

# Sustainable Development Goals Quick Guide



# What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a **universal call to action** adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. Each goal addresses a broad range of **interconnected global challenges**, from climate change and economic inequality to innovation and sustainable consumption.

We've provided a snapshot of each goal to help you decide which resonates with you. Let the statistics spark your creativity and design an impactful app to make a real difference.

For more detail on each goal visit [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment).



## 1 NO POVERTY



### Goal 1: No Poverty

Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

#### Statistics:

- Extreme Poverty: If current trends continue, an estimated 7% of the global population - 575 million people - will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030.
- Social Protection: Over 4 billion people live without any social protection.
- National Poverty: Only one third of countries are expected to halve their national poverty rates by 2030.

#### Key Problems:

- High levels of global poverty.
- Inequality in access to social protection.
- Economic instability and its impact on poverty reduction efforts.

#### Solutions:

- Enhance social protection systems.
- Promote economic policies that generate employment.
- Ensure equal access to education, social protection and opportunities.

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



### Goal 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

#### Statistics:

- High Food Prices: 21.5% of countries experienced high food prices in 2021, still higher than the 2015-2019 average of 15.2%.
- Food Insecurity: In 2022, about 9.2 per cent of the world population was facing chronic hunger, equivalent to about 735 million people.
- Malnutrition: If current trends persist, approximately 128.5 million children will still suffer from stunting (low height for age) in 2030.

#### Key Problems:

- Food insecurity and malnutrition.
- Agricultural productivity and sustainability issues.
- High food prices and market instability.

#### Solutions:

- Invest in sustainable agricultural practices.
- Enhance food supply chains and reduce food waste.
- Improve nutrition through food assistance programs.

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

#### Statistics:

- Child Mortality: In sub-Saharan Africa, in 2021, 1 child in 14 died before reaching age 5 (74 deaths per 1,000 live births).
- Global Maternity Mortality: In 2020, 800 women died every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.
- Infectious Diseases: In 2021, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB), an increase from 10.1 million in 2020.

#### Key Problems:

- High rates of maternal and child mortality.
- Inequitable access to healthcare services.
- Prevalence of infectious and non-communicable diseases.

#### Solutions:

- Improve maternal and child healthcare services.
- Expand healthcare access and affordability.
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of diseases.

### 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## Goal 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

#### Statistics:

- Teaching: In 2020, more than 14 per cent of teachers were still not qualified according to national norms.
- Literacy Rates: an estimated 300 million children and young people will still lack basic numeracy and literacy skills by 2030.
- Educational Funding: Only 15% of countries allocate 4-6% of GDP to education as recommended.

#### Key Problems:

- Lack of access to education in marginalised communities.
- Low literacy and numeracy rates.
- Inadequate educational infrastructure and resources.

#### Solutions:

- Increase funding for educational infrastructure.
- Implement policies to ensure free and compulsory education for all children.
- Promote vocational and technical training programs.

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



### Goal 5: Gender Equality

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

#### Statistics:

- Violence Against Women: 1 in 3 women have experienced violence during their lifetime.
- Political Representation: Women hold only 25% of parliamentary seats worldwide as of 2022.
- Labour Management: Globally, women accounted for nearly 40 per cent of total employment but held only 28.2 per cent of management positions in 2021.

#### Key Problems:

- Gender-based violence and discrimination.
- Limited participation of women in political and economic spheres.
- Disparities in access to education and healthcare for women and girls.

#### Solutions:

- Strengthen laws and policies to protect women's rights.
- Promote women's participation in decision-making processes.
- Ensure equal access to education and economic resources.

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

#### Statistics:

- Clean Water Access: In 2020, 2.2 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water services.
- Sanitation: 3.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services in 2020.
- Water Stress: In 2020, 2.4 billion people lived in water-stressed countries.

#### Key Problems:

- Inadequate access to clean drinking water.
- Poor sanitation and hygiene practices.
- Water scarcity and pollution.

#### Solutions:

- Invest in water infrastructure and technologies.
- Promote sustainable water management practices.
- Increase awareness and education on sanitation and hygiene.



## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



### Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.**

#### Statistics:

- Electricity Access: 675 million people lacked access to electricity in 2021.
- Renewable Energy: Renewable energy accounted for 19.1% of total final energy consumption in 2020.
- Clean Cooking: 2.3 billion people still lacked access to clean cooking solutions in 2021.

#### Key Problems:

- Lack of access to electricity.
- Dependence on non-renewable energy sources.
- Inefficiencies in energy production and consumption.

#### Solutions:

- Expand infrastructure for renewable energy.
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation.
- Increase investment in clean energy technologies.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

**Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.**

#### Statistics:

- Youth Unemployment: Globally, nearly 1 in 4 young people (23.5 per cent or 289 million) were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2022.
- Informal Employment: Informal employment affected 58% of the global workforce in 2022.
- Young Women: Young women were more than twice as likely (32.1 per cent) as young men (15.4 per cent) to not be in education, employment or training in 2022.

#### Key Problems:

- High unemployment rates, especially among young people.
- Prevalence of informal and precarious employment.
- Slow economic growth and productivity.

#### Solutions:

- Implement policies to create jobs and foster entrepreneurship.
- Ensure fair wages and safe working conditions.
- Promote sustainable economic practices and innovation.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

**Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation.**

#### Statistics:

- Global manufacturing: Growth slowed down to 3.3 per cent in 2022, from 7.4 percent in 2021.
- Mobile broadband access: Between 2015 and 2022, 4G network coverage doubled, reaching 88 per cent of the world's population, but growth has slowed.
- Industrial Growth: Medium-high- and high-technology industries grew amidst a global manufacturing slowdown in 2021.

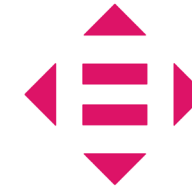
#### Key Problems:

- Inadequate infrastructure in developing regions.
- Low investment in research and development.
- Barriers to technological innovation and adoption.

#### Solutions:

- Increase investment in infrastructure projects.
- Promote research and development activities.
- Facilitate technology transfer and innovation.

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



### Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

**Reduce inequality within and among countries.**

#### Statistics:

- Refugees: The year 2022 witnessed the highest number of refugees (34.6 million people) ever documented.
- Discrimination: One in six people worldwide has experienced discrimination in some form, with women and people with disabilities disproportionately affected
- Household Disparities: Surveys in 2021 show that poorer households lost incomes and jobs at slightly higher rates than richer households.

#### Key Problems:

- Economic disparities and income inequality.
- Social and political exclusion of marginalised groups.
- Disparities in access to opportunities and resources.

#### Solutions:

- Implement redistributive policies to reduce income inequality.
- Promote social, economic, and political inclusion.
- Ensure equal access to resources and opportunities.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



### Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.**

#### Statistics:

- Urban Population: Over half of the world's population lived in urban areas in 2021.
- Housing: As of 2022, approximately 1.1 billion people currently live in slums or slum-like conditions in cities, with 2 billion more expected in the next 30 years.
- Sustainable Transport: In 2022, only half of the world's urban population had convenient access to public transportation.

#### Key Problems:

- Rapid urbanisation and inadequate infrastructure.
- Housing shortages and slum conditions.
- Environmental impacts of urbanisation.

#### Solutions:

- Improve urban planning and management.
- Increase access to affordable housing.
- Promote sustainable urban development practices.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.**

#### Statistics:

- Material Footprint: The material footprint per capita in high-income countries is 10 times the level of low-income countries.
- Waste Generation: The world generates 2 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste annually.
- Resource Efficiency: In 2021, although 828 million people were facing hunger, 13.2 per cent of the world's food was lost after harvest along the supply chain from farm to consumer.

#### Key Problems:

- High levels of waste and unsustainable resource use.
- Environmental degradation from production processes.
- Inefficiencies in consumption patterns.

#### Solutions:

- Promote sustainable production practices.
- Encourage recycling and waste reduction.
- Foster sustainable consumption behaviours.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



## Goal 13: Climate Action

**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

### Statistics:

- Extreme weather: Between 2010 and 2020, highly vulnerable regions, home to approximately 3.3–3.6 billion people, experienced 15 times higher human mortality rates from floods, droughts and storms compared to regions with very low vulnerability.
- Education: An analysis of national curriculum frameworks in 100 countries reveals that nearly half (47 per cent) do not even mention climate change.
- Sea levels: Record-high GHG concentrations are pushing global temperatures higher and trapping heat, with approximately 90 per cent of heat being absorbed 120 by the ocean.

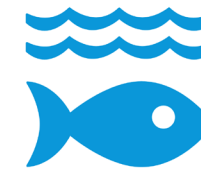
### Key Problems:

- Rising global temperatures and extreme weather events.
- Greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.
- Insufficient climate policies and actions.

### Solutions:

- Implement policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## Goal 14: Life Below Water

**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.**

### Statistics:

- Illegal fishing: Globally, an estimated one in five fish caught originates from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Marine Pollution: Plastic is the most harmful type of marine litter, with over 17 million metric tons clogging the ocean in 2021.
- Carbon Dioxide: As greenhouse gas emissions soar, the oceans are silently absorbing a quarter of annual carbon dioxide emissions.

### Key Problems:

- Overfishing and marine biodiversity loss.
- Marine pollution and habitat destruction.
- Climate change impacts on marine ecosystems.

### Solutions:

- Implement sustainable fishing practices.
- Reduce marine pollution.
- Protect marine and coastal ecosystems.

15 LIFE  
ON LAND



## Goal 15: Life on Land

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

### Statistics:

- Forest coverage: Global forest coverage decreased from 31.9 per cent in 2000 (4.2 billion hectares) to 31.2 per cent (4.1 billion hectares) in 2020.
- Land Degradation: Between 2015 and 2019, at least 100 million hectares of healthy and productive land were degraded every year, affecting food and water security globally.
- Extinction: Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, it is estimated that 1 million species globally may be threatened with extinction.

### Key Problems:

- Deforestation and habitat loss.
- Land degradation and desertification.
- Threats to biodiversity and ecosystems.

### Solutions:

- Promote reforestation and sustainable land management.
- Combat desertification and restore degraded land.
- Protect and conserve biodiversity.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



## Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

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

### Statistics:

- Intentional homicides: In 2021, the world experienced the highest number of intentional homicides in the past two decades.
- Human trafficking: Between 2017 and 2020, data from 141 countries revealed
- 187,915 detected victims of trafficking.
- Young Parliamentarians: Although the average eligible age to serve in parliament is 23 years, the proportion of members of parliament (MPs) aged 30 and under has remained at about 2–2.6 per cent for the past five years.

### Key Problems:

- Violence and conflict.
- Corruption and lack of transparency.
- Weak institutions and justice systems.

### Solutions:

- Strengthen institutions and promote the rule of law.
- Enhance transparency and reduce corruption.
- Promote inclusive and participatory governance.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.**

#### Statistics:

- Digital Divide: 2.7 billion people are still offline, highlighting that substantial work is still needed to achieve the universal connectivity target by 2030.
- Data Challenges: Significant gaps in data availability hinder the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

#### Key Problems:

- Inadequate financial resources and investment.
- Lack of coordination and cooperation among stakeholders.
- Data and monitoring challenges.

#### Solutions:

- Enhance financial support and investments.
- Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Improve data collection and monitoring mechanisms.

Source:

Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023  
For more information, visit the Sustainable Development Goals website of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.

For any questions about the competition, please visit  
[www.century.tech/changemakers](http://www.century.tech/changemakers)

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