ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PEOPLE'S SCORECARD

SUMMARY REPORT 2024

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Introduction

In 2024, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) review process was highly influenced by the Summit of the Future and the UN process towards addressing major new areas of engagement on financing and implementation. As the second half of the 2030 Agenda moves forward, key partners were re-engaged in high profile processes of engagement with their governments and many major civil society networks mobilised in every continent.

The world continued to face multiple crises and delivery of the 2030 Agenda remains challenging, however civil society coalitions in many countries were able to draw together their diverse membership and share key inputs on their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

The People's Scorecard aims to provide a way to understand progress on each of the SDGs according to national civil society coalitions.Civil society partners can often play a key role in ensuring a 'whole of society' approach that truly enables all voices to be heard as part of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) conducted for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Action for Sustainable Development continued to work with a wide range of national civil society partners to set out a comparative report on the SDGs alongside the Voluntary National Review process, based on the same process of scoring in each country.

In each case, the national coalitions themselves organized extensive dialogues with a diverse set of civil society organizations, community groups and local networks, to gather a broad range of views from those who are active on key thematic areas within the SDGs. In a number of cases, they also produced their own parallel or Spotlight Reports alongside the official Voluntary National Reviews.

This report provides an accessible approach to understanding a comparative civil society view on progress around SDG implementation with a focus on many of the countries delivering a Voluntary National Review (VNR) this year.

Key Trends

Based on the scorecards and independent reports collected by civil society coalitions in each country, several general trends can be highlighted as follows:

- **Human development SDGs (SDG 3: Health, SDG 4: Education, SDG 5: Gender) scored higher**. This is likely due to structured policies and prioritized resources, often supported by international aid. However quality and equity gaps in healthcare and education remain, especially between urban and rural areas.

  Socio-economic (1 and 8) and environmental SDGs (13-15) scored significantly lower, reflecting high informality, inequalities, unsustainable resource management, and lack of effective climate adaptation and biodiversity preservation policies.

- **Most countries have established SDG coordination bodies but their effectiveness depends on political position, mandate clarity, and governance style (hierarchical vs. networked).** In mixed models (combining government-centric and multistakeholder features), participation mechanisms often exist at a technical level, but are inconsistent, under-resourced, and rarely shape policy.

  Case studies show that fully multi-stakeholder models (e.g. Georgia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mauritius) offer formal inclusion, yet lack authority, continuity, and follow-through. In other cases, participation is limited by vertical governance practices (Armenia).

- **Governance challenges, corruption, and political instability continue to hinder progress**, with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) standing out as the lowest scoring Goal, reflecting weak governance, corruption, and limited participation and access to justice in most participating countries.

  Countries with political instability and institutional challenges (Peru, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Yemen, Syria, Georgia) show weaker institutional effectiveness, despite having strong SDG-related planning frameworks.

- **The global SDG financing gap has doubled** from $2.5 trillion in 2015 to $4 trillion post-pandemic, exacerbating funding constraints for low- and middle-income countries.

  Many of the countries under review this year faced limited budgets and a high debt burden which constrain their ability to deliver the 2030 Agenda. The Financing for Development Conference (FfD4) in 2025 will constitute a key landmark for agreeing better financial flows for sustainable development.

1. Process, geographical coverage and methodology

1.1 The Scorecard survey and its steps

In 2024, A4SD provided support for national CSO coalitions to conduct independent scorecard-based progress assessments + spotlight reports in 16 countries (primarily in Africa, Asia, LAC and MENA regions).

The People's Scorecard methodology is based on a qualitative assessment of the degree of progress within the implementation process for each SDG, and an overview of progress on the SDG framework as a whole. As an independent assessment by civil society, the Scorecard intends to measure the collective, aggregated perception on tangible progress (or lack thereof) of the national SDG implementation process, based on the official SDG targets. As such, this perception-based progress assessment is based on two main dimensions:

1. Whether adequate public policies exist to address the various policy aspects included in a given SDG.
2. Whether these policies are actually being implemented and producing tangible results on the ground and in people's daily lives.

The sequence for the scorecard-based assessment includes the following steps:
A. A survey is distributed both through an online platform and in-person consultations, to a wide range of CSOs and community groups based on the Scorecard template.
B. Participants are asked to provide a global score between -5 and + 5 for each SDG. Respondents are encouraged to focus primarily on the SDG(s) where they have specific knowledge and experience, to ensure accuracy in the scoring process.
C. When the survey is administered at in-person consultations, the Scorecard template is used to organize collective assessments in small groups, dedicated either to one or to a cluster of SDGs, in order to reach consensus on a single score for each SDG under review.
D. Data processing and development of a draft aggregated scorecard.

The scorecards allow the identification of key trends for the Goal-based assessment, and they are usually complemented by Spotlight Reports.

In the spotlight reports, organizations are encouraged to provide a qualitative assessment on the nature and scope of their national implementation pathway, as well as to supplement the perception-based assessment provided by the Scorecard with an analysis based on available statistical data for each SDG, both official and citizen-generated.

Every coalition acts independently and engages in its own advocacy activities, but they agree to adopt a similar methodology based on previous experience and shared learning.

To ensure a comprehensive assessment, the sample of CSOs invited to participate is intended to be geographically and thematically diverse, covering areas such as education, health, socio-economic development, environment, as well a balance of age and gender. The survey' s implementation benefits from mobilizing broad coalitions of CSOs.

1.2 Geographical coverage of the Report

A4SD partnered in 2024 with national coalitions of CSOs in 16 countries, spanning four regions (Africa, Latin- America and the Caribbean, Middle East and Near Asia, and Asia) and including a wide array of national contexts: political regimes, cultural contexts, nature and scope of civic spaces, socio-economic and environmental challenges, institutional and fiscal capacities- all of which imply different baselines and varying systemic conditions for each country.

By promoting a standardized sequence and template for conducting collective reviews, the People's Scorecard contributes to building a common ground for an independent assessment on the level of progress in the implementation process since 2015, and hence, provides a platform for identifying key trends within and between countries.

This report focuses on the 16 countries that completed the Scorecard-based assessment and whose countries presented a VNR at HLPF 2024. It aims to provide an overview of the results, based on the aggregated total scores for each country, the aggregated average scores for each SDG, as well as the insight contained in the spotlight reports.

Countries covered in 2024:

Scorecard Countries in 2024

EUROPE
Armenia: Green Lane
Georgia: CENN

MENA
Mauritania: ANND
Syria: ANND

ASIA
Lao PDR: LCCO
Nepal: NFN
Micronesia: PIANGO
Palau: PIANGO
Solomon Island: PIANGO
Vanuatu: PIANGO

LAC
Brazil: GT Agenda 2030
Colombia: CCONG
Mexico: My World Mexico
Peru: ANC

AFRICA
Kenya: SDG Forum
Mauritius: MACOSS
Sierra Leone: VioNet
S Africa: African Monitor
Uganda: NGO Forum
Zimbabwe: PRFT

1.3 Methodological Observations

Since 2023, the People's Scorecard has introduced a key methodological modification, going from a process-driven to an outcome-driven approach, thus aligning with the need for a midterm review of SDG progress since 2015 in surveyed countries. A notable shift is the use of all 169 official SDG targets as reference points instead of the previous 10 process-driven key areas. The use of SDG targets broadens respondents' understanding of each Goal's thematic scope, countering the limitations of narrower indicators. Given the diverse national contexts and varying levels of SDG engagement among respondents, providing a standardized set of targets enhances the comparability and relevance of the assessment.

The **perception-based nature of the Scorecard** follows a non-probability, self-selecting sampling method, engaging civil society and grassroots organizations that may not represent the entire population. While this introduces subjectivity, the Scorecard's primary goal is to create a platform for stakeholders to express their collective views on SDG progress. Consequently, the depth of responses varies—some individuals assess multiple targets comprehensively, while others base their scores on limited aspects. The survey mitigates this by encouraging respondents to focus on SDGs most relevant to their expertise, ensuring a more informed scoring process.

The **Scorecard offers a valuable assessment tool**, as it fosters engagement in SDG monitoring, raises awareness, and facilitates dialogue between civil society, policymakers, the private sector, and academia. While not a scientific instrument, The scoring scale (-5 to +5) captures perceptions of backsliding, stagnation, or advancement, providing insight into national trajectories, thus enabling trend- identification on SDG progress at the aggregate level.

Complemented by qualitative Spotlight reports, the Scorecard allows civil society to highlight challenges, achievements, and policy recommendations, while also offering a comparative perspective on SDG trends across different contexts.

2. Key factors for inclusive SDG implementation

2.1 Fostering effective participatory governance

A recurring global trend, reaffirmed each year, is that most countries have established some form of dedicated multi-stakeholder SDG coordination body - either by repurposing established spaces or establishing institutional innovations - but their effectiveness varies significantly. One of the main factors shaping their impact, beyond the scope and clarity of their mandate, is their positioning within the country's broader institutional framework. When SDG governance bodies are peripheral, rather than embedded within core policymaking structures, their ability to influence national development planning, cross-sectoral policy implementation, and monitoring is constrained.

Two defining features of SDG implementation processes are the type of institutional governance mechanisms established (*e.g., inter-ministerial council, multi-stakeholder committee, advisory body, SDG agency*), as well as the scope of their mandate (*political and technical, purely technical, consultative, or decision-making*). Beyond these institutional variables, a key underlying factor that provides substance to these spaces is how governance is distributed and practiced - hierarchical, network/horizontal, or a hybrid between these two forms[1].

Among 2024 VNR countries, a common challenge emerges: where participation channels are integrated into SDG governance bodies (mostly at technical level), these usually lack continuity, consistency and effectiveness. This is either the result of weak institutional capacities, or by the prevalence of hierarchical governance practices. These institutional inconsistencies weaken their mandate, dilute their capacity to interact with policymaking processes, and limit their ability to drive multi-stakeholder coordination effectively. As a result, SDG governance bodies in many countries remain largely symbolic, with minimal influence on policy alignment and coordination.

Diversity of SDG Governance Models

2024 VNRs and Spotlight Reports showcase a significant array of institutional arrangements for SDG implementation, reflecting diverse political commitment and salience, different political structures, levels of decentralization, as well as governance practices and institutional capacities. The shapes and policy impact of SDG governance bodies thus

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[1] Meuleman, L., & Niestroy, I. (2015). **Common But Differentiated Governance: Integrating SDGs into National Governance Frameworks**. Sustainability Science, 10(3), 447-462.

varies greatly - while some multi-stakeholder bodies operate as advisory bodies at a technical level, with limited influence on policymaking (Georgia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda), on the other hand government-centric bodies tend to directly shape national planning, policy and budget allocations (Sierra Leone, Armenia, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa) but have limited input from non-state stakeholders, if any.

Some governments have established **dedicated government structures**, like Sustainable Development Ministries, while others rely on inter-ministerial councils, national development planning bodies, or specialized agencies or departments to oversee implementation.

Here are several different examples:

- Sierra Leone has established the Ministry of Sustainable Development, which plays a central role in integrating sustainability policies, coordinating data systems (building on the work done by the National Commission on Population), and aligning national programs with the 2030 Agenda. That said, civil society doesn't seem to have established channels for policy dialogue with the Ministry's activities. It can, however, engage on an ad-hoc basis - such as in the formulation process of the Integrated National Financing Framework, according to VioNet's spotlight report.
- South Africa relies on the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DPME) within the Presidency to mainstream SDGs across government agencies and support local authorities in Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) - which implies a level of political salience to the SDGs. However, according to the South African CSO SDG Platform, the government still hasn't operationalized key multi-stakeholder governance spaces that have already been planned (SDG Coordination Mechanism and National Development Stakeholder Forum).

In federal or decentralized systems, SDG implementation often involves complex structures including subnational and local governments, which tend to be more government-centric at the national level.

In countries with a strong development planning ethos, SDG governance tends to be rooted in **national planning** documents, giving it more salience, as well as more political and budgetary weight. Here is a strong example:

- Nepal integrates the SDGs into its Fifteenth Five-Year Plan and 25-Year Long-Term Vision, with the National Planning Commission (NPC) playing a central role in policy alignment and oversight at national level. The government-centric SDG Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, provides high-level direction, while the Implementation and Monitoring Committee, led by the NPC, ensures coordination across government agencies and subnational

levels. Additionally, eight thematic multi-stakeholder committees facilitate technical dialogue, and the Nepal SDGs Forum, fosters bottom-up participation from national and local civil society. However, coordination gaps between levels of government persist, and subnational implementation and participation remains constrained by technical and financial limitations.

In unitary states with devolved systems of government, like Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe, efforts to **localize key multi stakeholder governance structures** are underway, with varying levels of consistency:

- Kenya has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach that gives a technical scope to the mandate of its SDG Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC), focusing on coordination, policy advisory, capacity-building, and data systems for SDG implementation. Although the inclusion of non-state actors is ensured at national level through civil society and private sector co-chairing the IATC along with the government, participation within county-level committees and forums is seemingly weaker and more fragmented.
- Zimbabwe has aligned the SDGs with its National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), and has established a government Steering Committee to coordinate SDG Implementation. In an advisory capacity, the government also established a multi-stakeholder Technical Committee that includes CSOs. However, the Zim CSO Reference Group on SDGs informs that the Technical Committee lacks consistency, with meetings occurring mostly around regional SDG Forums and the HLPF, rather than as part of a structured process. Additionally, while CSOs are also formally included in specific technical clusters, there is no institutionalized communication mechanism, which implies that CSOs are often uninformed about meetings. The government relies heavily on donor funding for SDG-related activities, with no dedicated national budget, leading to infrequent policy dialogues and weak institutional engagement.
- In Uganda, at the national level, the SDG Secretariat has successfully embedded SDGs into national planning frameworks, and the National Planning Authority (NPA) has harmonized reporting mechanisms, targets, and indicators to ensure alignment with the global SDG agenda, providing a solid institutional foundation for SDG implementation. Additionally, the Technical Working Groups established within the multi-stakeholder Coordination Framework are supposed to provide policy advice to the central government. However, similarly to Zimbabwe, the inner workings of the TWGs have lacked continuity and consistency, as they are meant to meet quarterly but, in practice, convene irregularly and mostly around key events like SDG conferences and VNR preparations. This has impacted the scope and substantiveness of civil society participation. Additionally, at local

level, according to the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), the country's decentralization process -and within it, the SDG localisation process-, faces significant challenges. While Focal Points have been established to support decentralized SDG coordination and monitoring, limited funding continues to hinder their effectiveness, with emerging trends of re-centralization in revenue collection and financing. Additionally, many local government leaders lack adequate awareness of the SDG localization agenda, despite joint efforts by CSOs and the government to promote SDG integration.

A key area of learning from these examples is that, in countries where SDGs are integrated into National Development frameworks and government structures are either undergoing a decentralization or federalization process (such as the cases of Nepal, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya), the preferred approach is to have a tiered governance structure, with a government-centered space for national-level political orientation and planning, and a secondary technical level where a degree of inclusive governance takes shape at national and subnational level, focusing on sectoral and local-level development plan alignment, as well as program monitoring and evaluation:

Policy dialogue within these technical governance spaces would be centered on:

- Ensuring SDG targets are integrated into sectoral policies and county-level development plans.
- Reviewing flagship projects linked to SDG priorities and assessing their effectiveness.
- Identifying policy bottlenecks that are slowing down SDG implementation, either within specific sectors or at the county level.
- Exploring policy innovations or adjustments to accelerate SDG progress, particularly in response to emerging challenges.
- Tracking progress on specific SDG-related programs (e.g., health, education, gender, energy) and assessing their contribution to national targets.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in SDG-related governance within unitary states

The level of multi-stakeholder engagement in unitary states is closely tied to the positioning of multi-stakeholder SDG governance structures within national institutional frameworks, as well as the extent and clarity of their mandates. Here are a number of useful examples from 2024:

- In Armenia, the SDG Council, established in 2020, includes NGOs from key sectors such as employment, education, healthcare, environment, human rights, trade, and infrastructure, ensuring

diverse sectoral representation. Although its direct link to the Prime Minister's Office and decision-making powers enhance its institutional weight, Armenian civil society actors question the extent to which CSO inputs translate into policy outcomes, underscoring the need for stronger and more horizontal policy dialogue mechanisms.

- In Georgia, the SDG Council is structured as a multi-stakeholder governance body, but operational weaknesses limit its effectiveness. Despite including government ministries, CSOs, and UN agencies, the Council's unclear mandate, infrequent meetings (typically once per year) and limited cross-sectoral collaboration reduce its policy impact. The lack of structured stakeholder engagement processes further weakens its role in SDG governance. Additionally, recent political developments, such as the "Foreign Influence Transparency" law, have eroded state-civil society cooperation, undermining the Council's inclusivity and legitimacy as a decision-making platform.
- In Mauritius, the National Steering Committee (NSC), despite its mandate to oversee and coordinate SDG implementation, operates in an inconsistent and unstructured manner, with meetings occurring infrequently and primarily in response to international obligations, according to the Mauritius Council on Social Services (MACOSS). Civil society engagement remains minimal, and the lack of structured dialogue and institutional consistency weakens the NSC's effectiveness in coordination, monitoring, and reporting. Civil society has been urging the government for a comprehensive review of the NSC's role and the establishment of a permanent consultative framework to ensure meaningful civil society participation and strategic oversight.

Academic literature underscores that multi-stakeholder councils play a crucial role in ensuring policy coherence[2], serving as institutional mechanisms to integrate knowledge dispersed across society through interactive and iterative processes[3]. While these governance structures aim to shift away from hierarchical governance toward more networked, horizontal practices, government actors very often still dominate policymaking in practice. As a result, CSO participation remains largely consultative or even tokenistic, restricting their ability to influence decisions and hold governments accountable - as seen in Armenia and Georgia.

These examples illustrate that while SDG implementation has driven some degree of institutional innovation and experimentation, these changes have

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[2] Bernstein, S. (2017). **The Role and Impact of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Global Governance**. Global Policy Journal.

[3] Meadowcroft, J. (2007) 'National Sustainable Development Strategies: Features, Challenges, and Reflexivity', in European Environment Eur. Env., p.152–163

not led to meaningful shifts in governance practices, with decision-making structures and power dynamics largely remaining unchanged.

Challenges in conflict-affected countries:

The absence of institutional coordination, lack of an inclusive governance framework, and heavy reliance on foreign aid—without structured mechanisms for monitoring or evaluation- have greatly hindered SDG progress in conflict-affected countries.In Syria, political fragmentation and lack of a functional central government have hindered effective SDG governance, with external powers and regional actors influencing decision-making rather than national institutions. Likewise, Yemen's ongoing conflict and governance crisis have severely hindered SDG implementation, with widespread rights violations, security restrictions, and the suppression of civil society participation in development and accountability processes.

Strengthening inclusive governance

To enhance the effectiveness of SDG governance structures, governments and development partners should focus on:

- **Polítical will and institutional continuity and consistency:** SDG governance depends on sustained political will, institutional continuity, and a genuine commitment to experimenting with more horizontal, inclusive governance models. Without strong executive commitment and openness, SDG bodies risk becoming symbolic, showing minimal interaction with policymaking cycles and, at best, limited stakeholder influence. Additionally, institutional consistency in the form of structured, predictable coordination prevents fragmented implementation driven solely by external reporting processes and events.
- **Building SDG governance structures within core institutional frameworks:** linked to the above point, SDG coordination mechanisms should not be peripheral entities but rather integrated into key governance frameworks, with clear mandates, formal authority, institutional consistency and direct interaction with national planning and monitoring processes. Ensuring that SDG councils and advisory bodies can have a degree of influence in national development strategies, budgetary decisions, institutional coordination and monitoring, is essential for long-term sustainability by leveraging consensus-building across institutional and non-state actors.
- **Enhancing subnational and localized implementation:** National SDG Councils should empower municipalities and local governments to equally take ownership of SDG initiatives, including through SDG-related redistributive funds, ensuring that goals are contextually relevant and not just top-down mandates, as well as ensuring that inputs from grassroots do inform local planning.

2.2 Financial Means of Implementation

In line with previous editions of the Scorecard, civil society in the countries under review this year point to broad gaps between policy and implementation – which is a symptom of inconsistencies in non-financial means of implementation (policy integration and coherence, efficiency of public institutions, sound and accountable governance, monitoring, etc.), but also of continued limitations in the mobilization and access to financial means of implementation (domestic and international, public and private).

We have already touched on the governance dimension above and will consider policy aspects in the SDG-by-SDG section below. This section will be devoted to the **financial means of implementation** – and what can be done at the global level to foster wealth redistribution between the global North and South.

According to UNCTAD's 2023 World Investment Report, the financing gap for the SDGs in a post-pandemic world is currently estimated at $4 trillion – up from $2,5 trillion when the SDGs were launched in 2015[4]. Many governments have pointed out the significant gaps that remain on SDG financing and the UN Secretary General called for an SDG Stimulus Package of $500 billion at the 2023 SDG Summit.

In September 2024, the 'Pact for the Future' was adopted during the UN Summit of the Future - with several global public policy recommendations concerning financing for sustainable development being outlined. Key prescriptions include reforming iInternational financial institutions to unlock higher levels of global public financing, mobilizing domestic resources, innovative financing mechanisms, debt sustainability and climate finance.

Regarding increasing global and regional public financing, and more specifically, from regional and global multilateral banks, there are several steps that could be taken to achieve this. In the realm of reforming international financial institutions - a development that would be very much supported by global civil society-, one of the key reforms that could unlock significant capitalization for multilateral global and regional development banks would be to reform the way in which Special Drawing Rights are allocated and used.

One of the main mechanisms through which this could be achieved is by establishing bonds based on the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which would allow countries in the global North with significant foreign-exchange reserves, especially in USD,

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[4] World Investment Report 2023 – UNCTAD p.38

to donate their excess SDRs by 'investing'[5] in World Bank-issued bonds denominated in SDRs: '*Countries that currently have surplus SDRs on deposit at the IMF would lend those SDRs to the World Bank, which would then convert them into usable currencies through the IMF. The countries that lent their SDRs to the IMF would receive an SDR-linked bond in exchange.*'[6]

Since the SDRs that would be rechanneled through this SDR-denominated bond would come from countries that have budgetary and reserve positions solid enough to not need to cash their SDRs, SDR-bonds would in principle be continuously rolled-over at maturity – thus ensuring continuity of the flows provided and making it a long-term financial instrument. The latest issuance of SDRs in 2021 was equivalent to $650 billion in the context of the pandemic stimulus. Of these, around $300 billion are held by countries that could safely rechannel them through SDR bonds (more than half are actually held by the US!).

Beyond mechanisms for increasing MDB's balance sheets and concessional financing, there are also initiatives that could be taken at the global level to raise and expand domestic resource mobilization in a more progressive, equitable and balanced way. It would be much more beneficial for developing countries to receive equitable access to non-debt based financing, which could be based on fairer global taxation.

Significant strides have already been made, with the Agreement on a minimum global tax for multinationals agreed in 2021 under the auspices of the OECD. Although it should be viewed as a positive development, there are still elements that make it minimalistic: the 15% minimum rates established are still too low, and implementation carve-outs would still allow countries, especially current tax-havens, to keep their low-tax rates for companies that have moved production to their shores[7].

UN Framework Convention on Tax Cooperation

While the OECD-led agreement was a significant step, establishing a UN-based international tax body would seek to enhance the global tax system by fostering a more cohesive and inclusive framework for setting international standards.

The UN Framework on Tax Cooperation aims to establish a fairer global tax system by shifting decision-making away from OECD/G20 dominance toward a one-country, one-vote model under UN auspices. This effort gained momentum in November 2023, when the UN General Assembly, following a resolution by the Africa Group, launched an intergovernmental process to create a UN tax body. In December 2024, the Intergovernmental Negotiating

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[5] It would qualify as an investment, since an interest rate is attached to the bond issuance, but it would mainly cover the small interest rate that countries have to pay the IMF for using their SDRs.

[6] B. Setser and S. Paduano, 'How an SDR-denominated bond could work', Council on Foreign Relations, march 2023

[7] Global tax evasion report – EU Tax Observatory, p.72

Committee (INC) was established to draft a framework convention and two early protocols.

The key priorities of the UN tax framework include curbing tax avoidance and profit shifting by introducing a global minimum corporate tax, a blacklist of tax havens, and mandatory public country-by-country reporting for multinational corporations. A key transformation that the framework aims to operationalize is a more equitable redistribution of global tax revenues, by developing a transparent revenue-sharing model for digital services, financial transactions[8], and multinational earnings.

One of the main policies in that context would be shifting from residence-based taxation to source-based taxation, ensuring that profits are taxed where economic activity occurs rather than where multinational headquarters are registered, which would benefit countries in the Global South. Additionally, the agreement advocates for progressive taxation measures, including a global billionaire tax, stronger capital gains and inheritance taxes, and measures to rebalance the tax burden between corporations, the wealthy, and lower-income populations.

Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)

Scheduled for June 2025, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) aims to reshape the international financial architecture and increase financial flows for sustainable development, by integrating dispersed initiatives into a cohesive framework.

The key priorities of FfD4 include expanding concessional finance, with a focus on increasing low-cost financing for developing countries, ensuring that official development assistance (ODA) commitments are met, and leveraging multilateral development banks to provide counter-cyclical financial support. In that context, FfD4 is looking to consider proposals on reallocating Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), with mechanisms that ensure unused SDRs in high-income countries are better utilized to enhance liquidity for low-income economies - as mentioned above with the SDR-denominated bonds.

Another dimension of the FfD4 process aims to strengthen debt relief mechanisms, particularly by advancing more inclusive debt restructuring frameworks, ensuring that debt sustainability measures align with the needs of the Global South, and developing more effective climate-linked debt instruments.

FfD4 should also seek to strengthen guardrails against illicit financial flows, which includes stronger anti-money laundering regulations, tax transparency

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[8] A global Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) to levy a small tax on stock trades, derivatives, and cross-border financial flows, generating significant revenue while curbing speculative trading. Revenue-sharing mechanisms should also be put in place, ensuring that financial centers do not hoard tax revenues from international financial transactions, redistributing a portion of the taxes to countries affected by financial instability or economic crises through a UN-managed Sustainable Development Fund, ensuring tax revenues contribute to closing global inequality gaps.

measures, and multinational corporate accountability. This aligns with the UN tax framework under negotiation, reinforcing the global tax norms and financial transparency.

Additionally, FfD4 is set to encourage increased private sector engagement by promoting blended finance models, sustainability-linked investment frameworks, and innovative financial instruments. More broadñy, mechanisms such as carbon pricing, debt-for-climate swaps, and expanded climate finance initiatives are expected to play a key role in mobilizing new sources of sustainable development funding.

Both the UN tax framework and FfD4 processes are complementary, addressing different dimensions of global economic governance. The UN tax framework focuses on systemic tax reforms to generate more global public revenues in an equitable manner, while FfD4 seeks to restructure and expand financing for sustainable development more broadly. Both initiatives thus represent critical opportunities to address systemic inequalities in global taxation and sustainable development financial flows, making their successful implementation essential to ensuring better wealth redistribution at the global level, and thus hopefully strengthening SDG financing.

3. Analysis of the Scorecard Results

3.1 : Country averages

Scorecard 2024 - National Averages (Global Avg.:0.83)
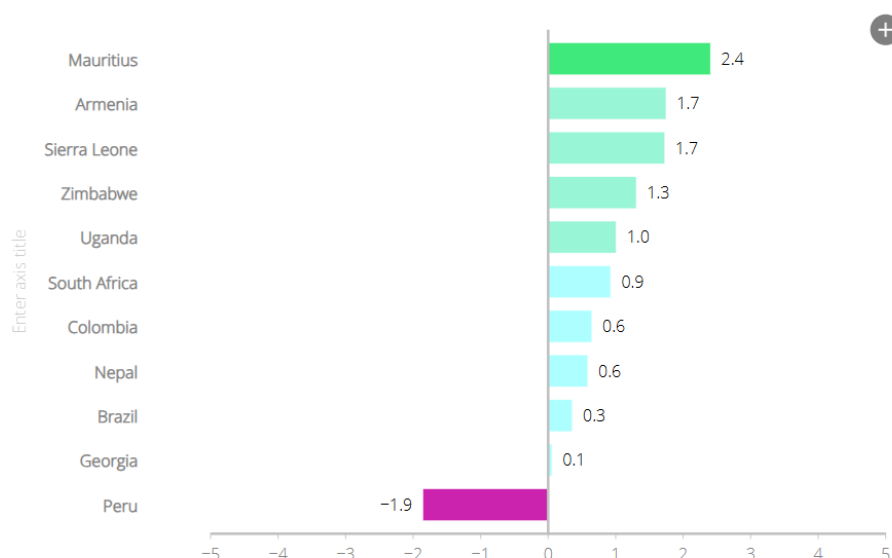
While the Scorecard offers a global perspective by including countries from all regions, its averages and analytical insights apply specifically to this group of reporting nations.

Scorecard results can be analyzed in multiple ways, but the most straightforward approach is mapping the average SDG scores by country. This provides a broad civil society perspective on overall progress since the launch of the SDGs, as respondents were asked to assess national progress since the SDGs' launch in 2015. Given that each country started from different baselines, what is truly comparable is not the specific numerical score itself, but the **trend** - whether progress is perceived as advancing or regressing, and to what degree.

Countries that administered the Scorecard Survey to their national civil society peers in 2024 generally show weak results regarding their SDG implementation processes. With an average score of 0.83, collective perceptions underscore a low level of progress in SDG implementation, with some notable exceptions on both sides of the scoring scale.

The lowest scoring country is **Peru**, where civil society perceives moderate regression in the country's sustainable development path (-1.85 on the scoring scale).

According to the spotlight report from *ANC/Grupo de Trabajo Agenda 2030*, this stems, at governance level, from decades of political instability fueled by polarization, institutional ineffectiveness (governance fragmentation between national and subnational levels) and corruption. As a result, at policy level, while the SDGs are included in the National Strategic Development Plan, this hasn't automatically translated into concrete public measures, or in effective interventions.

Peru faces persistent challenges across multiple SDGs, including poverty (SDG 1), food insecurity (SDG 2), healthcare access (SDG 3), education disparities (SDG 4), gender inequality (SDG 5), and economic informality (SDG 8). Additionally, socio-economic and geographic inequalities (SDG 10), limited climate action (SDG 13), and weak policy implementation hinder progress, emphasizing the need for stronger and more coordinated governance efforts, data generation and accessibility, as well as participation to accelerate SDG achievement.

A set of 5 countries (**Georgia, Brazil, Nepal, Colombia, South Africa**) register a very low level of progress (ranging from 0.1 to 0.9), as collectively perceived by national civil society coalitions in each country. These are countries with specific forms of political and institutional instability (like in Brazil, Georgia, Colombia, South Africa), or lack of institutional and/or budgetary capacities (Colombia, South Africa. Nepal, Georgia), all of which hinders the implementation of strong, albeit uneven, planning tools or policy frameworks. These are countries characterized by persistent inequality (SDG 1 & 10), high informality and economic instability (SDG 8), climate vulnerability and weak environmental policies (SDG 13), as well as corruption and governance challenges (SDG 16).

A set of 4 countries **(Armenia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Uganda**) registers low levels of progress (ranging from 1 to 1.7). These countries have relatively strong policy frameworks and SDG-aligned strategies on paper, but weak governance, corruption, economic instability, and institutional inefficiencies create major implementation gaps. This results in limited policy impact, despite formal commitments to SDG progress. In **Armenia** , Green Lane's spotlight report highlights that strong policy frameworks like the Transformation Strategy 2050 exists, but regional conflicts, economic dependence on remittances, and governance challenges limit implementation. In **Sierra Leone**, the spotlight report from Volunteers Involving Organizations Network (VIO-Net) details that the country has a Comprehensive National Development Plan (2019–2023) and a SDG Acceleration Roadmap, along with strong sectoral policy frameworks, but weak state capacity, corruption, and reliance on donor funding create significant implementation barriers. In **Zimbabwe**, there are well-defined strategies like Vision 2030, but economic instability, hyperinflation, and governance ineffectiveness severely hinder effective policy execution, whilst in **Uganda**, there's an ambitious Vision 2040 and a National Development Plan III, yet corruption, a weak decentralization

process, and institutional inefficiencies also prevent policies from translating into real progress.

Mauritius is the highest scoring country in the 2024 Scorecard, showing a moderate level of progress (2.4 in the scoring scale). According to the spotlight report from the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), this moderate level of progress could be attributed to a combination of strengths in social welfare and economic resilience, alongside persistent challenges in environmental sustainability and inclusive governance. Mauritius has indeed made notable strides in healthcare, social protection, and inclusive education, contributing to a generally positive perception of efforts around human development and welfare. Despite strong policies and institutional frameworks, challenges persist in implementation due to siloed government approaches, a lack of comprehensive data, relatively weak policy enforcement, and limited grassroots participation in policymaking.

3.2 Global averages by SDG

SDG Scorecard 2024 - Averages by SDG
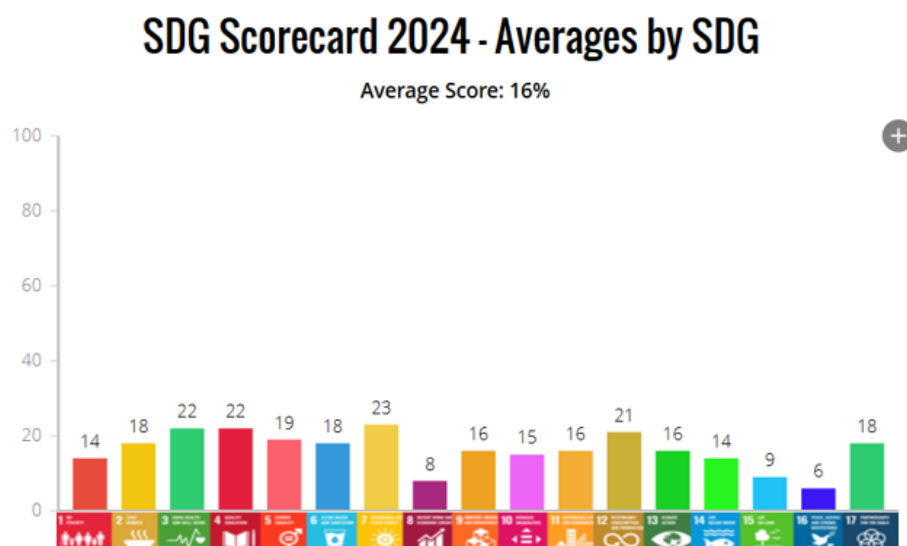
Average Score: 16%

The SDG-based average scores[9] show patterns consistent with prior years, with SDGs linked to human development (SDGs 3, 4, 5)[10] registering the highest scores, along with SDG 7 on clean energy.

The very low SDG 16 score (6%) indicates governance weaknesses, corruption, and lack of transparency, as many of the scorecard countries in 2024 (Zimbabwe, Uganda, Brazil, Colombia, and Sierra Leone) suffer from institutional inefficiencies, elite capture of resources, and weak enforcement of policies. Mauritius and Armenia fare slightly better but still struggle with bureaucratic inefficiencies and limited civic engagement mechanisms.

Regarding human development-related goals, SDG 3 (22%) and SDG 4 (22%) scores underline the fact that most countries in the Global South have historically prioritized health, education, and gender policies, often backed by international funding and development programs. In this context, these scores indicate relative progress in expanding healthcare access and education, even if quality and equity remain challenges, whereas SDG 5 (19%) suggests that gender equality frameworks exist, but enforcement gaps remain (wage inequality, GBV response, and political participation).

The score for SDG 7 (23%), suggests some modest advancements on expanding energy access, with infrastructure particularly in renewable energy projects, as well as rural electrification programs contributing to moderate progress in energy access. Mauritius and Brazil have relatively strong energy grids, while Uganda, Nepal, and Sierra Leone have expanded access through solar and off-grid solutions. However, energy affordability

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9 Scores from -5 to +5 are converted into percentages for improved comparability.

10 This categorization is of course based on the primary emphasis of each SDG, acknowledging that many goals have multifaceted impacts across social, economic, and environmental domains.

and sustainability remain challenges, particularly in Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone, where infrastructure is outdated.

The surprisingly relatively high score for SDG 12 (21%) highlights a growing and welcome policy focus on sustainable consumption and production, as it suggests that many countries have started integrating sustainability principles into policies, although implementation gaps persist.

The underlying factors that could explain the relatively high scores for SDGs 7 and 12, is that many countries have explicit policy commitments for energy transition (SDG 7) and sustainable production (SDG 12), since these areas align with economic modernization and climate resilience goals. For example, Mauritius has strong government investment in renewable energy expansion and sustainability initiatives (Green Productivity programs), and in Brazil, the new administration is enacting an Ecological Transformation Plan, as well as reactivating climate-related investments.

However, implementation of efficient waste management and recycling, circular economy efforts, and resource efficiency measures are still weak, leading to low environmental scores in SDGs 13, 14, and 15, as countries still search for the right balance between expanding productive structures and environmental stewardship. Deforestation, land degradation, and lack of climate adaptation policies affect Nepal, Uganda, and Brazil, whilst marine and biodiversity conservation efforts remain weak.

On the other hand, the scores for socio-economic goals like SDG 1 and SDG 8 highlight widespread poverty, as well as weak and informal labor markets. Countries like Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Uganda have high income inequality, weak labor markets, and limited access to social protection, whilst Brazil, Colombia, and South Africa, despite stronger economies, still face deep structural inequalities, racial disparities, and weak youth integration into labor markets.

While policy frameworks exist in most countries, weak governance and uncoordinated implementation efforts, corruption, and resource constraints undermine real progress, making institutional reform, policy coherence, capacity-building and more efficient wealth-redistribution at national and global levels critical for SDG acceleration.

3.3 Country averages by SDG

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 1 (Average: 0.78)
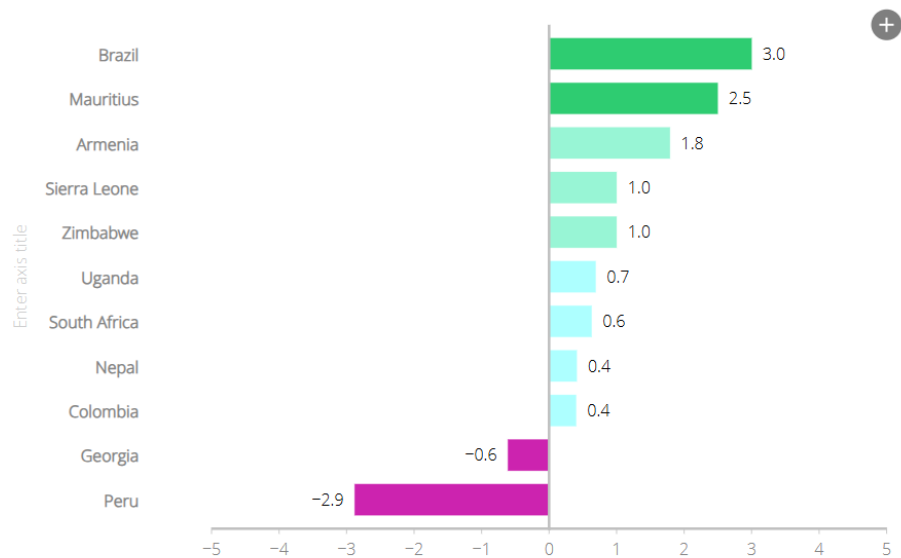
Global trends regarding SDG 1 based on the scorecard results show a very low level of progress on average (0.78), highlighting persistent challenges in poverty eradication, particularly for marginalized and rural populations. Structural inequalities and regional disparities exacerbate poverty, with vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, LGBTQI individuals, people with disabilities, and rural communities disproportionately affected.

Most spotlight reports emphasize that rural areas face unique challenges, including limited access to essential services and economic opportunities. Globally, extreme poverty continues to be overwhelmingly rural, accounting for almost 4 in 5 people living in extreme poverty[11].

While social protection programs and cash transfers, such as those in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, and the parish development model in Uganda show promise, their impact is often limited by inadequate targeting, inconsistent funding, and gaps in institutional capacities.

On a more positive note, according to the spotlight report and scorecard from GT Agenda 2030 in **Brazi**l, the country has resumed focused governmental efforts on poverty eradication and food security, which puts the country on a moderate level of progress. Improvements include reforms to key ministries and enhancements to the Bolsa Família program, which now benefits 21

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[11] https://www.who.int/activities/addressing-health-inequities-among-people-living-in-rural-and-remote-areas

million families. In 2023, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty decreased from 5.9% to 4.4%.

In **Mauritius,** the spotlight report from the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS**)** shows a medium level of progress, primarily based on the fact that the country has made notable progress in reducing poverty through its strong social protection system, including comprehensive social security benefits. The COVID-19 pandemic reversed some of the gains in poverty alleviation, exacerbating the challenges, especially in extreme poverty. The government works with civil society through the National Social Inclusion Foundation and the National Empowerment Foundation to support vulnerable groups.

In **Armenia**, the spotlight report highlights that the country has seen a slight reduction in poverty, but that significant challenges remain, particularly in rural areas where poverty is more pronounced. While the poverty rate has decreased marginally in recent years, income inequality persists, especially between rural and urban populations. Vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly are disproportionately affected by poverty. Despite government efforts to address poverty, the country requires a combined effort from the state, international partners, and the diaspora to combat poverty effectively.

Zimbabwe's progress towards SDG 1 is seen as slow, albeit with some positive strides, such as the implementation of social development programs, cash transfers, and skills training initiatives for persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, challenges remain in implementation, particularly the lack of data disaggregation based on vulnerability factors like gender and geographical location. Rural populations are more vulnerable, and there is a noticeable gap between urban and rural poverty. Improving the demographic and geographic coverage of social protection schemes is thus key.

In **Peru**, civil society perceives regression, as the country faces significant poverty challenges, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and persistent inequalities between rural and urban areas. Rural populations are especially affected, lacking access to essential services like clean water, sanitation, and healthcare.

In **South Africa**, the spotlight report asserts that the country has made limited progress in eradicating poverty by 2030, with modest improvements in multidimensional poverty indicators due to increased access to social wages for healthcare, education, and housing. However, poverty remains widespread, especially in rural areas where communities lack access to livelihood resources. Key strategies include expanding social protection programs, providing basic income support, and addressing land redistribution to increase productive assets for the historically dispossessed black majority, which could contribute to job creation and poverty reduction.

Whilst regional disparities are also prevalent in Nepal and Kenya, the spotlight report also highlights challenges and targeted solutions for other constituencies:

In **Nepal**, poverty remains deeply entrenched, particularly for marginalized groups such as LGBTQI individuals, people with disabilities, and Dalits. The government's plans often fail to align with local needs, and these communities continue to face exclusion from economic opportunities and government benefits. There is a clear need for more targeted interventions, inclusive policies, and increased awareness to improve the situation for these groups, which would contribute to progress on SDG 1 (No Poverty).

In **Kenya**, highlight several initiatives geared towards poverty reduction, including social protection programs like Inua Jamii for the elderly, as well as support programs for women, youth, and people with disabilities. Challenges include inadequate targeting of populations, disaggregated data on poverty, inconsistent funding for pro-poor programs, and the need for stronger resource allocation frameworks. The recommendations emphasize enhancing social protection, investing in education and healthcare, and integrating the private sector into poverty reduction efforts. Data-driven interventions are also crucial for better targeting of poverty alleviation measures.

Syria faces widespread extreme and severe poverty, with most families struggling to meet basic needs. The conflict has exacerbated the poverty situation, causing a sharp increase in income-poverty gaps. By 2022, severe and extreme poverty rates had reached alarming levels, with 90% of families affected by some form of poverty. and overcoming these barriers will require significant international assistance and long-term peace and recovery efforts.

In **Spain**, the spotlight report recommends reforming the income guarantee system to make it more inclusive and ensure guaranteed income as a subjective right for the most vulnerable. The focus is on ensuring better access for marginalized groups, addressing inequality, and making the income system more robust and accessible. This reform aims to reduce poverty and promote greater social inclusion by providing reliable support.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 2 (Average: 0.89)
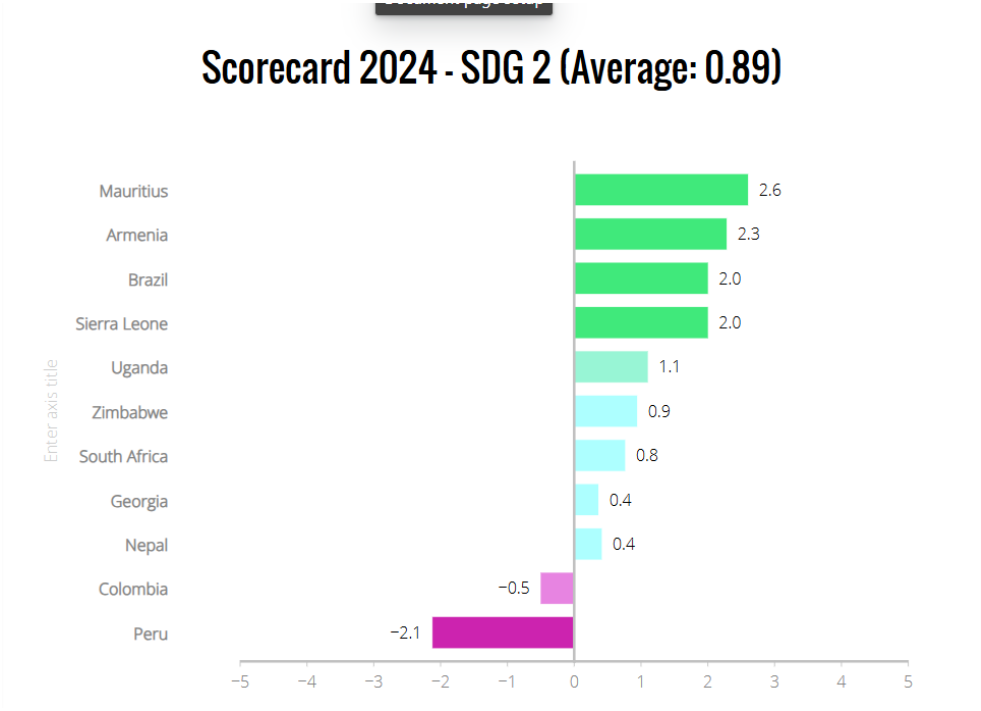
In 2024 scorecards, global efforts toward achieving SDG 2 reveal a very low level of progress on average (0.89), highlighting persistent structural socio-economic and spatial inequalities exacerbated by climate change.

Climate shocks and extreme weather events are already responsible for reducing global agricultural productivity growth by 21% since 1961[12], with smallholder farmers and regions dependent on rain-fed agriculture being the most affected. Vulnerabilities in agricultural systems, including low wages, insufficient innovation, and high dependence on imports, further hinder progress.

Transforming agri-food systems through sustainable practices and fostering climate-adapted crops, and support for smallholder farmers and SMEs is critical, particularly as agroecological approaches have been shown to increase yields by 79% on average while restoring soil health and reducing dependence on synthetic fertilizers[13]. Strengthening and transforming local food systems and ensuring access to support programs on sustainable agriculture for all populations are essential steps in achieving SDG 2 and fostering food sovereignty

In **Mauritius**, the spotlight report from MACOSS asserts that although climate change has significantly impacted agriculture, with extreme weather

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[12] Ortiz-Bobea et al., 2021, **Anthropogenic climate change has slowed global agricultural productivity growth** Nature Climate Change https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-021-01000-1

[13] Zero Carbon Analytics report titled "Agroecological practices support climate change resilience https://zerocarbon-analytics.org/

conditions such as flash floods and droughts causing food shortages and price hikes, Mauritius is tackling food security through the establishment of a buffer stock and the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship, especially focusing on SME-development and supporting institutions, which puts the country in a moderate level of progress. There is a call for better disaggregated data and real-time monitoring systems to support sustainable solutions and policy-making in the agricultural sector.

In the context of transformation in agri-food systems, **Armenia**'s spotlight report by Green Lane asserts that although agriculture remains a key sector for rural households, the industry is burdened by low wages, decreasing productivity, and vulnerabilities to climate change. The sector faces challenges such as poorly regulated land use, insufficient technological innovation, and high dependence on imported investments. That said, the report highlights that efforts are being made through state support programs to increase capital investments and production capacities, in order to stabilize the incomes of farmers, all of which informs a moderate level of progress.

In **Brazil**, the spotlight report from GT Agenda2030 highlights that in 2023, progress toward achieving SDG 2 resumed, marked by a reduction in food insecurity, particularly in the moderate to severe categories. Increased budget allocations for family farming, corrections to the minimum wage, reduced unemployment, and adjustments to the National School Meal Program contributed to enhanced food security. As a result, 13 million individuals were lifted out of hunger, improving prospects for meeting the SDG 2 target.

Zimbabwe' civil society perceives that the country has made low to moderate progress on SDG 2, with several challenges still impeding progress. The country is suffering from drought, which has disproportionately affected persons with disabilities (PWDs), particularly in rural areas. Efforts like the Hivos Urban Features project promote urban agriculture, increasing food production and improving food security in urban areas. However, challenges such as delayed payments to farmers and insufficient government preparedness for climate shocks like El Niño continue to hinder progress, and exacerbate reliance on food imports. Despite initiatives like the Pfumvudza/Intwasa program, the country still faces significant hunger, particularly in rural areas .

In **Nepal**, structural inequalities around access to food are characterized by the institutional exclusion of socially marginalized communities, such as LGBTQI individuals, people with disabilities, and Dalits, who struggle to access government benefits and are least prioritized in development plans. This exclusion hinders progress toward SDG 2, with vulnerable groups facing less access to food and social policies.

Civil society in **Kenya** and **Peru** reinforces the call to strengthen local food systems by supporting smallholder farmers and local food producers. In **Kenya**, the adoption of agro-ecological practices promoted by civil society-led or supported initiatives aim to enhance the resilience of local food systems and reduce dependency on imports. Similarly, **Peru** advocates for improved irrigation and the promotion of family farming to boost food production capacity, particularly in rural areas, highlighting the critical need for a transformation in the agri-food system to ensure sustainability, reduce dependency on imported foods, and enhance local agricultural productivity.

In **Syria**, the spotlight report asserts that the country faces severe challenges in achieving SDG 2, particularly due to the ongoing conflict, which has reduced arable land and led to a loss of agricultural productivity. The country also struggles with natural factors like drought and fires, along with increasing production costs for essentials such as fertilizers and fuels. Additionally, farmers face economic pressures, including low prices for crops and high transportation costs, leading to a decrease in agricultural output and farmer migration. Syria's capacity to adopt modern agricultural technologies is limited, making it difficult to address food security in the country effectively.

In **Spain,** the spotlight report from Futuro en Común emphasizes the need for a sustainable food model, promoting agroecology principles that include local consumption and involvement across the entire supply chain, transitioning towards more sustainable agricultural practices, aligning food systems with the principles of environmental sustainability, equity, and resilience, particularly for those most at risk of food insecurity.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 3 (Average: 1)
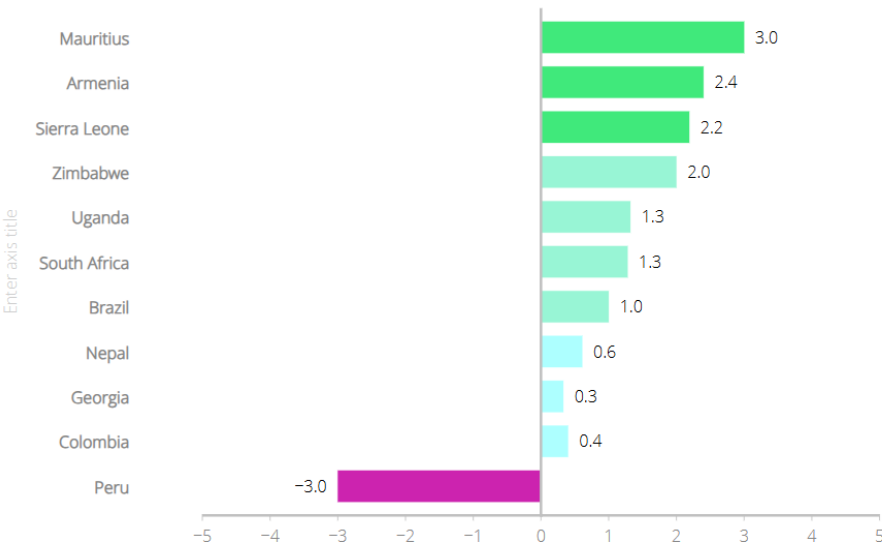
Scorecard results for Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) indicate a low level of progress on average. According to many of the national coalitions, significant challenges persist in addressing healthcare access disparities, particularly for marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, LGBTQI individuals, and rural populations. Healthcare systems in many regions face underfunding, high out-of-pocket expenses, and inadequate infrastructure.

Mauritius' spotlight report from MACOSS points that the country has a relatively strong public health system managed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, with Civil Society Organizations playing an important role in supporting health initiatives, all of which informs a perception of moderate progress for SDG 3. However, there is a significant gap in addressing mental health issues, with stigma still being a challenge. Access to sexual and reproductive health services and education for women and girls also needs to be prioritized.

In **Armenia,** civil society acknowledges recent healthcare improvements, as the government has initiated budget increases (up to 10% of GDP) and health reforms, which include building a universal health insurance system by 2026, and aim to improve accessibility, quality, and reduce out-of-pocket costs. Regarding positive outcomes, maternal and infant mortality rates are decreasing. However, the sector remains under funded.

Zimbabwe's civil society views progress on SDG 3 as moderate, although challenges persist, particularly for people with disabilities (PWDs) who face significant barriers to accessing healthcare. While there have been

improvements in maternal and child health, with reductions in maternal and under-5 mortality rates, the healthcare system remains underfunded, with government spending on health still below the Abuja Declaration target - which further limits healthcare improvements in access to quality health services, particularly in rural areas.

In **Nepal,** the spotlight reports acknowledges significant improvements in maternal health, with a preference for hospital deliveries and skilled birth attendants at health centers. However, in the context of the recently enacted federal system, there is a need for more localized health policies to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, and better social protection systems in rural areas.

In **Peru,** the spotlight report asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the fact that the healthcare system faces significant challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained personnel, and regional inequalities in access - which underlines the score of -3, showing a moderate regression. Efforts to modernize infrastructure and train medical professionals, along with improved coordination between different government levels, are thus seen as crucial for improving health service delivery.
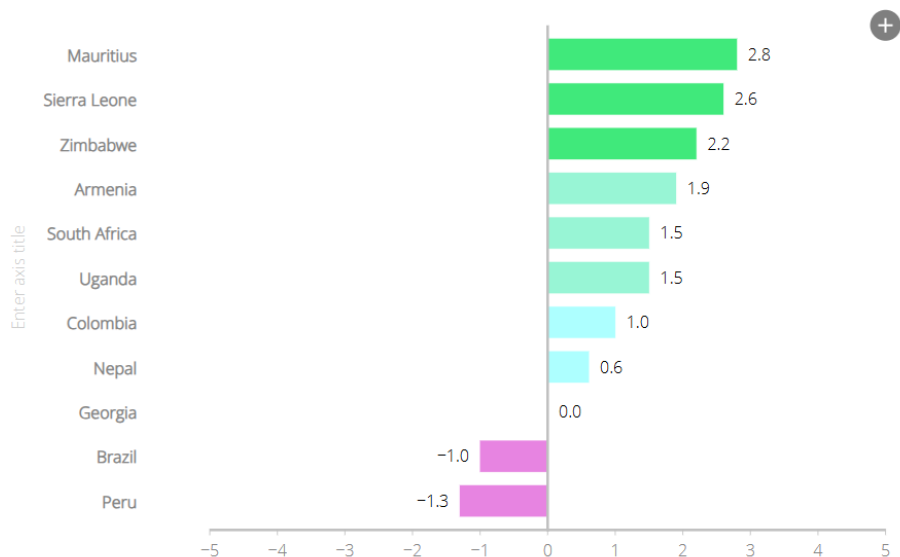
In **Kenya**, SDG Forum' report highlights that health challenges include weak access to essential services, particularly maternity care (access to skilled birth attendants is limited), and inadequate referral mechanisms, with gaps also existing in family planning services, particularly for youth and adolescents. Recommendations focus on enhancing healthcare monitoring, improving service delivery, and expanding access to reproductive health services, especially for marginalized groups.

The ongoing conflict in **Syria** has had a devastating impact on public health, with widespread destruction of health infrastructure and medical personnel targeted. The result has been a significant increase in death rates and a rise in infectious diseases like cholera, measles, and COVID-19. Syria has faced severe health challenges, including inadequate access to healthcare services, shortages of medications, and the emigration of medical professionals. The country continues to face the catastrophic consequences of war, such as the over 700,000 deaths, extensive healthcare system collapse, and the fragmentation of health services.

In **Spain**, Futuro en Común pushes for ensuring a universal and quality public health system, emphasizing primary healthcare and preventive measures, making healthcare accessible to all, including migrants. A preventive and promotional approach is being prioritized, with efforts to allocate up to 25% of total health expenditure to primary healthcare, which is considered essential for achieving SDG 3.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 4 (Average: 1)

Country	Value
Mauritius	2.8
Sierra Leone	2.6
Zimbabwe	2.2
Armenia	1.9
South Africa	1.5
Uganda	1.5
Colombia	1.0
Nepal	0.6
Georgia	0.0
Brazil	−1.0
Peru	−1.3

Scorecard trends for Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) indicate a low level of progress on average (1). Some advances are noted in relation to improved educational access in most countries, as well as investments in infrastructure. However, Disparities remain, particularly among marginalized groups, with the COVID-19 pandemic deepening pre-existing educational inequities caused by systemic inequalities (geographic and income-based)[14].

Additionally, challenges regarding quality persist. Data on global trends shows that only 58% of students worldwide achieved minimum proficiency in reading by the end of primary school in 2020[15].

To address these challenges, recommendations from civil society include increasing funding, improving infrastructure, promoting early childhood development and vocational education, improving teacher training and implementing targeted interventions to ensure equitable access to quality education for all.

Mauritius's civil society highlights that the country has made substantial progress towards inclusive education, with the government offering free education at all levels, including higher education. The introduction of free tertiary education has helped expand access to higher learning. More data and evidence-based solutions are required to support the education system and improve social health outcomes.

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[14] https://poverty.ucdavis.edu/post/educational-inequities-related-race-and-socioeconomic-status-deepened-covid-19-pandemic

[15] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-04/

Zimbabwe civil society acknowledges some progress in promoting inclusive education, with significant strides in providing education for people with disabilities (PWDs) and improving gender parity in primary education. However, challenges remain, particularly in rural areas where access to quality education is still limited. Although the government has adopted an inclusive education curriculum, infrastructure and resources for PWDs still require significant improvements. There are also high dropout rates at the secondary level, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated education disruptions. The government has made efforts to invest in early childhood development and vocational education, but marginalized communities still face barriers to access.

In **Armenia,** civil society highlights that the country is taking significant steps to align its education system with SDG 4, particularly through initiatives like the Tumo innovation center and the "Teacher Armenia" program, which seeks to bring qualified teachers to remote areas. However, challenges persist, including outdated infrastructure, low access to technology, and significant disparities in enrollment and quality of education between rural and urban areas. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the gaps in digital learning, and despite efforts, the country still struggles with ensuring equal access to quality education for all children, especially those with disabilities.

South Africa has made progress in increasing access to education at primary and secondary levels, but significant challenges remain, particularly concerning quality and equality in education. Disparities between top-performing and underperforming schools are stark, exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, and unqualified teachers. While there have been efforts to improve the quality of education through reforms and increased spending, these measures have not yet fully addressed the challenges outlined in SDG 4.

Nepal's spotlight report asserts that the country has made considerable progress in achieving SDG 4, especially in terms of gender parity in education at the primary level and improving infrastructure. Notably, internet access in schools has increased significantly, indicating a commitment to modernizing the education system. However, there are still challenges, particularly in ensuring access to quality education in rural areas and for marginalized groups. The country also faces gaps in addressing disability inclusivity in schools and ensuring equitable access for all students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Peru's education system faces substantial challenges, particularly in bridging the learning gap between urban and rural areas and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and indigenous communities. Despite progress in some areas, the education system suffers from low public spending, outdated infrastructure, and

insufficient teacher training. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted these issues, with rural schools struggling to transition to digital learning. The country's educational policies are seen as disconnected from the needs of the population, and significant investment in infrastructure and teacher development is necessary to achieve SDG 4.
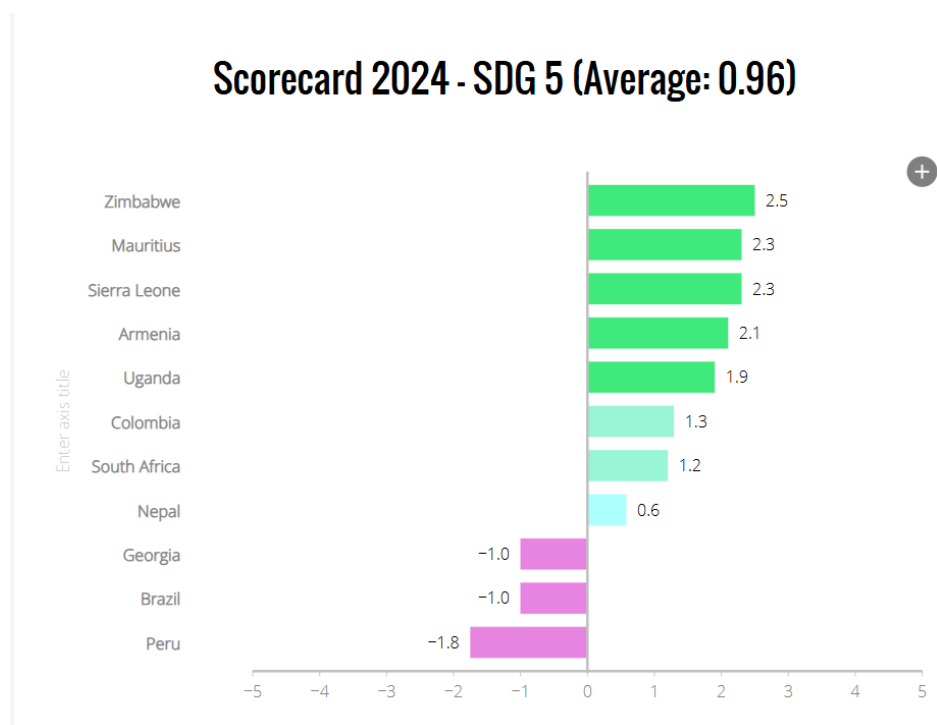
In **Brazil**, the context for SDG 4 remains concerning. While disbursements from the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) toward this goal have increased, public investment in education remains insufficient. Civil society participation platforms, such as the National Education Forum (FNE) and the National Education Conference (CONAE 2024), have been reinstated, but challenges persist, including setbacks from the New Secondary School (NEM) reforms. Additionally, the Brazil SDG Panel lacks data for six of the eleven applicable indicators for SDG 4.

Kenya faces significant challenges in implementing SDG 4, particularly in ensuring equitable access to education. Issues such as the uneven distribution of teaching personnel, increasing numbers of out-of-school children, and low funding for education exacerbate disparities. Recommendations to address these issues include improving the distribution of teachers, enhancing youth engagement in SDG processes, and using technology to promote learning. Efforts are also focused on increasing parental involvement in education and addressing the barriers caused by gender-based violence and poverty.

For **Syria**, according to CHR's spotlight report, the ongoing conflict has seen millions of children deprived of education and significant damage to infrastructure. The disruption of education has led to a loss of millions of educational years, with high dropout rates and limited opportunities for children to catch up. While civil society and the private sector have played an increasing role, their contributions are insufficient compared to the extensive educational needs. Fragmentation of curricula and the lack of a unified education system further complicate recovery, despite the government's claims in its VNR.

Spain's spotlight report advocates for the country to achieve equitable and quality public education, with a strong emphasis on integrating marginalized groups. There is also a focus on non-discrimination, with increased resources allocated to ensurinng equal treatment for all students. However, Spain's public education expenditure, although substantial, still lags behind the OECD average, signaling a need for more investment in the sector to meet SDG 4 targets.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 5 (Average: 0.96)

Country	Value
Zimbabwe	2.5
Mauritius	2.3
Sierra Leone	2.3
Armenia	2.1
Uganda	1.9
Colombia	1.3
South Africa	1.2
Nepal	0.6
Georgia	−1.0
Brazil	−1.0
Peru	−1.8

With a low level of progress (0.96), global trends for SDG 5 based on the Scorecard results reveal persistent challenges in achieving gender equality, despite progress in various areas. Notable advancements include improved legal frameworks, increased political representation for women, and enhanced participation in the workforce, although progress is slow. Regarding political representation, as of 2021, women constitute approximately 25% of national parliamentarians worldwide, up from 11% in 1995[16].

That said, significant challenges persist, such as gender-based violence, wage gaps, and limited access to resources, particularly for marginalized groups like rural women, indigenous populations, and women with disabilities. Cultural norms, discriminatory laws, and insufficient enforcement of gender-related policies exacerbate these inequalities, with rural and conflict-affected areas facing the greatest challenges.

Recommendations from civil society emphasize strengthening legal protections, increasing funding for gender programs, enhancing data collection, improving enforcement of existing legal frameworks, and promoting inclusive policies to ensure equitable opportunities and rights for women and girls worldwide.

Civil society in **Zimbabwe** sees moderate progress in achieving gender equality, with improvements in women's political representation and efforts to reduce child marriage and adolescent birth rates. That said, while there are frameworks in place for gender equality, the challenge remains in fully

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[16] https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-womens-leadership-and-political-participation

implementing these policies and ensuring women's equal participation in decision-making processes. Gender inequality remains a significant issue, particularly for women with disabilities who are marginalized within both the disability and gender equality movements.

Mauritius' civil society highlights that the country has made significant strides in gender equality through a robust legal framework, including the Equal Opportunities Act and the Protection from Domestic Violence Act. However, there remain challenges, particularly in the enforcement of laws, as seen in the continued prevalence of domestic violence. Data collection on gender-based issues is fragmented, and there is a need for more disaggregated statistics and targeted awareness campaigns. Although progress has been made in tackling discrimination, there is a call for more comprehensive policies, effective enforcement, and awareness initiatives to ensure that women and girls' rights are fully protected.

The spotlight report from **Nepal** highlights that the country has made notable progress in gender inclusivity, particularly in the government and private sector. However, caste-based discrimination against Dalit women and girls continues to pose a significant challenge, particularly in rural areas like the Terai region. Though there has been some reduction in overt gender biases, subtle forms of discrimination remain, limiting access to resources and opportunities for women from historically marginalized groups. There is an urgent need for targeted interventions to address these disparities and enhance the inclusivity of policies aimed at achieving gender equality.

GTA 2030's spotlight report asserts that **Peru** faces significant gender equality challenges, especially in economic and political participation. Despite progress in female labor force participation, women continue to experience wage gaps, with women earning significantly less than men. Gender-based violence is a pervasive issue, with an increase in cases during the pandemic. Women in rural areas, especially indigenous women, face greater barriers to accessing reproductive health services. Legislative setbacks and cultural barriers also limit women's rights and participation in politics, indicating a need for more proactive measures to promote gender equality.

In **Brazil**, since 2023 the federal government has resumed efforts to promote public policies for women's empowerment, but progress remains insufficient due to years of underfunding and program erosion. Between 2019-2022, national investment in gender initiatives was minimal, with SDG 5 consistently receiving the lowest resource allocation from the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) since 2015. The Women's Budget remains inadequate, with only 60% of allocated funds executed. However, some progress includes the approval of laws for gender mainstreaming, such as those establishing equal pay for women and men and addressing moral and sexual harassment.

In **South Africa,** the spotlight report from SDG asserts that the country faces ongoing challenges in achieving SDG 5, despite having strong legal and policy frameworks on gender equality. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive issue, particularly in the workforce, where women often face domestic violence and sexual harassment. These issues significantly impact women's mental and physical health, career progression, and participation in the economy. There are also significant disparities in the labor force participation of women, with many women working in low-paying, vulnerable jobs. In this context, addressing GBV and ensuring gender mainstreaming across sectors is critical for the country to achieve gender equality and empower women.
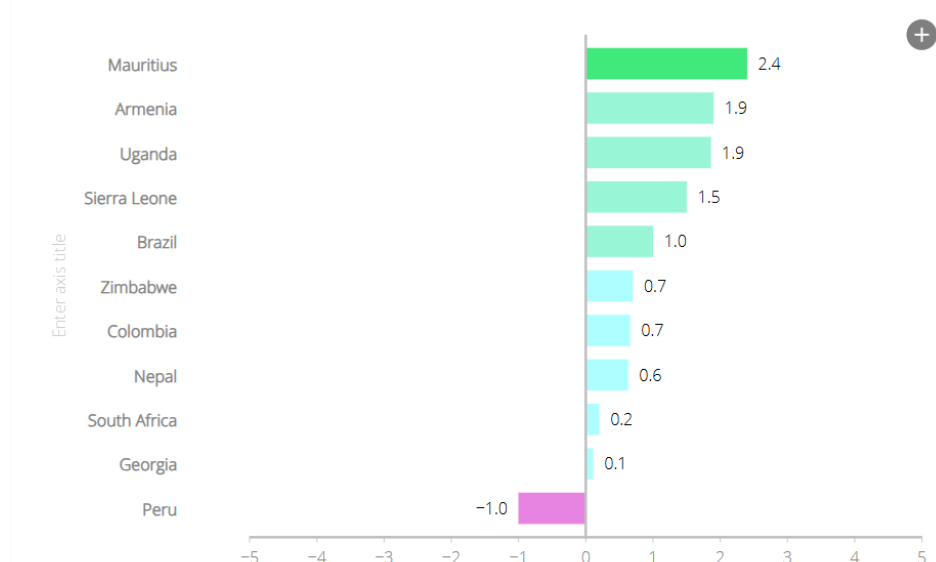
According to SDG Forum's report, **Kenya** struggles with significant gaps in gender equality, particularly in the areas of education, employment, and gender-based violence. Issues include inadequate budgets for gender programs, discriminatory laws, and insufficient data on violence against women and girls with disabilities (WGwD). Gender inequality is further exacerbated by a lack of meaningful engagement of older women in cultural practices and insufficient protection for women in informal sectors. SDG Forum's recommendations for addressing these issues include increasing funding for gender empowerment programs, improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, and ratifying international conventions like ILO C190 to protect domestic workers.

The ongoing conflict in **Syria** has severely hindered progress on gender equality. While women have taken on new social and economic roles during the conflict, they face extreme oppression and violence, including gender-based violence, underage marriages, and trafficking. The legal framework remains discriminatory, with laws that fail to protect women from violence and sexual harassment. Women's participation in political, social, and economic spheres is restricted, and many women are excluded from decision-making platforms. Despite the government's claims of progress, the reality is that women continue to suffer marginalization and exploitation, particularly in conflict zones and among displaced populations.

In Spain, civil society recommends that the country works on eliminating the gender pay gap, increasing women's participation in the labor market, and ensuring equal pay for equal work. Additionally, Spain should focus on improving co-responsibility in caregiving, which predominantly affects women, and guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights for all women, regardless of their administrative status. While strides have been made in promoting gender equality, resistance persists, and further measures are needed to address inequality in the workplace, caregiving, and reproductive rights.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 6 (Average: 0.96)

Country	Value
Mauritius	2.4
Armenia	1.9
Uganda	1.9
Sierra Leone	1.5
Brazil	1.0
Zimbabwe	0.7
Colombia	0.7
Nepal	0.6
South Africa	0.2
Georgia	0.1
Peru	−1.0

With a low level of progress on average, the global scorecard trend on SDG 6 remains limited, with significant disparities in access to clean water and sanitation between urban and rural areas. Global data shows that although as of 2022, 73% of the global population had access to safely managed drinking water services (up from 69% in 2015), rural communities continue to lag behind urban areas in access to these essential services[17].

Achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a sixfold increase in current global rates of progress for drinking water, a fivefold increase for sanitation, and a threefold increase for hygiene[18].

In bridging these gaps, it is crucial to improve the efficiency and fairness of infrastructure funding, expand access in rural and marginalized communities, enhance water use efficiency, and integrate disaster risk management and climate resilience into water resource policies.

In Mauritius, civil society highlights that efforts have been made to monitor and mitigate the impact of floods, improve wastewater infrastructure, and promote sustainable water use, highlighting a moderate level of progress. That said, the country faces significant challenges in water resource management, particularly due to deforestation and its negative impact on water quality. While disaster risk management strategies are in place, there is a call for more awareness campaigns, data collection, and empowering civil society to participate in water and sanitation initiatives.

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[17] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/

[18] https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/2023%20HLPF%20Factsheet%20SDG%206.pdf

In **Brazil**, civil society asserts that public policies and sector management remain insufficient to meet the population's needs for universal access to basic sanitation and make faster progress on SDG 6. While the budget increased by 16.19% in 2023 and BNDES investments rose significantly, reversing the disinvestment trend from 2015 to 2022, Brazil still invests far below the BRL 50 billion annually required to achieve universal access to drinking water and sanitation by 2033.

Zimbabwe continues to struggle with water scarcity, particularly in urban areas where some neighborhoods face months without access to clean water. Despite efforts such as the implementation of borehole systems in communities, the water supply remains unreliable. The country has faced recurrent droughts, which, combined with a lack of infrastructure maintenance, led to water shortages and contamination, resulting in waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. The government has called for the development of Master Plans by local authorities, which may improve the situation, but more action is needed.

In **Nepal**, the spotlight report highlights that the country has made some progress in access to clean water, with the introduction of hand pumps improving water access for households. However, challenges remain in providing equitable access to water and healthcare, especially in rural and remote areas.

Peru's civil society acknowledges that the country has made some progress in improving access to water, especially in urban areas, where 91.8% of the population has access to water from a public network. However, significant disparities remain, particularly in rural areas, where 78.5% of the population has access, and many rely on unsafe sources such as rivers or wells. The country also faces critical challenges in sanitation, with 39.1% of rural populations lacking access to safe sanitation facilities. Contamination of water sources, particularly from industrial, agricultural, and mining activities, is a major issue. Water use efficiency is also a challenge, particularly in agriculture, where irrigation systems are inefficient, leading to considerable water losses.

In **Kenya**, the country faces significant challenges in water and sanitation, particularly in rural areas. The country is struggling with inadequate water supply and sanitation facilities, resulting in long distances to water sources and frequent resource-based conflicts. Recommendations to address these issues include expanding water supply systems, improving water resource management, constructing sanitation facilities in schools and healthcare centers, and providing innovative water treatment solutions. However, resource management remains weak, and more efforts are needed to ensure long-term sustainability.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 7 (Average: 1.1)
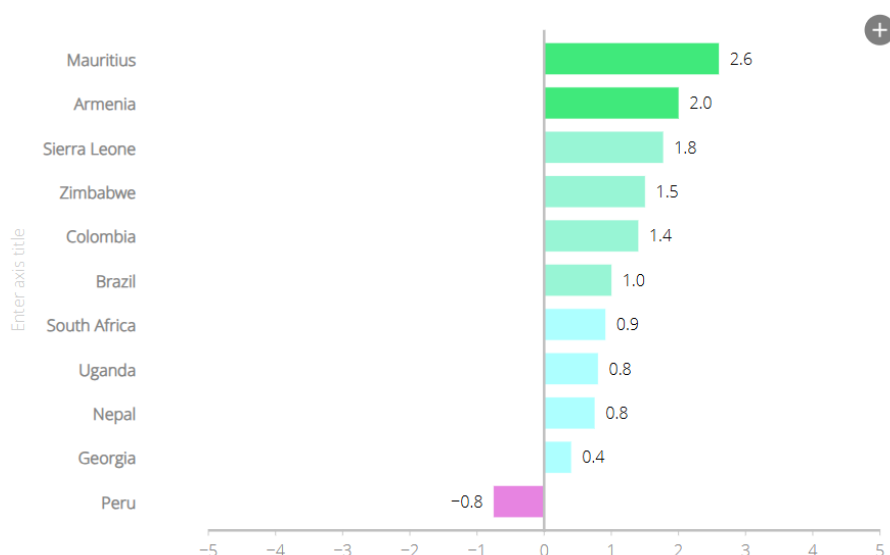
With one of the highest average scores, the global scorecard results for SDG 7 highlight a mixed trend made of progress and ongoing challenges in achieving affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy access. As of 2021, 91% of the global population had access to electricity, up from 87% in 2015; however, 675 million people, primarily in least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa, still lacked access[19].

Renewable energy's share in global electricity generation has continued to accelerate. By December 2023, global installed renewable energy capacity reached 4.1 terawatts (TW), making up 43% of the world's total power capacity. Solar energy surged 32.4% to 1.42 TW, surpassing hydropower, while wind energy exceeded 1 TW for the first time. 2023 saw the largest annual increase in renewables, with 473 gigawatts (GW) added—a 13.9% growth—accounting for a record 86% of all new power additions worldwide[20].

Despite these advancements, significant disparities persist, especially in rural and marginalized areas. For instance, in 2021, only 71% of the global population had access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, with sub-Saharan Africa experiencing the lowest access rates[21].

In Mauritius, MACOSS highlights that the country is focused on reducing its dependency on imported fossil fuels for electricity generation, setting ambitious renewable energy targets of 40% renewable energy in the electricity mix by 2025 and 60% by 2030. To achieve these targets, the government has

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[19] https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7

[20] https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2024/Mar/IRENA_RE_Capacity_Statistics_2024.pdf

[21] https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7

already commissioned over 100 MW of wind and solar capacity and plans to install an additional 253 MW by 2025, and will continue to invest heavily in renewable energy infrastructure, with a roadmap estimating USD 1.35 billion in investments by 2030. Mauritius also plans to use abandoned land for green energy production, promoting cooperative-based clean energy initiatives.

In **Armenia**, the spotlight report from Green Lane acknowledges that the government has taken steps to improve energy efficiency by modernizing infrastructure and promoting energy sector reforms, with significant investments aimed at modernizing the energy sector. However, the country faces challenges in energy efficiency due to outdated infrastructure and a heavy reliance on imported fuels, particularly natural gas. Additionally, nontraditional renewable energy sources like wind and solar remain underdeveloped, accounting for only 1% of the energy supply.

According to the Zim SDG Working Group, **Zimbabwe** has seen some progress with increased adoption of solar energy. However, many citizens still rely on environmentally harmful sources like coal and firewood, and significant challenges remain, primarily due to unreliable access to electricity and the limited capacity of the national grid. Load shedding and reduced hydroelectric power generation, exacerbated by low water levels in dams, continue to affect the energy supply. Furthermore, the cost of modern energy services, including solar, remains unaffordable for most people. Despite efforts to expand energy access, affordability and environmental sustainability remain key issues.

Peru faces significant inequalities in energy access, particularly between urban and rural areas. While the country boasts relatively high national electricity access (96.2%), rural and indigenous communities face severe energy disparities, with some regions like Loreto and Amazonas having less than 50% access. The country's energy matrix is heavily reliant on hydrocarbons, which impedes the transition to renewable energy. Despite efforts like the "Energy Transition Roadmap," the country still struggles with slow progress in incorporating renewable energy, with only 6% of energy coming from non-conventional renewable sources. Furthermore, energy access quality is also a major issue, particularly in rural areas, where infrastructure gaps and high tariffs exacerbate accessibility issues.

In **Kenya**, the country is said to struggle with several energy challenges, including an over-reliance on wood fuel for cooking, limited investment in clean technologies, and a lack of financial services to support clean energy adoption. The country faces gaps in energy policy coherence and fiscal instability, which hinder the broader adoption of renewable energy solutions. Key recommendations for improving energy access include establishing a clean cooking fund, enhancing grid connections, and promoting multi-fuel strategies. The spotlight report also emphasizes that the country also needs to invest in renewable energy technologies and explore innovative financing mechanisms to support the transition to sustainable energy systems.

Syria's energy situation is severely impacted by ongoing conflict, leading to a shortage of heating fuel and electricity. Most households rely on low-quality diesel or unsafe fuel alternatives for heating, while the price of official fuel has skyrocketed. The electricity supply is erratic, with long power outages affecting daily life and economic conditions. In some regions, people have resorted to purchasing electricity from private generators at high prices. Although there is some potential for renewable energy use, such as solar, its adoption is limited due to the high cost of installation and maintenance, along with difficulties in ensuring quality energy systems.

According to Futuro en Común, **Spain** should focus on a fair ecological transition and aim to achieve a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, through an energy generation model that prioritizes sustainability, equity, and the involvement of all stakeholders in planning the transition. This approach would seek to democratize energy access and decarbonize the energy sector, ensuring that the benefits of this transformation are shared across all regions and communities.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 8 (Average: 0.4)
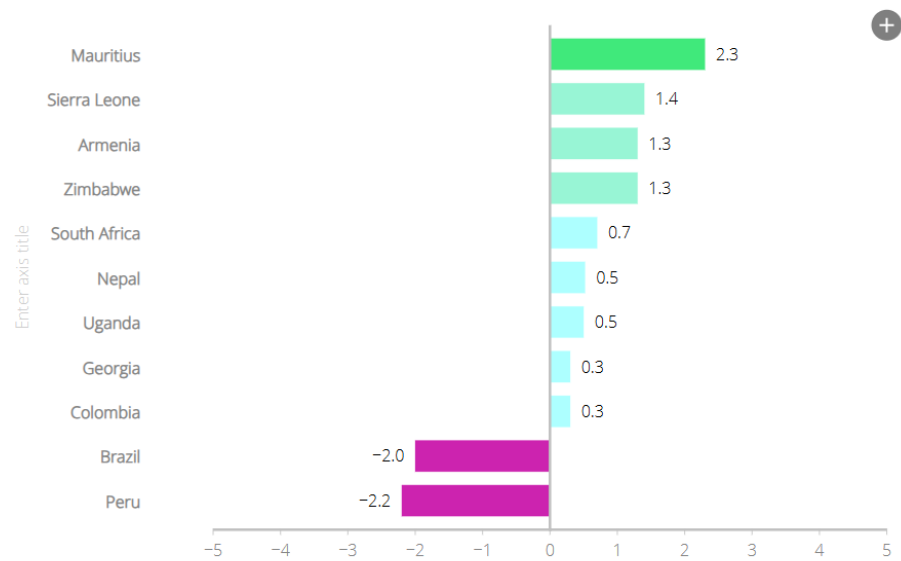
With a very low level of progress on average, global scorecard trends for Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) underline the imperative of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work, and equitable opportunities. This remains the case in light of the significant challenges that persist, particularly concerning labor informality. Globally, informal employment comprises about 58% of total employment, with higher rates in developing regions. For instance, in Africa, approximately 85.8% of employment is informal, while in Asia and the Pacific, it accounts for 68.2%[22].

This prevalence of informality limits access to fair wages, social protections, and formal job opportunities. Women and vulnerable groups, such as youth and people with disabilities, are particularly disadvantaged. Notably, up to 92% of employed women in low-income countries are in informal employment, compared to 87% of men[23].

Despite these challenges, some regions have observed progress. For example, Mauritius has implemented policies promoting decent work and social protection, while Armenia has experienced economic growth driven by investments and business expansion. However, comprehensive reforms are essential across all regions.

Key recommendations from civil society include addressing labor market inequalities, enhancing job creation in emerging sectors, supporting

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[22] https://www.wiego.org/informal-economy/statistical-picture/

[23] https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/06/what-is-the-informal-economy/

transitions to formal employment, and ensuring that economic policies prioritize sustainability, equity, and decent work for all.

Mauritius civil society acknowledges a moderate level of progress, asserting that the country is making strides in promoting decent work through policies like the Decent Work Country Programme, which focus on creating decent and productive employment, enhancing social protection, and strengthening social dialogue. However, there are challenges related to income inequality, which can be addressed by improving data collection on employment, education, and income. There is a need for better reconciliation of data from different institutions to inform policy decisions and improve the effectiveness of current measures.

Armenia's spotlight report discusses that although the country experienced impressive economic growth in 2022, driven by an influx of migrants, business-creation, and foreign investments, which continued into 2023, labor market access, especially among youth, remains a challenge despite growth in sectors like IT, trade, and transportation. The report underscores that the country must focus on creating sustainable jobs, especially for youth, and tackling income inequality to ensure inclusive growth.

Zimbabwe's civil society acknowledges moderate progress toward achieving SDG 8, particularly in promoting the inclusion of youth with disabilities in empowerment programs. However, access to employment remains a significant issue, especially for youth with disabilities, due to policies that limit their employment opportunities. There is also a lack of recognition for the unpaid care work that women and girls perform, which hinders their participation in other development processes. The country continues to face challenges related to decent work, especially in informal sectors and workplaces with exploitative labor practices.

South Africa's economy has been slowed by infrastructure challenges, energy crises, and years of underinvestment. Only 68% of the workforce is currently employed, in the country as of 2024, and employment conditions increasingly precarious. Job creation has been slow, with employment only surpassing pre-pandemic levels in late 2023. South Africa's labor market is heavily impacted by energy shortages and infrastructure deficits, which hinder inclusive economic growth. Addressing these issues, alongside creating more stable and decent jobs, is essential for achieving SDG 8.

In 2023, **Brazil** initiated efforts to renew its national pact for social and economic justice, emphasizing professional respect, training, development, and the equitable division of labor. However, the unpaid care economy, which is predominantly carried out by women and girls and supports both future productive generations and those unable to work due to age or special need, remains excluded from official labor statistics and must be recognized in policy and economic planning.

Similarly, **Peru** faces significant challenges in employment quality, including high labor informality, with over 70% of the workforce engaged in informal work, particularly in rural areas. This informality is linked to low productivity, lack of training, and limited access to formal job opportunities. Although there has been economic growth in some sectors, such as industrial fishing and agroindustry, it has not translated into significant improvements in employment quality. Regional inequalities and a lack of job opportunities for youth and older populations further exacerbate the issue. The country needs comprehensive incitative policies to promote labor formalization, and enhance labor productivity.
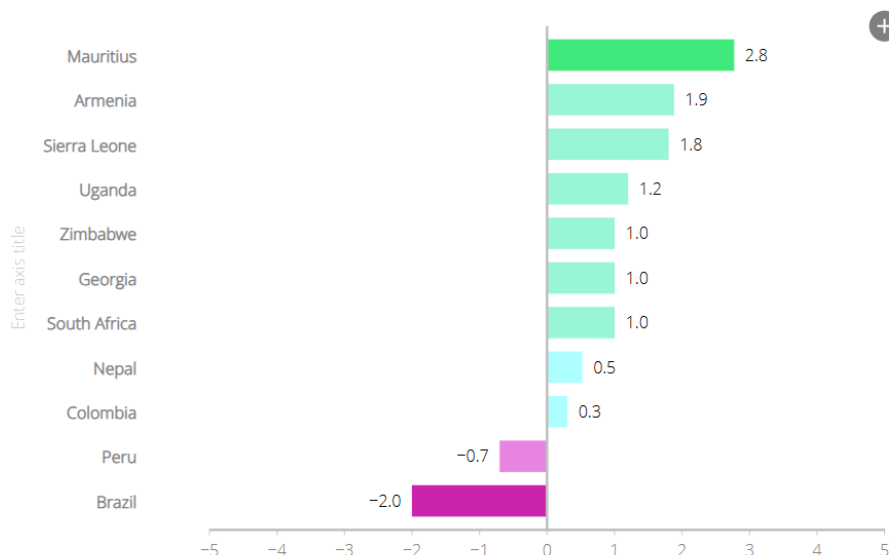
In Kenya, labor market dynamics are informed by high levels of informality, particularly in sectors like construction, commerce, and services, with 70% of the workforce employed informally. Despite some efforts to address these challenges, such as tailored financial services for grassroots women, the country faces significant gaps in implementing policies that address fair pay, decent work, and labor rights, particularly for domestic and informal workers. Weak access to employment for young people, as well as the exclusion of vulnerable groups from social protection programs remain persistent issues. Key recommendations include enhancing entrepreneurship education, improving wage equality, and facilitating the transition of informal workers to the formal sector.

Syria's conflict has led to severe economic losses, including a significant contraction in its GDP and a deterioration of production infrastructure. The agricultural sector, particularly in the northeastern regions, has suffered from drought, leading to a heightened food deficit. The manufacturing sector also faced setbacks due to energy shortages and a weakened domestic demand. Governance failure, economic fragmentation, and external influence over Syria's resources have hampered recovery efforts, and exacerbate the profound challenges in rebuilding the economy and promoting decent work.

In Spain, Futuro en Común advocates for the country to transform its labor market in line with the transition to an economy for the common good. This involves focusing on sectors undergoing transformation, such as those related to the ecological transition and the implementation of a care system. In such a context, support schemes for workers in transitioning sectors are crucial, as well as efforts to regain purchasing power for middle and low-income earners.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 9 (Average: 0.8)

Country	Score
Mauritius	2.8
Armenia	1.9
Sierra Leone	1.8
Uganda	1.2
Zimbabwe	1.0
Georgia	1.0
South Africa	1.0
Nepal	0.5
Colombia	0.3
Peru	−0.7
Brazil	−2.0

With a very low level of progress on average (0.8), global scorecard trends for Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9) highlight both progress and ongoing challenges in building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation.

Between 2015 and 2021, the share of manufacturing employment in total employment declined from 14.3% in 2015 to 13.6% in 2021 worldwide[24], even though the global material footprint—a measure of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands—increased by 71%, rising from 57.4 billion metric tons to 98.0 billion metric tons. These data-points underlie the fact that, while industries continue to expand their material consumption, they are becoming less labor-intensive due to automation, digitalization, and advanced manufacturing technologies. This suggests that industrial growth is no longer directly translating into job creation, raising concerns about inclusive industrialization.

Mauritius' civil society acknowledges that the country has undergone significant structural transformation, evolving from a low-income, agriculture-based economy to an upper-middle-income economy. This shift was driven by a strong emphasis on manufacturing, particularly textiles, and later, services such as financial services, tourism, and ICT. The government's focus on modernizing infrastructure, encouraging foreign investment, and implementing effective economic policies has been instrumental in the country's growth. The service economy was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but has rebounded with growth across various sectors, particularly tourism and construction. Despite this recovery, Mauritius faces

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[24] https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9

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challenges with widening trade deficits and increasing reliance on imports, particularly for fuel and food.
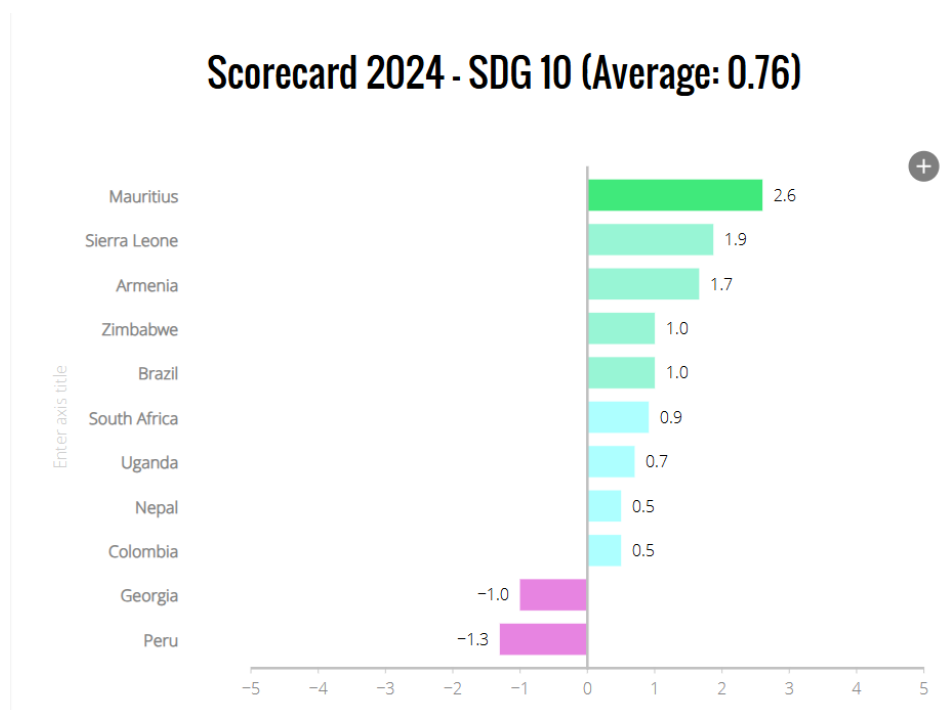
CSOs in **Zimbabwe** largely perceive the country's progress on SDG 9 as low, with some areas showing regression. Infrastructure development has been insufficient, particularly in terms of disability inclusion, with only a few facilities being upgraded to accommodate persons with disabilities. The country also struggles with resource constraints, which hinder the broader development of accessible infrastructure. There have been some improvements in financial inclusion, with banks offering products targeted at underserved populations, including women and youth.

In **Peru**, the country has experienced slow industrial growth, with the manufacturing sector contributing only 11.7% to GDP in 2022, reflecting structural challenges in industrialization. While there are efforts to promote innovation, such as the National Policy on Science, Technology, and Technological Innovation, investment in research and development (R&D) remains low at 0.14% of GDP, which limits the capacity for sustainable innovation. The country also struggles with infrastructure deficits, particularly in rural areas, affecting connectivity and access to markets. Despite some initiatives to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and improve export access, Peru's industrial policy remains underdeveloped, and the lack of coordination between sectors further stifles progress.

In **Brazil**, the spotlight report from GT Agenda 2030 points out that the Brazilian State's cycle of disinvestment in the industrial park and in the installation of infrastructure, limited the sector's growth, and deepened national deindustrialization and regional disparities. That said, in 2023, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) disbursed BRL 54 billion to programs and projects related to SDG 9, showing a return to levels close to that of 2015.

According to **Kenya**'s spotlight report, the country faces several challenges in achieving SDG 9, particularly in areas of policy and infrastructure. Key issues include bureaucratic hurdles, weak regulatory implementation, and limited access to finance for SMEs and startups. Despite efforts to encourage innovation, such as promoting venture capital and improving industry-academia collaboration, the country struggles with inadequate infrastructure, particularly in transport, energy supply, and digital connectivity.Recommendations include improving financial support for innovation, modernizing infrastructure, aligning educational curricula with industry needs, and fostering partnerships to drive technological growth.

SDG 10: Reduce income inequality within and among countries

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 10 (Average: 0.76)

Country	Value
Mauritius	2.6
Sierra Leone	1.9
Armenia	1.7
Zimbabwe	1.0
Brazil	1.0
South Africa	0.9
Uganda	0.7
Nepal	0.5
Colombia	0.5
Georgia	−1.0
Peru	−1.3

Aggregated scorecard results show a very low level of progress for SDG 10 (0.76), with global trends for SDG 10 revealing persistent and structural inequalities across regions, despite some progress in social protection. Economic disparities, particularly between urban and rural areas, and among marginalized groups and wealthier populations, are widespread.

Vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, Dalits, LGBTQI individuals, and internally displaced persons, face systemic barriers to accessing services, employment, and decision-making processes, with discrimination and exclusion further deepening inequalities.

Efforts to reduce inequality include social protection programs, financial inclusion initiatives, progressive tax systems, and human rights-based policy reforms.

Recommendations from civil society emphasize enacting wide-ranging redistributive policies based on progressive tax systems, ensuring inclusive participation in governance, and implementing targeted interventions to address structural inequalities, thereby promoting equitable access to opportunities and resources for all.

According to MACOSS' report, **Mauritius** has experienced significant structural transformation, moving from an agriculture-based economy to one driven by services, including financial, real estate, and professional services - which accounts for a moderate level of progress. However, despite economic growth in recent years, income inequality, driven by disparities in labor income, has become a key issue, although government efforts in social protection have helped mitigate the worst effects.

Although **Zimbabwe**'s civil society recognizes efforts to reduce inequalities, the implementation of policies remains a challenge. The National Disability policy, while well-intentioned, faces hurdles in implementation due to lack of awareness and sensitization. Efforts are ongoing to include women and youth with disabilities in empowerment programs, and some strides have been made in financial inclusion. However, the lack of adequate representation and the continuation of systemic barriers mean that substantial work remains to be done in achieving true equality for all.

In **Nepal**, the spotlight report points out significant challenges to achieving SDG 10, particularly for marginalized groups such as Dalits, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQI community. Discrimination, mistreatment, and exclusion from economic opportunities are widespread, especially in rural areas. Dalit communities continue to face caste-based discrimination, with limited access to government benefits and systemic barriers preventing them from receiving support. LGBTQI individuals struggle with discrimination that limits their access to services and employment, exacerbating their economic vulnerability.

In **Brazil**, socioeconomic inequalities are seen as structural, and the data studied in recent years by civil society's Spotlight Reports highlight the challenges in reversing this situation. In this context, the creation of the National Human Rights Observatory is a part of the efforts to provide data on the living conditions of populations in vulnerable situations, to guide the development of targeted policies to combat inequality.

In **Peru**, the spotlight report emphasizes significant income inequality, particularly between urban and rural areas, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Gini coefficient has shown slight improvement, structural inequalities persist beyond income, as broader social disparities in access to essential services like education, healthcare, and justice are pronounced, with rural and indigenous populations most affected. Inequities are also evident in labor market access, with high levels of informality and a gender wage gap. Recommendations include implementing redistributive policies, strengthening the health system, and reforming the tax system to reduce wealth concentration and address inequality.
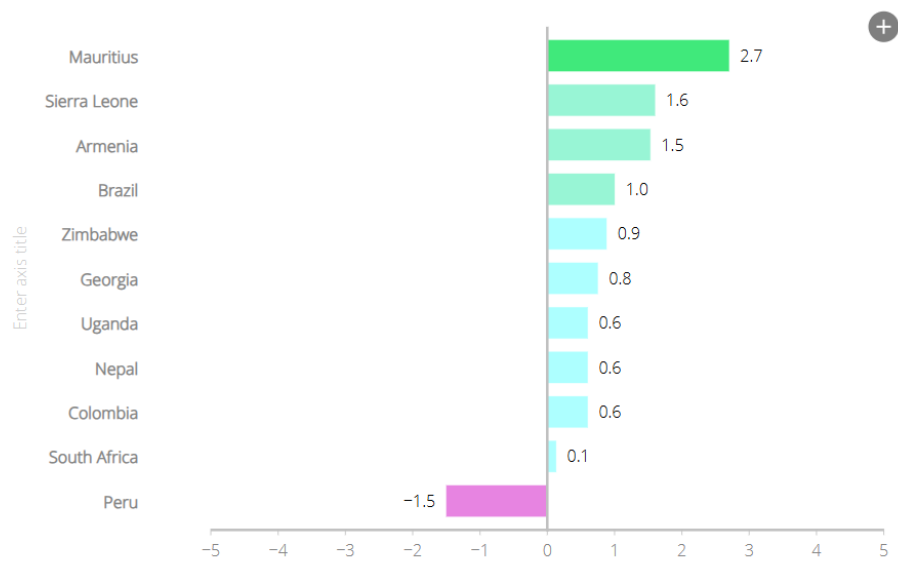
In **Kenya,** inequality is particularly felt by persons with disabilities (PWDs), older persons, and marginalized groups. Attitudinal barriers and discriminatory practices, a lack of enforcement of disability-related laws, and insufficient budget allocations for disability programs are cited in the spotlight reports as main drivers, with limited participation of vulnerable groups in policy development further compounding these issues. Increased budgetary allocations and policy reforms are thus necessary, in order to enhance social protection programs, improve access to disability benefits, ensuring more inclusive participation in decision-making, and addressing age discrimination. to achieve SDG 10 and reduce inequalities (Kenya).

According to the spotlight report from, **Syria**'s ongoing conflict has led to significant shifts in the population structure, with millions of people displaced both internally and abroad. The conflict has exacerbated social and economic inequalities, particularly for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), who face severe discrimination and lack access to basic rights and services. The Human Development Index (HDI) for Syria has decreased dramatically, reflecting the collapse of social structures and the loss of access to essential services like food, healthcare, and education. The loss of social capital and widespread discrimination, especially against children, women, and IDPs, has further entrenched social inequalities.

Spain's civil society pushes in its spotlight report for renewed efforts to address inequalities through progressive tax reforms aimed at building a fairer tax system where the wealthiest and the highest polluters contribute more. Additionally, Spain should work towards implementing a universal care system, focusing on equality, non-discrimination, and solidarity, as well as regularising illegal migrants to grant them equal access to civil, social, and political rights.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 11 (Average: 0.82)

Country	Value
Mauritius	2.7
Sierra Leone	1.6
Armenia	1.5
Brazil	1.0
Zimbabwe	0.9
Georgia	0.8
Uganda	0.6
Nepal	0.6
Colombia	0.6
South Africa	0.1
Peru	−1.5

With a low level of progress based on 2024 Scorecards, the global trend for **SDG 11** shows a very low level of progress. While some positive practices exist, like participatory housing programs in Brazil, significant challenges persist, as Informal settlements, inadequate housing, and poor access to basic services remain critical issues. Globally, approximately 1.1 billion people currently live in slums or slum-like conditions in cities, a number projected to increase by 2 billion in the next 30 years[25].

Vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, often face systemic exclusion from urban planning and transportation systems, underscoring the need for universal design and accessibility.

According to **Mauritian** civil society, the country is actively working towards developing "smart cities," a concept introduced in 2015 aimed at sustainable urbanization through coordinated planning and technological innovation. The government has approved twelve smart city projects, with several more under consideration. While this strategy has been essential for diversifying the economy, it poses challenges for balancing urban growth with the preservation of cultural, social and environmental assets.

In **Brazil**, GT Agenda 2030 points out that in the previous Spotlight Report, 10 of the 11 SDG targets showed setbacks, with no data available for the remaining target. By 2023, six of these targets demonstrated progress: the Ministry of Cities was reestablished, the Housing Secretariat wasrestructured, and urban planning gained a new territorial focus through

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[25] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/

the National Secretariat for Urban and Metropolitan Development. The National Council of Cities was reinstated, and the National Conference of Cities was organized. Despite budgetary constraints, advances were made in housing programs, participatory processes, and investments for low-income families, improving service capacity and addressing issues in earlier versions of the Minha Casa, Minha Vida Program.

In **Zimbabwe**, challenges persist in ensuring accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in urban planning and transportation. While the participation of PWDs in disaster risk reduction programs has improved, further efforts are needed to develop universal designs for transport systems and disaggregated databases to better address their needs. Additionally, more efforts are needed to ensure that all structures, committees, and response systems are fully inclusive. This reflects the broader need for urban development to be more inclusive and accessible to all citizens, particularly vulnerable groups.

In Peru, a stagnation in efforts to reduce the population living in slums or inadequate housing is reported, a critical indicator for SDG 11. As of 2022, 45.1% of the urban population lived in slums or informal settlements, a slight increase from 2021. Informal settlements face significant challenges, including weak housing quality, lack of access to water and sanitation, and vulnerability to natural disasters like floods and mudslides. The situation is worse in regions like Ucayali, Loreto, and Amazonas, where a large percentage of the urban population lives in inadequate conditions. The country also faces issues with waste management, air quality, and transportation.

In **Kenya,** SDG Forum's report highlights key issues in urban planning and infrastructure development, including the growth of informal settlements without adequate social amenities, and inadequate implementation of relevant policies for urban and territorial development. To address these gaps, recommendations include promoting affordable housing, advocating for sustainable transport solutions, and ensuring that urban areas are more accessible to persons with disabilities. There is also a call for the operationalization of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and improving the physical planning of Nairobi and other urban areas.

Housing conditions in **Syria** have deteriorated significantly due to the ongoing conflict. According to , military operations targeting civilian areas, forced displacement, and the destruction of infrastructure have led to a housing crisis, with many areas facing unsafe and inadequate living conditions. Informal settlements have proliferated due to the urgent demand for housing, but these structures often lack proper safety standards or engineering oversight. The conflict has resulted in a severe disparity in housing conditions across different regions.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 12 (Average: 1)
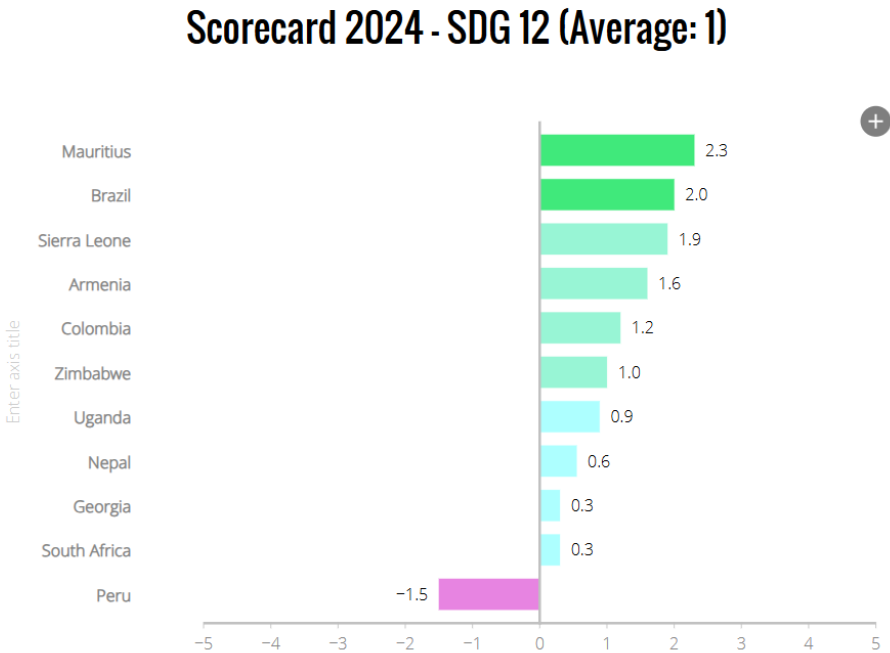
With a low level of progress on average, global scorecard trends for SDG 12 highlight both limited progress (mostly at policy level) and persistent challenges in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.

While in countries like Mauritius civil society acknowledges the formulation of policy measures to encourage sustainable practices, like initiatives aimed at optimizing efficiency, productivity, cleaner production, and competitiveness among local SMEs through improved workplace cooperation, challenges remain. In Brazil, despite the development of policy instruments like the Ecological Transformation Plan, setbacks—particularly in pesticide use and low financial commitment—hinder the expansion of sustainable practices.

Across regions, greater enforcement and stronger policy implementation, higher investment in clean technologies, as well as strengthening and expanding recycling systems, are essential to achieving sustainable production and consumption patterns.

Mauritius has introduced several initiatives to promote sustainable consumption and production, notably through the implementation of a carbon tax and a levy on disposable plastic bags. The carbon tax has been effective in encouraging the use of energy-efficient vehicles, contributing to enhanced energy security, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and lower fossil fuel import costs. Additionally, the levy on plastic bags has shifted consumer behavior towards more sustainable alternatives, with reusable bags becoming increasingly popular. The adoption of Green Productivity measures, especially among SMEs, has yielded significant benefits,

including improved productivity, reduced production costs, and enhanced environmental compliance, all of which is reflected in the moderate level of progress perceived by civil society for SDG12.

According to GT Agenda 2030's spotlight report, **Brazil** took important, but insufficient steps to guarantee responsible and sustainable standards of production and consumption in 2023. Part of this progress was achieved through the creation of management and governance instruments, such as having line ministries to include sustainability and environmental issues amongst their responsibilities, as well as the Ecological Transformation Plan. The setbacks identified are not minor, especially regarding the release of pesticides in the country. Another dimension requiring accurate analysis are the financial investments which help achieve the SDGs. Data on the disbursements of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) highlight the country's low commitment to SDG 12 between 2017 and 2022.

In **Peru**, the spotlight report highlights challenges in resource management and waste reduction, based on a high level of waste generation and low recycling rates. Broader policy frameworks, such as the National Plan for Integrated Solid Waste Management, National Environmental Policy to 2030 and the "Clean Peru" and "Natural Peru" strategies are in place to address environmental issues, but the challenges of implementation remain. The low recycling rate and insufficient waste management infrastructure underscore the need for stronger enforcement and investment in clean technologies.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 13 (Average: 0.82)
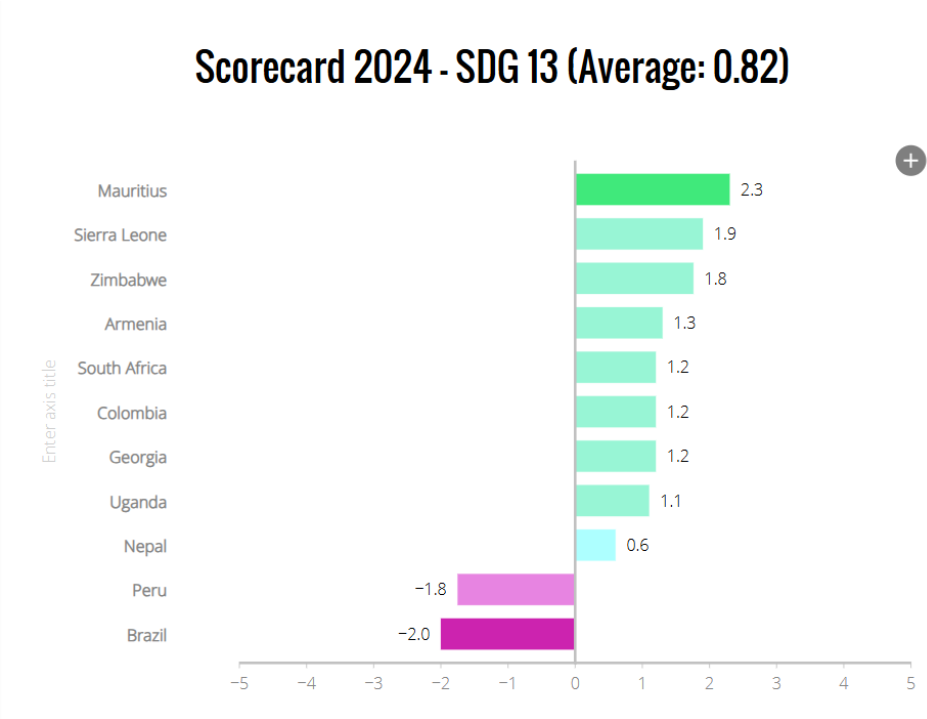
With an average score of 0.82 (very low level of progress), global trends for SDG 13 reveal efforts to address climate change through adaptation and mitigation initiatives, although significant institutional and budgetary gaps persist regarding their implementation.

On a positive note, mitigation through the energy sector is making strides, as the global shift towards renewable energy accelerates - with almost 30% of electricity now generated from renewable sources. Notably, the cost of electricity from solar power has decreased by 85% over the last decade, making sustainable energy more accessible[26].

Despite these advancements, current national commitments are insufficient to meet the 1.5°C target set by the Paris Agreement. Under existing commitments, greenhouse gas emissions are projected to increase by almost 14% over the next decade, underscoring the need for more ambitious action[27], as climate change disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating vulnerabilities related to rising temperatures, deforestation, water scarcity, and extreme weather events.

Effective climate action requires ambitious mitigation and adaptation approaches, strengthened governance and coordination, targeted funding,

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[26] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/goal-of-the-month-goal-13-climate-action/

[27] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/goal-13/

and inclusive strategies to protect vulnerable populations and address environmental justice.

In Mauritius civil society highlights that at policy level, Mauritius enacted the Climate Change Act in 2020, which supports the mainstreaming and coordination of climate change issues at the highest level. The country has implemented various policies and projects addressing both adaptation and mitigation, such as a Road Map on Renewable Energy, national tree-planting campaigns, coastal rehabilitation projects, and rainwater harvesting systems. That said, the country is experiencing an increased frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change, including unprecedented rainfall, flash floods, and sea-level rise. Recognizing the significant risks these events pose to lives and livelihoods, the government has invested heavily in flood mitigation programs.

In **Zimbabwe**, civil society coalition Zim CSO SDG Reference Group asserts that there is a pressing need to enhance climate change sensitization, particularly among Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Awareness-raising initiatives are ongoing, aiming to enable PWDs to participate effectively in climate change programs. However, there is a critical need to extend information outreach to rural communities, where awareness may be limited. Strengthening community resilience has been hindered by weak planning and a lack of prioritization, underscoring the need for more effective strategies and resources to address climate challenges at the local level.

In **South Africa,** civil society points out that the government has put in place several legislative instruments, including the Climate Change Bill and the Carbon Tax Act, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. However, the implementation of these policies has been slow, and key provisions of the Carbon Tax Act have been delayed, limiting South Africa's progress towards fulfilling its NDC, which is reflected in the low level of progress perceived. According to the spotlight report, while South Africa meets its reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement, the current policy framework will not enable the country to fulfill its mitigation and adaptation obligations effectively, unless stronger enforcement and implementation measures are put in place.

In **Nepal**, civil society acknowledges that for SDG 13 implementation, the country has prioritized climate action through collaborations between the government, CSOs, and the private sector, with CSOs playing a key role in educating communities, building climate resilience, and advocating for climate-responsive policies. However, rising temperatures are severely impacting natural resources, including water, forests, and land, creating risks for future generations, and climate-induced disasters have disproportionately affected marginalized communities, including women, Dalits, and children. While Nepal has some disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change

adaptation (CCA) programs in place, they remain insufficient, necessitating more targeted interventions to address these vulnerabilities effectively.

Peru is recognized as highly vulnerable to climate change, with 67% of natural disasters linked to climate impacts. Despite efforts to integrate climate change in national policies (e.g., the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan), the country struggles with low awareness and adoption of sustainable practices, especially in microenterprises. Deforestation, particularly in the Amazon, continues to be a major driver of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Additionally, governance weaknesses, lack of financial and technical resources, and corruption have hampered the implementation of effective climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. The country faces challenges in integrating climate change policies at the local level, with weak enforcement and weak coordination among regional governments.

In **Brazil**, GT Agenda 2030 reports that the country resumed restructuring of its governance, public policies and financing for climate action in 2023, after four years of dismantling and climate change denial. Achieving SDG 13 requires this restructuring to move faster, as the volume of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), deforestation, and disasters remains extremely high. It is urgent to repeal laws and bills which threaten socio-environmental rights, advance adaptation with climate justice, punish environmental racism, and protect environmental and human rights defenders.

In **Kenya**'s spotlight report, successful community engagement is highlighted as a positive approach within climate change adaptation strategies, like the Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) approach in Tana River County, which is enabling local communities to enhance drought-tolerant land and pasture. The country is also integrating traditional knowledge with modern climate strategies, highlighting the value of indigenous practices in climate action. However, Kenya faces infrastructure gaps, insufficient coordination among agencies, and the need for more robust disaster management planning.

Syria is facing severe impacts from climate change, compounded by the ongoing conflict. Rising temperatures have led to a significant reduction in pasture areas in the southern regions. High temperatures and lack of rainfall have caused many water pumping stations to go out of service or become unsafe, leading to widespread water scarcity. The country has experienced severe and prolonged drought, intensifying water shortages due to consecutive dry rainy seasons and higher-than-average temperatures during hot months. The Vegetation Health Index indicates a decline in vegetation cover since April 2022, with drought conditions worsening across most parts of Syria. The situation in October 2022 was more severe than the same period in 2021, with extensive areas experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 14 (Average: 0.7)
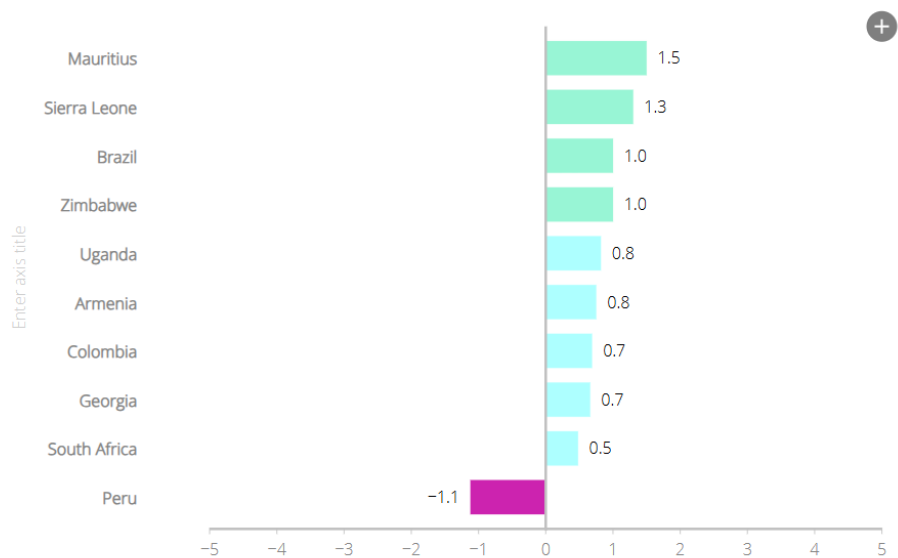
With a very low level of progress based on the scorecard (0.7), global trends for **SDG 14** show that despite progress at policy level in areas such as marine spatial planning and sustainable aquaculture, significant challenges persist in achieving the sustainable management of aquatic resources.

Many countries have increased investments in marine spatial planning, sustainable aquaculture, and ecosystem monitoring. These initiatives are often supported by restructured institutional frameworks aimed at bolstering artisanal fisheries and enhancing resource management. For instance, the establishment of Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas (LSMPAs) seeks to mitigate resource exploitation and protect ocean ecosystems by reducing human disturbances in designated areas.

Despite these efforts, marine ecosystems continue to face significant threats, as over 35% of global fish stocks were overfished in 2020, an increase from previous years, indicating ongoing challenges in sustainable fisheries management[28].

Addressing these challenges requires strengthening regulatory frameworks by implementing and enforcing robust policies to manage resource use and protect aquatic ecosystems. It also necessitates improving resource

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[28] United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Progress and Info

management through science-based plans that promote sustainable fishing practices and habitat conservation.

In **Brazil**, despite some progress on SDG 14 in 2023, the pace is perceived as low. At the institutional level, the Ministry of Fisheries (MP) was reestablished, and a National Secretariat for Artisanal Fisheries was created for the first time. Sustainable aquaculture has its own budget for 2024 and investment in Integrated Marine Space Planning has increased. The increased investment is reflected in the disbursements from the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) for SDG 14, which increased amounts released to support projects by 100% in 2023, a budget trend that must be maintained. On the other hand, life in water, and the communities that depend on it, continues to be impacted by legislation which relaxes environmental licensing in coastal-marine territories to accelerate the implementation of offshore wind farms, showing socio-environmental trade-offs are very much prevalent and unresolved.

Armenia's efforts to protect water resources are largely focused on its critical natural resource, Lake Sevan, which is vital for irrigation, hydropower, fisheries, and recreation. Overuse of water for agriculture and hydro energy has led to a significant drop in the lake's water level, severely impacting its water quality. Restoring Lake Sevan's ecological balance is a top environmental priority for the country. However, the spotlight report asserts that agriculture consumes 88% of Armenia's freshwater resources, with irrigation and fish farming being the main contributors, and that water stress is expected to worsen, especially in the central and southern parts of the country, with water exploitation already at 45%. Armenia's water management challenges are compounded by a lack of infrastructure, significant water losses, and low water storage capacity.

Peru's vast marine biodiversity faces significant threats, such as overfishing, illegal fishing and marine pollution. Despite efforts to address these issues, there is still a critical need for stronger protection of marine ecosystems and better management of marine resources. Coastal areas, particularly those vulnerable to pollution, often lack sufficient protection, with plastic pollution has become a growing threat to marine life, affecting over 600 species, including fish, birds, and marine mammals. Additionally, ocean acidification, driven by increased carbon dioxide, is an emerging concern for marine biodiversity. Peru has taken steps to monitor and address these issues, including efforts by the Peruvian Sea Institute (IMARPE) to report ocean acidification data and the creation of more comprehensive policies.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 15 (Average: 0.4)
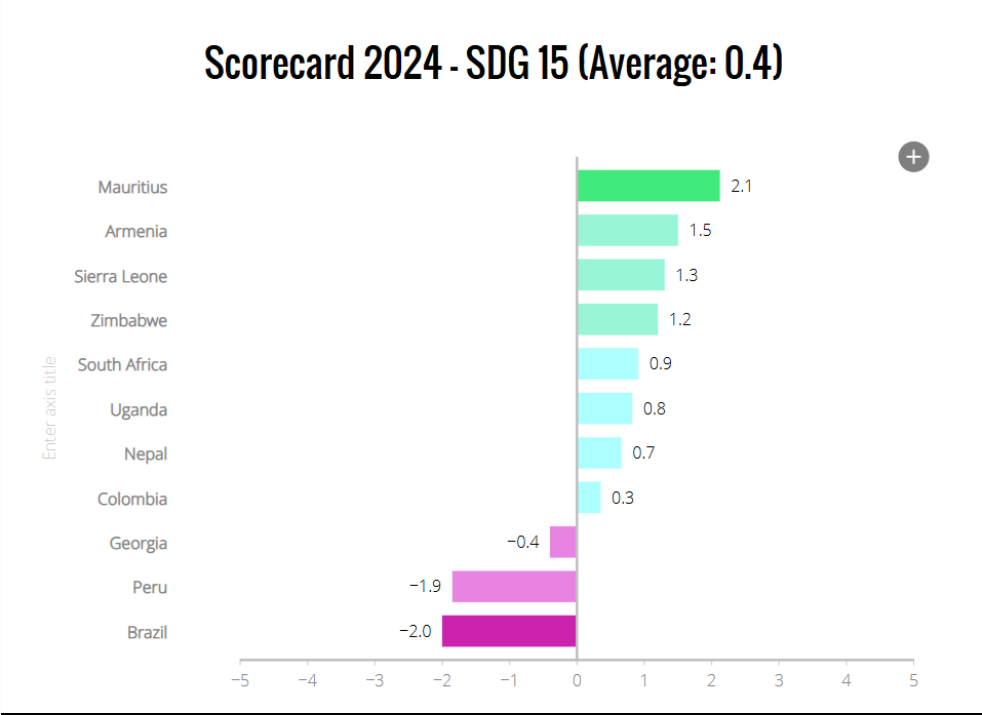
With an average score showing a very low level of progress (0.4), global trends for SDG 15 reflect a perception of limited results in biodiversity conservation and regeneration.

Despite a more planning tools being available, as in 2020, approximately 15% of the world's terrestrial and inland water areas were under protection, and over 100 countries had developed National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to guide conservation efforts[29] - significant barriers persist, including insufficient funding, weak enforcement of environmental regulations, and competing land-use interests. Despite the rising focus on conservation, there remains a $700 billion annual funding shortfall needed to help low-income countries protect biodiversity[30].

Illegal logging, mining, agro-industry expansion, and urbanization continue to drive habitat destruction, while conflict zones face unique challenges, where ecosystems are overexploited due to the immediate survival needs of displaced communities. Even where conservation laws exist, enforcement

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[29] https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15

[30] The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

remains weak, leading to continued deforestation, soil degradation, and biodiversity loss[31].

To effectively address these challenges, stronger enforcement of conservation laws, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and sustainable development policies are essential. Governments must strengthen environmental regulations, ensuring that policies are not just enacted but effectively enforced. Indigenous and local communities must be central to conservation strategies, as their knowledge and practices play a crucial role in protecting biodiversity.

Civil society in **Mauritius** asserts that the country is a small island nation with a rich diversity of ecosystems, including lagoons, coral reefs, and tropical forests that support endemic and endangered species. However, the country faces challenges related to land degradation, which reduces the provision of ecosystem services such as food availability, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration. To tackle this, Mauritius has committed in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to improving land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, including setting a national target for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The country is working on enhancing the management of protected areas, including rehabilitating wetlands, mangroves, and coral reefs, and expanding forest cover.

According to Green Lane's spotlight report, **Armenia**'s environmental management strategy is centered on comprehensive preservation and restoration efforts. The government has set ambitious goals in its 2050 Transformation Strategy, aiming for a "Clean and Green Armenia." Major initiatives have focused on forest restoration, water resource management, and the re-profiling of the Yerevan Botanical Garden. Despite these efforts, Armenia faces significant challenges, including high levels of deforestation, mining, and urbanization pressures, which threaten biodiversity. The country's mining sector and mass timber harvesting are the main contributors to environmental degradation.

Nepal's spotlight report focuses on how the country has actively engaged in sustainable mountain development, particularly in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya region, through collaborations between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Ministry of Forests and Environment, and UN agencies. The dialogues held in 2022 focused on advancing Nepal's mountain agenda and addressing the challenges faced by mountain communities, fostering cross-country knowledge exchange.

In Peru, illegal logging, desertification, and biodiversity loss are reported as the main environmental challenges in the country. The Amazon rainforest, a critical global resource, has seen high deforestation rates through illegal logging, which has led to the destruction of ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity. Desertification is also a pressing issue, especially in regions

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[31] https://www.fao.org/sustainability/en/

affected by unsustainable agricultural practices. According to GTA 2030's spotlight report, the Peruvian government has implemented measures like reforestation and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, but the lack of resources, inter-institutional coordination, and strong enforcement of laws continues to undermine these efforts. Illegal logging remains a persistent problem, especially in the Amazon, affecting indigenous communities and the environment.

In **Brazil**, civil society states that the progress on the various targets of SDGs 1, 2, 4, and 13 in 2023 also impact SDG 15 positively. Despite the many challenges to sustainable ecosystem usage, there is an observable shift towards more environmentally friendly policies. Local, quilombola, and indigenous communities are once again recognized as agents and peoples with rights, and an additional BRL 500 million was allocated to the budgets of environmental agencies - with a significant reduction in deforestation. The country is, however, still experiencing the greatest crisis for indigenous peoples since the end of the military dictatorship, and the history of deforestation highlights the significant gap between the current economic model, and sustainable development.

Kenya faces multiple gaps in biodiversity conservation, including limited public awareness, insufficient funding, and inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations. The country is also struggling with competing land-use interests and socio-economic pressures, which complicate the balance between development and conservation. However, several recommendations aim to address these issues, such as fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement, increasing conservation funding, and promoting biodiversity-friendly policies. Kenya is also working on strengthening institutional capacity and integrating biodiversity into national development strategies, and at ground level, multistakeholder partnerships aim to foster community-based initiatives, such as the establishment of Community Forest Associations (CFAs),by enhancing conservation efforts and empowering local communities.

The ongoing conflict in **Syria** has led to severe environmental degradation, including unprecedented pollution levels and the depletion of natural resources. Destruction caused by military operations, such as toxic waste from weapons and unsustainable practices like deforestation for fuel, has worsened soil contamination and affected agricultural productivity. Over a third of Syria's forests have been cut down, and significant damage has occurred to orchards and other critical ecosystems, all of which have long-term consequences on the country's ability to adapt to climate change. Deforestation has been exacerbated by a lack of access to electricity and fuel, with many civilians resorting to tree-cutting for heating and cooking.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 16 (Average: 0.3)
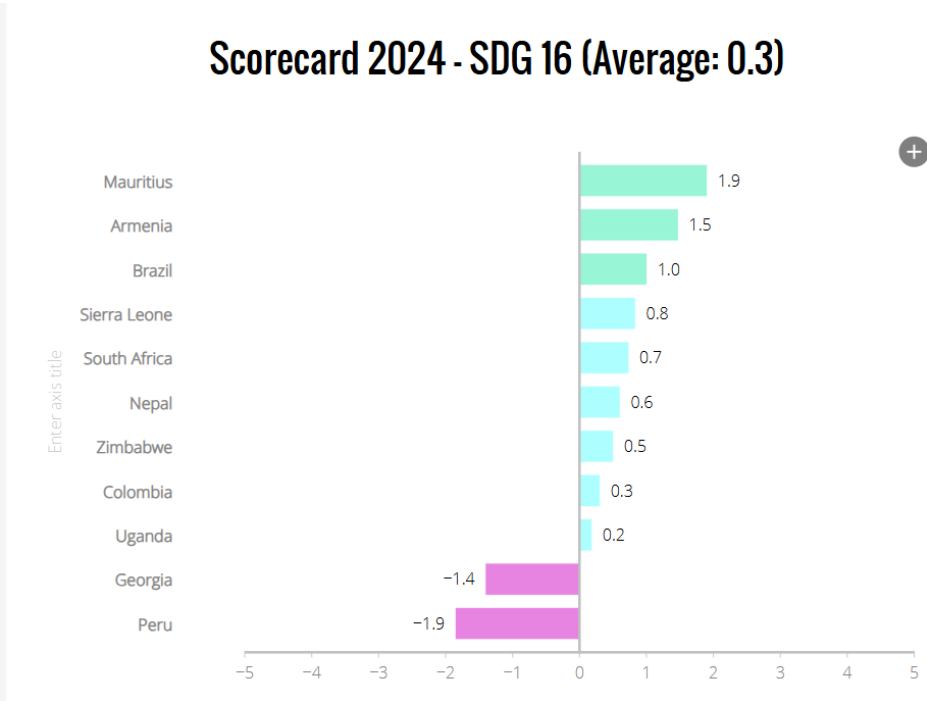
With a very low level of progress on average based on 2024 scorecards (0.3 - the lowest score in Scorecard 2024), global trends for SDG 16, reveal mixed progress. While efforts to strengthen governance and the rule of law exist, challenges such as corruption, encroaching of civic and political freedoms, political instability, and limited access to justice persist.

Regarding governance reforms, numerous countries have established independent anti-corruption agencies and enacted legislation to increase transparency and inclusiveness in public institutions.

However, corruption and bribery persist, as data from 38 countries between 2010 and 2020 indicate that bribery in accessing public services is least prevalent in high-income countries (average rate of 3.7%) and most prevalent in lower-income countries (average of 22.3%)[32].

Additionally, the rule of law is not applied equally to all, as women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities continue to face significant barriers to inclusion and protection. Gender-based violence and

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[32] United Nations Economic and Social Council (2020) Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General

discrimination further hinder their access to justice and full participation in governance.

Civil society organizations emphasize the need to protect human rights, increase transparency, and effectively combat corruption. Fostering inclusive governance, addressing political polarization, enhancing citizen participation and oversight, and ensuring independent judicial systems are critical steps toward advancing SDG 16 globally.

Mauritius' spotlight report from MACOSS recognizes that the country has made significant strides towards achieving SDG 16, becoming one of the most peaceful countries in the world. It ranks as the highest in Africa on the Global Peace Index and is classified as a full democracy, with a strong commitment to political stability, rule of law, and economic freedom. The country's institutions, including the judiciary, are highly respected, with a well-functioning parliamentary democracy and a professional civil service. That said, despite political stability and a solid legal framework, challenges remain, including limited citizen participation in governance, and the public dissatisfaction related to the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Armenia, the spotlight report highlights post-war recovery challenges, political tensions, corruption, and fragility in governance and law enforcement. However, recent progress is also mentioned, as the country is currently working on developing human rights protections through strategic plans, anti-corruption reforms, and participation in the Open Government Partnership. In this context, recommendations from civil society include strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing judicial independence, strengthening anti-corruption efforts and ensuring effective implementation of civil rights policies, with an emphasis on freedom of assembly.

In **Brazil**, despite ongoing attacks on institutions, the press, and rights defenders, some foundational principles of the Democratic Rule of Law have progressively been restored. Social participation mechanisms were rebuilt, with all ministries establishing offices to liaise with civil society, initiatives like the Inter-Council Forum for constructing the Multi-Year Plan (PPA) 2024–2027, and the National SDG Commission advancing public policy oversight. However, Brazil remains tense and dangerous for human rights defenders and activists, as killings and violence against LGBTQ individuals have surged amidst a polarized political landscape dominated by reactionary groups.

Focusing on a rule of law and security lens, **South Africa**'s spotlight report highlights that violence and injustice, including gender-based violence and criminal activities, remain persistent challenges. There is a need for strengthening legislation to combat emerging forms of violence, enhance the judiciary's capacity and establish monitoring mechanisms for accountability,

and educate the population through public awareness campaigns, focusing on conflict resolution and non-violence.

In Nepal, civil society reports slow and inconsistent progress in SDG 16 implementation, informed by political and institutional challenges in establishing the federal system introduced in 2015 and the political instability it has implied, as well as restrictive measures limiting advocacy and participation for CSOs, corruption, resource constraints, weak data collection, and inadequate understanding of SDG 16 by local officials. The spotlight report thus recommends strengthening freedom of assembly and association, protecting human rights defenders and expanding civic space, providing inclusive participation opportunities for CSOs in planning and implementation, ensuring media freedom, safeguarding digital rights, and protecting journalists.

Zimbabwe's civil society acknowledges that the judicial system aims to accommodate all citizens, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), but there remains a need for greater awareness and training in areas such as sign language to ensure full inclusion. The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) works with stakeholders to reduce corruption and bribery, but progress in combating corruption remains slow, particularly at the local government level. This ongoing corruption issue affects the country's governance and institutional integrity, hindering progress towards achieving SDG 16. In terms of civil rights, the marginalization of vulnerable groups, such as women, people with disabilities, and those in lower income brackets, continues to impede the achievement of peace, justice, and strong institutions.

In **Peru**, corruption, political instability, rising crime, and inequality in access to justice characterize the SDG 16 landscape in the country. The spotlight report from GT A2030 emphasizes that the political context is polarized, affecting the functioning of democratic institutions, nurturing a lack of consensus-building that hampers sustainability policies and their implementation, as well as the fight against corruption. The report recommends implementing reforms for greater accountability and combat corruption, ensure transparency and increased access to justice for all, particularly marginalized communities, and address citizen security through law enforcement reforms and public order measures.

In **Kenya**, key SDG 16-related gaps include government iInterference with CSO activities, limited resources, and inadequate case management systems. More specifically, the legal and regulatory environment for CSOs is restrictive, affecting their independence and ability to hold the government accountable. Recommendations from civil society include reviewing and strengthening laws to protect freedom of expression and assembly, and ensuring transparency and public participation in governance, emphasizing CSO contributions to nation-building.

Syria's judicial system has been severely affected by the ongoing conflict. The Syrian government has used judicial and legislative powers to suppress opposition voices and consolidate control, undermining the independence of the judiciary. The fragmentation of the judicial system, with different regions under the control of various forces, has led to a lack of uniformity and accountability in the rule of law. The government-controlled areas continue to experience weak indicators of the rule of law and respect for international treaties, with the judiciary largely being used as a tool for political control rather than for impartial justice. The destruction of public institutions and the widespread use of military and security forces to enforce the regime's policies have created an environment of fear and injustice, significantly eroding the prospects for achieving peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Spain's civil society is actively advocating for the country to strengthen its democratic institutions and ensure greater justice and protection for all citizens. A key focus is addressing male violence, violence against children, and violence motivated by race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The country should also strive to reverse the reduction of civic space and promote greater citizen participation in decision-making processes, particularly for marginalized groups such as women, migrants, and the LGTBI+ community. Furthermore, Spanish civil society advocates for the repeal of the 'Gag Law' to ensure the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, and expression. It also seeks to improve transparency and reduce corruption by establishing an independent anti-corruption control system.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Scorecard 2024 - SDG 17 (Average: 0.9)
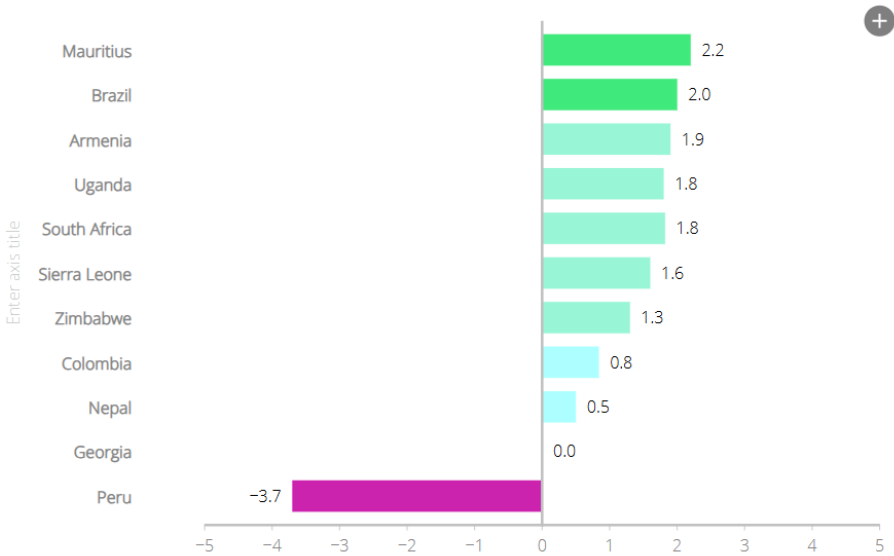
Reflecting a low level of progress on average, global trends highlighted by the Scorecard 2024, show that efforts to strengthen and expand means of implementation and partnerships remain mixed. In Mauritius, Brazil, and Armenia, civil society coalitions highlight that their countries have leveraged global partnerships to advance renewable energy, climate resilience, and trade agreements, while South Africa and Zimbabwe focus on mobilizing financial resources and improving public revenue collection.

However, rising debt, public spending inefficiencies, and regulatory restrictions on civil society present ongoing challenges. An unequal global financial architecture and tax norms further hinders both global resource redistribution and the ability of countries in the global south to improve domestic resource mobilisation.

Across regions, stronger financial commitments and resource mobilisation, better and more horizontal governance frameworks, as well as inclusive policy environments remain crucial to ensuring that partnerships translate into meaningful progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Mauritius's spotlight report points out that the country has prioritized strategic partnerships to advance the SDGs, particularly through collaborations in renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable development. Notable partnerships include the Barbados Declaration, focusing on increasing renewable energy adoption, and the Climate Change Platform aimed at enhancing resilience in Small Island Developing

States (SIDS). Mauritius also plays a key role in regional partnerships, particularly in the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.

In **Brazil**, the spotlight report asserts that since the change in federal government there has been increased state investment, leading to moderate growth and a more optimistic outlook on financing for sustainable development. The fact that the country is assuming the presidency of the G201 in 2024, and of the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30,) in 2025, also enhances prospects for international partnerships for the facilitation of implementation of the SDGs.

In Armenia international cooperation is actively fostered, working closely with organizations like the UN, EU, and World Bank. The country's approach focuses on strengthening partnerships for the realization of all SDGs, with a particular emphasis on financial support from the EU and other international donors. Armenia is also deepening its collaboration with global partners through bilateral agreements, such as the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the EU, which supports various sectors including trade, energy, and education.

South Africa's spotlight report highlights that the country focuses on mobilizing global partnerships and strengthening domestic capacity through finance, trade, and technology initiatives. The report also asserts that despite challenges like rising debt, mismanagement of public spending, and energy crises, South Africa has demonstrated resilience by mobilizing international resources and improving tax revenue collection.

Zimbabwe's civil society acknowledges that the country actively participates in international development cooperation through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and has implemented a National Development Cooperation policy framework. Although the country has made some strides in coordinating development assistance, challenges remain, particularly in ensuring CSO inclusion in decision-making platforms, as the Zimbabwean government has made efforts to amend the Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Amendment Bill, with proposed restrictions threatening the existence of local CSOs, and limiting their ability to contribute to SDG 17. Additionally, Zimbabwe's debt challenges continue to hinder progress.

According to the NGO Federation of **Nepal**'s spotlight report, the approach to partnerships favored in the country emphasizes multi-stakeholder collaboration, particularly through the establishment of a common platform like the Nepal SDG Forum. Additionally, Nepal aims to strengthen legal clarity and coordination among its federal, provincial, and local governments to create a more enabling environment for civic engagement and prevent bureaucratic barriers, in order to better address marginalized groups' unique challenges.

In Peru, the multistakeholder partnerships dimension is emphasized, in order to foster inter-sectoral collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society. However, political resistance to the SDGs is a significant challenge, with critics raising concerns about national sovereignty, the global development model, and environmental regulations. To address these issues, civil society aims to enhance advocacy, while the government should foster better collaboration venues and encourage the participation of all sectors in SDG implementation

In Kenya, SDG 17 implementation efforts center around improving technical capacity for co-creation programming, with a focus on enhancing data literacy and disaggregation at both the national and county levels for officials and CSOs. The country is also working to foster international cooperation by promoting remittance flows through policies that reduce transaction costs and improve remittance services.

Syria's civil society sees participation in international frameworks, including the Voluntary National Review (VNR), marked by the current regime's control over development resources, contributing to a lack of genuine engagement in SDG implementation. International aid and cooperation have been crucial in addressing Syria's humanitarian crisis, with the country receiving substantial foreign assistance despite challenges in aid coordination and political interference. However, the regime's exploitation of resources and limited transparency in governance have hindered sustainable development and the equitable distribution of aid. Syria's participation in international dialogues and its external relations remain heavily influenced by regional and global powers, further complicating efforts towards achieving SDG 17 and fostering effective partnerships.
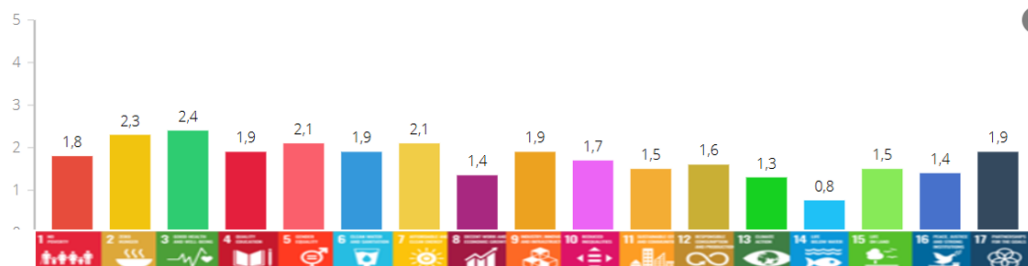
Spain's civil society strongly advocates for the country to commit to strengthening multilateralism and global cooperation to address the overlapping crises facing the world today, through a global sustainable development policy focused on peace, climate action, gender justice, and fiscal equity. Spain's approach emphasizes fairer external trade, promoting human rights, environmental protections, and the rights of migrants. The country also calls for greater commitments to protecting global public goods, including health and the environment. To support SDG 17, the civil society coalition calls that Spain should commit to increasing its official development assistance (ODA), targeting 0.7% of GDP by 2030.
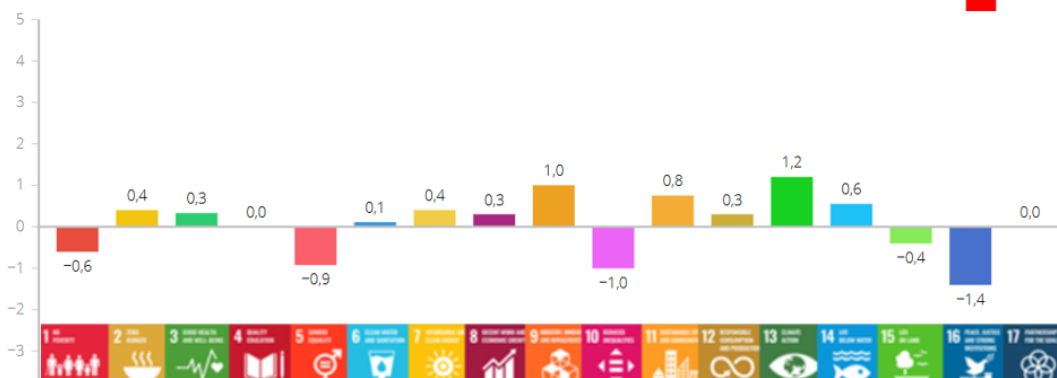
Annex: Country Scorecards
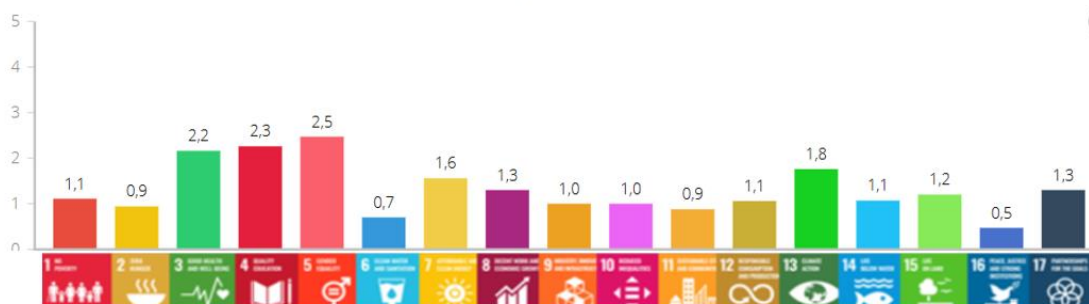
SDG Scorecard - Mauritius 2024
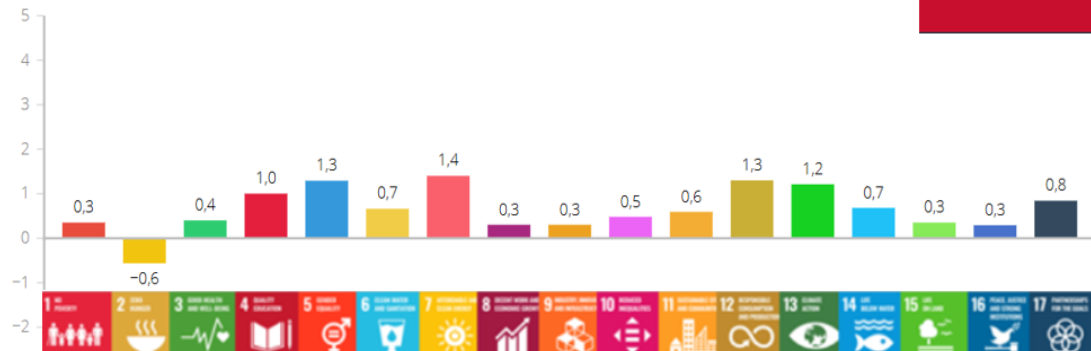Average Score: 2.4

SDG Scorecard - Uganda 2024
Average Score: 1.3
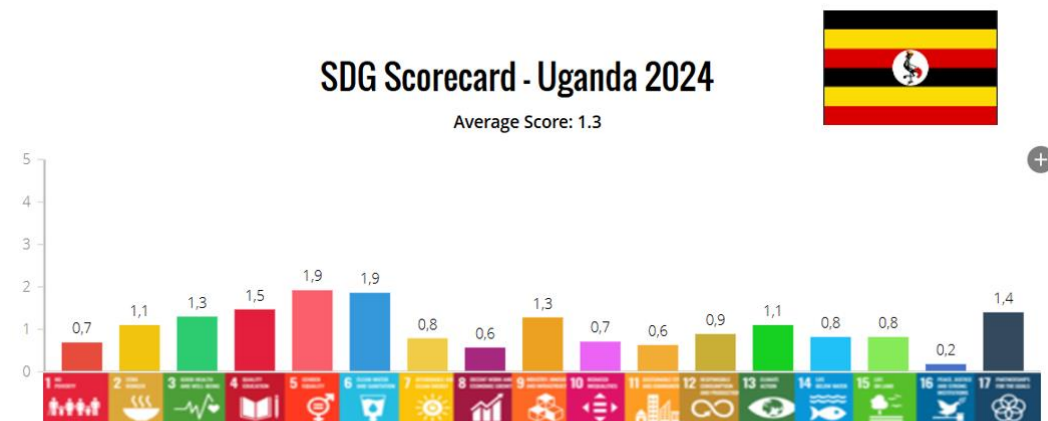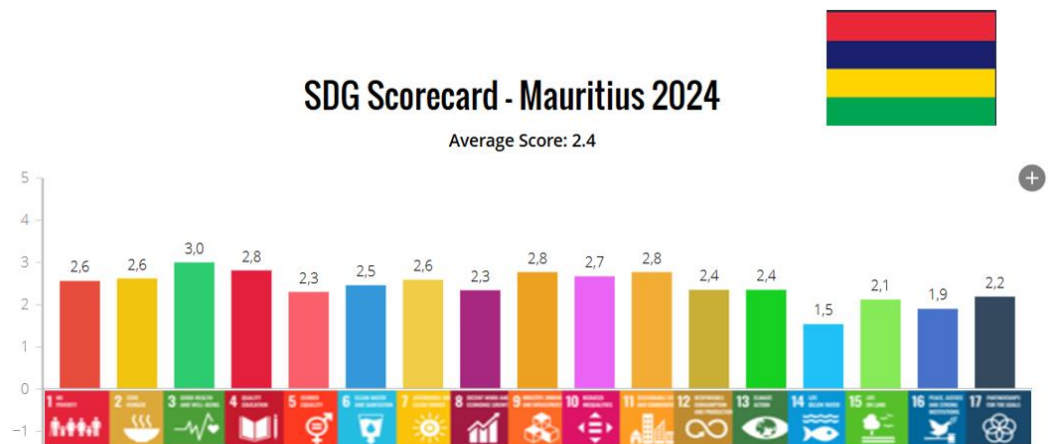
SDG Scorecard - Armenia 2024

Average Score: 1.7%

Bar values: 1,8 | 2,3 | 2,4 | 1,9 | 2,1 | 1,9 | 2,1 | 1,4 | 1,9 | 1,7 | 1,5 | 1,6 | 1,3 | 0,8 | 1,5 | 1,4 | 1,9

SDG Scorecard - Georgia 2024

Average Score: 0.05

Bar values: −0,6 | 0,4 | 0,3 | 0,0 | −0,9 | 0,1 | 0,4 | 0,3 | 1,0 | −1,0 | 0,8 | 0,3 | 1,2 | 0,6 | −0,4 | −1,4 | 0,0

SDG Scorecard - Zimbabwe 2024

Average Score: 1.31

Bar values: 1,1 | 0,9 | 2,2 | 2,3 | 2,5 | 0,7 | 1,6 | 1,3 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 0,9 | 1,1 | 1,8 | 1,1 | 1,2 | 0,5 | 1,3

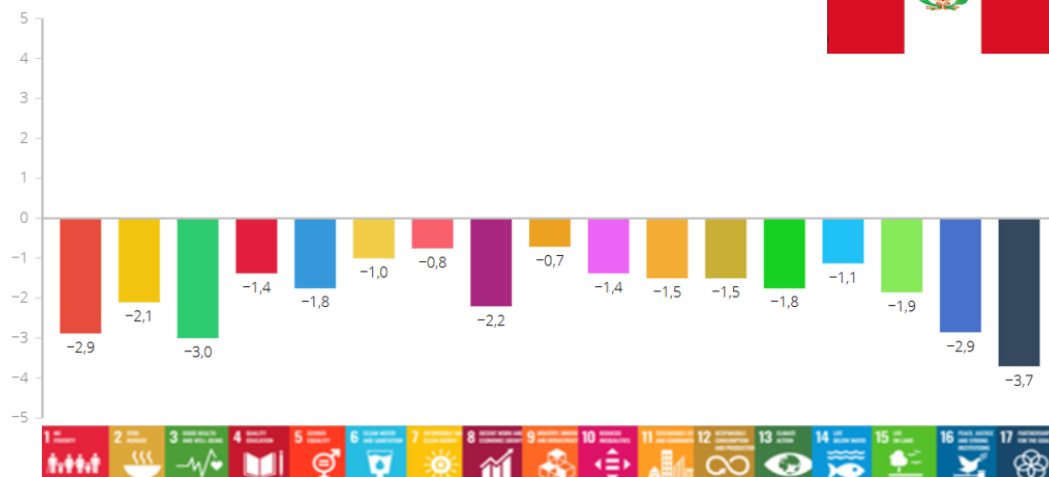# SDG Scorecard - Colombia 2024

Average Score: 0.64

SDG Scorecard - Peru 2024

Average Score: -1.85

SDG Scorecard - Brazil 2024

Average Score: 0.34%