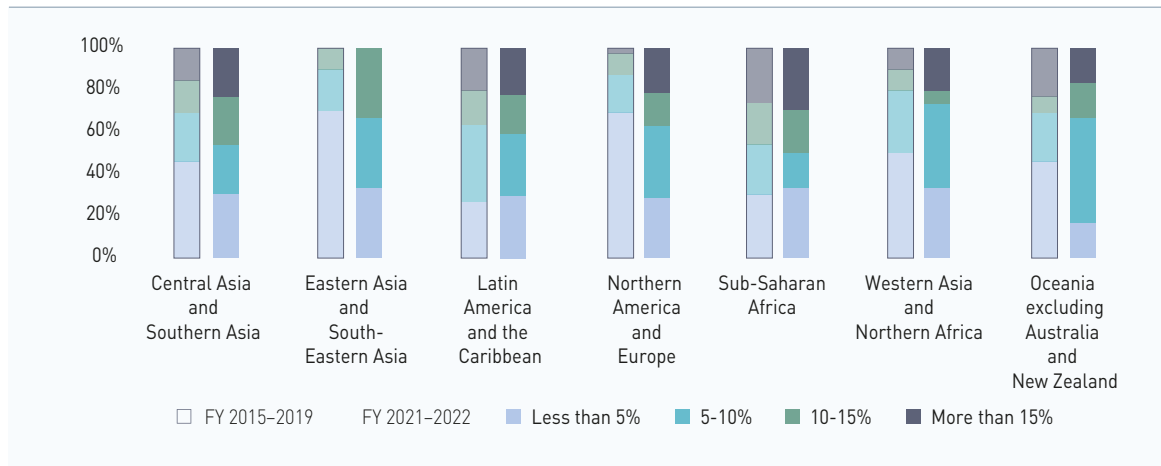
Source: SDG Data, PEFA Secretariat Public Reports, www.pefa.org

Note: Note: LI – Low income; LMI – Low middle income; UMI – Upper middle income; HI – High income

Budget deviations were generally higher in low-income countries than other countries, however responses to COVID-19 resulted in higher deviations across all groups.

Success in achieving low deviation between approved and executed expenditure varies considerably across countries and regions. Comparison of 2021–2022 (post-pandemic) and 2015–2019 (pre-pandemic) reveals that budget deviations were lower in the pre-COVID period in most regions except Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa. The percentage of countries with budget deviations of less than 5 percent in Central Asia and Southern Asia declined from 46.2 percent in the pre-pandemic era to 30.8 percent post-pandemic. In Europe, the proportion of countries with a deviation below 5 percent plummeted from 69.2 percent prior to COVID-19 to 28.9 percent after 2019.

Figure 31: Comparison of the deviations between approved and executed expenditure, 2015–2019 and 2021–2022, by region and category



Source: SDG Data, PEFA Secretariat Public Reports, www.pefa.org

The experiences since COVID indicate that governments across the world have found it difficult to return to pre-COVID levels of budget reliability, in part due to the incidence of new international challenges including global political stresses, inflation and resource price volatility.

Indicator 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

A detailed understanding of public satisfaction with essential public services such as healthcare, primary and secondary education, and other government (administrative) services³⁷, including their affordability, accessibility, quality and equality and effectiveness in treatment, is essential for ensuring these services are people-centered, efficient and continuously improving. This, in turn, will directly contribute to the improvement of people’s quality of life and trust in public institutions.

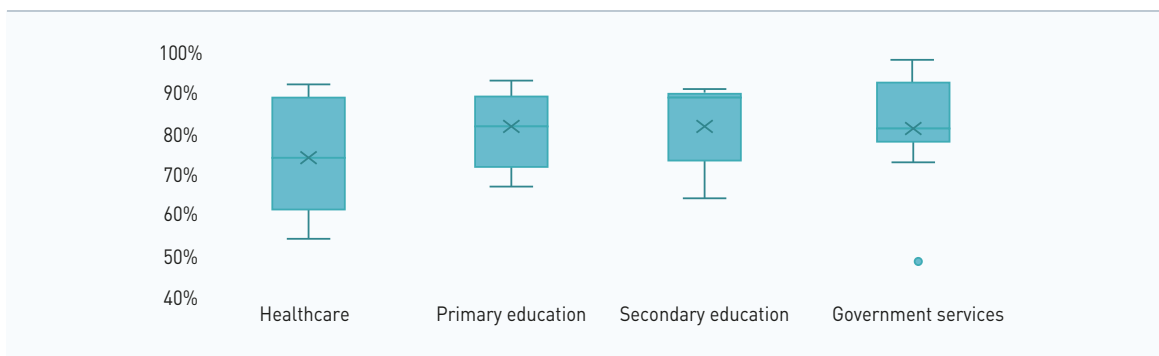
Satisfaction with essential public services is best measured through experience-based population surveys. Available data, though not yet comprehensive, reveals a spectrum of satisfaction levels across different public services. For instance, in the sample of countries with available data, satisfaction with healthcare services ranges from as low as 54 percent of the population being satisfied with their last experience to as high as 92 percent. Satisfaction with administrative services in obtaining government-issued IDs or certificates shows the least variability with satisfaction ranging from as low as 73 percent

37 Government (administrative) services in the context of 16.6.2 are services to obtain government-issued identification documents and services for the civil registration of life events such as birth, marriages and deaths.

to as high as 97 percent.³⁸ Complementing the overall satisfaction data with detailed data on different attributes disaggregated data by sex, age, population group and area (urban/rural) will provide the needed information for tailoring and improving public services that meet the needs of the diverse socio-demographic groups in the population.

Despite significant global effort, in 2024, the availability of comparable data that assess people's experiences and satisfaction with essential public services remains limited and fragmented. This gap in data availability hinders the ability to provide a comprehensive global overview or track progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Figure 32: Proportion of population who say that overall they are satisfied with the quality of healthcare services, primary education services, secondary education services, government services, 2023 or latest data available since 2015



Source: UNDP

Note: Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2015 and 2023 for 8 countries (health services), 9 countries (primary education services), 6 countries (secondary education services) and 8 countries (government services). The boxes represent the interquartile range (the middle half of the dataset or the distance between the first quartile Q1 and the third quartile Q3). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: if a data point is 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile or below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in box. The inclusive method was used for calculating the interquartile range



Target 16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Indicator 16.7.1

Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

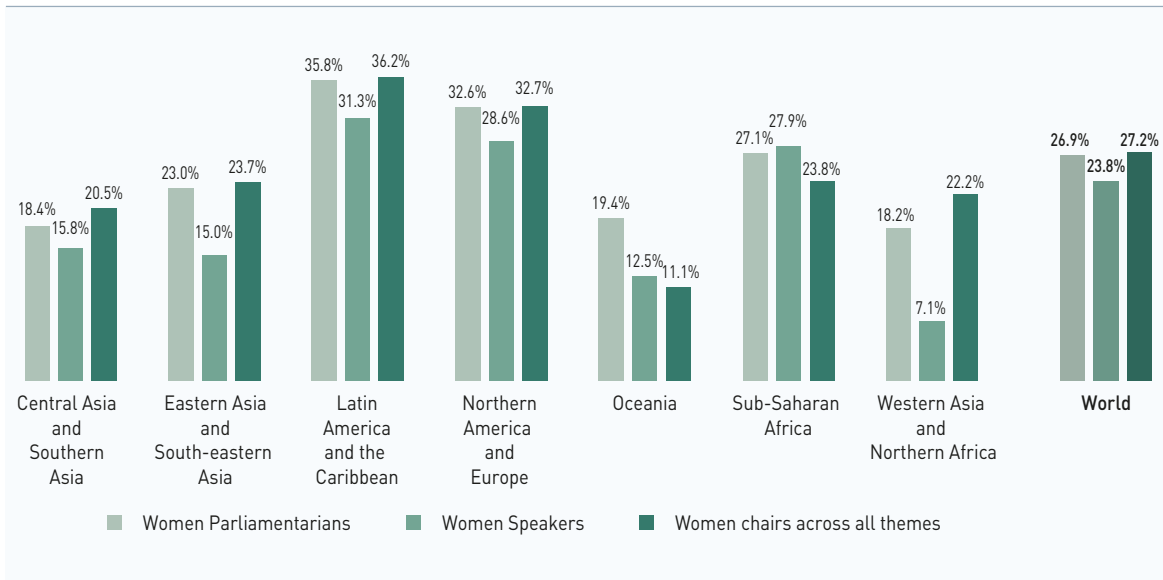
(A) Legislatures

Growth in women's share of parliamentary leadership posts continues to be slow-moving, albeit steady. Globally, 23.8 percent of parliamentary Speakers are women, a figure that falls short of their overall

³⁸ The country represented by the blue dot in the chart is considered an outlier.

representation in parliament (26.9 percent). Women chair 27.2 percent of five key parliamentary committees (defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights). There is also an evident regional disparity. The Latin America and Caribbean region has the highest proportion of women parliamentarians, Speakers and committee chairs, while Oceania, followed by Western Asia and Northern Africa, have the lowest.

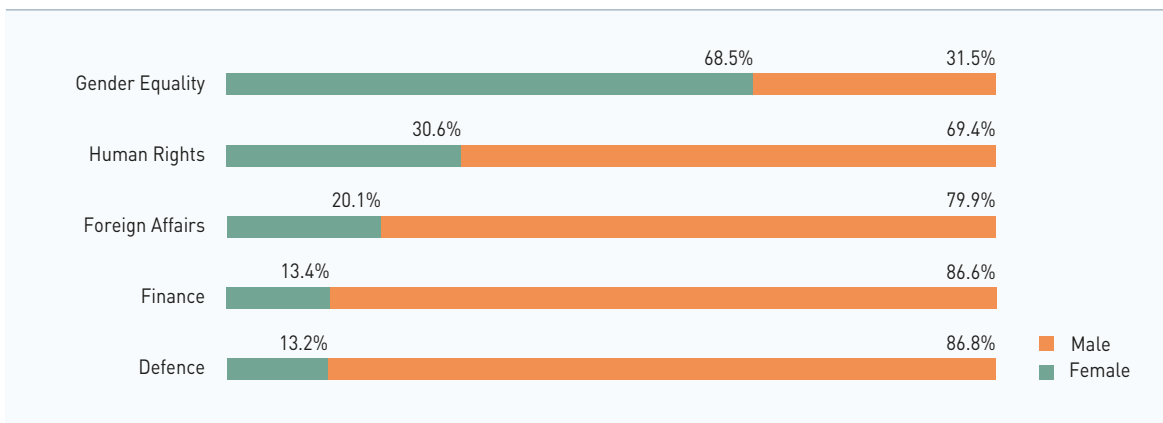
Figure 33: Share of women parliamentarians, Speakers and women chairs of parliamentary committees on defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights, all chambers combined, 2024



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

However, a closer look reveals a significant imbalance in the subject areas women preside over. Women chair 68.5 percent of committees on gender equality, while men chair 80 percent to 87 percent of committees on defence, finance and foreign affairs, and 69 percent of committees on human rights.

Figure 34: Share of women chairs of parliamentary committees on defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights, all chambers combined, 2024



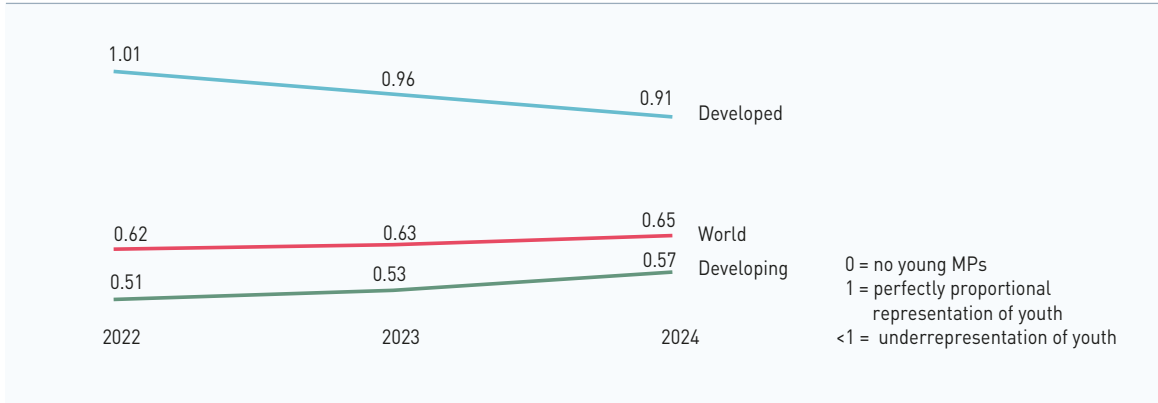
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

When looking at the representation of young people in parliament (defined as age 45 or under), their share of parliamentary seats is significantly lower than their share of the population. Collectively,



the ratio (MPs age 45 or under relative to the eligible population³⁹ age 45 or under) is inching up in unicameral or lower chambers of parliaments. But contrasting trends have been observed since 2022, with a rise in the ratio in developing countries and a decline in developed ones.

Figure 35: Ratio of MPs age 45 or under relative to the eligible population age 45 or under, 2022–2024

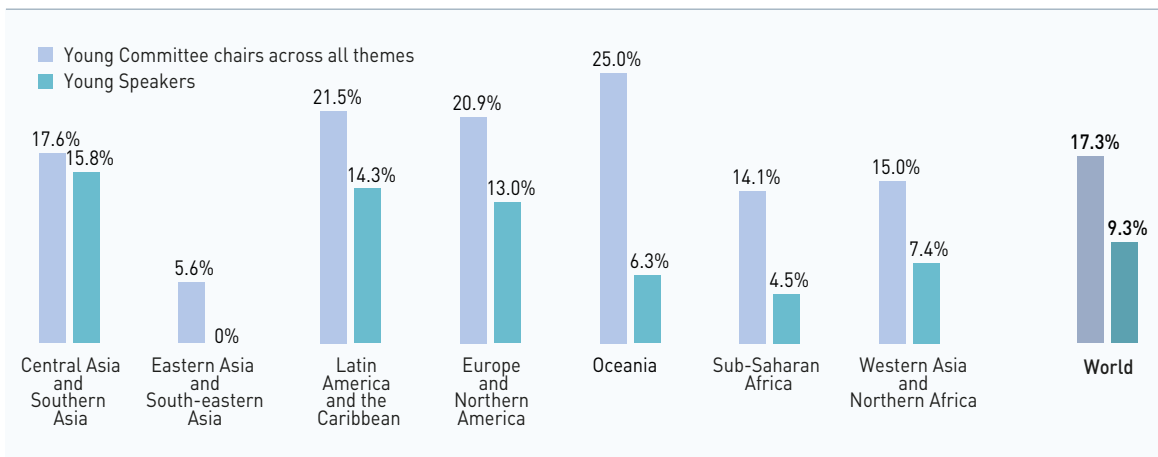


Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

When compared against the total population of all MPs in unicameral and lower chambers of parliament, young MPs hold a higher share of seats in developed countries (37.7 percent) than developing countries (33.5 percent). However, the rate of change is faster in developing nations, where the share of young MPs has increased by 4.6 percentage points since 2022.

Young MPs make up 9.3 percent of the world’s Speakers and chair 17.3 percent of five key parliamentary committees (defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights).

Figure 36: Share of Speakers of parliament and chairs of parliamentary committees on defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights age 45 or under, total, 2024

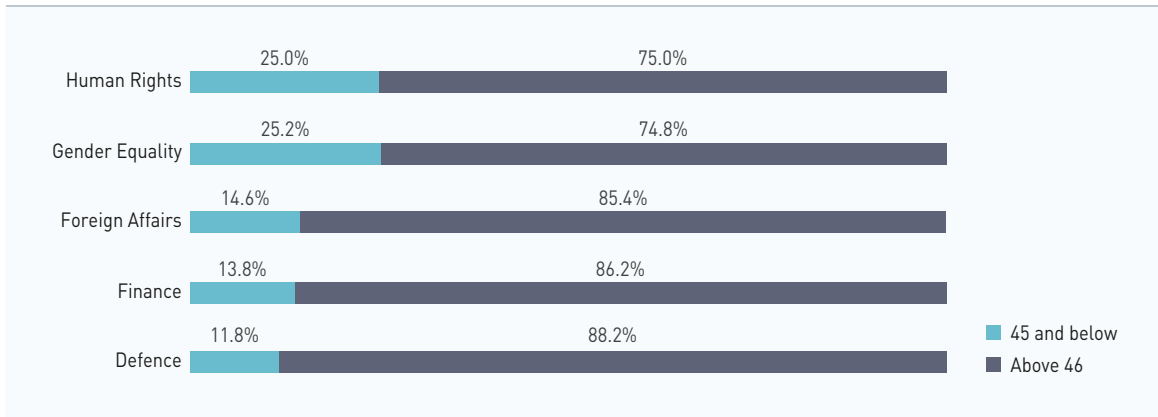


Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Akin to women MPs, young MPs are more likely to chair gender equality and human rights committees than parliamentary committees on defence, finance or foreign affairs.

39 IPU Parline database on national parliaments, “Minimum age of eligibility”.

Figure 37: Share of young (age 45 or below) chairs of parliamentary committees on defence, finance, foreign affairs, gender equality and human rights, total, 2024



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Concrete actions by parliaments, political parties and governments in favour of greater representation of women and youth in parliament are necessary.

The IPU’s annual analysis of women in parliaments consistently shows that quotas have a strong positive impact on women’s representation in parliaments. In 2023, parliamentary chambers with some form of quota elected 28.8 percent of women on average, versus 23.2 percent in chambers with no quotas; those with both legislated and voluntary quotas elected 33.5 percent of women on average.⁴⁰

Since similar factors often lead to the exclusion of women and youth – and since women MPs tend to be younger, on average, than male MPs – efforts to promote the participation of one group can have positive effects for the other.⁴¹ The IPU’s I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!⁴² campaign outlines six actions to address ongoing gaps in youth representation, to level the playing field for young political aspirants and quell discrimination.

Age of eligibility is among the determinants of youth representation in parliaments, with lower eligibility ages positively affecting levels of young MPs.⁴³ In unicameral or lower chambers, the average age of eligibility is 21.5 while in upper chambers it is significantly higher at 28.5. The IPU recommends that the age of eligibility should be aligned with the minimum voting age, which in 94 percent of parliamentary chambers is 18 years of age.⁴⁴

B) Public service

An analysis of data from 126 countries reveals that achieving gender parity in public service employment remains a distant goal on a global scale. Globally, women are conspicuously underrepresented in public service roles, with a ratio of 0.80. This ratio suggests that, on average, for every 80 women employed in public service, there are 100 women within the working-age population. The data also highlights

40 IPU, *Women in parliament in 2023: The year in review* (Geneva, IPU, 2024).

41 IPU, *Youth participation in national parliaments* (Geneva, IPU, 2023), p. 29.

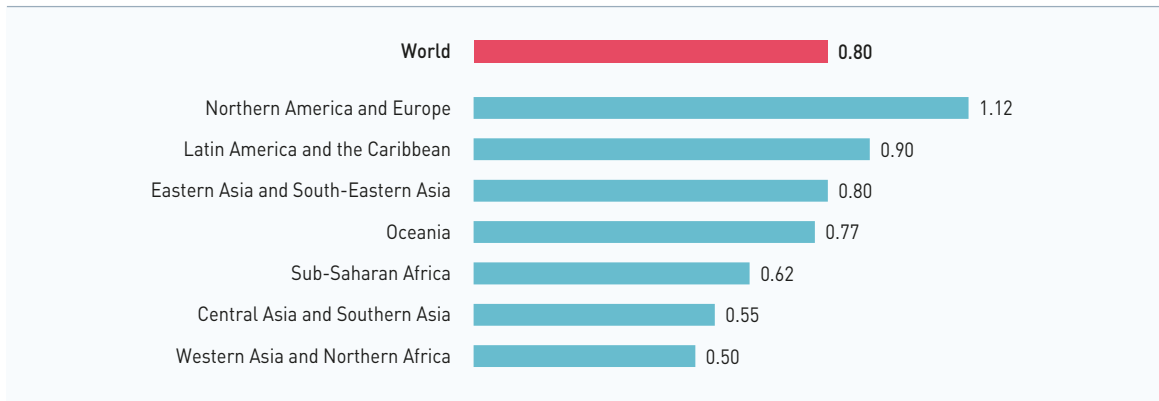
42 <https://www.ipu.org/i-say-yes>.

43 IPU, *Youth participation in national parliaments: 2023* (Geneva, IPU, 2023), p. 44.

44 IPU Parline database on national parliaments, “Minimum age for voting in parliament elections”.

significant regional disparities. In Europe and North America, women are, on average, overrepresented in public service, with 112 women for every 100 women in the working-age population. Conversely, in Western Asia and Northern Africa, closely followed by Central Asia and Southern Asia, the figures are strikingly low, with just 50 and 55 women respectively, for every 100 within the working-age population.

Figure 38: Ratio of women in public service to the proportion of women in the working age population, by region, 2022 or latest data available since 2015

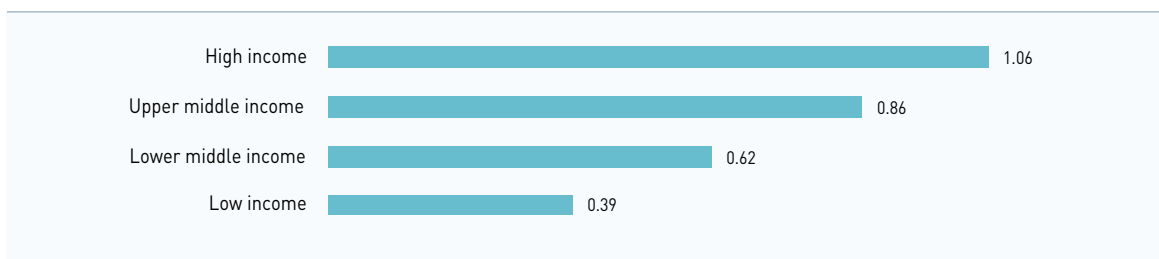


Source: UNDP

Note: indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b), and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on 126 countries using the latest available data in the period 2015–2022. Previously published estimates for the same period were based on 101 countries.

The disparity in representation by sex within public service institutions varies significantly based on the income level of the country. In high income countries parity has been achieved with a ratio of 1.06. However, the underrepresentation of women in the public service roles in low-income countries is alarming low where only 40 women are employed in the public service institutions for every 100 working-age women. Additionally, lower middle and upper middle-income countries are also trailing behind, with only 62 and 86 women, respectively, for every 100 working-age women.

Figure 39: Ratio of women in public service to the proportion of women in the working age population, by income, 2022 or latest data available since 2015



Source: UNDP

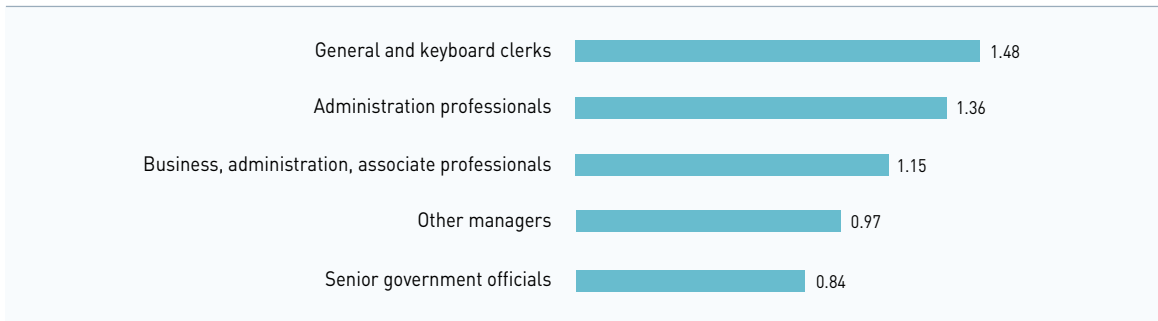
Note: Indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b) and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived using the latest available data for each country in the period 2015–2022.

Although high and upper-middle income countries have comparatively better representation for women than the rest, they have struggled to promote and achieve diversity and representation to the upper, policy-making level of government. Available data with occupational disaggregation from 20 high and upper-middle income countries⁴⁵ suggest that women continue to be overrepresented

⁴⁵ Available data is only from high-income and upper-middle income countries.

at lower levels of decision-making within public service while being noticeably underrepresented at higher levels. These patterns may suggest the presence of a glass ceiling that limits their career progression aspirations in public service. At the general and clerical levels, there are, on average, 148 women for every 100 working-age women, while at the senior government official level, the ratio drops to 84 women for every 100 working-age women.

Figure 40: Ratio of women in public service to the proportion of women in the working age population, by occupation, 2022 or latest data available since 2015



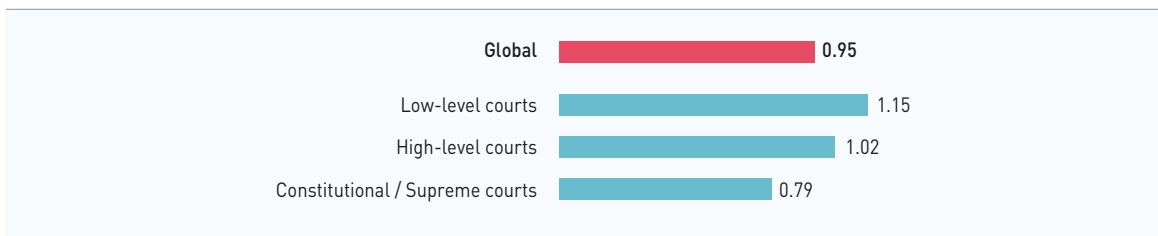
Source: UNDP

Note: Indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b) and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Estimates are derived based on 20 countries using the latest available data in the period 2015–2022. Only countries that provided data on all occupational disaggregation are included in the analysis.

C) Judiciary

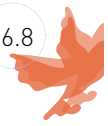
Participatory and representative decision-making within the judiciary is equally important for ensuring a fair justice system and maintaining public trust in the judicial system. Data from 78 countries reveal that there is almost parity (0.95) in the number of female judges in the judiciary, with an average of 95 women judges for every 100 working-age women. However, disaggregated data available from 44 high income and upper-middle income countries shows that, as in the case with public service, women continue to be underrepresented at high levels of decision making. Lower-level courts show overrepresentation (1.15) of women judges, while higher-level courts exhibit parity (1.02). Conversely, there is notable underrepresentation (0.79) of women in constitutional and supreme courts highlighting again the gender gap in representation at higher level positions.

Figure 41: Ratio of female judges in the judiciary to the proportion of working age women, by level of court, 2022 or latest data available since 2015



Source: UNDP

Note: Indicator 16.7.1 is based on the ratio between the share of a specific population group in parliament (a), public service (b) and judiciary (c), and the share of the same group in the population. A value of 1 indicates parity, while a value under 1 indicates underrepresentation and over 1 indicates overrepresentation. Global estimates are derived based on 78 countries using the latest available data in the period 2015–2022. Previously published global estimates for the same time period were based on 67 countries. Only countries that provided data on all courts are included in the analysis by level of court (44 countries).

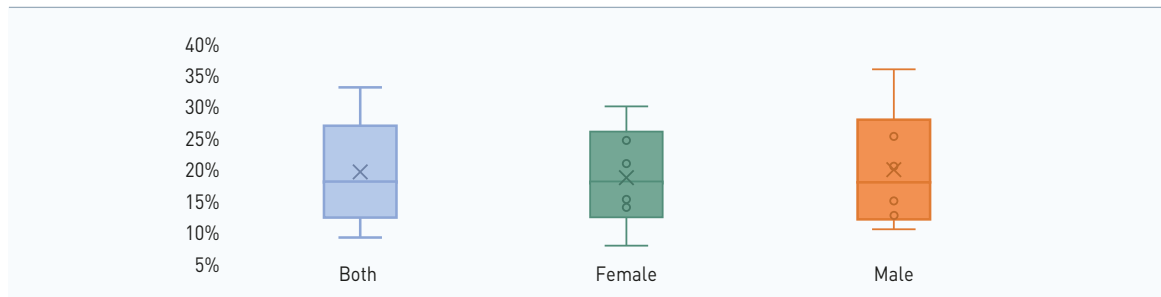


Indicator 16.7.2

Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

The indicator measures the extent to which people feel their views and opinions are heard and responded to by their country's governance system. In addition to providing a measure of trust in institutions, it can also highlight whether certain groups feel excluded from the decision-making processes. As of 2023, six countries have reported data on this indicator. Although this is not sufficient to measure global progress or trends, the data from these countries – spanning Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America – underscores the importance of continued data collection for this indicator. In these countries with available data, it is evident that less than 50 percent of the population believes decision-making is inclusive and responsive. At a time when distrust in public institutions is growing, the multilateral system is fracturing and inequalities are increasing, the international commitment to achieving peace, justice and inclusion has become more critical than ever.

Figure 42: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, 2023 or latest data available since 2015



Source: UNDP

Note: Data based on the latest available year of survey data between 2015 and 2023 for 6 countries. The boxes show the interquartile range (the middle half of the dataset or the distance between the first Q1 and the third quartile Q3). Data points above and below the whiskers are considered outliers: if a data point is 1.5 times the interquartile range above the third quartile or below the first quartile. The median (meaning half of the countries have a value above and half a value below) is represented by the horizontal bar in box. The inclusive method was used for calculating the interquartile range.



Target 16.8

Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

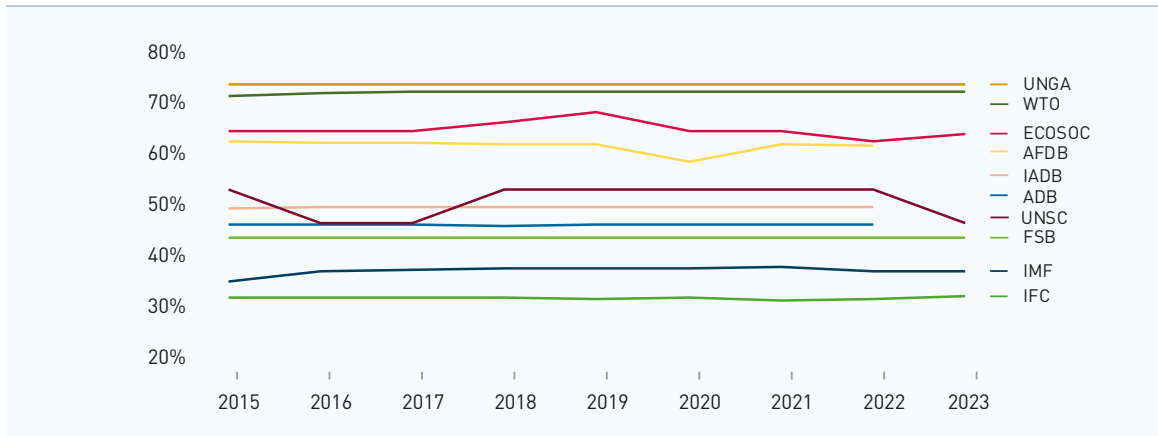
Indicator 16.8.1

Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Despite representing over 74 percent of the membership in the United Nations General Assembly, which operates on a one member-one-vote system, developing countries have significantly less voting power in other international organizations. Their membership in various United Nations bodies fluctuates annually.

No significant changes in these countries’ voting rights were registered since 2015 at any of the international economic institutions. At the World Bank, developing countries hold only 39 percent of the voting rights, far below their 75 percent share in the World Bank’s membership. At the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank’s private sector lending arm, developing countries have just over 32 percent of the voting rights. Similarly, at the International Monetary Fund, they retain just 37 percent of the voting rights.

Figure 43: Countries in developing regions’ voting rights in international organizations, 2015–2023 (percentage)



Source: Global SDG Indicator Database, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 Note: ADB – Asian Development Bank; AFDB – African Development Bank; ECOSOC – UN Economic and Social Council; FSB – Financial Stability Board; IADB – Inter-American Development Bank; IBRD – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; IFC – International Finance Corporation; IMF – International Monetary Fund; UNGA – UN General Assembly; UNSC – UN Security Council; WTO – World Trade Organization



Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Indicator 16.9.1

Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Society first acknowledges a child’s existence and identity through birth registration. The right to be recognized as a person before the law is a critical step in ensuring lifelong protection and is a prerequisite for exercising all other rights. A birth certificate is proof of legal identity, and is the basis upon which children can establish a nationality, avoid the risk of statelessness and seek protection from violence and exploitation. By providing all children with proof of legal identity from day one, their rights can be protected and universal access to justice and social services can be enabled.⁴⁶ Crises and conflicts can impact and derail access to birth registration services for many families.

46 United Nations Children’s Fund, *Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?*, UNICEF, New York, 2019.

Functioning civil registration systems are the main vehicles through which a legal identity for all – and target 16.9 – can be achieved. Such systems produce vital statistics, including those on birth registration, which are foundational for achieving sustained human and economic development. While most countries have mechanisms in place for registering births, systematic recording remains a serious challenge, highlighting the urgent need to improve and strengthen civil registration and vital statistics.⁴⁷

While a few regions like Northern America and Europe and Australia and New Zealand have achieved universal birth registration, only half of African children under five have had their births registered, and more effort is needed to ensure timely registration given that less than half of infants in sub-Saharan Africa have been registered.⁴⁸ There are practically no significant differences in birth registration prevalence between boys and girls in any region or country with available data.⁴⁹



Target 16.10

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Indicator 16.10.1

Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

In 2023, there was a decline in the killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists. While 2022 was a 4-year high point where 448 were killed across 36 countries, in 2023 there were at least 320 cases observed by national human rights institutions (indicator 16.a.1) and the United Nations in 40 countries. This included 71 journalists killed in 2023 compared to 88 in 2022. However, two alarming trends also featured in 2023. First, enforced disappearance cases have nearly doubled for the second consecutive year, and have increased to 54 cases reported across 14 countries in 2023. In addition, the world once again witnessed more journalists killed in conflict affected countries. In total, 40 journalists and media workers were killed while working in conflict zones in 2023, compared to 28 in 2022 and 20 in 2021.

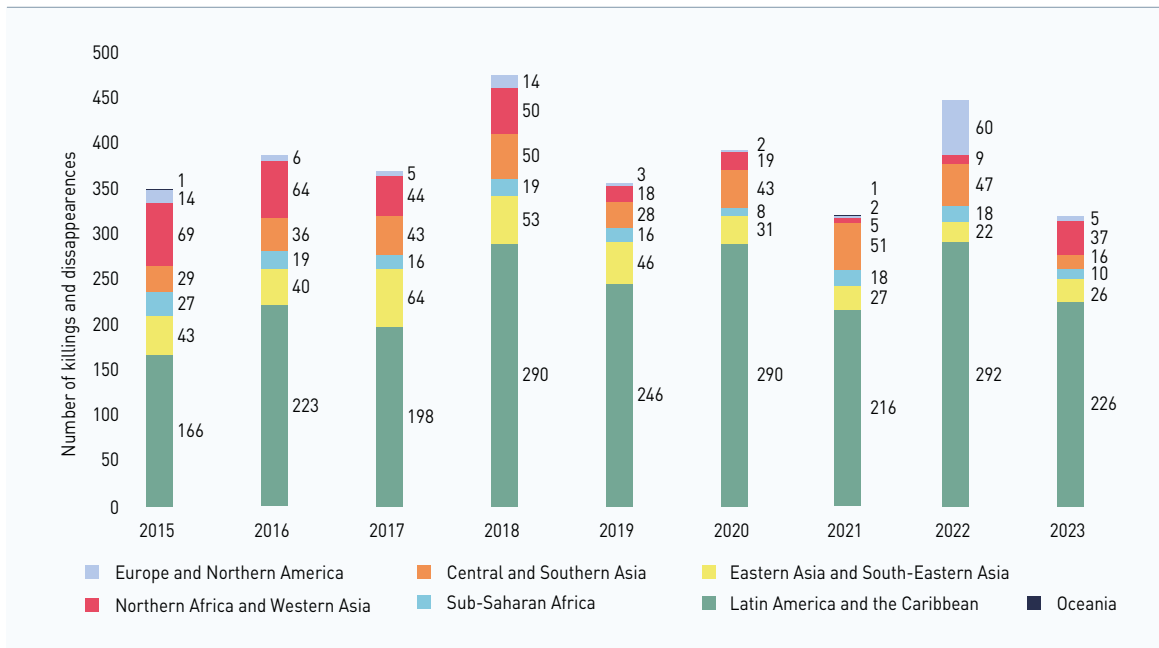
Nearly a decade since member States agreed to aim for zero killings and other attacks against those who stand up for the rights of others and those seeking to keep everyone well-informed, it is sobering to note that killings and enforced disappearance of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists have been observed in at least 97 countries and territories, and across all regions of the world. While the total number of killings have fluctuated since 2015, with noticeable peaks in 2018 and 2022, they have never gone below 300. In 2023, on average, more than one human rights defender, journalist or trade unionist was killed or disappeared every day.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Report of the Secretary-General on Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals, 2 May 2024 (advanced unedited draft).

⁴⁹ United Nations Children's Fund, *Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?*, UNICEF, New York, 2019.

Figure 44: Killing and disappearances of Human Rights Defenders, journalist and trade unionists, 2015–2023, by region



Source: OHCHR

Breaking down the geographical impact of killings, it is notable that despite experiencing a decline in the number of cases, Latin America and the Caribbean remain the region with the highest number of killings, accounting for 70 percent of verified cases. Eastern and Southeastern Asia, however, stand out with 4 out of 10 enforced disappearance cases occurring in this region. Peasant leaders and land and environmental human rights defenders continue to suffer the worst of violence, accounting for more than half of victims of killings and enforced disappearances.

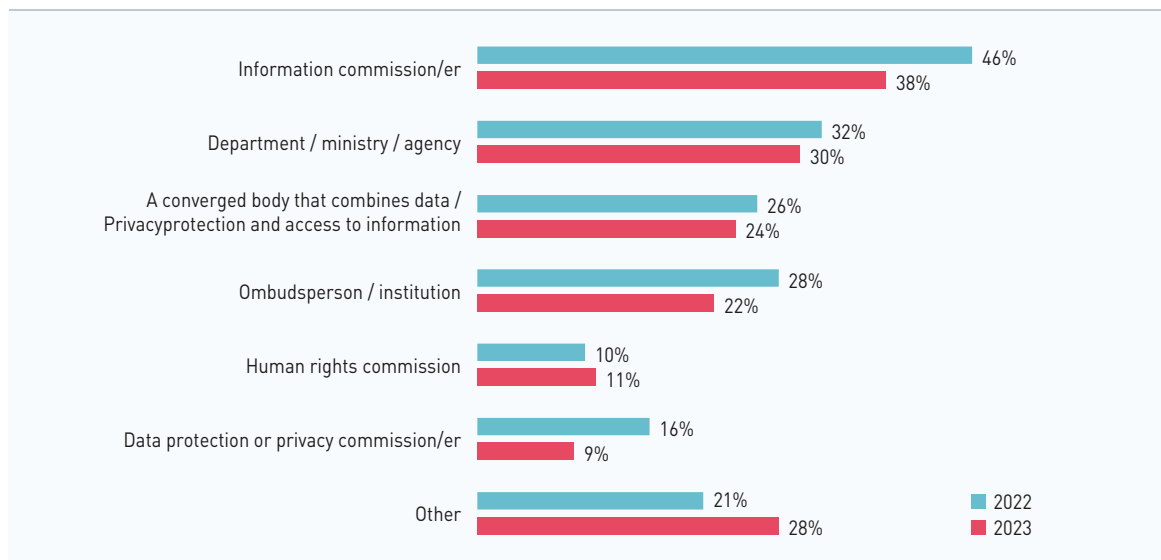
Killings overall rose sharply in Northern Africa and Western Asia as the conflict in Gaza and Israel escalated in October 2023. The ongoing hostilities in this region accounted for 65 percent of journalist and media workers killed last year. The toll extends beyond fatalities, with widespread damage to media infrastructure, physical attacks, detention, equipment confiscation, and denial of access to reporting sites. Many journalists have been forced into exile or compelled to cease working, creating zones of silence that deprive local populations and the global community of access to information. The worrying rise in killings in conflict zones comes despite an overall decrease in killings of journalists compared to 2022, which can be primarily attributed to a sustained decline in such attacks outside conflict zones. Notably, Latin America and the Caribbean reported 19 killings, down from 43 in 2022. The sharp increase in killings of journalists in conflict zones effectively reversed the trend since 2017. Up until 2023, more journalists were killed in non-conflict situations than in conflict scenarios, and the number of killings was steadily decreasing in both contexts.

In 2023, 1 in 10 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists killed was a woman. At least one victim was a transwoman human rights defender. Among the journalists and media workers who were killed, 94 percent were men. When it comes to enforced disappearance cases, 1 in 4 victims was a woman.

Indicator 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

A total of 138 countries have adopted laws that provide legal guarantees for access to information, with 94 percent (120 out of 126 surveyed), reporting constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for access to information. Despite this progress, practical implementation still faces various challenges, and many countries lack robust systems supporting access to information laws. Although countries and territories are increasingly turning to the use of digital technologies to help fulfil public records requests, their testing is still in the pilot stage. Oversight mechanisms, crucial for implementing guarantees, have increased in number and scope. Information commission(er) are the most common, followed by Governmental departments, ministries and agencies. Data from 2023 show that countries with oversight institutions score an average of 7.5 on implementation, compared to 3.7 for those without. Globally, 85 percent (102) of countries require dedicated oversight institutions, and 77 percent (92) mandate public bodies to appoint information officers.

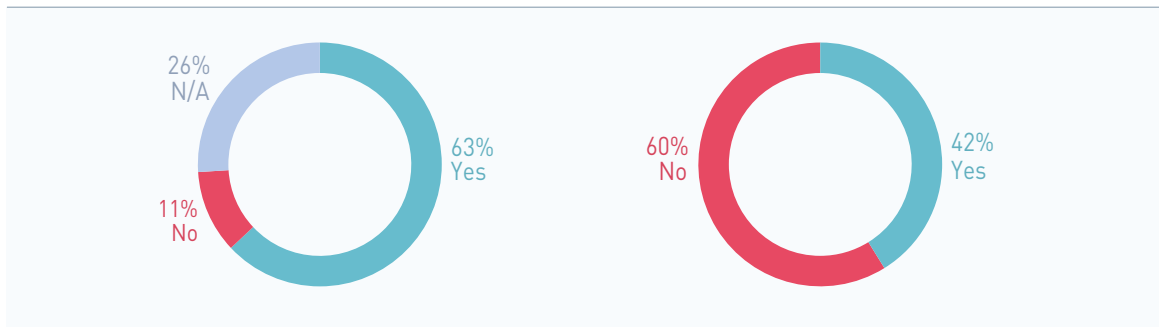
Figure 45: Percentage of countries with oversight mechanisms, by type of oversight institution, 2023



Source: UNESCO

Countries with specialized oversight institutions generally perform better in implementing access to information legal framework. Modern tools and technologies play a pivotal role in maximizing reporting capacity and access to information. Around three-quarters of information requests are granted, and approximately 43 of the 103 countries with oversight institutions introduced ICT tools for facilitating information access.

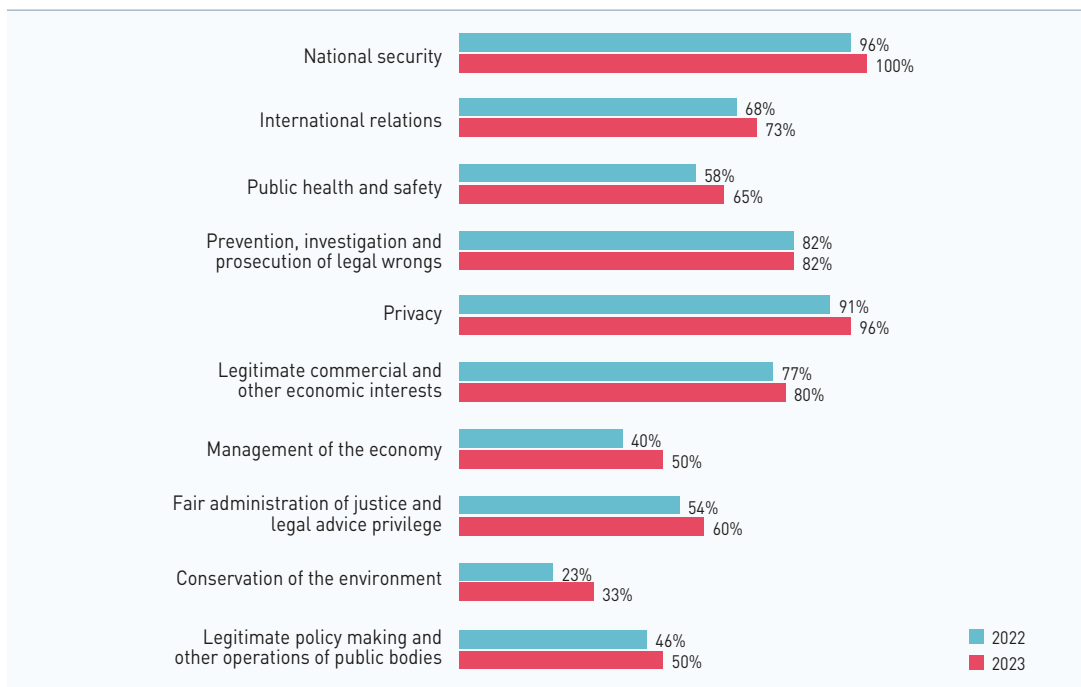
Figure 46: Introduction of ICT tools to facilitate access to information (2023). Percentage of respondents that introduced access to information online request tools, which enable to submit access to information online (left) and Percentage of oversight institution/s that introduced, in 2022 or earlier, ICT tools to facilitate access to information held by the public bodies (right)



Source: UNESCO

Oversight institutions focus on monitoring, enforcement, and appeals, but mediation is under-developed. Most fulfill their duties, including publishing annual reports and raising public awareness, though report publication alone is not sufficient. Key progress factors, such as access to the Internet, the introduction of ICT tools and other robust implementation mechanisms, are captured in two recent UNESCO documents – the Oxford Statement on importance of access to information and digital connectivity⁵⁰ and the Tashkent Declaration⁵¹, adopted by participants of the Global Conference in 2022 and 2023, which celebrated the International Day for Universal Access to Information. The 74th UN General Assembly recognized the importance of access to information by proclaiming 28 September as the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

Figure 47: Permissible exemptions in Access to Information legal guarantees, in percentage, 2023



Source: UNESCO

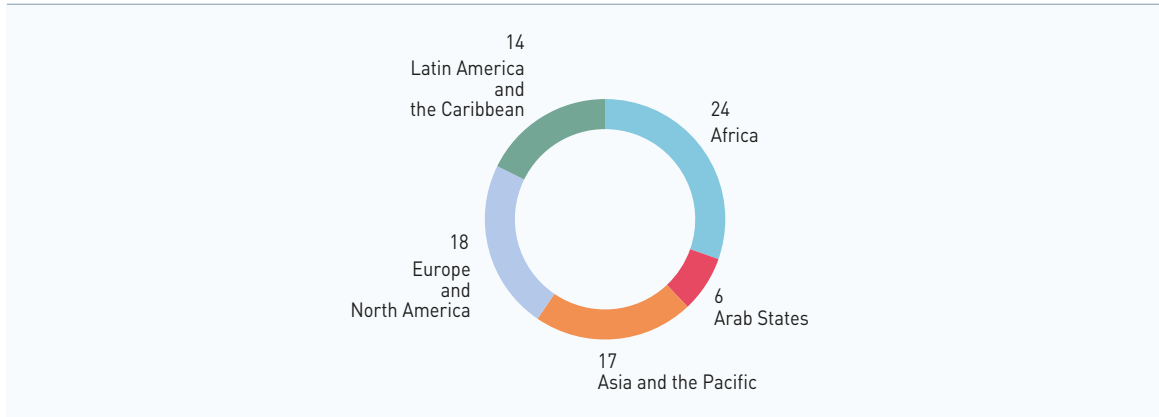
50 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/global-conference-marking-the-international-day-for-universal-access-to-information-iduai-2023>

51 The Tashkent Declaration on Universal Access to Information, CI/UAI/2022/55, see: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383211>



Although more than two thirds of UN Member States have statutory guarantees for public access to information today, many still lack such provisions. The 2023 UNESCO report highlights the need to accelerate worldwide progress and warns of the current pace of progress which has slowed. Having access to information law is a crucial step, but not the last. Implementation is essential. As the saying goes, “we cannot improve what we cannot measure”, reporting on indicator 16.10.2 encourages countries to improve their legal frameworks, implementation and enforcement of access to information, to advancing towards Agenda 2030.

Figure 48: Number of countries that reported on indicator 16.10.2 in VNRs from 2019 to 2023



Source: UNESCO



Target 16.a

Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

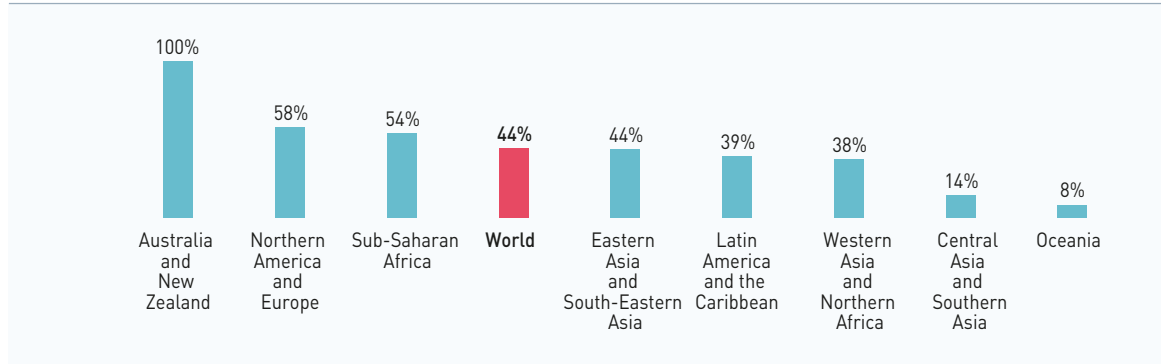
Indicator 16.a.1

Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the world has shown a positive trend in establishing independent institutions to promote and protect human rights at the national level. The number of countries with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) adhering to international standards increased by 23 percent between 2015 and 2023, with improvements observed in most regions. More than 4 out of 10 countries have independent NHRIs, and 6 out of 10 have taken steps in this direction. Last year, however, progress stagnated. Advancement in Eastern and Southeastern Asia was overshadowed by a deterioration in Europe. As a result, the number of independent NHRIs in the North America and Europe region fell for the first time since 2015. The current average growth rate (2.6 percent) of NHRIs compliant with international standards is insufficient. An acceleration is urgently needed to have any

chance of getting close to a growth rate of 12 percent over the next seven years; a rate that would allow most countries to have compliant NHRIs.

Figure 49: Proportion of countries with NHRIs in compliance with international standards, 2023



Source: OHCHR



Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

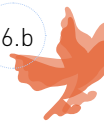
Indicator 16.b.1

Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

In the complex tapestry of our diverse global community, nations display a myriad of demographic compositions and socio-economic systems. However, beneath this mosaic lies a stark reality: discrimination persists and constitutes a formidable barrier to the realization of sustainable development and human rights. As part of the adopted SDG indicator framework, the international community has committed to measuring the proportion of people who experienced discrimination, looking at the grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law. These data offer critical insight into the experiences of people around the world, across various segments of society, and impacting diverse population groups, including women and men, persons with and without disabilities, as well as rural and urban residents.

Globally, statistics reveal that one in six individuals, on average, encountered discrimination on any of the prohibited grounds within the past 12 months. However, in certain settings, this share of the population escalates dramatically, exceeding one in three.

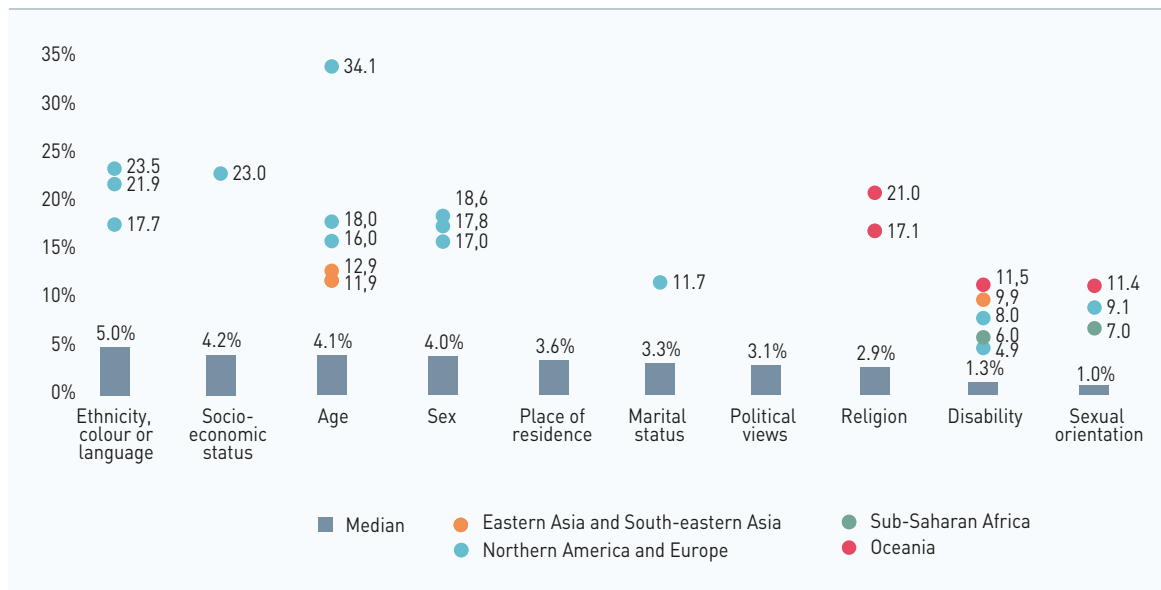
The global prevalence of discrimination is typically higher for women. For instance, in certain societal contexts in the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe where data is collected, women experience discrimination twice, or even three times more often than men.



Similarly, persons with disabilities, on average, face discrimination on any of the grounds nearly twice as frequently as those without disabilities, with ratios soaring as high as almost 8 to 1 in certain contexts in the regions of Latin American and the Caribbean, Central Asia, Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where data is available.

In more than two thirds of countries with available data, urban residents report having experienced more discrimination than rural residents. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, for every victim of discrimination in urban areas, almost two people living in rural areas claim to have been discriminated against on any grounds.

Figure 50: Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination: median and outlier values, by selected grounds and SDG regions, 2015–2023



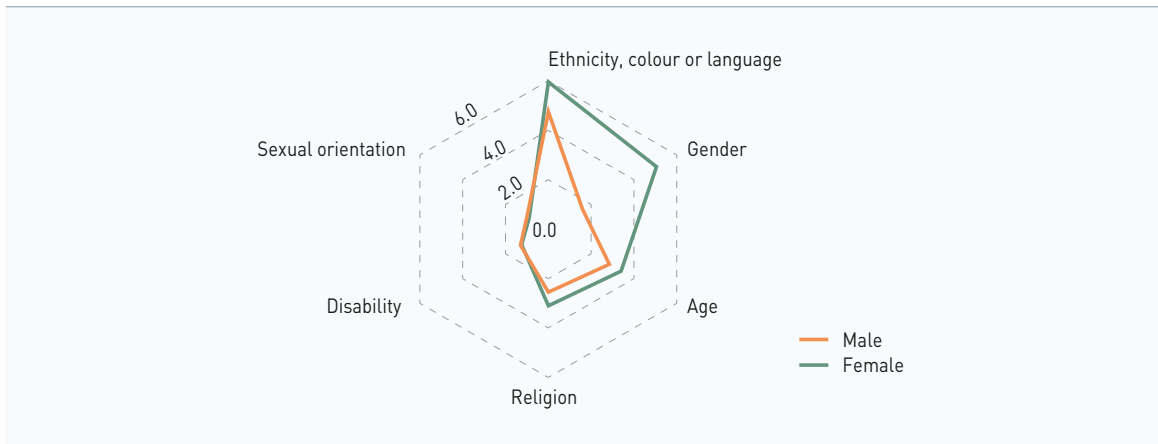
Source: OHCHR

Note: Outlier values are values that are $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$ (interquartile range) above the third quartile.

Race or ethnicity, colour and language persist as the bedrock of discrimination worldwide, with a median of 5 percent of the global population reporting having personally experienced discrimination on these grounds within the past year.⁵² However, in certain contexts, this proportion can be as high as 24 percent. Intersectional discrimination is also widespread including for women and persons with disabilities, who report a heightened prevalence of discrimination based on their ethnic origins, skin colour and linguistic affiliations. Available data shows that women experienced four times more gender-based discrimination than men. Such stark disparities between women and men are observed in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Western Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Oceania.

⁵² The use of the term “race” here is consistent with international human rights treaties. It does not imply the acceptance of theories which attempt to determine the existence of separate human races.

Figure 51: Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and gender, 2015–2023



Source: OHCHR

Gender-based discrimination affects more women than men: for every man discriminated against four women are discriminated against. In certain contexts where the data is collected, this ratio can be as high as 1 to 20. Age discrimination exhibits one of the highest variations between countries with rates reaching over 34 percent in some countries. Existing data, albeit limited, suggests that younger populations report disproportionately higher levels of experienced discrimination than older people.

Despite notable progress in data coverage,⁵³ less than half of all countries systematically capture and report the voices of victims of discrimination. Current data collection practices also lack the disaggregation and granularity required for comprehensive discrimination analysis. For instance, when countries (less than a fifth of them) include social origins or socio-economic status as grounds of discrimination in their surveys, they reveal that, on average, close to 7 percent of the population declare being victims of discrimination against these grounds. Moreover, only a small majority of countries collect data on discrimination disaggregated by sex, disability and place of residence. Finally, less than 40 percent of countries have conducted more than one discrimination module survey since 2015.

⁵³ Since the year 2022, there has been a remarkable 37 percent increase in the number of States documenting instances of discrimination through household surveys. This advancement reflects a growing awareness of the importance of such data collection to support country efforts and commitments to eliminate discrimination. It also reflects the contribution of several international initiatives, such as the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), the UNODC, UNDP and OHCHR SDG 16 Survey Initiative, the Governance, Peace, and Security (GPS) surveys, and the Eurobarometer surveys.

Chapter 3



Advancing Disability Inclusion in Goal 16

An estimated 1.3 billion people, or 16 percent of the global population, experience a significant disability.⁵⁴ Persons with disabilities often face systematic inequalities across various facets of life, including healthcare, education and employment. They are underrepresented in decision-making and political roles, and they face heightened levels of discrimination, violence, and barriers to accessing public services and civil and criminal justice. These experiences perpetuate exclusion and marginalization, undermining the core principle of “leaving no one behind” of the Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs.

To uphold the principle of “leave no one behind”, it is essential to track and demonstrate progress for all segments of the population. Collecting data and evidence on persons with disabilities is not only a matter of equity but also a necessary approach to fulfilling the commitment of the Agenda. Advancing disability inclusion within goal 16 is particularly crucial as this goal acts as an enabler and accelerator for all other SDGs. Accurate and robust data on the experiences of persons with disabilities regarding violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination and access to justice and information, including representation in public and political roles, will enable policymakers to better understand these unique challenges and perspectives and factor them into the decision-making processes effectively. Without such data, a significant part of the population may remain marginalized or excluded, hindering efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and uphold human rights. To achieve the targets under goal 16 and ensure institutions are inclusive, representative and responsive, persons with disabilities must be represented in and meaningfully engaged with these institutions and their decision-making processes.

Despite the critical need for data, information within goal 16 for persons with disabilities remains very limited and fragmented. Out of 24 indicators, only six indicators specifically have disability status as part of the minimum disaggregation⁵⁵ (see Table 1), but only one has enough data to offer a global overview. 16.b.1 reveals a stark reality; persons with disabilities face discrimination nearly twice as frequently as those without disabilities. In some contexts, with available data in Latin American and the Caribbean, Central Asia, Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa, those ratios can be as high as almost 8 to 1. Among the indicators that do not specifically require disaggregation by disability status, two stand out; violent discipline among children and birth registration. Those two indicators provide a very comprehensive data coverage on the experiences of children with and without disabilities.

While investments in disability inclusion by governments, international organizations and civil society are evident, the lack of robust data hampers the ability to tangibly measure the collective efforts and investments to bring about change. Despite all these challenges, the different stakeholders have been progressively investing in increasing the data availability which allows for the analysis presented in this chapter.

54 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health#:~:text=An%20estimated%201.3%20billion%20people%20%E2%80%93%20or%2016%25%20of%20the%20global,diseases%20and%20people%20living%20longer.>

55 The metadata sheets for each indicator include a section on the minimum recommended disaggregation that the countries should consider. For further details see: SDG Indicators – Metadata repository.



Table 1: Disability inclusion in goal 16 indicators, 2024

Disability disaggregation	
16.1.1	16.5.1
16.1.2	16.5.2
16.1.3	16.6.1
16.1.4 Recommended	16.6.2 Recommended
16.2.1 Not recommended but data are available	16.7.1 Recommended
16.2.2	16.7.2 Recommended
16.2.3	16.8.1 Not applicable
16.3.1	16.9.1 Not recommended but data are available
16.3.2	16.10.1
16.3.3 Recommended	16.10.2 Not applicable
16.4.1 Not applicable	16.a.1 Not applicable
16.4.2 Not applicable	16.b.1 Recommended

Measuring how persons with disabilities are experiencing violence and other forms of crime

Information on how crime impacts persons with disabilities remains limited at the global level. Administrative crime data often fails to include information on the disability status of victims and offenders, and nationally representative surveys on crime victimization or corruption may not include questions on the disability status of the respondents. Even when data are collected and available, they are not necessarily measured consistently across countries, hindering international comparisons.

To address the lack of comparable data on goal 16 indicators for persons with disabilities, UNODC, UNDP and OHCHR have promoted the inclusion of the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)⁵⁶ – six questions designed for use in national censuses and surveys to identify people whose functional difficulties put them at risk of not being able to participate in society. These questions were developed by the Washington Group (WG) on Disability Statistics,⁵⁷ which operates under the United Nations Statistical Commission and includes representatives from national statistical agencies and international development partners. The WG-SS has been integrated into several tools enabling data collection to monitor goal 16 indicators, such as the SDG 16 Survey Initiative⁵⁸ and the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (LACSI) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).⁵⁹

⁵⁶ <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-wg-ss/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-wg-ss/>

⁵⁸ https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2022-02/SDG16%20Survey%20Initiative%20-%20Questionnaire_0_0.pdf

⁵⁹ <https://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx/index.php/questionnaire/>

Furthermore, UNODC has recently supported two countries, Ghana and Nigeria, to include the WG-SS into two national corruption surveys. In Ghana, the data suggest there were no notable differences between persons with and without disabilities in terms of contact rate with public officials in the 12 months prior the survey. However, it was found that persons with disabilities were less likely to pay or be asked to pay a bribe when interacting with public officials compared with those without disabilities: 26.9 percent of persons without disabilities experienced bribery in 2021, whereas the prevalence of bribery was 23.3 percent among persons with disabilities.⁶⁰

Additionally, OHCHR collects data on the experience of discrimination based on the grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law. Available data show that persons with disabilities experience discrimination six times more frequently than persons without disabilities. The largest disparities between persons with and without disabilities are observed in Western Asia.

Leveraging citizen data for goal 16 and disability inclusion

In citizen data initiatives, the general public can actively participate in research and knowledge production activities. When designed well, such initiatives can assist in addressing data gaps and related policy needs in the SDG framework, increase inclusive participation in the data collection processes, reach harder-to-reach population groups, and produce real-time data with higher frequency and granularity. Consequently, citizen data initiatives can complement the traditional data sources used to measure progress towards the SDGs, while at the same time increasing the relevance of official statistics.

UNDP's Global Policy Centre for Governance (GPCG) has recently launched a citizen data initiative, a ground-breaking step towards involving citizens and communities in building more inclusive data ecosystems for better monitoring and achieving goal 16. The aim is to empower individuals, particularly persons with disabilities, to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with public services (indicator 16.6.2) and voice their opinions on how to enhance these services.

As part of this initiative, GPCG and the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) have jointly launched a smartphone application, the Public Services Satisfaction Survey app, with a pilot project in two municipalities of Ghana, Ga West and Suhum. The app ensures anonymity and adherence to data protection laws. To facilitate the participation of persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities in the data collection process, the app features assistive technologies including intuitive display, sign language and dark mode. Additionally, the initiative also offers data gathering via Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) to ensure that those without internet or smartphone access can also participate.

This initiative signifies a transformative approach to data collection and official statistics, fostering inclusivity, transparency and empowering communities to actively participate in shaping the delivery of public services.

60 https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2022/GHANA_-_Corruption_survey_report_-_20.07.2022.pdf



Goal 16 indicators: Experiences of children with and without disabilities⁶¹

The availability of data on children with disabilities has been a longstanding challenge due to limitations related to the use of narrow definitions and the lack of a standardized data collection methodology. Further to the considerations on measuring disability in general, identifying children with disabilities presents additional challenges. The domains of functioning that may indicate that a young child has a disability are different from those in older children and adults. Measuring functional difficulties is complex since children, especially at younger ages, develop at different rates. Therefore, the identification of functional difficulties in children needs to account for what is a typical variation in development versus a developmental delay or a consequence of a specific impairment.

To address the paucity of data on the situation of children with disabilities globally, UNICEF and the WG developed the Child Functioning Module for use in censuses and surveys. The module is intended to provide a population-level estimate of the number and proportion of children with functional difficulties. Starting in 2016, the Child Functioning Module and the WG-SS became part of the MICS and are used to collect data on children aged 2 to 17 years and on adult women and men aged 18 and older, respectively.

Birth registration among children with functional difficulties – indicator 16.9.1⁶²

Birth registration is the first step in recognizing a child before the law and is fundamental to protecting the rights of all children.⁶³ Despite global progress in increasing birth registration levels, many children around the world are still denied their right to a legal identity.⁶⁴ Evidence does not yet exist on access to birth registration among children with disabilities. That said, the impact of being unregistered is likely greater among this group of children, placing them at even higher risk of human rights violations, including abuse and exploitation or the denial of social, political or economic rights, throughout their lives. The available data⁶⁵ reveals that children with disabilities are less likely to be registered than children without disabilities, and disparities in birth registration levels are especially evident among children living in rural areas and in the poorest households.

61 Extracted from United Nations Children's Fund, *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*, UNICEF, New York, 2021.

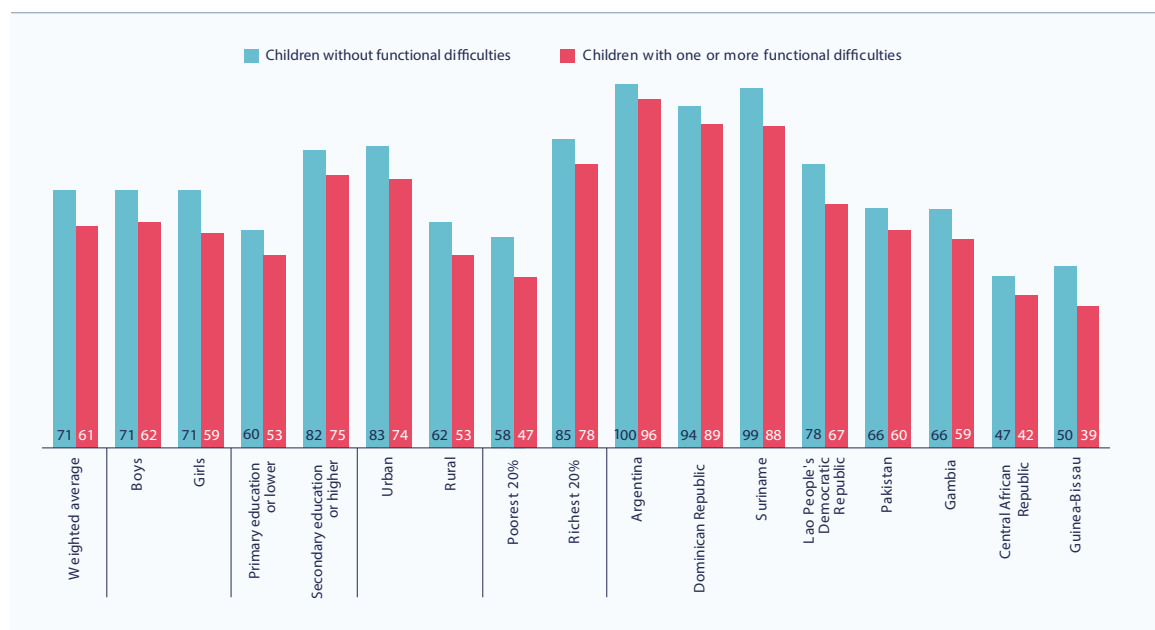
62 Ibid.

63 Cappa, Claudia, et al. 'Birth Registration: A child's passport to protection', *The Lancet Global Health*, vol. 2, no. 2, February 2014, pp. e67-e68; Todres, Jonathan, 'Birth Registration: An essential first step toward ensuring the rights of all children', *Human Rights Brief*, vol. 10, no. 3, 2003, pp. 32-35.

64 United Nations Children's Fund, *Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?*, UNICEF, New York, 2019.

65 Based on 33 countries. See United Nations Children's Fund, *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*, UNICEF, New York, 2021.

Figure 52: Percentage of children aged 24 to 59 months whose births are registered with a civil authority



Source: UNICEF

Note: Education refers to the education level of mothers.

Violent discipline among children with disabilities – indicator 16.2.1⁶⁶

Too often, parents resort to violent methods of discipline because they feel they lack other options to effectively teach their children self-control and acceptable behaviour. For parents of children with disabilities, these challenges can be compounded.⁶⁷ Parenting such children often requires a higher and more constant level of involvement, which can contribute to parental distress and an increased propensity to resort to violent disciplinary methods.⁶⁸ Violent forms of discipline can also be driven by prevailing attitudes towards the disability itself. Children with disabilities face stigma along with negative attitudes and beliefs that place them at increased risk of violence and neglect, sometimes resulting in their deaths.⁶⁹ Factors that exacerbate the risk of exposure to violent disciplinary methods include background characteristics that are associated with children both with and without disabilities, such as poverty and parental education level.⁷⁰ The available data shows that children with disabilities are more likely to experience violent forms of discipline than their peers without disabilities.

66 Extracted from United Nations Children's Fund, *Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities*, UNICEF, New York, 2021.

67 Hendricks, Charlene, et al., 'Associations between Child Disabilities and Caregiver Discipline and Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries', *Child Development*, vol. 85, no. 2, 2014, pp. 513-531.

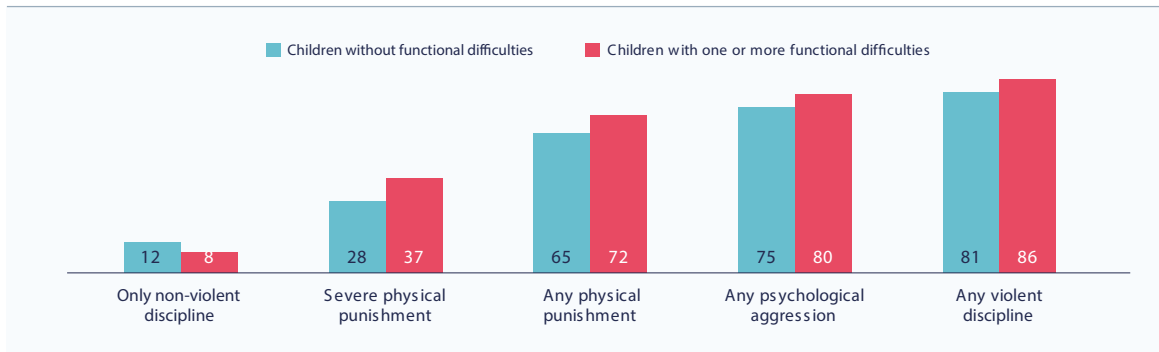
68 Ibid.; Fisher, Marisa A., Robert M. Hodapp and Elizabeth M. Dykens, 'Child Abuse among Children with Disabilities: What we know and what we need to know', *International Review of Research in Mental Retardation*, vol. 35, 2008, pp. 251-289.

69 Groce, Nora, 'Violence against Disabled Children: UN Secretary-General's Report on Violence against Children. Thematic Group on Violence against Children with Disabilities', New York, 2005, pp. 1-33; Njelesani, Janet, et al., 'From the Day They Are Born: A qualitative study exploring violence against children with disabilities in West Africa', *BMC Public Health*, vol. 18, no. 153, 2018.

70 Bizzego, Andrea, et al., 'Children with Developmental Disabilities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: More neglected and physically punished', *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 17, no. 19, 2020, pp. 1-16.

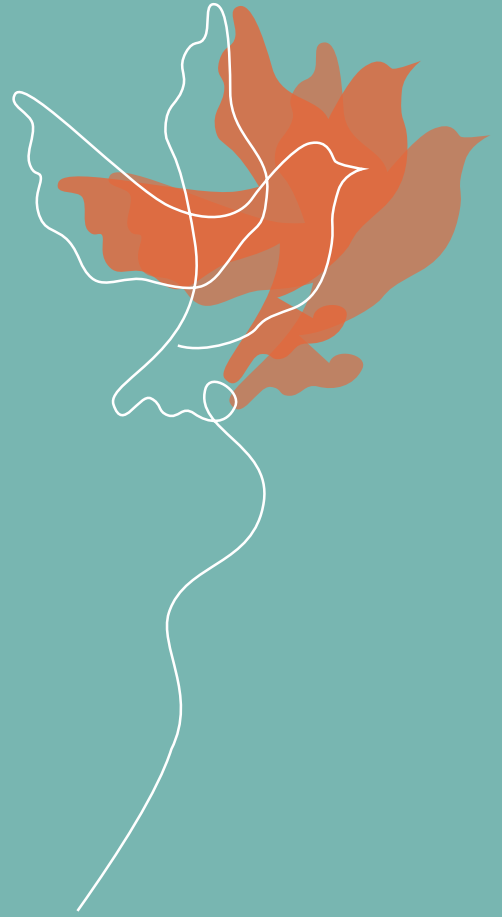


Figure 53: Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced any disciplinary methods by caregivers in the past month



Source: UNICEF

Chapter 4



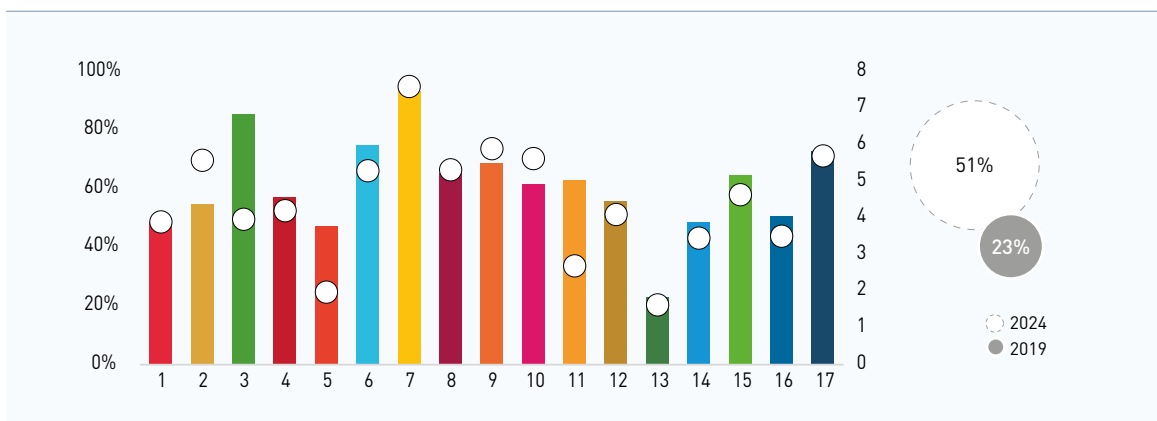
Progress Made in Improving Data Availability



At the onset of the 2030 Agenda, the global community was ill-equipped to monitor goal 16. With a few exceptions, data for goal 16 indicators were extremely limited, a consequence of both a lack of methodological guidance and limited data production capabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the situation by significantly limiting data collection activities or forcing countries to redirect resources into priority areas not linked to goal 16. Since 2015, however, there has been a marked improvement in data availability thanks to the concerted efforts by international organizations to develop global methodologies and by countries to collect data. This progress has enabled an increasing number of countries to monitor all targets of goal 16, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Despite these advances, substantial gaps persist that hinder the collective ability to accurately assess progress on all targets and indicators. Goal 16 remains one of the goals with the least amount of data available. Few countries are regularly conducting representative household surveys needed for multiple goal 16 indicators. Moreover, many countries continue to have limited capacity and lack of IT infrastructure necessary for utilizing administrative records to report on indicators that depend on such statistics. As of 2024 data reporting cycle, only about 51 percent of countries have reported data for at least one year since 2015⁷¹ across all targets of goal 16, a considerable increase from 40 percent during the 2023 reporting cycle.⁷² It is a significant achievement taking into account that the share of countries who had reported data until December 2019 was only 22.7 percent. Despite the progress over the past five years, the persistent lack of data continue to impede the development of evidence-informed policies that could accelerate progress towards achieving goal 16.⁷³

Figure 54: Percentage of countries that have reported data on the Sustainable Development Indicators, March 2024 (left) and percentage of countries that have reported data on goal 16 indicators between 2019 and 2024 (right)



The custodian agencies have developed and implemented a range of methodological products, global standards and promoted capacity-building initiatives to support countries in the production of goal 16 indicators. The core methodological tools and standards are presented in the table below.

71 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics, SDG Indicator Database. Data available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/analytics/DataAvailability>

72 The reporting cycle refers to the year when custodian agencies submit the latest available and updated data on the indicators for inclusion in the SDG Indicator Database. This reporting cycle year often differs from the reference year of the indicators due to delays in data reporting or the retrospective submission of data by Member States to the custodian agencies.

73 This calculation of data availability does not take into account the fact that some indicators are not to be compiled for all countries, such as indicator 16.1.2, which applies only to countries in situations of armed conflict.

Furthermore, throughout 2023 and 2024, custodian agencies have continued to advance the integration of methodological standards and frameworks into regional and national programs through.

SDG 16 Survey Initiative

SDG 16 is a people-centered goal, and its measurement reflects that with 46 percent of the 24 indicators, Goal 16 has 11 out of 24 indicators that rely on nationally representative population surveys to produce reliable and robust data. The measurement of these indicators depends on survey data that allows the progress assessment from the perspective of the population, it also complements the other existing data sources to provide a more accurate and complete picture. The SDG 16 Survey Initiative, developed by UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR provides a high quality, well-tested tool that can be used to measure progress on many of the survey-based indicators under goal 16. This survey tool can help unveil some of the hidden truths of how violence, discrimination, inequality and injustice manifest itself in the community and identify entry points to begin to address some of these persistent challenges. The instruments were presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2022 and are currently in implementation phase, with the agencies providing technical assistance.

Improving the measurement of corruption

UNODC continues to provide capacity-building and technical guidance to several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America on corruption measurement. These corruption surveys measure people's real, everyday experiences of corruption, including bribery, nepotism, vote buying, sexual corruption and other forms, in line with the methodology set out in the 2018 Manual on Corruption Surveys. The surveys allow policy makers to identify at risk sectors and areas, and therefore have direct policy relevance and can help to better target anti-corruption efforts.

UNODC also developed the Statistical Framework to Measure Corruption which was presented to and welcomed by the UNSC in 2023. The Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) also took note of the framework with appreciation in December 2023. The statistical framework's main objective is to provide guidance to national governments to develop national information systems able to detect the presence, measure the magnitude, and monitor trends of the different forms of corruption.

Administrative and survey data as a source for statistics in the criminal justice system

The two main sources of crime and criminal justice statistics are administrative records and population or business surveys. As the definitions of criminal offences are based on national criminal codes which are regularly updated, global definitions and guidelines are of utmost importance for harmonizing data across countries and over time.



In 2015, UNODC published the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) as a tool to provide standard global definitions of crimes that are not based on criminal codes but on behavioral characteristics that can be equally applied by all countries. The classification aims to promote the purposeful collection and organization of crime and criminal justice data for statistical purposes, and it supports the aggregation of data that can be comparable across different criminal justice stages and jurisdictions (at national and international level). UNODC continues to provide countries with targeted support for the implementation of ICCS into national crime and criminal justice statistics systems.

UNODC has developed a series of guidelines on the collection, production, dissemination and use of high-quality crime and criminal justice data for statistical purposes.⁷⁴ The guidelines are very practical and provide concrete suggestions for improving data system frameworks across the different stages of the criminal justice system: police, the prosecution service and the courts, and the prison system. These frameworks go beyond classifying offences in accordance with the ICCS and encourage countries to produce statistics on a range of other topics, including human and financial resources, the criminal justice process and the professional conduct of staff. To foster the adoption of the ICCS, UNODC is developing an implementation manual for the classification that will provide a road map with concrete recommendations to Member States looking to adopt the ICCS and improve the availability of granular and comparable crime and criminal justice statistics.

Crime victimization surveys provide an important data source on crime statistics besides administrative data. This is because surveys can uncover the “hidden figures” of crime, which refers to those crimes that are not reported by citizens to the authorities and are therefore not included in administrative records. When implemented regularly, crime victimization surveys are an essential tool to track progress over time, as crime trends based on survey data are not influenced by reporting rates or improved recording practices by the authorities.

The UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimization Surveys provides a comprehensive source of information for developing national victimization surveys and is particularly useful for countries who may be embarking on a survey of this type for the first time. Between January 2023 and June 2024, UNODC, including through the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence in Mexico, has facilitated 6 capacity building online activities and trainings on Crime Victimization Surveys, for a total of 94 people (49 women and 45 men) from 6 countries in the world, mostly from Latin America and the Caribbean (4), 1 from Asia and 1 from Africa.

International Classification of Violence against Children

One key challenge that has long confronted the measurement field when it comes to violence against children was the absence of agreed operational definitions at the international level. Many countries

⁷⁴ The four guidelines are:
Guidelines for the Production of Statistical Data by the Police (2022);
Guidelines for the Production of Statistical Data by the Prosecution Service and the Courts (2023);
Guidelines for the Production of Statistical Data by the Prison System (2024); and
Guidelines for the Governance of Statistical Data in the Criminal Justice System (2024).
Available at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistical-guidelines.html>.

have developed and used their own definitions based on national legal frameworks. In response, UNICEF has developed the International Classification of Violence against Children (ICVAC) with input from over 200 experts from national statistical offices, academia and international organizations. The ICVAC is in line with the ICCS. It includes operational definitions of all forms of violence against children and covers interpersonal and collective violence, both in times of peace and during internal or international armed conflict. The classification provides countries with a tool to capture and categorize incidents of violence and consequently assess the extent to which their national definitions and data collection efforts comply with internationally agreed standards. It will also facilitate the production of comparable data across different countries and contribute to obtaining a clearer understanding of the actual extent of violence, enabling more effective strategies and interventions to combat it. Countries will be able to collaborate more efficiently, exchange best practices, and collectively address the multifaceted challenges associated with violence against children on a global scale. The ICVAC was endorsed in the UNSC in 2023 and included in the International Family of Classifications.

Increasing data availability and capacities of countries to measure illicit financial flows

When the reduction of illicit financial flows (IFFs) was identified as a relevant goal 16 target in 2017, there was no global consensus on what IFFs were and how they should be measured. Since then, the two co-custodian agencies of this indicator – UNCTAD and UNODC – have made progress in providing clarity in definition, statistical methodologies and technical assistance to support countries in the production of key data and estimates on IFFs.⁷⁵ By 2022, pilot testing in 22 countries demonstrated that measuring IFFs is possible when both the political will and effective partnership between national statistical offices, central banks, tax and customs authorities, financial intelligence units and relevant ministries and specialized agencies exist.⁷⁶

In 2023, UNCTAD, UNODC and the UN Regional Commissions launched a project in nine countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen national statistical capacity for measuring IFFs from illicit tax and commercial practices as well as criminal activities. The project will enhance investigative and analytical capacities to curb IFFs and link data to evidence-based policy making.

Due to continuing UNCTAD efforts, awareness and national statistical capacity to measure illicit financial flows have been enhanced, by establishing technical working groups in each pilot country and administering 39 trainings* across Africa and Asia (*as of June 2023), with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Several countries prepared preliminary, unofficial estimates of illicit financial flows from trade mis-invoicing by analysing asymmetries in customs reporting between countries or abnormal prices in transaction-level customs data using the UNCTAD's (2021) Methodological Guidance.

⁷⁵ For more information on methodology, see UNCTAD and UNODC, *Conceptual Framework for the Statistical Measurement of Illicit Financial Flows* (Vienna, 2020), available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/data-and-analysis/iff.html>

⁷⁶ For more information national estimates of crime-related IFFs, see UNODC, *Crime-related illicit financial flows: latest progress* (2023), available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/data-and-analysis/iff.html>



Establishing national frameworks to implement SDG indicator on attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists.

In February 2024, the governing board of the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) officially adopted the national methodology for producing indicator 16.10.1, and officially designated the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) as the indicator's custodian at country-level. In November 2023, the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), in cooperation with the National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR), produced national data under this indicator in line with the agreed methodology. OHCHR provided technical assistance for these national initiatives. In early 2024, OHCHR contacted all internationally accredited A or B National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs - see indicator 16.a.1) to exchange data in relation to indicator 16.10.1. Close to one third of the 120 NHRIs responded to the survey sent by OHCHR. More than 90 percent of the NHRIs that responded and shared data with OHCHR had A accreditation. Improving data coverage, OHCHR plans to repeat the survey and continue to support data collection by NHRIs.

A more holistic approach to tracking violent attacks on land and environmental human rights defenders

OHCHR and UNEP, in collaboration with civil society and academic experts, developed a new guidance note on the protection of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) for UN resident coordinators and country teams. The guidance note seeks to empower UN country teams to identify and effectively respond to threats against EHRDs, including through consistent collection and dissemination of data on attacks in line with indicator 16.10.1. Moreover, this indicator has also been recognized by parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) as one of the complementary indicators under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Monitoring Framework. As such, Member States can use the indicator to ensure that protection of EHRDs is prioritized under their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons (Under global consultation)

In 2025, UNODC and IOM will present the International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons to the United Nations Statistical Commission (ICS-TIP). ICS-TIP is in line with the ICCS. The document is currently in its draft version and undergoing global consultation. The document provides a common reference and guidance for the safe collection, management and reporting of data, as well as standardized indicators to ensure consistency and quality of data.

Two survey modules on non-discrimination and public participation (in piloting phase)

The Praia Group on Governance Statistics (the Praia Group) was created by UNSC in 2015, to “contribute to establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics on the major dimensions of governance”. The group is currently working on the methodological development



of standards to measure non-discrimination and public participation which will be presented to the UNSC in 2026.⁷⁷ There are two active task teams, each working on a survey module that has concluded the cognitive testing phase and is initiating piloting. The task teams are also working on administrative records.

Standards, classification and methodological products		
2010	Manual on Victimization Surveys	16.1.3, 16.3.1
2012	Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation	16.1.3, 16.3.1
2015	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes	16.1. 16.2.2 16.1.3 16.3.1 16.5.1 16.b.1/10.3.1
2018	A Human Rights Based Approach to Data	Cross-cutting
	Manual on Corruption Surveys	16.5.1 16.5.2
2020	Conceptual Framework for the Statistical Measurement of Illicit Financial Flows	16.4.1
	Handbook of Governance Statistics	Cross-cutting
2022	Statistical Framework for the Measurement of Gender-Related Killings	16.1.1
	SDG16 Survey Initiative	16.1.3 16.3.1 16.3.3 16.5.1 16.b.1/10.3.1, 16.7.2, 16.6.2, 11.7.2, 16.1.4
2023	Statistical Framework to Measure Corruption	16.5.1, 16.5.2
	International Classification of Violence Against Children	16.2.1 16.2.3

⁷⁷ In addition to UNDP, the Praia Group has technical support from around 100 entities, including National Statistics Offices, United Nations agencies, Academia, Civil Society Organizations. For the full list of members see the city group webpage.



Annex

Technical Note

The findings and analysis in this report are based on the latest data submitted and/or validated by Member States and collated by the custodian agencies for the annual reporting on the progress for goal 16 worldwide and by various country groups. The country groupings are based on the geographic regions defined under the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (known as M49)⁷⁸ of the United Nations Statistics Division and uses the short form name as per the United Nations Terminology Database. Due to limited data availability for some of the indicators or for the purpose of presentation, some of the M49 regions have been combined. Although there is no established convention for the designation of “developed” and “developing” countries or areas in the United Nations system, data for some indicators in this report are still being presented for developed and developing regions and countries for the purpose of statistical analysis only, and are based on the practice employed by the international agencies that provided the data.

A complete list of countries included in each region and subregion and country group is available at unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups.

The term “country” as used in the text of this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories and areas. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The terms “country” and “Member State” have been used interchangeably.

In this publication, the term “children” is used to refer to different age groups depending on the context of specific indicators. For indicator 16.1.2 – “Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause” and indicator 16.2.2 – “Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation”, children are defined as those under 18 years old.

For indicator 16.2.1 – “Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month”, the available data pertains to children aged 1 to 14 years old. Finally, for indicator 16.9.1 – “Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age”, the term refers to children under 5 years old.

78 Full details of the M49 standard can be found on the Statistics Division website at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49>.



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