

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1

## NO POVERTY

### Teacher's Manual



Teacher's Manual on SDG 1 by Luciana Brandli,  
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## 1 Introduction to the SDGs

Teachers will be empowered to

- provide the link between the SDGs and the MDGs
- explain the origin and overall aim of the SDGs
- name and briefly discuss the five priority areas of the SDGs
- position SDG 1 within the framework of Agenda 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the central component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda consists of a set of 17 interlinked goals (United Nations, 2015), with associated targets and indicators, which are to be achieved by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda was developed as an action plan with the purpose of boosting the development of humanity in five priority areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships, as well as continuing the progress made with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were in force during the years 2000 to 2015. The MDGs consisted of eight international development goals and were supported with 21 individual targets. Compared to the MDGs, the SDGs have a more comprehensive scope, rely more on collective action and are more detailed, with the message very clear that success will depend on the active support and participation of every nation (Feeny, 2020).

The SDGs provide a framework within which global approaches can be planned and implemented to secure a fair, healthy and prosperous future for the current and future generations (Morton et al., 2017). A key element is that all the SDGs are closely interconnected, and that failure to take this into account will lead to a highly ineffective way to address the sustainability dilemma the world is facing (Van Soest et al., 2019). According to Van Soest et al. (2019), key interactions exist across all areas of critical importance for the SDGs but lie especially within the area of “people”, as well as between the areas of “people” and “prosperity”, and between the areas of “people” and “planet”. Figure 1 presents the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the 2030 Agenda.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**Figure 1: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals**

Source: United Nations, Communication Material (n.d.)

In a certain way, the SDGs emerged from the MDGs and with the intention of going beyond them. For instance, while the MDGs had one goal for both poverty and hunger (MDG 1), the 2030 Agenda has one goal dedicated to eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and a goal dedicated to ending hunger (SDG 2).

The aim of this module is to present an introduction to SDG 1 “No poverty” covering its definition, the impact of global crises on the achievement of its targets, the regional contexts progress towards SDG 1, as well as case studies with good practices and examples of exercise that can applied with students.

SDG 1 is included in the “people” dimension of the 2030 Agenda. It concerns the eradication of the different forms of poverty, especially tackling the root causes of the perpetuation of poverty in society. According to the UN, half of the world’s population is living in some condition of poverty, being deprived of access to water, adequate food and health care (Global Goals, 2022).

## Supplementary readings

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- United Nations. (2022b). The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available at:



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### Examples of questions for assessment

- Name the five areas of critical importance to which the 17 SDGs are linked and explain why this is referred to as the five Ps.
- Explain the link between the MDGs and the SDGs.
- Explain how the SDGs differ from the MDGs.

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## 2. Defining SDG 1

Teachers will be empowered to

- define SDG 1 and list its targets and indicators
- explain the significance of SDG 1 with reference to its three main thematic areas
- list and explain five advantages of SDG 1
- reflect on the interdependencies between SDG 1 and the other SDGs
- comprehend the implications of the interdependencies between SDG 1 and the other SDGs
- understand the challenges involved to achieve SDG 1 and discuss examples of actions to address these challenges

Sustainable Development Goal 1 calls for action to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” (United Nations, n.d.). It has five suggested global outcome targets and two additional targets referred as means of implementation, each one accompanied by one or more indicators to monitor progress over time, as presented in Table 1. The targets cover topics such as extreme poverty, social protection systems, access to basic services, vulnerability and resilience, and resources and policies for implementation.

**Table 1: Targets and indicators for SDG 1**

Targets	Indicators
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day;	1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)
1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions;	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable;	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance,	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognised documentation, and (b) who



natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance;	perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters;	1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100 000 population 1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) 1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies
1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions;	1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)
1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions;	1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

Source: United Nations (2022a)

## 2.1 Significance of SDG 1

SDG 1 refers broadly to poverty reduction, but specifically commits to aspects of poverty and extreme poverty, social protection and equal access to basic services and the resilience to disasters.

Pietras-Eichberger (2021) states that poverty is a threatening factor for society as a whole, not just for those living in poverty, as it is an aspect that unbalances society. Hence the importance and significance of developing this SDG, since there will be no progress for the whole society as long as there are groups of people living in conditions of poverty or extreme poverty. Poverty is a state in which an individual is driven by a series of social, geographical, political and other circumstances (Sylva, 2021) and concerns the ability of an individual to be able to maintain and sustain themselves, providing basic resources for their survival, such as potable water and food,



clothing, shelter, and the like. In the concept, living in absolute poverty means living with less than \$2.15 a day standard, according to the World Bank (Larrú, 2021; United Nations, 2022a). In practice, poverty means more than the lack of basic resources to survive (extreme poverty or biological poverty), it also expresses the lack of access to leisure resources, culture and political participation as a full-fledged citizen (relative poverty) (Pietras-Eichberger, 2021).

Currently, the population living on the poverty line is 700 million people, 10% of the human population (United Nations, 2022b). The causes include the increase in world population, COVID impacts and climate change impacts, among others. One of the possible solutions, as is also highlighted in goal 1.3 of SDG 1, is the strengthening of social protection services (Sitelu, 2021).

Social protection systems, including labour market interventions (to guarantee decent jobs), social insurance (to protect groups in case of unemployment) and social assistance (to reduce poverty especially among vulnerable groups), are recognised as tools that help alleviate poverty (Sitelu, 2021). As highlighted by Bukowski and Kreissl (2020), the benefits received from investments in social protection systems are also aimed at increasing the resilience of communities in the face of extreme weather events or natural disasters.

Resilience is widely known as the ability of a system to return to its initial condition after suffering an impact and, in the case of communities, it is the ability of a community to recover from a disaster (Roka, 2021). Extreme weather events and natural disasters jeopardise not only the homes of populations, but also all the advances that have been made by a community and have an impact on both physical structures and cultural identity (Lerch 2017; Roka, 2021) putting vulnerable groups even further behind than they were. Working with plans and policies to ensure the resilience of these communities in the face of extreme events and natural disasters also means ensuring that they can continue to thrive in society. Table 2 presents a summary of the significance of SDG 1.

**Table 2: Significance of SDG 1**

Poverty and extreme poverty	Social protection	Resilience to disasters
Lack of basic services such as quality education, energy and electricity, shelter, food security, health and well-being and water and sanitation. And also, lack of access to leisure and cultural activities and lack of political participation in decision making.	Labour market interventions: guarantee of employment;  Social insurance: protection to unemployment;  Social assistance: reduce poverty on vulnerable groups.	Poorer populations are also more vulnerable to natural disasters. Considering the extreme climate scenario that is currently recorded and that will still be recorded, guaranteeing an exit from poverty is also guaranteeing more resilient communities.



Source: Prepared by the authors based on Pietras-Eichberger (2021), (Sitelu, 2021), Bukowski and Kreissl (2020) and (Roka, 2021).





Especially with regard to guaranteeing access to basic services, the strong interconnection of this with other UN SDGs is recognised, as will be presented in the next session.

## 2.2 Interdependencies of SDG 1

This section aims to present the way in which the connection among the 17 SDGs can be perceived and how the 2030 Agenda comprises a set of goals that can be mutually achieved, and the targets in one SDG can contribute to the progress of the entire Agenda, or at least for a significant part of it. Nonetheless, before presenting the interdependencies between the SDGs, it is important to highlight some aspects about their synergies. Breuer et al. (2019) highlight that depending on the conditions of each context, the achievement of the SDG targets can take more time and the result of the synergies between SDG targets may take a medium or a long term and not occur immediately. The example given by the authors considers investments in quality education (SDG 4); it may not bring immediate results for SDG 8, but in the long term, it would have a positive impact on job opportunities and economic growth (SDG 8) (Breuer et al., 2019).

As presented in the previous sections, SDG 1 has a direct or indirect impact on a series of other goals, in addition to having strong synergies among its own targets. Some studies investigate in detail the connection among the goals (Barbier & Burgess, 2019; Kroll et al., 2019; Pradhan et al., 2017) and main conclusions indicate synergetic relationships of ending poverty with other goals. The main connections are presented in the summary below:

**Table 3: Interdependencies between SDG 1 and the other SDGs**

	<p>SDG 2 aims at ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. <b>Poverty and hunger are closely associated</b>, so there are strong synergies between these two goals.</p>
	<p>Poor living conditions, <b>lack of access to basic services and malnutrition can lead to several health problems</b>. In order to improve life conditions, actions that target ending poverty and offering appropriate health conditions (SDG 3) should be combined.</p>
	<p>People living in poverty tend to stop pursuing education to prioritise work opportunities. A more worrying situation is the impact it may have on children, especially in poorer countries. <b>Lack of education leads to poverty and low-income job opportunities, representing the vicious cycle of poverty.</b></p>
	<p>Achieving gender equality is another challenge connected to poverty. <b>Ending poverty must take gender into consideration so that women of all ages have access to better health conditions, and education and work opportunities.</b></p>



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SDG 1 has targets that specifically mention women in the provision of better conditions and gender-sensitive development strategies.

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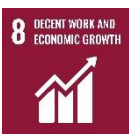
People living in poverty lack access to clean water and appropriate sanitation measures. Access to these services **is a basic human right** and represent a condition to support the process of ending poverty.

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There is a strong correlation between unequal access to energy and low human development. **Energy is an essential service to facilitate the process of escaping poverty**, as it improves quality of life. SDG 7 is also aimed at offering clean cooking solutions.

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Many poor and vulnerable people are left behind in the process of economic growth, which can be seen as a trade-off between these goals. SDG 8 also aims to ensure decent work for all, as well as **education and training opportunities, which are fundamental for supporting SDG 1.**

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Industrialisation drives economic growth and supports the creation of more **job opportunities, potentially leading to a decrease in poverty rates.**

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SDG 10 aims at reducing inequalities across and among countries. By empowering and **promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all, ending poverty is also facilitated.**

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SDG 11 can address serious problems related to the rapid expansion and urbanisation of cities, proliferation of slums and vulnerability of populations, and therefore **improve the living conditions of poorer communities.**

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Strategies of sustainable consumption and production can contribute to **poverty alleviation for supporting the transition towards low-carbon and green economies.** For that, the strategies should combine poverty reduction considerations.

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Extreme weather events are harder on the poorest countries, as the precarious infrastructure and conditions lead to lack of resilience. Target 1.5 specifically refers to **building resilience for those in vulnerable conditions to climate-related extreme events.**

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Many fishing communities derive their sustenance from the sea, **healthy oceans are also a source of income and livelihood for coastal communities.**

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Extractive communities are very dependent on the healthy forest and the balance of biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration also **benefits small communities that depend on forests for their livelihoods.**



Achieving SDG 1 relies on also achieving peace and inclusive societies. **Conflicts worsen poverty conditions and should be tackled, along with increased support for international cooperation and building capacities.**



SDG 17 relates with all goals and is particularly important to SDG 1 for **promoting the means needed for eradicating poverty**, associated with technology, finance, capacity-building, trade and systemic issues.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on Barbier and Burgess et al. (2019), Kroll et al. (2019) and Pradhan et al. (2017)

SDG 1 has the strongest connection with the other SDGs contemplating basic services, which are the fundamental needs to improve people's lives, namely: nutrition aspects (SDG 2, zero hunger), child mortality (SDG 3, health and well-being), access to basic education (SDG 4, quality of education), access to electricity (SDG 7, affordable and clean energy), drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6, clean water and sanitation) and shelter, affordable houses and transportation systems (SDG 11, sustainable cities and communities) (Alkire and Robles, 2017, Larrú, 2021).

### 2.3 Advantages of SDG 1

Poverty alleviation is accompanied by several positive social impacts reflecting a more inclusive and equal society. A world without poverty is a better, safer and more just place to live. Poverty reduction implies improved access to food, well-nourished people with better living standards, assets, education, sanitation and hygiene and health (Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative, 2019).

Other consequences of reducing poverty are an improvement in health levels and an increase in the population's life expectancy. People above the poverty line have better access to sanitation and hygiene measures and health care and are therefore less prone to problems such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, infant mortality, mental illness, malnutrition, lead poisoning, asthma and dental problems (WHO, 2018).

Poverty remains a key factor in access to educational opportunities. It is a determinant that intensifies disparities for female students, those with disabilities, those marginalised due to ethnicity, language, or remote location and those experiencing situations of instability and conflict (UNESCO, 2021). People with higher income levels and the ability to pay for fees and supplies are more likely to access education. Education increases employment opportunities and improves social inclusion and social well-being, which are also reflected in a more just society. According to UNESCO (2021), education must be seen as a common good and a human right.



Considering society as a whole, poverty places enormous economic, social and psychological costs on the nonpoor as well (Confronting Poverty Discussion Guide, n.d.). Without economic growth, inequality increases undermining social cohesion, generating political and social tensions and, in some circumstances, driving instability and conflicts (UN, 2020).

Poverty affects all of us, both individually and as a nation. Many studies have calculated the cost of child poverty with respect to increased health-care cost, increased cost in crime, and cost associated with reduced productivity and economic output (Holzer et al., 2008; McLaughlin & Rank, 2018), and show that it has a devastating impact now and in the future.

## 2.4 Challenges with the implementation of SDG 1

To eradicate poverty by 2030 is a global challenge and it is connected with the achievement of many other SDGs. The challenges posed by the implementation of SDG 1 are aligned with the rapid growth in urbanisation (Shrestha, 2021) and the demographic dynamic of the population (Mello & de Paula, 2021) that lead to unplanned settlement and inevitable poverty. Fertility trends by social status support the idea that the upper classes acted as forerunners by reducing their fertility before other groups (Dribe et al., 2017).

According to the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) (United Nations, 2018), to eradicate poverty by 2030, it would be necessary to reduce by about 110 million every year the number of people living on less than \$2.15 a day. The challenges are complex as reaching poverty eradication includes providing universal access to basic social services such as access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facility, quality education, primary health-care services, efficient energy and electricity, food security, provision of transport facility and affordable housing (Shrestha, 2021).

Strengthening policies and an institutional framework for improving access to basic services, sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources are then a critical step in successfully delivering the targets of SDG 1. This approach involves empowering local government, actively working with organisations/private companies and having stakeholders well prepared (Shrestha, 2021). As reinforced by Bhatia (2021), the intent and capability of the government affect the ability to make positive interventions in executing poverty alleviation programmes, once they have access to the poor and resources to coordinate with nongovernmental organisations, including international agencies.

Another challenge is addressing child poverty – a global concern (Alkire, 2019) that affects both richer and poorer countries. Bessel (2021) presents a three-dimensional typology related to children living in poverty: insufficient money and material resources to meet basic services; barriers to participating in activities that promote learning and inclusion; and the existence of structural factors that undermine strong and supportive relationships. According to the author, these aspects provide a practical framework that serves as a standpoint to deal with child poverty.





Table 4 presents examples of specific challenges associated with the process of achieving SDG 1, including aspects of basic services, economic development, government support and climate change.

**Table 4: Examples of specific challenges involved in achieving the targets of SDG 1**

Specific challenge	Actions to address the challenges
Rapid growth in urbanisation and demographic dynamic of the population	The necessity to deal with unplanned settlement and inevitable poverty increase, due the rapid growth in urbanisation, fertility trends by social status and migration movements.
Food insecurity	Focus on agricultural inputs and reduction of the levels of hunger and malnutrition, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable.
Access to primary education	Investments in education, resulting in more employment opportunities and improvement of social inclusion and social well-being.
Access to health care	Investments in human capital, resulting in safe childbirth, nutrition, children's ability to grow well.
Access to infrastructure	Investments in roads, power, basic sanitation and infrastructure in a diversified sense.
Business development	Business development and economic growth that allow opportunities and the empowerment of poor people.
	Development of social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves.
Government policies	Investments in social capital, building strong institutions.  Focus on higher-value policies that produce growth, protect households against crises, and raise revenue.
Climate change	Building resilience for prevention of crises and disasters. The more vulnerable people are more affected.

Source: Based on Johnson (2021) and World Bank (2022e)

### Supplementary readings



- Kroll, C., Warchold, A. & Pradhan, P. (2019). Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Are we successful in turning trade-offs into synergies?. Palgrave Communications, 5(1), 1–11.
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## **Examples of questions for assessment**

### **2. Defining SDG 1**

- What are the main aspects of SDG 1?
- What is the focus of the first five targets of SDG 1?
- What is the focus of the last two targets of SDG 1?

#### **2.1 Significance of SDG 1**

- What is your explanation of the current large number of hungry people in the world and why is this number increasing?
- What is the status of the progress to achieve SDG 1 by 2030?
- Briefly explain the comprehensive scope and importance of SDG 1 with reference to three main thematic areas covered by this SDG.

#### **2.2 Interdependencies of SDG 1**

- How is SDG 1 interconnected with the other SDGs? What other SDGs do you think will be most affected if SDG 1 is not achieved?
- Select any three SDGs and briefly explain how they interact with SDG 1. Use examples from your region to illustrate your explanation.

#### **2.3 Advantages of SDG 1**

- What will the main advantages be for the world if the goal of ending poverty is achieved?
- Select any two of the targets of SDG 1 and explain the specific advantages which will manifest with the attainment of these targets. Link it to advantages for your specific region.

#### **2.4 Challenges in the implementation of SDG 1**

- How have different global crises been affecting the implementation of SDG 1?
- What are the difficulties in implementing SDG 1 in your country? Which are the main barriers? And how can they be overcome?





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### 3. Overview of various crises that have a negative impact on the achievement of SDG 1

Teachers will be empowered to

- identify the major crises that have a negative impact on the achievement of SDG 1
- explain how the major crises prevent the achievement of the SDG 1.
- describe how the impact of current crises on the achievement of SDG 1 differs regionally

Historically, crises have been catalysts that initiate significant social, political and economic change in society. A global or regional crisis also demonstrates exactly how interdependent and interlinked all the components of sustainable development are and this extends to the achievement of all the SDGs by 2030. Further, as the impact of most global and regional crises transcends national and international borders, it is important that the international community in collaboration with governments work together to develop common solutions to mitigate the impact of each crisis. This collaboration could include the facilitation of structural transformation to enable and encourage success in the pursuit of achieving the SDG targets by 2030 (United Nations, 2022a).

Presently, the most dominant global crises that have a negative impact on the achievement of zero hunger (SDG 1) by the year 2030, include climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict.

#### 3.1. Climate change

Climate change and its impacts worsen the poverty situation around the world and threaten the efforts of SDG 1. Poor countries are the most affected by extreme weather events and consequently severely hit in environmental, economic and social aspects. According to one of the latest IPCC reports, climate change and vulnerability are considered important threats to



the 2030 Agenda, particularly to poverty and livelihoods (Birkmann et al., 2022). The same report indicates that if current scenarios of high carbon emissions and insufficient adaptation measures continue, climate change is expected to lead to concentration of losses and damages among the poorest vulnerable populations.

The impact of climate change in SDG 1 is also mixed with the complex interrelations among goals. Different weather patterns already affect agriculture and food production, and therefore have an impact on food prices and security, a major cause of an increase in poverty levels (Hallegatte & Walsh, 2020). Increased temperatures also have a significant correlation with increased transmission of diseases, and health care is problematic for poorer communities (Hallegatte & Rozenberg, 2017). As presented in section 2 (Table 1), SDG 1 has target 1.5 to recognise the importance of building resilience of the poor in terms of vulnerability to climate change.

### *3.1.1 Impact of climate change in Latin America*

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently published the report “State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2021”, which explores the climate change impacts in the region for ecosystems, food and water security, human health and poverty. Extreme weather events and hydrometeorological hazards are reported to have slowed progress towards achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 and SDG 2. Significant and more frequent impacts are expected in terms of social and economic prospects, with agriculture and food production suffering from changing weather patterns (and consequently having an impact on livelihood and economic growth) and migration and population displacement worsening the life conditions of poorer communities.

Some key findings from the report (WMO, 2022) and their relationship with poverty issues are explored below:

- Temperature: The average temperature increase was around 0.2 °C/decade between 1991 and 2021, compared to 0.1 °C/decade between 1961 and 1990. The increase in temperature endangers agriculture and disrupts the reliance on natural resources.
- Glaciers: Glaciers in the tropical Andes have lost over 30% of their area since the 1980s. The ice mass loss and the glacier retreat increase the risk of water scarcity in the region, also affecting the provision of basic services to the population.
- Sea level rise: The levels in the region are rising at a faster rate than the global average, particularly along the Atlantic coast of South America ( $3.52 \pm 0.0$  mm per year, from 1993 to 2021), and the subtropical North Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico ( $3.48 \pm 0.1$  mm per year, from 1993 to 1991). Sea level rise threatens a large proportion of the population located in coastal areas, and the biggest impact is on the poorest communities which have fewer infrastructure resources.
- Extreme weather events: Drought conditions led to a decline of –2.6% in the 2020–2021 cereal harvest compared with the previous season; floods and landslides in Brazil represented a loss of over US\$ 3 billion; and migration and population displacement may



also be associated with climatic events, demanding better early warning systems to effectively adapt to the changes and avoid the most devastating impacts.

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#### 3.1.2 Impact of climate change in Africa

Haider (2020) predicts that on a global scale, the likely short-term impacts of climate change on poverty will result in an estimated additional 32 million to 132 million people in extreme poverty by 2030. Climate change projections for Africa include: a warming trend, particularly in the inland subtropics; more frequent occurrence of extreme heat events; increasing aridity; and changes in rainfall – with a particularly pronounced decline in Southern Africa and an increase in East Africa (Serdeczny et al., 2017). There is general acceptance that climate variability has a disproportionately negative impact on poorer countries (and poorer individuals within these countries) and Africa has been identified as the region most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (Serdeczny et al., 2017). Climate change is expected to push many people into poverty in the sub-Saharan region in the next few years (Jafino et al., 2020). Climate change and variability have a specific impact on the already vulnerable rainfed agricultural systems on which the livelihoods of most of the sub-Saharan population depend, while in the drylands of the Sahel region, the pastoral systems are largely dependent on natural resources influenced by climate change (Serdeczny et al., 2017). The negative impact of climate variability on agricultural



livelihoods results in a higher rate of rural–urban migration, which aggravates the economic conditions of African cities (Serdeczny et al., 2017), increasing the number of people in poverty.

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### 3.1.3 Impact of climate change in Europe

According to the Lancet report published in 2022, climate change makes humans more susceptible to crises related to rising living cost. The majority of fatalities from all natural disasters are caused by heatwaves, with the elderly, the poor, those with cardiovascular disease and people living in cheap houses most at risk (Romanello et al., 2022). With a worldwide mean near-surface temperature increase of 0.95 to 1.20 °C over pre-industrial levels, the decade from 2011 to 2020 was the warmest globally on record. Meanwhile the average annual temperature in Europe has risen by 1.9 to 2.02 °C in this decade (Eurostat, 2022a). North-western Europe was subjected to severe floods in July 2021, which were mostly caused by excessive rainfall that was up to nine times more likely to occur due to climate change. More than 200 people in Europe were killed by the floods directly and Europe was burdened by financial losses (Romanello et al., 2022). Unfortunately monetary losses from weather- and climate-related disasters in Europe continue to rise because of global warming (Eurostat, 2022a)

During the period 1980 to 2020, weather- and climate-related economic losses in EU countries accumulated to EUR 487.0 billion at 2020 values. Looking to the 30-year moving average in Europe, there has been an almost constant rise in climate-related economic losses, from EUR 10.8 billion in 2009 to EUR 12.9 billion in 2020, an increase of 18.8%. The most expensive climate extremes from 1980 to 2020 include the 2002 flood in central Europe costing more than EUR 21 billion, the 2003 drought and heatwave costing over EUR 15 billion, the 1999 storm Lothar and the 2000 flood in France and Italy both costing EUR 13 billion, all at 2017 values. (Eurostat, 2022a)

Nowadays, more people are dying from heatwaves than ever before and infrastructure is deteriorating, with conflict, such as the Ukraine crisis, making this situation worse. In comparison with the rest of Europe, the Western Balkans are a climate security hotspot because of the





confluence of drought, as well as socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities. Southeast Europe is expected to experience an increase in temperature of 4 °C by the end of the century, along with a 20 to 50% decrease in precipitation and a 20% increase in drought. These climate changes will probably result in lower agricultural production and substantial damage to livelihoods. For instance, in Moldova, a 30% reduction in agricultural output has already resulted in 20% of the sector's jobs being lost, causing a severe economic downturn and posing significant hazards to people's livelihood (United Nations Development Programme, 2022).

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### 3.2. COVID-19 pandemic

Even before COVID-19, the world was not on track to achieve the targets of SDG 1. The pandemic reversed the efforts of the 2030 Agenda in fighting poverty, with global extreme poverty rising in 2020 for the first time since 1998 (United Nations, 2022b).

For SDG 1 to be achieved, the effects of the pandemic need to be controlled and further efforts are needed in provisions of basic services and support to related goals, such as food security (SDG 2), education (SDG 4), and access to water and sanitation (SDG 6) (Fenner & Cernev, 2021). In a study of future scenarios, Moyer et al. (2022) indicate that, in the most optimistic case, poverty projections do not differ considerably between pandemic and non-pandemic situations (while in the most pessimistic scenario it would case 17 more countries not to achieve SDG 1); however, this would demand improvements in income distribution, well-planned recovery strategies and better social protection systems. Policy measures for recovery strategies are key to prevent the impacts of the pandemic from becoming persistent (Alkire et al., 2021).

#### 3.2.1 Impact of COVID-19 in Latin America

Most Latin American countries have been affected severely by the COVID-19 crisis in a context of low growth potential, high inequalities and growing social discontent (OECD, 2020).



Smaller companies – which represent over 50% of the jobs in the region – have suffered the highest economic impact, and a worrying share of workers have not received access to any type of social protection measure. Although remote work represents a positive strategy to face the challenges of work during the lockdowns and in a context of reduced physical contact, it also exacerbates the inequalities in the poverty context as people with lower per capita income have limited or no access to internet connection and technological conditions to work and study remotely.

During the pandemic, Latin America and the Caribbean experienced the longest interruption of face-to-face classes among the regions, increasing the gap in learning opportunities and skills development. Furthermore, as of December 2021, the region had the highest number of reported deaths from COVID-19 globally (representing almost one-third of the total deaths, with a population representing 8.4% of the world population). In this scenario, many Latin American countries adopted significant fiscal and monetary policies to prevent contagion and support the most vulnerable families, workers and companies. Nevertheless, these investments declined in 2021 (ECLAC, 2022).

The ECLAC (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) report “Panorama Social da América Latina 2021” (Social Panorama of Latin America, in English), estimate that the region saw an increase of almost five million in the number of people living in extreme poverty, from 13.1% of the population in 2020 to 13.8% in 2021. Despite economic recovery since 2021, the social crisis continues in Latin America, with poverty rates above the pre-pandemic levels and more people in situations of vulnerability. The report also points out the increase in inequality and the increased impact of the pandemic on younger people, and populations in rural and indigenous areas.

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#### 3.2.2 Impact of COVID-19 in Africa

Compared to the rest of the world, fewer people on the African continent seem to have contracted COVID-19. However, the economic impact of the pandemic will have a lasting and probably negative effect in most African countries trying to achieve SDG 1 (Anyanwu & Salami,





2021). The widespread lockdowns and slowdowns disrupted the economic activities in all countries on the continent having a negative impact on basic service deliveries and sustainable livelihoods (United Nations, 2022b).

It is estimated that the GDP per capita for Africa decreased by 10% in nominal terms due to the pandemic in 2020 (African Development Bank, 2021). Such a contraction would result in a deterioration in living standards and in turn an increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty, reversing any recent gains in the reduction of poverty. Lakner et al. (2021) and the African Development Bank (2021) estimate that in the first year of the pandemic some 30 million Africans were pushed into poverty, setting back the continent's progress to achieve SDG 1 by at least three years. The same references estimate that a further 39 million Africans would fall into extreme poverty in 2021. In addition, income and multidimensional inequality is projected to increase because of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups such as women, youth and low-skilled informal sector workers.

#### Supplementary readings

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### 3.2.3 Impact of COVID-19 in Europe

The achievements towards the SDGs in the EU were unequal before the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Eurostat (2022b), the pandemic is a considerable challenge to the progress of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs for the EU and globally. While the annual data used in the EU SDG monitoring report so far only partly reflect the impacts of the pandemic, short-term data published in the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard provide a more detailed picture of how COVID-19 and the related contingency measures are affecting the EU in its attempts to achieve the SDGs.

Increased mortality and the health implications of COVID-19 are the most obvious negative consequences of the pandemic, while the degree of social scarring is yet uncertain. According to Fetting (2020), Europe used a five-pronged response to the COVID-19 pandemic under a green recovery logic. Firstly, the EU countries seemed to organise their response under an SDG line. Secondly, COVID-19 pandemic responses included a higher degree of policy coherence, reflected in increased inter-ministerial interaction and coordination at the national level and a more robust interaction at the EU Commission. Thirdly, a green recovery was envisioned,



including biodiversity loss and climate change preoccupations, in line with the Green Deal. Fourthly, COVID-19 offered a window of opportunity to learn and design new governance systems and structures grounded on scientific advice and aimed at evidence-based policy. Finally, it is advisable to strengthen the multilateral agenda to cope with global crises, given that the pandemic revealed that the type of national-based response lacked enough strength to cope with its evolution, and more global coordination was needed to tackle the issue.

Lockdown measures put additional pressure on vulnerable population groups by affecting the labour market. The economic effects had a negative influence, yet they returned to a stable moment just before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In contrast, economic activity in the EU appeared to have stabilised after the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, some of the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the EU economy, labour market, education and poverty, as well as on environmental issues, still remain to be seen.

According to EAPN (2021), COVID-19 had a devastating impact on Europe's different societies and economies, especially on socially excluded people and vulnerable groups.

### 3.3 Conflict

National and international conflicts are major threats causing humanitarian crises and economic shock and hindering the achievement of the SDGs. Conflict-affected countries are estimated to have approximately 85% of the world population living in extreme poverty (United Nations, 2021). Conflicts tend to increase poverty levels due a series of impacts: infrastructure and production damage, disruption of basic services and social networks, economic instability, increased inflation and unemployment (Marks, 2016).

#### 3.3.1 *Impact of conflict in Latin America*

Given its primary export character, Latin America's economy is considered to be extremely dependent on international prices and the region quickly feels the impacts of international crises. Combined with other crises and the international scenario of uncertainty, the war in Ukraine has contributed to Latin American countries facing economic and trade slowdown, inflation and a slow and incomplete recovery in the labour market, which consequently lead to increased poverty levels.

The report "Repercussions in Latin America and the Caribbean of the war in Ukraine: how should the region face this new crisis?" published by ECLAC (2022) analyses the economic and social impacts of the Ukraine war on the region and offers recommendations to countries on how to address them. The impact of the war affects the region unevenly, with some countries and sectors severely hit. Some shared impacts, though, include low levels of economic growth, fall in per capita GDP and increased inflation.

All these have a severe impact on poverty rates, which are predicted to rise above 2021 levels. In 2022, the incidence of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean would reach 33.7% (1.6 percentage points more than the value projected for 2021), while extreme poverty would reach 14.9% (1.1 percentage points more than in 2021) (ECLAC, 2022). These figures represent



another major setback in the fight against poverty since the beginning of the pandemic, mostly associated with the increase in food prices.

The report reinforces the need for sustaining the poorest sectors and prioritising food security. Trade in food and fertilisers should not be restricted, which would accelerate inflation and be more harmful to the poorest communities. Initiatives should be made to maintain or increase food subsidies, implement agreements to contain prices for components of basic food baskets, and reduce or eliminate tariffs on imports of grains and other basic products (ECLAC, 2022).

Some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are facing difficult situations. Social conflicts can be seen in Colombia and Chile; in Haiti the growth of gang violence has been a major concern in recent years, with a great crisis of insecurity, weakening the state power and asserting authority in an increasingly destructive manner. In Venezuela, the political crisis, violence, insecurity, threats and lack of food, medicine and essential services, have caused more than 6 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants worldwide, the vast majority in countries within Latin America and the Caribbean. This has become the second-largest external displacement crisis in the world.

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#### 3.3.2 Impact of conflict in Africa

There is a close correlation between the regions of conflict (from 2015 to 2021) and the poorest countries in Africa in 2021 (Figure 2). The reasons for conflict in the region are generally two-fold, that is, human or environmentally induced.

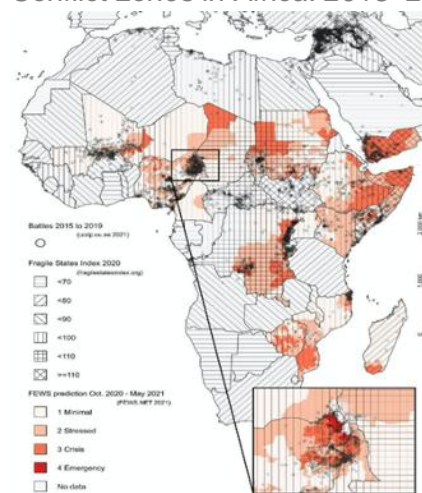


Poorest countries in Africa:2021



Source: Benson (2021)

Conflict zones in Africa: 2015–2021



Source: Kemmerling et al. (2022)

**Figure 2: Conflict zones and the poorest countries in Africa and in the World**

**Table 5: Ten poorest countries in world in 2022**

World ranking – Ten poorest countries in the world	Country	GDP (purchasing power parity) US\$
1	Burundi	856
2	South Sudan	928
3	Central African Republic	1,102
4	Democratic Republic of Congo	1,316
5	Somalia	1,322
6	Niger	1,435
7	Mozambique	1,439
8	Malawi	1,603
9	Chad	1,705
10	Madagascar	1,778

Source: Ventura (2022)

In conflict zones, severe pressure is placed on state finances as revenue decreases, and generally, a large percentage of the GDP goes towards spending on the military conflict to the detriment of available budget for social and economic development (Anyebe, 2016). Fang et al. (2020) found that on average the countries in sub-Saharan Africa involved in some sort of conflict reflect significantly lower per capita GDP over time when compared to regions that do not experience any conflict.

It should be noted that in 2022, the ten poorest countries in the world were all located in Africa (Table 5). All the poorest countries (except Malawi) have experienced ongoing conflict since their independence or creation. It is ironical that the ten poorest countries in the world are blessed with vast natural wealth that could potentially make them very wealthy, but have endemic levels of poverty due to the following (Ventura, 2022):

- persisting and resurging anti-government controlled areas and militia groups
- recurrent clashes between government forces and extreme groups such as the jihadist group and Islamic State (ISIS) affiliate Boko Haram
- political instability through violent coups and disputed elections

Ongoing conflict in these countries result in the following:

- endemic corruption
- lack of infrastructure necessary for economic development
- lack of access to health services to deal with endemic diseases
- massive levels of unemployment
- lack of economic diversity and continued economic dependence on rainfed agriculture that is jeopardised not only by conflict but also climate change

All the above have resulted in high levels of poverty in Africa, which are likely to persist for years to come and have a negative impact on the continent's ability to achieve the targets of zero poverty by 2030.

#### Supplementary readings

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### 3.3.3 Impact of conflict in Europe

According to the World Bank (2022a), the refugee crisis has been the worst since World War II, with more than 4 million refugees. An additional 6.5 million people are estimated to be internally displaced within Ukraine, with about one-third of the total population requiring emergency humanitarian assistance. Children have been particularly affected. A first evaluation shows that the poverty rate (\$5.50 per day) in Ukraine would increase from 1.8% in 2021 to 19.8% in 2022, even more depending on the evolution of the war. Additionally, 40 million people would fall under extreme poverty (\$2.15 per day). For the rest of Europe, the economic effects are not expected to be as negative as the recession triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zakeri et al. (2022) argue that both the pandemic and the war in Ukraine implied opportunities for low-carbon energy transitions; however, Europe likely misses them. On the one side, the COVID-19 crisis showed the potential for lifestyle and behavioural change and the role of science-based policy advice. On the other side, energy diversification and reliance on local and renewable energy sources seem to be the right path, after the escalation of the war in Ukraine. Zakeri et al. suggest that the EU is looking for solutions based on other fossil fuel sources instead of shifting towards climate-friendly alternatives.

Pereira et al. (2022) report that the war has affected unemployment. More than five million people lost their jobs in Ukraine, and other countries in Europe have already reported unemployment increases, particularly Germany. Besides, the war has drastically increased inflation, particularly high in food prices (the FAO reports an increase in food prices of 33.6% between March 2021 and 2022). Using UN calculations, the authors highlight that the war can push 1.7 billion people into poverty.

#### Examples of questions for assessment

### 3. Overview of global crises that have a negative impact on the achievement of “no poverty”

- Name at least three global crises that affect the achievement of the targets of SDG 1.

#### 3.1 Climate change

- How is climate change having a negative impact on the progress around ending poverty?
- How are these impacts perceived in your region?

#### 3.2 COVID-19

- What are the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the targets of SDG 1?
- How are these effects perceived in your region?

#### 3.3 Conflict

- Explain how conflict has a negative impact on the efforts to end poverty.
- How are these impacts perceived in your region?





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#### 4. Regional progress towards the achievement of SDG 1

Teachers will be empowered to

- develop an understanding of regional differences in achieving SDG 1
- understand the various factors that have a negative impact on the achievement of the various targets for SDG 1

The beginning of the Decade of Action – which was supposed to be dedicated to accelerating solutions for meeting the 2030 Agenda and achieving a more sustainable world from 2020 to 2030 – ended up starting with the spread of the COVID-19. Even before the devastating impacts of the pandemic, the United Nations warned that global efforts were not sufficient to deliver the change needed.

Within the first five years of implementation of the SDGs, some aspects had improved considerably, including progress in indicators related to health, infrastructure and climate action. In the poverty context, the latest United Nations' report (2022b) pointed out to the historical decline in global poverty, from 36.0% in 1990, to 10.1% in 2015, reaching 8.6% in 2018.

Since the pandemic began, however, negative reports have been received on progress towards the goals. The health sector was hit first, as much investment had to be redirected from health essential services to measures to fight the pandemic. The economic crisis followed the outbreak, causing major impacts in unemployment and inequality rates, among several other social, economic and environmental aspects.

The impacts of the pandemic led to extreme poverty rates increasing for the first time in over 20 years. SDG 1 is currently presented as one of the goals that had the highest drawback and progress reversed. Data show that between 75 million to 90 million people were pushed into extreme poverty in the last few years due to the combination of the impacts of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Social protection systems have proven to be essential to prevent more severe impacts and promote quicker recovery, but this is still a challenge, especially in lower and low-income countries.

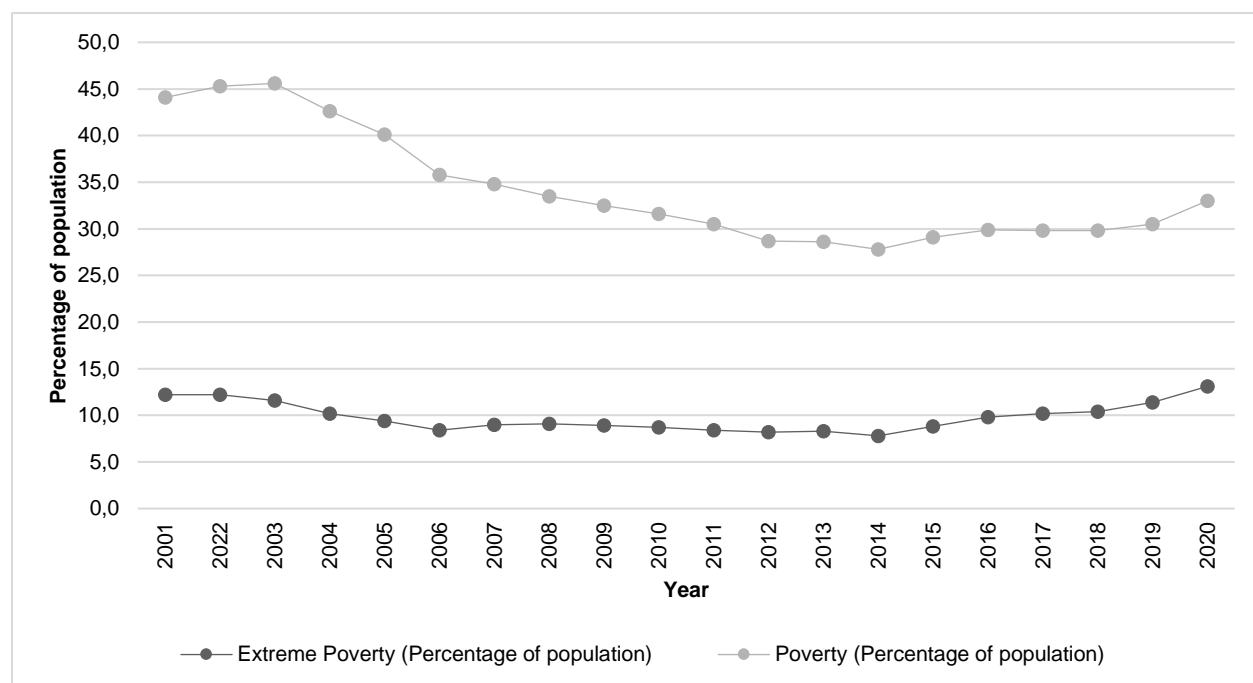


## 4.1 Regional progress in Latin America

Latin America and the Caribbean are observing an improvement in data availability and access to report on the progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Some targets and indicators still lack information though, and increased efforts in terms of reporting and monitoring are needed.

Data from the last ECLAC (2022) report on regional progress and challenges “A decade of action for a change of era”, point out insufficient progress towards 68% of the 111 targets to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Specifically, about SDG 1, the report indicates that none of No Poverty targets are within the category “likely to be reached on the current trend”, and target 1.2 is considered in a trend moving away from the expected outcome. All other poverty targets are in the right direction but with slow progress.

Poverty slightly declined between 2020 and 2021 from 33.0% to 32.1% (after an increase of 2.5% between 2019 and 2020). On the other hand, extreme poverty continued increasing for the sixth year in a row in all countries with available information, from 11.4% in 2019 to 13.8% in 2021. In 2021, 202 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean were living in income poverty (representing one-third of the population, i.e., 32.4%) (Figure 3). Of those, 87 million people were living below the extreme poverty line. Argentina, Colombia and Peru are the countries with the largest increases in poverty, and the most affected age groups are the population between 0 and 14 years and indigenous and black people (United Nations, 2022b).



**Figure 3: Population living in poverty and extreme poverty in Latin America (2001–2020)**

Source: Authors based on ECLAC (2022)

Regarding the social protection systems and measures in the region, 56% of the population is covered by at least one social protection benefit. Among these benefits can be listed social assistance cash benefit (covering 36% of the vulnerable population), pension (75% of the population above statutory pensionable age) and maternity cash benefit (30% of women with new-born children).

In the last 20 years, the percentage of people with access to basic resources such as water and sanitation has increased in Latin America. The greatest progress has been made in Central America (the percentage of people using basic drinking services rose from 89% in 2000 to 98% in 2020). In Latin America as a whole, the percentage of the population using basic drinking water services in 2020 was 97% (a 6% increase when compared to 2000 values).

Data on reducing exposure of vulnerability to climate risks and other disasters (target 1.5) are still not available for this region as well as for the policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies (target 1.b).

Finally, the "mobilization of resources to end poverty in all its dimensions" as stated by target 1.a shows an unsatisfactory trend since 2000. Assistance grants for poverty reduction have reduced throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In the whole region this reduction represented 64%.

The data show the importance of SDG 1 for this region and the need to continue working towards its reach.

#### 4.2 Regional progress in Africa

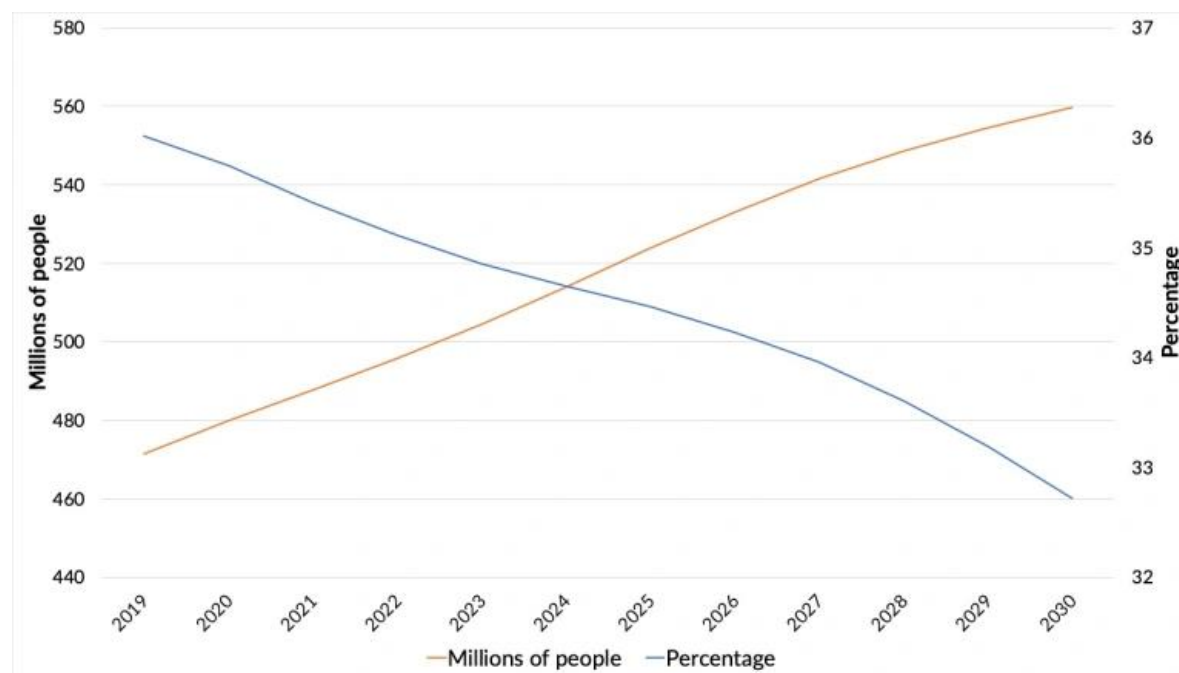
Projections of global poverty levels by 2030 show that most of the countries in the world that will not be able to achieve SDG 1 will be located on the African continent (Donnenfeld, 2020). In 2022, around 460 million of the estimated 1.4 billion people in Africa lived below the extreme poverty line of US\$2.15 per day (Saleh, 2022). Presently 40% of the people located in Africa live below US\$2.15 per day, and when compared to the next poorest region in the world (South Asia), people in sub-Saharan Africa are twice as likely to live in poverty (United Nations, 2022b). Alarming 12% of the global population living in extreme poverty are in Nigeria, with a further 10% of the global population living in extreme poverty finding themselves in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Saleh, 2022).

In terms of the percentage of the global population living in poverty, marginal progress was made from 70% in 2015 to around 60% in 2020 of the global population living in poverty coming from Africa (Hamel et al., 2019). Donnenfeld (2020) speculates that although an increased number of Africans could escape poverty during this five-year period, this could probably be ascribed to the improved global economy (UNCTAD, 2021). Unfortunately, this positive trend is unlikely to be sustained due to global slowdowns related to the recent pandemic and the present war in the Ukraine.

It is projected that globally the percentage of people living in poverty in Africa will decrease by 5% between 2015 and 2030 but it is expected that the absolute number of people living in



poverty will double (from 270 million to 550 million). This trend is ascribed to the rapid population growth that is experienced in Africa (Figure 4).



**Figure 4: Percentage vs absolute number of people in Africa projected to live in poverty in 2030**

Source: Donnerfeld (2020)

According to Chukwuemeka (2022), over the next decade the following aspects will likely limit the continent's ability to achieve SDG 1:

- poor governance and high rates of corruption
- lack of policy-making opportunities for the disadvantaged masses
- lack of effective institutions established to eradicate poverty
- inadequate education particularly of female children
- natural disasters linked to climate change
- poor health services
- civil wars and other conflict
- overpopulation
- agricultural infrastructure that is not sustainable

The aspects listed above have direct and indirect linkages to the remaining 16 SDGs, and the failure of the African continent to move forward and reverse the poverty trap will negatively affect the achievement of sustainable development by 2030.

### Supplementary readings

- History Scope. Why is Africa Still So Poor? Available at: <https://youtu.be/TW46xDXNO3Q>. Last accessed 31 October 2022.
- Haider, H. 2020. The bottom billion in Africa: Poverty trends and forecasts. K4D Helpdesk Report 922. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.
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### 4.3 Regional progress in Europe

The overall progress in the implementation of SDG 1 in Europe is positive, although some areas and countries still face challenges. In general, multidimensional poverty decreased between 2015 and 2020, while income poverty and severe material and social deprivation affected fewer people. Besides (quasi-)jobless households, the risk of poverty or social exclusion, overburden by housing costs, and severe housing deprivation diminished. That is to say that there was significant progress in most poverty aspects.

An unsurprising divide exists among the countries and regions regarding the depth of the progress. One of the significant differences is the localisation of the SDGs. According to Ciambra (2021b), there are three pioneering clusters: the Spanish, the Finnish and the German. Ciambra points out that the SDGs' institutionalisation is more advanced in local settings in the richer countries and regions. This suggests that more effort should be put into local implementation of the SDGs in less-developed areas, particularly seeing the advantages of having complex development planning systems with multi-level and multi-stakeholder integration (see the cases of the City of Ghent in *Case Studies* for an example of SDG 1).

However, studies such as those of Hametner and Kostetckaia (2020) show that southern and eastern European countries that score lower in existing indices display more robust progress towards the SDGs, while sustainability-leading countries (e.g., the Nordic) show little further progress. Hametner and Kostetckaia (2020) calculate short (five-year) and long (15-year) term progress scores for European countries. Regarding SDG 1, the results show that in the short term, the countries with higher progress were Czechia (4.12), Croatia (3.47) and Romania (3.26), while the ones with lower performance were the Netherlands (−2.89), Luxembourg (−2.59) and Denmark (−1.65); the EU average was 2.0. In the long term, the countries with higher progress were Poland (4.05), Czechia (3.60) and Romania (3.07), while the ones ranking lower were Sweden (−3.52), Italy (−2.96) and Luxembourg (−2.21); the average was 1.20.

Another challenge highlighted by Ciambra (2021a) is that local indicators (within the Voluntary National Reports) have low comparability with the European Handbook (Siragusa et al., 2020), ranging between 5% and 35%. These figures represent a significant challenge for comparability. It is also possible to assert that local information and reporting are built upon voluntary reports, nationally and locally. That poses both an achievement and a challenge. The achievement is that countries are coordinating efforts toward implementing and reporting. The



challenge is that the governments may highlight the positive side and downsize the negative indicators without good results.

According to Eurostat (2022a), when looking at multidimensional poverty, people at risk of poverty or social exclusion were 96.6 million people in 2020 (21.9% of the EU population) and 104.9 million people in 2015 (or 24.0% of the population), showing an 8.0% decrease. Children and young people are particularly affected. Regarding income poverty, 75.2 million people were affected in 2020 (17.1% of the population), while 29.3 million people (6.8% of the EU population) had severe material and social deprivation. Besides, very low work intensity affected 27.0 million people under 65 years of age (equalling 8.2% of the population). Moreover, 28.8 million people (29.9%) were affected by more than one poverty dimension, and 6.3 million (6.5%) were affected by the three forms.

Who are the most affected? Poverty is more likely to affect the unemployed, migrants, disabled or less educated people. For instance, taking the at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rate, 66.2% of unemployed people, 47.9% of non-EU citizens living in the EU (contrast: 19.9% of EU home-country nationals), and 40.8% of adults born in non-EU countries fall in this category. The percentage of people with severe disabilities at risk (34.6%) and people with low education levels at risk (34.7%) were also significant. Lastly, while few people face severe housing deprivation in the EU, housing costs still overburden people. In 2020, 38.4% of people below the poverty threshold spent 40% or more of their household disposable income on housing, compared with only 4.2% of people with an income above the poverty threshold. Besides, people self-report unmet needs for medical care; costs were the main barrier.

#### **Examples of questions for assessment**

#### **4. Progress towards the achievement of Ending Poverty by 2030**

- How does your current life pattern affect the achievement of the SDG 1 targets?

##### **4.1 Regional progress in Latin America**

- Is the progress of Latin American countries considered sufficient to meet the targets of SDG 1?
- In your opinion, will the countries in Latin America be able to achieve the SDG 1 targets by 2030? Which aspects should be reinforced for that?
- What are the main obstacles in achieving SDG 1 in your region/country?

##### **4.2 Regional progress in Africa**

- In your opinion, will the countries in Africa be able to achieve the SDG 1 targets by 2030? Which aspects should be reinforced for that?
- Please describe the relation between the increase in the absolute number of people living in poverty and the decrease in the indicator of percentage of people living in poverty in Africa, by 2030.
- What are the main obstacles in achieving SDG 1 in your region/country?

##### **4.3 Regional progress in Europe**





- In your opinion, will the countries in Europe be able to achieve the SDG 1 targets by 2030? Which aspects should be reinforced for that?
- Using examples, describe the differences in progress in different European regions/countries.
- What are the main obstacles in achieving SDG 1 in your region/country?

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## 5. Case studies

Teachers will be empowered to

- identify good practices in various regional case studies in achieving SDG 1



- develop and apply a local project aimed at achieving SDG 1
- use the knowledge presented in regional case studies to adapt to a more sustainable way of living

This section is dedicated to present examples of good practices applied in different countries around the world to support the implementation of SDG 1. These practices take different approaches: from educational measures to social policies, and from agriculture management to nutrient deficiencies, as shown in Table 6. Additional examples can be found in the [United Nations' SDGs Knowledge Platform](#).

**Table 6: Examples of best practices related to SDG 1**

Name and geographical coverage	Objective	Related SDGs	Source
<b>Beating poverty with the project REGRADE, Ethiopia</b>	The humanitarian organisation partnered with national and local governments to implement a poverty reduction programme.	1, 8, 10	<a href="https://www.concernusa.org/story/beating-poverty-in-ethiopia/">https://www.concernusa.org/story/beating-poverty-in-ethiopia/</a>
<b>Village savings and loans, Africa</b>	Village savings and loans associations keep economic power local and community based, offering a sustainable means for breaking the cycle of poverty.	1, 5, 10	<a href="https://www.concernusa.org/story/village-savings-and-loans-associations-explained/">https://www.concernusa.org/story/village-savings-and-loans-associations-explained/</a>
<b>Loving village club projects for rural area improvement, China</b>	Establishing a platform that connects different partners. Partners co-design and co-implement the community co-building projects to improve the relationship between mining groups and local communities.	1, 11	<a href="https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/loving-village-club-projects-rural-area-improvement">https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/loving-village-club-projects-rural-area-improvement</a>
<b>The Ration System, Egypt</b>	Providing subsidies, sustaining the financial support, providing main food commodities on an uninterrupted basis at reasonable prices. The Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade plays its role to ensure the provision of basic commodities including wheat, sugar, oil, rice, pasta, fresh and frozen meat, chicken and fish, with the aim of achieving market stability in the event of global trade imbalances, due to the state's own reserve.	1, 2, 3, 10	<a href="https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/ration-system">https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/ration-system</a>
<b>Farmers' Field and Business Schools, Egypt</b>	Building resilience and self-reliance of young women farmers in Minya through the Farmers' Field and Business Schools.	1, 5, 8	<a href="https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/farmer-field-and-business-schools">https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/farmer-field-and-business-schools</a>



<b>Alleviating poverty with an integrated microenterprise programme, Africa</b>	The integrated microenterprise programme provides households with business training and services, plus cash grants.	1, 8	<a href="https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/alleviating-poverty-with-integrated-microenterprise-program">https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/alleviating-poverty-with-integrated-microenterprise-program</a>
<b>Evidence-informed social protection programming, Philippines</b>	The KASAMA programme offered households a productive asset along with short business training and was designed to support families in moving to more entrepreneurial activities and sustainable livelihoods.	1, 2, 3, 8	<a href="https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/evidence-informed-social-protection-programming-philippines">https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/evidence-informed-social-protection-programming-philippines</a>
<b>Water tanks for healthier livestock, Kenya</b>	Offering the opportunity to replace standard loans with loans collateralised by the asset itself – a large water tank.		<a href="https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/water-tanks-healthier-livestock">https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/water-tanks-healthier-livestock</a>
<b>Reducing poverty and sharing prosperity, Cambodia</b>	World Bank Group (WBG) is helping to address the country's challenges of limited economic diversification, rapidly increasing urbanisation, human capital deficiencies and infrastructure gaps through the Country Partnership Framework.	1, 2, 3, 8, 11	<a href="https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2019/10/30/cambodia-reducing-poverty-and-sharing-prosperity">https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2019/10/30/cambodia-reducing-poverty-and-sharing-prosperity</a>

## 5.1 Latin America

### 5.1.1 Bolsa Família: A national programme in Brazil

According to a recent publication covering poverty mapping in Brazil (Neri, 2022), the number of people living in poverty reached its highest value in the country in 2021. Almost 30% of the population (around 63 million people) live with household per capita income lower than USD 5.50/day (i.e., R\$ 497.00/month adjusted purchasing power parity). In comparison to data from 2019, there was an increase of 9.6 million people, mostly due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The south and southeast regions have the lowest rates of poverty (with the state of Santa Catarina presenting the best scenario in the country at 10.16%), and the north and northeast regions have the highest levels (with the state of Maranhão reporting 57.90% of its population living in poverty).

The programme “Bolsa Família” integrates public policies for social assistance, health, education, employment and income. Bolsa Família was in place for 18 years, and was renamed during the Bolsonaro government (from November 2021 to December 2022) to “Auxílio Brasil”.

This initiative focuses on guaranteeing a basic income for families in poverty and extreme poverty throughout the country. As criteria for receiving the benefit, the government considers



families in extreme poverty as those with a monthly per capita family income of up to R\$105.00, and those in poverty with a monthly per capita family income of between R\$105.01 and R\$210.00.

The programme has the following objectives:

- Promote citizenship with guaranteed income and support through the benefits.
- Promote the development of children and adolescents through financial support to pregnant women, nursing mothers, children and adolescents in poverty or extreme poverty.
- Promote the development of children in early childhood with a focus on health and stimulation of physical, cognitive, linguistic and socio-affective skills.
- Expand the offer of childcare in day-care centres.
- Encourage children, adolescents and young people to have excellent scientific and technological performance.
- Stimulate the emancipation of families in poverty and extreme poverty.

The main benefits include the payment of the benefit of R\$ 600, financial support per child (R\$ 150.00, per child up to 6 years), per family member (pregnant women or nursing mothers) and people between 3 and 21 years.

According to the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA, 2022), the expansion of this programme is expected to reduce extreme poverty in the country by 24% until the end of 2022 (SDG 1). Key points of IPEA's study indicate that, on average, 365 new formal jobs were created for every thousand families included in Auxílio Brasil (SDG 8); and one-third of these jobs are located in smaller cities. Positive outcomes were also seen in the area of health (SDG 3) and nutrition (SDG 2).

#### *5.1.2 TECHO: an NGO in Latin America and the Caribbean founded in Chile*

Chile faced dictatorship for almost two decades (1973–1990), a period during which poverty and inequality arose in the country. After the return to democracy, sustained growth was made possible, with advances in the economic and social contexts, and a decrease in unemployment and poverty rates (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2022). Despite this progress, data from 2016 pointed out that 1 in 20 inhabitants was living in extreme poverty, and 1 in 5 inhabitants was living in multidimensional poverty (involving education, health, work and social security, housing and environment and networks and social cohesion) (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2022; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2016). In addition to the poverty challenges, inequality is another serious issue in Chile. While only 1% of the highest-income households hold more than a quarter of the country's wealth, half of the population living in poverty owns only 2% of the national wealth (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2022).

In 1997, a group of higher education students in Chile founded TECHO with the aim of denouncing cases of extreme poverty and improving the condition of those living in slums.



Nowadays, the NGO has consolidated work in the entire Latin America and the Caribbean, implementing housing and community development programmes across 18 countries.

In Chile, since its consolidation, TECHO has involved over 60 000 volunteers and built 3 500 emergency houses. In addition to this initiative on housing implementation, the programme has also implemented an entrepreneurship and employability programme focused on popular learning (“Programa de Talleres de Aprendizaje Popular”) in which community members share knowledge and work tools in a trading concept. The volunteers in the NGO also provide technical and training skills to improve job performance and promote better job opportunities. The platform promoted by this strategy allows for individual and community development, with space for networking and shared learning.

The purposes of TECHO in Chile aligned with not only SDG 1, but also other goals. By building fair and inclusive cities and offering access to decent housing, the initiative is also collaborating with SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), and by engaging volunteers and working with educational actions it also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

### *5.1.3 Fonkoze’s Ultra Poverty Programme: one of the largest NGOs working in Haiti*

Haiti is the poorest country in the Latin American region (World Bank, 2022b) and is also considered the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Around 60% of the population (approximately 6 million people) live below the poverty line. Several factors contribute to this situation, including poor governance and infrastructure, political conflicts and instability, limited economic and employment opportunities, and natural disasters (Pierre, 2020). Haiti also depends extensively on external revenue, most of which comes from the United Nations and its development programmes and disaster-relief missions. The pandemic hit the country’s economy hard, especially in terms of decreased tourism.

Fonkoze is one of the largest NGOs working in Haiti to provide financial and non-financial services to empower the population to escape poverty. The initiatives of the NGO support the poorest women to graduate out of ultra-poverty. During the last ten years, the association helped more than 5 000 women and their families prepare for sustainable livelihoods. Developed from a proven graduation model (early technical assistance was provided by staff from BRAC’s TUP programme) the CLM programme targets the poorest women in rural Haiti with an 18-month support package including assets, a cash stipend, weekly mentoring visits, skills training and savings facilities. The NGO includes key elements in the programme, for example, improved housing, sanitation and a water filter, and provision of free health care.

The National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy:

- 2008 to 2010: Reduce poverty and social exclusion and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- 2010 to 2013: Target pursuit of the structural measures initiated earlier, while at the same time stepping up economic growth efforts, and ensuring a significant increase in social





investments, especially in the fields of health and education. The earthquake completely changed the picture with devastating effects.

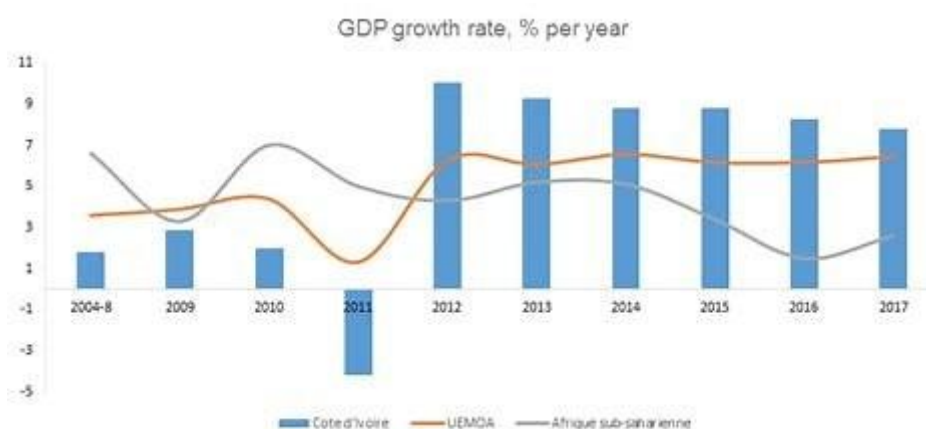
- 2014 to 2016: Three-year investment programme.

## 5.2. Africa

### 5.2.1 Case study of the Côte d'Ivoire – Joint programme on poverty reduction in the San Pedro region

*Economic and political circumstances in Côte d'Ivoire and the San Pedro region in particular*

Côte d'Ivoire is the leading producer of cashews and cocoa and is presently experiencing one of the fastest rates of sustained economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank 2018). This amounted to an average of 8.2% between 2012 and 2017 (Figure 5) and was maintained in the year after 2017. Côte d'Ivoire successfully contained the COVID-19 pandemic and maintained a growth rate of 2% in 2020 (World Bank, 2022c).



**Figure 5: Gross domestic product growth rate (% per year) in Côte d'Ivoire**

Source: World Bank (2018)

Economically the country weathered the global shocks related to the COVID-19 pandemic well and managed to grow at a rate of 7% in 2021 compared to 6.2% in 2019. It is expected that the economy could experience slow growth and accelerated inflation because of the current conflict in the Ukraine, however, the country remains on a positive economic trajectory placing it well on its way towards achieving the goals set by SDG 1. However, despite the positive outlook, the country still needs to increase investments in areas that include the generation of dividends for women and the most disadvantaged groups in its society, including those living in rural areas.

Political instability in the country occurred in 2002 and again in 2010/2011. This armed conflict created high levels of insecurity and vulnerability in Côte d'Ivoire, which eventually resulted in the collapse of the judicial and prison systems. The conflict further increased the levels of poverty and inequality especially as the population battled with civil registration and their access

to basic services were limited. The armed conflict had a specifically negative impact on the GDP for 2011 (Figure 5), but the country was able to recover economically within a short time.

Despite the positive outlook for Côte d'Ivoire to make great strides towards SDG 1 by 2030, the rural area of San Pedro remains vulnerable. The region itself has enormous agricultural potential and a growing population with women and young people forming the bulk of the population. High levels of unemployment and food insecurity are prevalent in this region, with one in three people living below the poverty line. Informal employment accounts for 93.5% of the workforce, with 42.5% of the population involved in the agricultural sector. It is estimated that less than 46% of the population under the age of 18 years are registered, and the low rate of civil registration means that the youth are excluded from civil services and social protection programmes and financial systems (Sustainable Development Goals Fund, n.d.). This exclusion has resulted in growing tension in the region with sporadic violence and increasing infringement of the individual rights of especially women and children, making them specifically vulnerable economically.

#### *Actions undertaken to improve the economic opportunities of women and youth in San Pedro region*

The United Nations, in collaboration with the national government and local organisations in the private and public sector, implemented a joint programme in the San Pedro region with the aim to reduce poverty by creating economic opportunities for women and the youth. The programme increased access to information to women and the youth in the following:

- income-generating activities
- local entrepreneurship
- food and nutrition security
- legal assistance to ensure better economic and social integration

The following agencies of the United Nations infused their respective experiences into the programme:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported agricultural support, and transformation of products and services.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) focused on aspects related to the well-being of the vulnerable groups.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provided information on food and nutrition.

The programme worked towards inclusive growth focusing on the creation of decent employment with an emphasis on skills training for women and the youth. This was supplemented by the provision of technical and financial support to those participating in the programme.

#### *Results and impact of the joint development programme*



Two thousand women and youth received support in a variety of income-generating activities mostly in terms of the production of agricultural products. By improving the self-sufficiency of 1 789 people (61,43% were women), an estimated 60 000 people were indirect beneficiaries from the joint programme.

The programme created a total of 916 jobs with the bulk of these in the fish farming, agricultural and food-processing sectors. The technical training provided was able to significantly increase rice and yuca yields in the region. This expertise was extended to the improvement of the quality of rural roads to allow for better access to the local markets. Capacity training in terms of business planning and funding to start commercial activities were provided to 293 women and youth. Awareness training to change the norms in terms of child labour in cocoa plantations formed part of the programme and 295 children were removed from the plantation fields and were accommodated in a variety of literacy centres. Free legal clinics were established to improve the access of women and youth to legal assistance resulting in restoration of the rights of women, while at the same time assisted the youth who had not been able to obtain civil status registration at birth during the period of post-election violence in 2002 and again in 2010/2011.

#### *Lessons learned in terms of the achievement of SDG 1*

To achieve zero poverty as stated by SDG 1, this case study was able to establish the following:

- Providing vulnerable groups access to information is an important tool to achieve any form of economic integration.
- Providing information specifically related to the operations of civil and juridical administrations, directly and indirectly assist to support peace-building activities and thus the provision of a stable political framework that will have a direct and positive impact on poverty reducing activities.
- Awareness training on the negative impact of child labour in the plantations will have a projected positive impact, as the children will be educated with skills that may allow for better entrepreneurship activities in the future.
- The national and local governments' ownership of the joint programme will allow for more sustainable results and a more participatory process in the future to allow communities to achieve and support their own livelihoods.
- The importance of public-private partnerships is critical if the aim is to promote employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for the vulnerable population and have a positive impact on sustainable development.

#### *Possibility for replication*

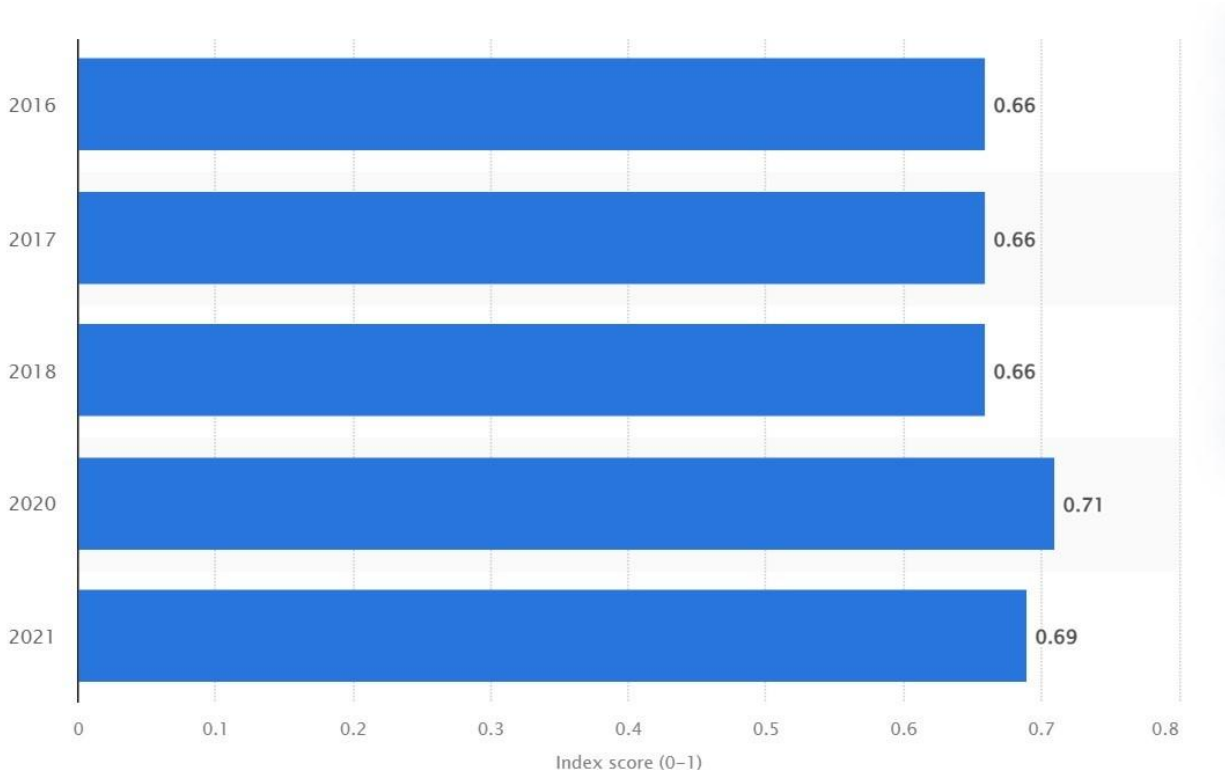
The programme both directly and indirectly supported the economic empowerment of women and youth to reduce their poverty levels (SDG 1) and at the same time was able to improve the food and nutrition security (SDG 2) and promote peace (SDG 16). It can easily be replicated with regional application for other countries in Africa to support the drive to reduce poverty by 2030.



### 5.2.2 Ethiopia: Joint programme on gender equality and women empowerment – rural women’s economic empowerment component

#### Gender and economic development in Ethiopia

The gender gap index (GGI) measures the discrepancy between genders in four different areas, namely economic participation and opportunity, educational achievement, health and survival and political empowerment. The GGI for Ethiopia has been consistent between 2016 to 2021 with a slight widening of gender disparity in 2020 (Figure 7). In 2021, Ethiopia had an overall GGI score of 0.69, placing it in a group of countries that reflect the greatest disparity between genders (Statista, 2022).



**Figure 7: Gender gap index Ethiopia – 2016 to 2021**

Source: Statista (2022)

In Ethiopia, 86% of the population depend on agricultural activities as their dominant source of livelihood. Women provide most of the agricultural labour in these communities. However, their contributions often go largely unrecognised, and they are restricted in terms of their access to resources and community participation (USAID, 2020). The gender discrepancies

in the rural parts of Ethiopia are reflected in the following statistics (Sustainable Development Goals Fund, n.d.):

- 75% of the farm labour is undertaken by women, yet women only own 18.7% of the rural land.
- 76% of rural women are responsible for working the land, production of crops and care of livestock, yet men retain ownership and decision-making powers for agricultural activities and produce.

If Ethiopia is to make progress towards achieving the targets set in SDG 1, more investment in the empowerment of women and girls through equal access to education, health and economic opportunities would be required (UNICEF, 2020). UNICEF (2020) indicates that to support women's abilities to create their own businesses and thus secure their own livelihoods, programmes should be implemented to finance female-owned businesses in general and to empower women in decision making about production, the use of resources like land, water or capital, and control over income. In this way, chronic food insecurity (SDG 2) will be addressed and input into the agriculture sector enhanced and thus there will be an increase in income earning agricultural activities to address the reduction in poverty (SDG 1).

#### *Actions undertaken to improve the economic opportunities of women in the Afar and Oromia regions of Ethiopia*

Between 2015 and 2018, the United Nations for Women coordinated a joint programme on gender equality and women empowerment implemented by the government of Ethiopia and various United Nations Agencies (Sustainable Development Goals Fund, n.d.). This project was developed to accelerate economic empowerment of rural women in the Afar and Oromia regions of Ethiopia.

The programme was aimed at addressing several gender issues, especially the following:

- improving food security, nutrition, social protection and coping mechanisms
- increasing household incomes to sustain livelihoods
- creating a gender-responsive policy and an institutional environment more conducive to women's economic empowerment

The programme used the following multi-faceted approaches to achieve its goals:

- providing inputs like fertilisers, extension services, technology and information to women
- supporting beneficiaries to manage local food security reserves and organise into cooperative groups
- promoting savings and leadership
- providing new skills in expanding production for women in small-scale agribusiness



- strengthening policies and programmes that promote rural women's agency and voice in rural producer associations, financial cooperatives and unions

### *Results and impact of the joint development programme*

The programme targeted 2 500 rural women and had an indirect impact on around 12 000 household members. The result was the development of 80 producer cooperatives run by rural women, for a total of 5 000 members, including 3 000 women members of a rural savings and credit cooperative. The joint programme was able to support rural women business and entrepreneurial projects and helped to develop their technical, leadership and literacy skills. The women were provided with more sustainable access to market information, and gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services. Very importantly, the rural women in the two regions were provided with access to productive resources such as land, time and labour-saving technology. The collective result was that of the 2 500 participants in the programme, 1 066 were able to create more sustainable and diversified income sources, allowing them to increase their personal savings from between 14 to 508 US\$.

### *Lessons learned in terms of the achievement of SDG 1*

The introduction of new technologies and skills in the two regions will assist the communities to deal with climate change issues, as well as encourage the engagement of more men in community mobilisations of gender-sensitive issues that often stand in the way of women's economic empowerment. The programme was able to realise the economic empowerment of women through a multi-sectoral approach that introduced measures to address the individual, institutional and community-level barriers that had stood in the way of allowing rural women in the two regions to progress economically and contribute to the countries drive to a reduction in poverty by 2030.

### *Possibility for replication*

A replication of the case study in other parts of Ethiopia is realistic, and with the scaling up of funding from a variety of sources to increase the number of beneficiaries, the economic empowerment of women in Ethiopia as a contributor to achieving the targets set for SDG 1 can become a reality in more regions in Africa.

## **5.2.3 Enabling sustainable livelihoods through improved natural resource governance and economic diversification in the Kono District, Sierra Leone**

### *General orientation of the economic situation in the Kono District in Sierra Leone*

Sierra Leone is located on the western side of the African continent. The country has rich mineral resources and diamonds are the primary export commodity. Unfortunately, the natural wealth of the country does not filter down to the population in the country where 53.8% of the population lives below the poverty line. A further breakdown indicates that the country has a large rural population and at least 72.2% of the rural population live below the poverty line (UNICEF,



2022). The high poverty levels can be associated with the decade-long conflict that reduced the effectiveness of the social, economic, and physical structure of the country, further aggravated by the Ebola epidemic from 2013 to 2016. Conflict and disease have exposed the weakness of various systems in Sierra Leone in terms of its ability to grow the economy and the associated challenges that include high poverty and unemployment levels, especially among youth and women.

During the bloody Sierra Leone civil war (1991 to 2002), the education system collapsed, and the younger population did not receive meaningful education. It was also during this period that the youth joined the civil war and thus did not receive formal education. Youth are among the most disadvantaged populations because they lack the skills and resources for gainful employment. The generational gap of uneducated youth has extended to the present day – ex-combatants and their children do not have the relevant skills to contribute to the sustainable growth of the economy (World Bank, 2022d). Many of these people are now underemployed and live below the poverty line and have returned to the Kono District (eastern part of Sierra Leone) to seek quick profits from artisanal mining in the region.

The Kono District has historically been the most prolific source of diamond and gold extraction, and as such has relied heavily on the mining sector as its major source of income. Due to the dominance of mining activities in the district, alternative sources of income are lacking, and this has been aggravated by high levels of environmental degradation. As one of the most underdeveloped areas of Sierra Leone, the Kono District presents the following development challenges that complicate the achievement of SDG 1 (Diouf & Sesay, 2019):

- The artisanal miners in the district are increasingly unable to secure their livelihoods as the diamond resources are reaching an end.
- The low levels of education and skills among young people limit the development of the private sector.
- There is limited local purchasing power, and the poor infrastructure is also not conducive to the development of an economy.
- The mining sector does not sufficiently invest in local development.
- Limited safe drinking water and the environmental and health risks posed by the pits dug for diamonds extraction further limit economic development.
- Levels of conflict and tension are heightened by the disconnect between the public's expectations of returns from mining revenues versus the slow pace of economic and social progress.

All the above have resulted in high unemployment rates among youth. Limited opportunities for education, health and social services create additional challenges for the Kono District and is the reason why this district was selected as a case study.

*Actions undertaken to improve sustainable livelihoods in the Kono District of Sierra Leone*





The programme was aimed at improving sustainable livelihoods through improved natural resource governance and economic diversification in the Kono District. The multi-agency areas-based development approach of the United Nations was used (Diouf and Sesay, 2019) and focused on the following two interlinked areas:

- enhancing the more sustainable, inclusive governance of natural resources
- increasing diversification of sustainable livelihood opportunities through dialogue with all stakeholders and development initiatives

### *Results and impact of the joint development programme*

The programme strengthened local dialogue around the needs of communities and the ability to develop local capacity, and several partnerships were formed around agriculture, aquaculture, mini-processing and trade. As a result a total of 650 alternative sustainable livelihoods were created for young people to start up business enterprises or develop agricultural plots after receiving the necessary vocational and entrepreneurship skills.

Vocational training of the participants varied in skills-related agriculture, welding, electrification, refrigeration, auto-mechanics, heavy-duty truck driving, heavy-duty machines, operations, block-laying, and computer software/hardware. Diouf and Sesay (2019) report that 200 young people were trained in agribusiness skills and received products to cultivate mined-out reclaimed land (20 acres of land was reclaimed and cultivated for rice, vegetables and economic tree production), while 150 young people were trained in natural resource management and were able to get involved in small-scale land reclamation projects. The income of 1 220 people was increased due to the construction of fishponds and poultry houses in the Kono District, successfully laying the foundation for the creation of alternative sources of income in the area and thus allowing for a reduction in poverty (SDG 1) and the improvement of nutrition and food security (SDG 2).

Mentorship training and conflict resolution training was introduced as a measure to ensure a more sustainable and lasting impact of the skills-sharing programme.

### *Lessons learned in terms of the achievement of SDG 1*

Where formal employment opportunities are limited, especially in rural areas, the provision of technical assistance related to aquaculture provides a relatively simple solution for income generation and at the same time provides for food and nutrition security. In areas where land reclamation is required, local stakeholder engagement is critical to ensure the success of the programme. Community development agreements have shown how partnerships can be effectively used to reduce poverty.

### *Possibility for replication*

The possibility of replication of this case study in any geographical area that needs to reverse dependence on the mining industry is very high, provided local resources are available to support alternative sustainable livelihoods. Effective public-private partnerships supported by



a community development agreement will ensure a positive outcome in other communities that could benefit from a similar programme.

## 5.3 Europe

### *5.3.1. Can people in poverty have a voice in policy-making? SDG 1 approach of the city of Ghent, Belgium*

The City of Ghent, with a population of 260 341 in 2019, is the capital of the region of East Flanders, with 1 515 064 people. Ghent implemented an innovative approach that required complex coordination in policy-making of the multi-agency areas-based development approach of the United Nations to support local associations to promote the active participation of people living in poverty. While Belgium has issued only one Voluntary National Review, the most exciting advances regarding the SDGs are at the regional and local levels. The area of Flanders, containing various regions and cities, has been very active. The case of Ghent illustrates one of the success stories of SDG 1 implementation at the local level, based on the participation of the people in poverty in policy-making.

#### *SDG 1 in Belgium*

In Belgium, 21% of households are at risk of poverty or social exclusion despite the positive advances in poverty reduction. The main challenges relate to specific social groups: low-skilled people, single-parent households, persons living in very low work-intensity households, and persons with a migration background. In such a context, the government aims to ensure the active participation of people experiencing poverty in designing and implementing poverty eradication policies.

The third federal action plan to fight poverty (2016–2019) responded to the need to address SDG 1 and contains six axes: (i) ensuring social protection, (ii) reducing child poverty, (iii) improving access to employment through social and professional activation, (iv) fighting homelessness and poor housing, (v) guaranteeing the right to health, and (vi) making government services accessible to all. These axes are handled by an inter-ministerial conference on “Societal Integration” that ensures the necessary multi-level coordination to reduce poverty.

In Flanders, full and inclusive participation, accessible services, energy poverty and the prevention and combating of poverty in families with young children are targeted by an action plan. Another policy fostering children’s and youth rights strives for equal opportunities, chances and spaces to develop and increase their formal and informal engagement. The regional government also funds organisations working on the Exit Child Poverty programme.

Belgium has a robust social security system and has recently strengthened social protection levels for the poor and the vulnerable, for example, by increasing minimum pensions and allowances for people with disabilities. Recently, the system has supported certain independent professionals, charity workers, home workers and artists out of the informal economy. Finally, Belgium has a compromise to work for poverty alleviation globally and has projects in Africa and Asia.



### *Multi-level integration*

The Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (2020) ran an interesting SDG pilot project with 20 municipalities between 2017 and 2019 with the objective of developing material and recommendations for all Flemish cities and municipalities about awareness raising, public support, and policy planning and implementation. The project successfully integrated sustainability into the policy-making process, creating cross-departmental ties and mechanisms to design and implement policies and actions. In particular, it helped in designing multi-annual development plans and marked major progress in linking the international and national SDGs with local policy and planning approaches, generating several guidelines for replication and respecting a “no one-size-fits-all” approach.

### *SDG 1 in Ghent: focusing on children, the homeless and participation*

Ghent’s strategy for poverty reduction begins with the poverty policy plan, which is a product of multi-stakeholder engagement. Besides, the city has a multi-annual strategic plan 2020–25, with specific goals related to the SDGs: (a) helping the homeless with their reintegration, (b) strengthening the poverty policy in all policy areas and raising awareness about poverty, (c) appropriate support for every family with underage children and young people living in poverty, (d) ensuring tailored integral assistance for the vulnerable population, and (e) ensuring that people can meet their basic needs and exercise their most important rights.

The city has a principle mandating that every citizen is entitled to a dignified life. Following that aim, the city and the Public Centre for Social Welfare tackle poverty, providing the necessary support in all areas of life: living, working, education and learning, health, energy and leisure, among others. They place a particular emphasis on opportunities for children. Besides, at an international level, the City of Ghent supports projects through the line “Ghent citizens without borders”, for example, with the project “Africa in Flanders” in Congo. In addition, Ghent follows the Eurocities pledge on homelessness and leads a housing project (ROOF – housing first). Finally, a new challenge is posed by digitisation in various life areas (access to services, education, work, etc.). The digital divide has widened the gap between rich and poor, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Voluntary Local Review of Ghent reports three interlinked initiatives to tackle SDG 1 in the city:

a. Counting the homeless people in the city

In early 2021, a total of 1 873 homeless people were counted (for the first time) in Ghent. A homeless person is understood as someone who stays in public spaces, emergency shelters, garages, squats, cars or tents. Of the total, 401 were children. Besides, 21% (314 people) of all adults counted are acutely homeless. Nearly half of them have been homeless for more than two years. The local government expected that figure to increase during the 2021 summer.

b. Addressing childhood poverty through the programme “Children First”



The programme aims to reach all school-age children growing up in vulnerable situations (from toddlers to adolescents) and their families. In Ghent, one out of five children grows up in poverty (approximately 10 000 children). Thus, Children First targets families looking for social assistance in schools aiming to provide: (i) entitlements for families, such as applying for a subsistence allowance, medical card or study grant, among others, (ii) support for schools while raising awareness about poverty, (iii) appropriate assistance to improve priority access to services for people in poverty, and (iv) subsidies for school meals for the most vulnerable.

The assistance granted emerges from the cooperation between school staff and social workers of Children First. The types of assistance granted include income (living wage, child benefits, unemployment benefits), material assistance (food parcels, emergency medical care), administrative assistance, debt mediation and access to (mental) health care.

The Children First team comprised two social workers and increased to four in 2020. In that year, 75 schools were covered under two modalities. For the 2019–2020 school year, 362 families received consultation, but only 36% received support. Around 100 people received guidance for the allocation of the living wage, social guidance and debt assistance, and 93 families received a refund for school meals.

Cooperation between Flemish cities is appropriate for affordable education and raising awareness about poverty in education. Internationally, similar steps have taken place, for example, the Children and Young People work group of Eurocities.

#### c. Associations where people in poverty speak up

A group of associations, including (i) the movement for people with a low income and children (BMLIK), (ii) SIVI, (iii) De Zuidpoort, (iv) Jong Gent in Actie, (v) KRAS Gent, and (iv) Samenlevingsopbouw Gent, started this initiative. The City of Ghent is involved through five departments, particularly the Policy Participation Department. Other partners also contribute to the project. The associations have been fighting poverty and social exclusion for a long time, especially the BMLIK, founded in 1983. SIVI and de Zuidpoort were founded in the mid-1990s. The collaboration with public offices is also longstanding. Since the Agenda 2030 was set in 2015, the city administration and the associations have signed grant agreements for structural cooperation, and these were expected to be renewed for the period 2020–2025.

The objective of the partnership is to give a voice in policy to people in poverty and create places for people in poverty and people outside poverty to interact. Ghent has a large heterogeneous group of people living in poverty, and some groups are underreached by social policy, including non-native speakers, young single parents, lonely older people and the homeless. The associations constitute a knowledge centre in policy participation for people in poverty while constantly working on broadening and diversifying the target group, and the collaboration functions as a bridge to the Participation Point of the City of Ghent. The following are some examples of the actions of the associations:

- Best Citizen (De Zuidsprekers): A group of people living in poverty developed a “recipe book” to make policy participation accessible to every citizen.



- Listing and communicating needs within neighbourhood budgeting (SIVI): People in poverty could list their needs together with other neighbourhood residents. They contributed to building the future of their neighbourhood.
- Discussion tables (SIVI) with people waiting for food distribution (since 2020): The association translates peoples' experiences and perceptions into policy recommendations. In 2020, SIVI conducted a total of 318 table discussions and involved 85 people with a migrant background in various policy participation processes.
- De Zuidpoort organised 190 activities in 2019 with a total of 3 276 participants. They also won the Federal Prize for Poverty Reduction for the topic of participation.
- BMLIK makes weekly visits and phone calls to 59 families. They organise participation, actions and dialogue around some policy topics.
- The website "Poverty Memory" was created to bundle all initiatives, actions and methodologies.

### *Lessons learned and takeaway messages*

Firstly, it is important to acknowledge who the poor are; this was the city's first step, counting the homeless and getting to know them and their needs while recognising that child poverty is still a significant issue. Secondly, looking at the civil society organisations leading initiatives to give a voice to people in poverty proved an efficient integratory approach. Thirdly, creating or supporting the spaces for interaction. Finally, letting the voice pass through to policy-making.

The main benefit for replication relates to multi-level coordination. In the case of Ghent, it was done first through the Flemish Cities' Association. At the local level, the main driver for success was the institutionalisation of a long-lasting public-private partnership with non-profit organisations which allowed assessing the needs of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion and ultimately taking their voice into decision making.

### *5.3.2. Ukraine, a crippled success story of poverty reduction*

#### *Overview*

Ukraine, a country with a population of over 41 million in 2022, is perhaps the most contrasting case regarding the advances of the SDGs. The country implemented the Agenda 2030 in 2016 and formed a battery of 86 targets and 183 SDGs indicators in 2017. It showed important advances in implementing the SDGs, particularly in SDG 1. It managed to reduce poverty and extreme poverty mainly by extending the provision of social security and services.

However, it had important drawbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and a major crisis since the start of the Russian-Ukraine war in 2022.

#### *SDGs in Ukraine*



The country built the SDGs monitoring baseline in 2017 and compiled a statistical assessment in 2019 (Table 7). The results show that the country has achieved progress in 15 of 17 SDGs. Poverty was reduced from 58.3% in 2015 to 43.2% in 2018, while labour remuneration standards were improved and housing subsidies were expanded. An educational reform concept (New Ukrainian School) joined the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA-2018). Major efforts were made to expand retail and electricity markets, attract investment and improve internet connectivity (highspeed 4G).

Right before the war, assessment of the SDGs revealed challenges involving outdated infrastructure, inefficient public administration, insufficient resource support and limited financing. Besides, COVID-19 made evident the need for health-care reform, stronger coordination, more professional authorities, a full production cycle of key goods (pharmaceutical), reform of the social assistance system, modernisation of support for the most vulnerable populations, digitalisation of administration processes and updating of distance learning approaches. The country's UN office launched an interesting platform to monitor SDG implementation (United Nations Ukraine, 2021).

### *Progress in the SDG 1*

According to the Voluntary National Report of 2020, there were mostly positive achievements. The government chose three targets and five indicators with short- and medium-term goals. Four out of five indicators related to SDG 1 showed positive dynamics, and two of them had already met the 2020 target values.

**Table 7: Country's self-assessment of SDG 1 achievement**

Target	Indicator	Measured values				Goal		
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2020	2025	2030
1.1. Reduce poverty by four times, including by eliminating extreme poverty	1.1.1. Share of the population whose average per capita equivalent total expenditure is lower than the actual (estimated) subsistence minimum, %	58.3	58.6	47.3	43.2	30.0	20.0	15.0
	1.1.2. Share of individuals whose daily consumption is below USD5.05 PPP, %	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.8	0.5	0.0	0.0
1.2. Increase the coverage of poor people with a targeted social assistance programme	1.2.1. Share of the poor population covered by state social support in the total number of poor people, %	63.0	70.3	73.6	70.9	65.0	75.0	85.0
1.3. Increase the resilience of	1.3.1. Ratio of poverty levels of households with children	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.27





socially vulnerable groups of the population	and households without children, times							
	1.3.2. Share of food expenditure in total household spending, %	54.6	51.4	49.6	49.4	50.0	40.0	30.0

Source: Government of Ukraine (2020, 21)

Overall, the country accounts reveal progress in SDG 1. Firstly, the poverty level was reduced. The government attributes that reduction to a twofold increase in the minimum wage since 2017. The share of the population whose average per capita equivalent total expenditure is lower than the actual (estimated) subsistence minimum decreased from 58.3% in 2015 to 43.2% in 2018, resulting from state policies aimed at boosting people's incomes. Secondly, extreme poverty decreased: the share of individuals whose daily consumption is below USD 5.05 PPP decreased, following a positive pattern of people's real income growth (up to 9.9% in 2018).

Thirdly, social assistance reached more poor people. This key increase (63.0% in 2015 to 70.9% in 2018) was possible due to various types of pro-poor state support, particularly: (i) housing subsidies, (ii) support for low-income families, and (iii) support for single mothers and fathers rearing under-18 children and living with unmet needs.

Lastly, the resilience of socially vulnerable groups had less marked advances. Households improved in terms of share of food expenditure over total household expenditure, explained by a growing income purchasing power, a changed consumption structure, and a slower rate of food product price growth. Meanwhile, no progress was achieved regarding the ratio of poverty levels between households with children and households without children. Besides, there is a gender bias behind a higher risk of women being low-income, having a lower average income level (both wages and pensions) and facing multi-dimensional poverty problems. Hence, women and children prevail in each vulnerable group, that is, older people, single parents, large families, and the like. Women are more dependent on social support as they still do most household organisation and care for other family members.

There are various reasons for insufficient progress in poverty reduction. The main challenge is the reinforcing poverty trap, which has, on the one side, the limited household income of a large segment of the population and, on the other, limited social assistance and public good and service provision. Insufficient public assistance considers a pension system gap, informal employment and persistent underfinancing of social infrastructure (mostly health care). Families with children are the most vulnerable. Children are the main group at risk of poverty, and social policy falls short of targeting them.

Ukraine intended a series of changes. Firstly, a reform to balance the social standards system and the assistance guarantees to break the referred poverty trap. Secondly, it aimed to deepen the pension system while promoting formal employment. Thirdly, introducing a differentiated social services access system for vulnerable populations, particularly children. Lastly, the government aimed to develop a new strategic document considering principles of (i) equality ensuring basic needs satisfaction for all Ukrainians; (ii) creation of ample opportunities,





(iii) inclusion through social assistance, and (iv) resilience and security, protecting and ensuring income stability. However, all these situations were hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and entered into crisis after the start of the war in 2022.

### *Effects of covid pandemic*

According to Borodchuk and Cherenko (2020), COVID-19 has had certain impacts on poverty, mostly on children, that can destroy the improvements achieved since 2015. The authors consider two scenarios of absolute poverty increase: (i) moderate: 27.2% to 43.6%, that is, 6.3 million additional people living in poverty (1.4 million children); and (ii) severe: to 50.8%, that is, 9.0 million additional people living in poverty (1.8 million children). The most vulnerable families are the ones who cannot diversify their income. Particularly, households with children or the elderly are likely to be affected more intensely.

### *War*

When the Russia–Ukraine war started in early 2022, global food markets were already seriously affected, and food prices were high due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Ben Hassen and El Bilali (2022), the war has a dramatic impact on global food security apart from the humanitarian crisis, given that both countries are major agricultural powers. Middle Eastern and North African (MENA region) countries rely heavily on food imports.

Understanding how conflict-related disruptions in global food and fertiliser markets may affect price and availability is critical for understanding the overall impact on global food security. Further, four months into the war, its implications for food security suggested that this review was timely, urgent and highly needed. The war resulted in immediate and far-reaching cascading consequences on global food security: Ukrainian exports have stopped, conscription and population displacement have caused labour shortages, access to fertilisers is restricted, and future harvests are uncertain. The war crippled the agrarian sector of Ukraine, hampering its exports while labour grew short due to conscription and displacement. Besides, the war can delay spring planting and winter crop harvesting, and the increase in fertiliser prices due to limited access can reduce yields. Panic buying (also experienced during COVID) can lead to negative situations. Hassen and El Bilali (2022) state that the war may particularly affect SDGs 1, 2 and 12.

The World Bank (2022a) shows that the refugee crisis caused by the war has been the worst since World War II. Besides, early estimates of the effects on poverty (using the poverty rate of \$5.50 per day) show an increase in Ukraine from 1.8% in 2021 to 19.8% in 2022. The situation could worsen depending on the course of the war. Moreover, 40 million people would fall into extreme poverty (\$1.90 per day).

### *Lessons learned and takeaway messages*

In the case of Ukraine, the country showed a marked positive trend in poverty reduction until the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is foreseeable that the current war developments will result



in an unprecedented setback of the advances. However, the country had achieved considerable poverty reductions at the national level, especially given its population size and particularly in the rate of absolute poverty in the European context.

The main lesson learned in the case of Ukraine is that a decisive state action focusing on social assistance and service provision can have a positive impact on the poverty rates and have sustained outcomes. Such a situation is essential at the national level. The second lesson learned is that focusing on particular segments of society, particularly children, is a must to attain progress in SDG 1. Finally, while national-level policies and engagement with the Agenda 2030 are the first steps to tackling the SDGs, grounding their implementation into territories is needed.

### *5.3.3. Montenegro, a successful case of SDG implementation in the Balkan region: their achievements regarding SDG 1*

Montenegro, a small Balkan state with an area of 13 812 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 620 739 in 2021, has shown a proactive engagement with the SDGs, having already released its second Voluntary National Review. The Balkan region comprises a group of countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia (these countries aggregated a population of over 61 million in 2019).

#### *SDGs in Montenegro*

According to Galli et al. (2018), the government of Montenegro revised the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD 2030) in 2016, following the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Montenegro decided to centre the NSSD 2030 on the SDGs, targets and indicators, being among the first UN member countries to implement the UN 2030 Agenda within the national policy context. Galli et al. (2018) found that 26 institutions were involved in the assessment of 137 out of the 241 (56.8%) SDG indicators in the first reporting period scheduled for 2019.

#### *SDG 1 in Montenegro*

According to the government of Montenegro, SDG 1 has been achieved. It is to highlight that Montenegro does not follow the UN indicator approach but its own. It is important to signal as well that significant challenges remain, and in particular, the perception of poverty of the population diverges to form the official findings.

The government included the following targets regarding SDG 1: (1.1) eradication of extreme poverty, (1.2) reducing the number of poor people (in line with national definitions) by at least half by 2030, (1.3) implementing adequate social protection systems and measures, (1.4) ensuring equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, and (1.5) building the resilience of the poor to climate change, natural disasters and other economic, social and environmental shocks.



The main nationally available indicators for poverty reduction (SDG target 1.2) are: (i) at-risk-of-poverty rate, the proportion of the population whose available equalised income is below the relative poverty threshold (€2,347 per one-member household and €4,928 for a four-member household in 2020), and (ii) social exclusion rate. According to the government, the data for both indicators was calculated with a high level of disaggregation. For example: by gender, type of household, geographical designations (such as type of settlement or region), age, education level, activity, and the like. The indicators accounted for income, dimensions of material deprivation and work intensity.

The assessment of material poverty is based on whether the person or household can afford/cover each of the following nine items: heating, washing machine, car, seven days of vacation outside of the home per year, unexpected financial expenditures, telephone, colour TV, meal with fish/meat every second day, paying bills regularly. A person/household is considered materially deprived if unable to afford three out of these nine items, prominent material deprivation is if they cannot afford four out of the nine, while extreme deprivation is if they cannot afford five out of the nine.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate for the total population was reduced from 24% in 2016 to 22.6% in 2020. Women are below men by less than one percentage point. However, there are regional challenges. While the rate fell in the central and southern regions, it grew by 5% in the poorer north. In 2020, 44.5% of the population of the north was at risk of poverty, while the rate was 11.6% in the south. In 2019, the government invested €353 million in the northern region (50% of the total invested amount); in 2020, the figure was €198 million (30% of the total). The investment was ineffective.

In 2020, the at-risk-of-poverty rate for children under 17 was 32.6%, while 22.6% for the overall population. Besides, the rate of extreme material deprivation in children grew from 9.6% in 2016 to 13% in 2020 (material deprivation was 39.3% in 2020). In 2020, 30.9% of the population and 38.6% of children were considered poor, contemplating at risk of poverty or material deprivation. In particular, 91% of Roma children have material deprivation. Child poverty is difficult to assess due to the lack of studies.

Montenegro lacks an umbrella strategy for poverty reduction, and there is insufficient information to discern the mitigating effect of social care. However, poverty can be reduced by 5% if these transfers are considered.

Despite the progress, a significant number of challenges to achieving SDG 1 remain, including further and more dynamic poverty reduction, particularly among children, with an improvement of the system of social and childcare, particularly for vulnerable groups. Significant changes are needed in the regional development policy, as well as an improvement in employment.

An important initiative is the joint UN programme “Activate! Integrated Social Protection and Employment to Accelerate Progress for Young People”, financed with a Joint SDG Fund and aimed at enhancing the capacities of the social protection system to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions (Djikanovic, 2022). It has two components: i) simulations of social policies that enable the modelling of social protection reforms, and ii) development of human-centred



services tailored for users. “Activate!” focuses on youth, children, migrants and refugees, and uses innovative foresight methodologies and human-centred design to tackle the root causes of human trafficking, support decent work and foment employability/skills development.

### *The distance between the perception of people and the government's reported success*

The government surveyed citizens to acknowledge their perceptions of the SDGs. Citizens' perceptions do not align with official data, which show that in 2020 the at-risk-of-poverty rates for retired people (12.2%) and people over 60 (15.2%) were significantly below the overall rate (22.6%). The government considers the difference may be due to the poverty threshold of about €196 per month because many people with low income but above that threshold have material difficulties. Many people think that poverty is widespread, affects several population categories and the social care system is inadequate.

The survey shows that the perception related to SDG 1 is that in Montenegro there are more poor people than the official statistics show. Surprisingly, 60% of the respondents think the number of poor people is between one-third and one-half of the total population. Moreover, less than 5% of the respondents consider the social and childcare systems adequate, while more than 65% consider the opposite. Respondents suggest policy measures tackling employment, health care, education and social care.

The perceptions of the population show that a large part of them is affected by poverty. Wealth is highly concentrated, creating rich-poor polarisation. The lack of a strong labour market leads to an absent middle class, and power and opportunity are akin to wealth and influence. Education and work do not guarantee well-being; however, low income and education levels are poverty factors. The economy is characterised by informality, with illegal jobs, mistrust in the institutions, selectiveness in actions, survival of retired people, unemployed youth and unemployed looking for jobs for many years. Lack of social policy leaves dependent people at risk; hence, children and people who cannot work due to illness, single-parent families and the population over 65. Ethnic background is also related to poverty (Roma population). There is a geographical trend in poverty that is localised in the north of the country.

### *Lessons learned and takeaway messages*

Montenegro has shown leadership regarding the implementation of the SDGs. This small country has shown advances in poverty reduction. The main lesson learned is that the commitment to the SDG framework has yielded a vital information battery for planning. Secondly, the overall poverty reduction cannot be assessed alone, and an important achievement of the SDG 1 implementation was that the government recognised the lack of an integrated poverty reduction policy and a more elaborate information system which can also reveal more apparent effects of social expenditure. Even if it is a small country, the northern region's unexpected poverty setbacks show that the SDGs' territorialisation could provide further success. It seems that the government's report is quite the opposite of the population's perception, which is an important finding because it reveals that more participatory measures need to be in place for poverty



policies. The country counts on the important support of the local offices of the UNDP that join forces to tackle SDG 1. The central takeaway message is that the whole exercise of improving information data for the implementation of Agenda 2030 can support understanding poverty and fostering discussions on the matter.

### Examples of questions for assessment

#### 5. Case studies

- List some good practices that target the implementation of SDG 1.
- What could be your own contribution to SDG 1?
- Select a case study in your country that reflects a best practice in terms of achieving the SDG 1 targets. Briefly explain this case study and explore how the best practice can contribute towards achieving SDG 1.

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## 6. Examples of exercises and assessments

Based on the SDG 1 targets and concepts, this section of the manual firstly provides a set of exercises that users (professors, lecturers and teachers) can use with their students to foster ideas, solutions and new initiatives for sustainable development. The level of detail and complexity of these exercises can be regulated according to the educational level of the students. Secondly, a set of shorter assessment questions is also included. These questions cover all the sections in this manual and require shorter, more to-the-point answers. For both the exercises and the assessments, users can decide if they want to use them as provided, adapt them according to their on local contexts and needs, or to use them as examples and rather develop their own exercises and assessments accordingly.

### 6.1 Exercises

**POVERTY LINE:** Students should calculate how much they spend daily in a month and compare it with the poverty line. The exercise promotes reflection on how different their lives would be in a different scenario.

**CAMPAIGN ENDING POVERTY:** Students should explore SDG 1 and demonstrate empathy by designing a campaign for those affected by poverty, involving local communities and NGOs.

**STRATEGIES TO END POVERTY:** In this exercise, students should examine the different strategies communities around the world are applying to face poverty challenges. They should make observations, raise questions and develop opinions about how these different strategies would work in their regions.

**INTERCONNECTIONS:** Students should investigate the impact efforts for achieving other goals have on SDG 1.

**HOLD A HUNGER BANQUET:** Involve students in preparing a hunger banquet, which encourages a deeper understanding of world food distribution and poverty. The methodology includes experiences of different settings and food items of different classes (rich, middle class and poor). The activity must be accompanied by discussions with questions on general knowledge on poverty and hunger, and how students felt about the situation.

**HOLD THE INTERACTIVE SECTION – HUNGRY DECISIONS:** This exercise allows students to reflect on the conditions of living in extreme poverty, and the different paths a man or woman could choose.

**GOOD PRACTICES:** Choose one practice on the platform good practices (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/goodpractices>); present and discuss with colleagues: What are the lessons learned and how can they be replicated in other contexts? Compare and discuss the data of people living in poverty from Latin America, Africa and Europe along the years.

### 6.2 Assessments

#### 1. Introduction to the SDGs



- Name the five areas of critical importance to which the 17 SDGs are linked and explain why this is referred to as the five Ps.
- Explain the link between the MDGs and the SDGs.
- Explain how the SDGs differ from the MDGs.

## 2. Defining SDG 1

- What are the main aspects of SDG 1?
- What is the focus of the first five targets of SDG 1?
- What is the focus of the last two targets of SDG 1?

### 2.1 Significance of SDG 1

- What is your explanation of the current large number of hungry people in the world and why is this number increasing?
- What is the status of the progress to achieve SDG 1 by 2030?
- Briefly explain the comprehensive scope and importance of SDG 1 with reference to three main thematic areas covered by this SDG.

### 2.2 Interdependencies of SDG 1

- How is SDG 1 interconnected with the other SDGs? What other SDGs do you think would be most affected if SDG 1 is not achieved?
- Select any three SDGs and briefly explain how they interact with SDG 1. Use examples from your region to illustrate your explanation.

### 2.3 Advantages of SDG 1

- What would the main advantages be for the world if the goal of ending poverty is achieved?
- Select any two of the targets of SDG 1 and explain the specific advantages which would manifest with the attainment of these targets. Link them to advantages for your specific region.

### 2.4 Challenges in the implementation of SDG 1

- How have different global crises been affecting the implementation of SDG 1?
- What are the difficulties in implementing SDG 1 in your country? Which are the main barriers? And how can they be overcome?

## 3. Overview of global crises that have a negative impact on the achievement of No Poverty

- Name at least three global crises that affect the achievement of the targets of SDG 1.

### 3.1 Climate change



- How is climate change having a negative impact on the progress around ending poverty?
- How are these impacts perceived in your region?

### 3.2 COVID-19

- What are the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the targets of SDG 1?
- How are these effects perceived in your region?

### 3.3 Conflict

- Explain how conflict has a negative impact on the efforts to end poverty?
- How are these impacts perceived in your region?

## 4. Progress towards the achievement of Ending Poverty by 2030

- How does your current life pattern affect the achievement of the SDG 1 targets?

### 4.1 Regional progress in Latin America

- Is the progress of Latin American countries considered sufficient to meet the targets of SDG 1?
- In your opinion, will the countries in Latin America be able to achieve the SDG 1 targets by 2030? Which aspects should be reinforced for that?
- What are the main obstacles in achieving SDG 1 in your region/country?

### 4.2 Regional progress in Africa

- In your opinion, will the countries in Africa be able to achieve the SDG 1 targets by 2030? Which aspects should be reinforced for that?
- Please describe the relation between the increase in the absolute number of people living in poverty and the decrease in the indicator of percentage of people living in poverty in Africa, by 2030.
- What are the main obstacles in achieving SDG 1 in your region/country?

### 4.3 Regional progress in Europe

- In your opinion, will the countries in Europe be able to achieve the SDG 1 targets by 2030? Which aspects should be reinforced for that?
- Using examples, describe the differences in progress in different European regions/countries.
- What are the main obstacles in achieving SDG 1 in your region/country?

## 5. Case studies

- List some good practices that target the implementation of SDG 1.
- What could be your own contribution to SDG 1?
- Select a case study in your country that reflects a best practice in terms of achieving the SDG 1 targets. Briefly explain this case study and explore how the best practice can contribute towards achieving SDG 1.



## 7. Concluding remarks

This manual was aimed at providing an introduction to the main aspects of SDG 1 – No Poverty, while also covering the impacts of various crises on the achievement of this goal and the regional contexts and progress of Latin America, Africa and Europe. Case studies and good practices were included to support teaching with examples on different strategies being used worldwide and in the studied regions to fight poverty. Finally, exercises and assessment questions were suggested.

The manual can be used as a whole or adapted according to the needs of the teaching staff interested in applying it in their course/class. The variety of targets, challenges and resources related to poverty and SDG 1, as well as its connection with other goals, reinforce the importance of this manual for all study areas. We recommend that teaching staff encourage students to reflect on their own perceptions and experiences on the topic of poverty and discuss the role of different sectors and actors in contributing to SDG 1 and to the overall aim of the 2030 Agenda – eradicating poverty.

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