

INGLOSUS  
SDG

# YEARBOOK



## Impressum

### INGLOSUS Foundation

Wiesenau 1  
60323 Frankfurt am Main  
Phone +49 69 79 534 82 – 0  
Fax +49 69 79 534 82 – 157  
office@inglosus.org

**Copyright and Liability:** Partial reproduction is only permitted with source citation, all other rights are impermissible without the written consent of the media owner. It is noted that all information in this publication is provided without guarantee despite careful processing, and liability of INGLOSUS and the authors is excluded. Legal statements represent the non-binding opinion of the author and cannot anticipate the jurisprudence of independent courts in any way.

**Feedback:** Please send your thoughts on this publication to office@inglosus.org

**Author:** Jon-Matteo Brüggerwerth

**Visual:** Giang Nguyen

# INTERCONNECTIVITY



# FOREWORD

## 17 Goals, 17 Themes, 17 Questions, 1 Future

The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations have become an indispensable tool for navigating the jungle of sustainability. Whether it's hunger, growth, biodiversity, or partnerships - through the clustering of themes and goals that shape our tomorrow, we all find ourselves.

This year, it is once again a pleasure for the INGLOSUS Foundation to proudly demonstrate that bridges can be built, people connected, and ideas developed, from which we can all benefit.

Sustainability, and thus the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, are now indispensable. Through 17 defined goals, we explore in this year's edition the effectiveness, efficiency, and above all, the importance of the 17 SDGs, both in Germany and globally. It is indeed our own responsibility to set informative and understandable course for future generations.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to all partners, supporters, and speakers who have brought this yearbook to life once again. Because only together can we tackle the greatest, most sustainable transformation challenge of our society.

We wish you much joy in reading - and above all, inspiration!

**Darius Maleki**

Stv. Vorsitzender des Vorstands  
INGLOSUS Stiftung



**Darius Maleki**  
Wiesenu 1  
60323 Frankfurt am Main  
Tel: +49 69 79 534 82 – 0  
Fax: +49 69 79 534 82 – 157  
office@inglosus.org

## HIGHLIGHTS

6

Statement from **Julia Klöckner** (Former Federal Minister for Agriculture)



15

INGLOSUS' Cultiva Green Project in Ecuador



38

Statement from **Dr. Volker Wissing**, (Federal Minister for Digital Affairs and Transport)



53

From Surfing to Activism: A Personal Journey to Save Our Oceans



## CONTENT TABLE

Foreword	4
No Poverty	6
No Hunger	8
Good Health and Well-Being	18
Quality Education	20
Gender Equality	22
Clean Water and Sanitation	28
Affordable and Clean Energy	30
Decent Work and Economic Growth	34
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	38
Reduced Inequality	40
Sustainable Cities and Communities	42
Responsible Consumption and Production	44
Climate Action	46
Life under Water	48
Life on Land	60
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	66
Global Partnerships	68





1 NO POVERTY



STATUS QUO - NO POVERTY

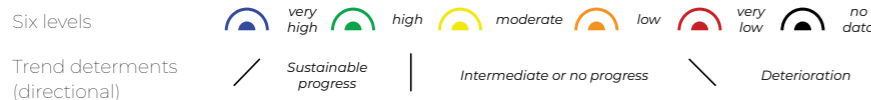
What is the Status Quo?

Extreme poverty, currently defined as living on less than \$2.15 per person per day at 2017 purchasing power parity, had experienced a significant decline for the past 20 years. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, poverty has increased again for the first time and it exacerbated global income inequality. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are particularly affected, but also the Middle East and North Africa. Climate change is another key driver of poverty. The same applies to violent conflicts and their effects, for example in Syria, Yemen, Ukraine and Gaza.

Women, children, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people and other disadvantaged population groups are particularly affected by poverty. By the end of 2022, nowcasting suggests that 8.4 per cent of the world's population, or as many as 670 million people, could still be living in extreme poverty. If current trends continue, an estimated 7 per cent of the global population – approximately 575 million people – will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030, with most in sub-Saharan Africa. This projection would represent a meager poverty reduction of less than 30 per cent since 2015.

GOALS AND TARGETS	END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Eradicate extreme poverty					
Achieve social protection coverage					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



**Julia Klöckner**  
Former Federal Minister, Economic policy spokeswoman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group

Ending hunger and poverty in the world are the cornerstones of our development policy.

The world as a whole has made great progress over the last decades in this regard.

Together with our international partners, Germany is committed to make its contributions to reducing global poverty and hunger. However, global crises, violent conflicts and climate change impose major challenges that make the goal of „zero poverty“ a distant prospect. These setbacks have taught us the urgent need to work even more closely with our like-minded partners to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

The protection of women and girls crucial. Without their unique perspectives these goals cannot be achieved.



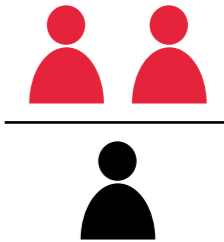
END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

WORLDWIDE GOVERNMENTS HAVE **INCREASED GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES (EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION) SINCE 2015**



YOUNG WORKING PEOPLE

ARE **TWICE AS LIKELY TO LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY** AS



WORKING ADULTS

MANY OF THE WORLD'S **MOST VULNERABLE POPULATION REMAIN UNCOVERED BY SOCIAL PROTECTION**



**71%**  
of all people have no or inadequate social security

More than **4 Billion** people have no social security

**1/3** of all countries will halve poverty by 2030, according to current trends

**670 Million** people live in extreme poverty

**1/3** of all people with severe disabilities worldwide receive a disability pension

More than **1 Billion** people have been able to lift themselves out from extreme poverty since 1990

Sources: United Nations (2023): [bit.ly/unReport2023](https://unreport2023.org/)





## STATUS QUO - ZERO HUNGER

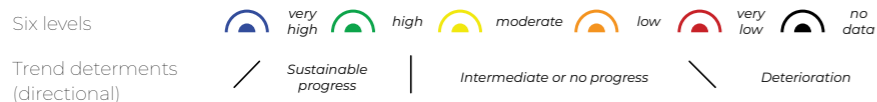
### What is the Status Quo?

The number of people facing hunger and food insecurity has been rising since 2015, with the pandemic, conflict, climate change and growing inequalities exacerbating the situation. In 2022, about 9.2 per cent of the world population was facing chronic hunger, equivalent to about 735 million people – 122 million more than in 2019. An estimated 29.6 per cent of the global population – 2.4 billion people – were moderately or severely food insecure, meaning they did not have access to adequate food. Despite global efforts, in 2022, an estimated 45

million children under the age of 5 suffered from wasting, 148 million had stunted growth and 37 million were overweight. A fundamental shift in trajectory is needed to achieve the 2030 nutrition targets. To achieve zero hunger by 2030, urgent coordinated action and policy solutions are imperative to address entrenched inequalities, transform food systems, invest in sustainable agricultural practices, and reduce and mitigate the impact of conflict and the pandemic on global nutrition and food security.

GOALS AND TARGETS	ZERO HUNGER				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Ensure access and sufficient food all year					
50 per cent reduction of stunted children					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



## 2 ZERO HUNGER



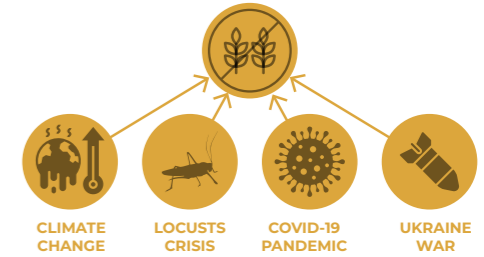
**Dr. Martin Frick**  
 Director, World Food Programme

Conflict, climate change, COVID-19, and the cost explosions after the war against Ukraine have pushed hunger to unprecedented levels. But we know how to fix this. Smallholder farmers – the majority of whom are female – are key agents of change in climate action and transforming food systems. Empowering them means building food security from the bottom up.



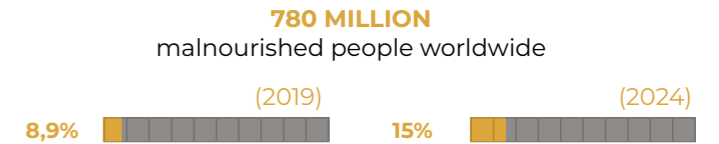
## RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTIES

### THE WAR IN UKRAINE THREATENS THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY



### GLOBAL TARGET 2.1 UNTIL 2030 END HUNGER AND ENSURE ACCESS FOR ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE POOR

#### MALNUTRITION AROUND THE WORLD



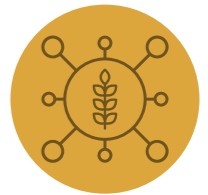
#### NUTRIENS



#### VIABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



#### DISTRIBUTION



## WOMEN

are more likely to be food insecure



**71 %**  
 of the well-known local livestock breeds are threatened with extinction

## 780 Million

people are starving



## 2,3 Billion

people do not have assured access to nutritious, healthy and affordable food

## 7%

forecast for the proportion of the world's population that will still suffer from hunger in 2030



## 1 Trillion

US-Dollars is the value of food that perishes annually



Source: **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2023): The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023** ([bit.ly/unFAO](https://bit.ly/unFAO)), **United Nations (2023): The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023))



**ZERO  
HUNGER**





# THE APP TO FIGHT HUNGER

Hunger stands as one of the most pressing global issues, affecting 780 million individuals who lack sufficient food. The irreversible impacts of climate change loom—hunger is a problem that could feasibly be eradicated.

ShareTheMeal is the top fundraising app of the World Food Programme (WFP), enabling individuals worldwide to offer crucial nutrition to children with a tap on their phones. In 2022 alone, ShareTheMeal successfully raised more than US\$ 28 million on a global scale. Since its inception, the app has facilitated the sharing of over 200 million meals, reaching out to and supporting those facing hunger and need. Furthermore, the app has generated a total donation value of over US\$ 132 Million, through 1.4 million donors supporting 119 WFP operations to date..

## The 80 Cent Proposition

Despite producing enough food for the global population, one out of every nine people suffers from hunger. Simultaneously, there are 20 times more smartphone users than individuals experiencing hunger worldwide. ShareTheMeal democratizes the fight against hunger, empowering anyone with a smartphone to contribute towards alleviating one of humanity's greatest challenges. At its core, ShareTheMeal proposes a simple yet impactful concept: if every smartphone user donated just \$0.80 with a quick tap, we could collectively make significant strides toward eradicating global hunger. The app to Fight Hunger

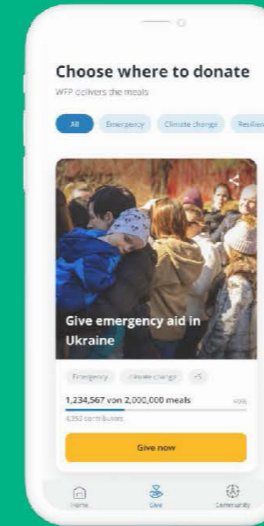
These contributions have notably supported critical operations of the WFP in areas like Yemen, Syria, and South Sudan. The app offers various features enabling users to engage with the impact of their donations and connect with friends and family. Furthermore, users can form personalized “teams” within the app, setting goals and inviting friends, family, and followers to unite in.

In 2020, the World Food Programme was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize **“for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict”**

DOWNLOAD APP ON <https://sharethemeal.org/en-us/>

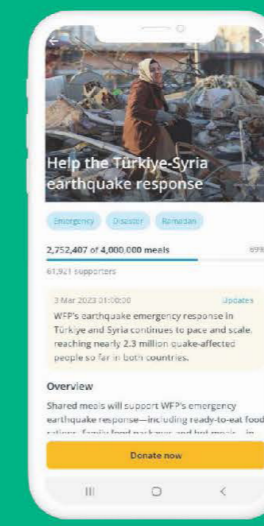


## A SEAMLESS USER EXPERIENCE MAKES DONATING SIMPLE AND FUN



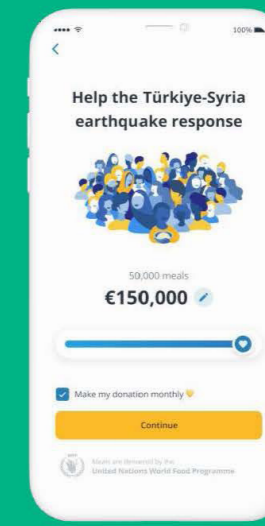
**BROWSE CAMPAIGNS**

across different regions and causes



**GET DETAILED INFO**

on WFP's response for all campaigns



**SIMPLY DONATE**

by selecting amount and saved payment method



**SEE YOUR IMPACT**

and how you and others are changing the world





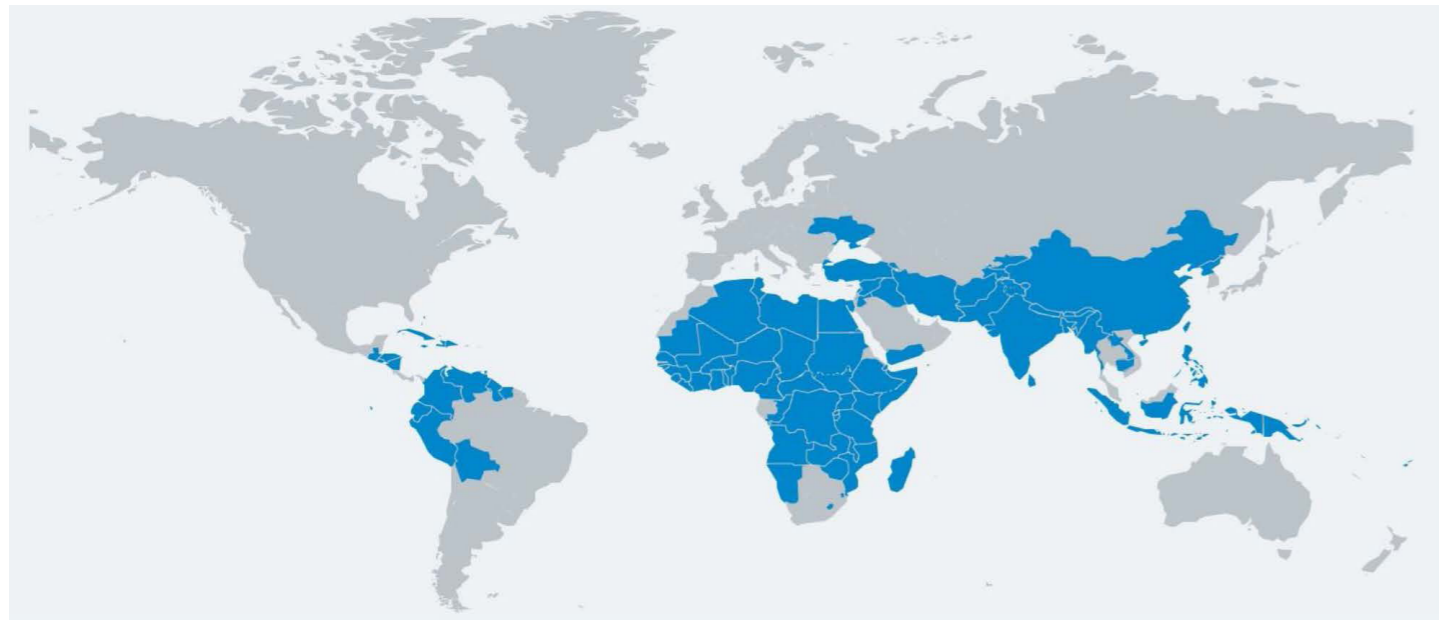
**SUCCESS STORY IN GERMANY**

In the past, donations in Germany predominantly stemmed from older demographics, with only twelve percent of Germany’s donation volume contributed by individuals under forty. Surprisingly, those aged sixty and above accounted for over half of the total donations. Traditional methods of soliciting donations, such as displaying charitable organization details during prime news slots, presenting account numbers, bank codes, and donation keywords, was hardly appealing to younger generations. ShareTheMeal, however, resonates with them, attracting nearly ninety percent of users under 45. The app’s concept aligns with young people’s preferences, allowing them to engage digitally via their smartphones. Now, a simple two-click action successfully finances a meal.

Share The Meal is the world’s first and most successful app that fights hunger and provide food assistance to people in need and support vulnerable communities in emergencies and beyond. The ambitious goal is to end hunger and achieve a safer, fairer world for all.

**Sources:**

World Food Programme  
 Innovation Accelerator  
 Fritzsche L. & Zick T. (2015): Ein Herzchen für Afrika. Die Süddeutsche Zeitung



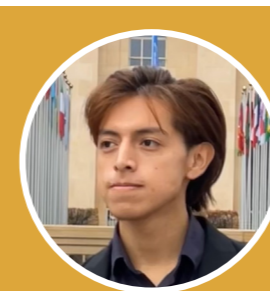
**CULTIVA GREEN PROJECT**

*Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change and Fighting Hunger*

Extreme poverty, hunger and chronic infant malnutrition are the consequences of the extreme weather, and a high level of intermediation are leading to an unfair supply chain system in Ecuador.

Cunucyacu is an indigenous community located in the high-altitude mountains of Ecuador, at an elevation of 4,000 meters. It faces extreme poverty and malnutrition affected by the consequences of climate change.

Due to the cold weather in that high altitude, the communities can only produce very few fresh products, selling at a very low price. The children in the community are facing chronic infant malnutrition and hunger. Temporary solutions such as bridging food and clothes supply are no longer a real long-term solution.



**Ronny Lema**  
 Co-Initiator of Cultiva Green Project

Every family in this community has an incredible history to share about resilience and hope. Combating hunger has been their day by day for many years.



**A sustainable alternative for farmers facing extreme poverty.**

We landed the first prototype of the project with the construction of a greenhouse in July 2022 in collaboration with Hope Worldwide and 40 other volunteers from 6 different countries. Since then, the project has been fruitful and the community is completely engaged with the project







## WHERE WE STAND

Cesar and Blanca Lema started to help the Cunucyacu community since 2015. After a few years, the prototype of the project was developed and presented to several NGO's in Spain since 2020 and accepted by HOPE worldwide in 2021. Since then, our collaboration with HOPE ww Ecuador has been fruitful in our goal to fight hunger in this community. We currently count with a team of 15 volunteers that are giving their time every 2 weeks to go to the Community to work during the weekend.

Hope worldwide Ecuador is linked to HOPE worldwide but independent to take decisions by itself. The NGO is linked to a christian Church based in the US. We as Cultiva would like to continue our relationship with Hope Worldwide but also want an independent project so people can trust that the money goes directly to the Cultiva project itself.

Hope ww Ecuador has other initiatives that some donors have doubts on how the money is used since they want uniquely to donate to the Cultiva Green Project. We have seen this problem and want to ask INGLOSUS to collaborate with us with the asset management to prevent future problems with finances and are highly interested in opening an office in Ecuador

in the name of INGLOSUS which will be part of the Cultiva Project in a collaboration with Hope Ecuador, being Cultiva a project for the people. To achieve the SDG goal of 'Zero Hunger' in the Community and replicate it in other regions.

After the deployment of the first stage of the project in July 2022, we are continuously receiving donations from visitors or past volunteers of around 700 to 900 euros a month, some of them are being donated directly to Cesar and Blanca Lema or to Hope ww Ecuador with instructions to direct the money specifically to the project. At the same time, Ronny has been involved in several meetings with other environmental activists to promote the project, highlighting an invitation of the former president of Ecuador Guillermo Lasso to a meeting with other environmental activists in Madrid.



## SMALL SCALE FARMERS FACING EXTREME POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION



### What is Cultiva Green?

CULTIVA is an agriculture initiative that has been continuously supporting the Cunucyacu community since 2015. It started with the donation of food and clothes that through time has been converted into an Agriculture Sustainable Project. Since then, more and more people have joined for donating and volunteering.

## CLIMATE ISSUES

That limits the growth of fresh products. Though the land in the region is fertile.

Since the construction of the first 400-meter greenhouse, we have seen the commitment of people to this community to be self-sufficient through time. Every month we can see a huge amount of fresh products that grow as a result of the very fertile land.

### VISION

CULTIVA has landed the project in a kids school with the collaboration of the local authorities. Our vision is to keep replicating the project with the construction of 130 other greenhouses that will go directly to the families in Cunucyacu. Thereby we address another subject: The percentage of intermediation when selling.

**8 out of 10 people in Ecuador**

consume fresh products that comes from small scale farmers



Our team has found a way to face hunger and chronic infant malnutrition by giving them the tools to produce fresh products as well as a higher share of their revenue. Cunucyacu has already 5 greenhouses out of the expected 130.

**63%**  
of Intermediation



High increasing prices when selling to the final consumers and low salaries, creating a huge disadvantage for the farmers





### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## STATUS QUO - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### What is the Status Quo?

There has been some progress on improving global health in recent years. For example, 146 out of 200 countries or areas have already met or are on track to meet the SDG target on under-5 mortality. Effective HIV treatment has cut global AIDS-related deaths by 52 per cent since 2010 and at least one neglected tropical disease has been eliminated in 47 countries. However, insufficient progress has been made in other areas, such as on reducing maternal mortality and expanding universal health coverage. Globally, approximately 800 women died every day from pregnancy or childbirth in 2020. And 381 million

people were pushed or further pushed into extreme poverty in 2019 due to out-of-pocket payments for health. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing crises have impeded progress towards Goal 3. Childhood vaccinations have experienced the largest decline in three decades, and tuberculosis and malaria deaths have increased compared with pre-pandemic levels. To overcome these setbacks and address long-standing health care shortcomings, increased investment in health systems is needed to support countries in their recovery and build resilience against future health threats.

GOALS AND TARGETS	GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
End the epidemic of malaria					
Increase tetanus-vaccine coverage among toddlers					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high high moderate low very low no data  
Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress | Intermediate or no progress | Deterioration



**Prof. Dr. Thomas Klingebiel**  
Professor em. at Goethe University

To achieve the goals, the following prerequisites are indispensable: equal, low-threshold access to health services for all people, equity and transparency in the distribution of resources, strengthening health literacy through knowledge, and independence and freedom of research. Only independent and free research will help to understand causes of disease at the molecular level and develop methods for prevention and treatment.



## ENSURING A HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

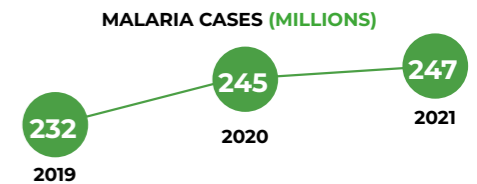
**A WOMAN DIES EVERY TWO MINUTES FROM PREVENTABLE CAUSES RELATED TO PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH (2020)**



**25 MILLION CHILDREN MISSED OUT ON IMPORTANT ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS IN 2021**



**MALARIA CASES HAVE SURGED WORLDWIDE**



**LESS THAN HALF OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION IS INSURED BY A HEALTH INSURANCE**



**1 Person**

of 100,000 dies in Germany from communicable diseases such as hepatitis

**81 Years**

is the life expectancy in Germany

**619 000**

people died of malaria in 2021 (2019: 568,000)

**66,3 Years**

live Germans on average without health problems

**71%**

of all deaths worldwide are caused by non-communicable diseases

**5 Million**

Children died before their fifth birthday in 2021, many of them from preventable diseases

Sources: United Nations (2023) [\(bit.ly/unReport2023\)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/), United Nations (2022) [\(bit.ly/unReport2022\)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/), The World Bank (2023)  [\(bit.ly/3TcrLqU\)](https://data.worldbank.org/SH.SV.BDVS), WHO  [\(bit.ly/49Pwx3k\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria), United Nations (2023) [\(bit.ly/3wFIKYk\)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/), UNAIDS  [\(bit.ly/3UU62oV\)](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet/global-tuberculosis-report-2022)





## STATUS QUO - QUALITY EDUCATION

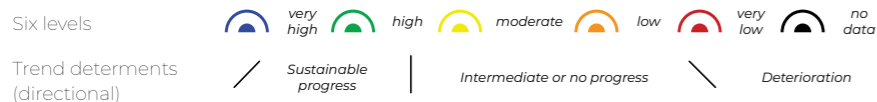
### What is the Status Quo?

Progress towards quality education was already slower than required before the pandemic, but COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on education, causing learning losses in four out of five of the 104 countries studied. Without additional measures, only one in six countries will achieve the universal secondary school completion target by 2030, an estimated 84 million children and young people will still be out of school, and approximately 300 million students will lack the basic numeracy and literacy skills necessary for success in

life. To achieve national Goal 4 benchmarks, which are reduced in ambition compared with the original Goal 4 targets, 79 low- and lower-middle-income countries still face an average annual financing gap of \$97 billion. To deliver on Goal 4, education financing must become a national investment priority. Furthermore, measures such as making education free and compulsory, increasing the number of teachers, improving basic school infrastructure and embracing digital transformation are essential.

GOALS AND TARGETS	EMPOWERING MINDS AND AIMING FOR INCLUSIVE QUALITY EDUCATION WORLDWIDE				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Completion of primary education					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



**Prof. Dr. Jochen Strähle**  
 Dean, *TEXOVERSUM School of Textiles, Reutlingen University, Germany*

In Germany and globally, SDG 04 reflects mixed progress. In Germany, robust education infrastructure and access exist, but disparities persist. This is why we at TEXOVERSUM try to enable opportunities for everyone. Globally, access to quality education remains a challenge, with disparities more pronounced in low-income regions. Ongoing efforts aim to bridge gaps and ensure equitable, high-quality education for all."



## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## EMPOWERING MINDS AND AIMING FOR INCLUSIVE QUALITY EDUCATION

### REMOTE LEARNING

IS OFFERED TO 3 MILLION UKRAINIAN CHILDREN IN THE CHAOS OF WAR (APRIL 2022)



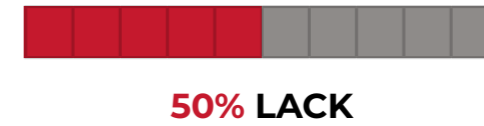
### INEQUALITIES WERE WIDENED DURING THE PANDEMIC



### 24 MILLION LEARNERS MAY NEVER GO TO SCHOOL AGAIN (PRESCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY)



### THERE IS A LACK OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE WORLDWIDE



Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023)), *Global Education Monitoring Report 2021/2022*. **UNESCO**





## STATUS QUO - GENDER EQUALITY

### What is the Status Quo?

With only seven years remaining, a mere 15.4 per cent of Goal 5 indicators with data are “on track”, 61.5 per cent are at a moderate distance and 23.1 per cent are far or very far off track from 2030 targets. In many areas, progress has been too slow. At the current rate, it will take an estimated 300 years to end child marriage, 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws, 140 years for women to be represented

equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments. Political leadership, investments and comprehensive policy reforms are needed to dismantle systemic barriers to achieving Goal 5. Gender equality is a cross-cutting objective and must be a key focus of national policies, budgets and institutions.

GOALS AND TARGETS	ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS				
	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Eliminate child marriage					
Full participation and equal opportunities					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high, high, moderate, low, very low, no data  
 Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress, Intermediate or no progress, Deterioration

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



**Karin Orgeldinger**  
 Board member Athlete Promotion department at Deutsche Sporthilfe

For many years, at Sporthilfe, we have been providing support regardless of gender, origin, age, or popularity. Sporting performance and prospects are the criteria for our funding classifications, so the ‘gender pay gap’ and ‘women’s quota’ are not issues for us when it comes to supporting top German athletes. However, we are aware that gender equality is not practiced in all areas of sports. It is therefore important and right to continue the fight for equal rights for women in sports. We also consider it our duty to establish bridges and networks for women in top management positions.



## 5 GENDER EQUALITY

AT THE CURRENT PACE, IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER **40 YEARS** BEFORE WOMEN AND MEN ARE EQUALLY REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENTS



### PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS WORLDWIDE



### POPULATION AGED 10 AND OVER OWNING A MOBILE PHONE



### VIRTUAL GAP

Women are **12% less** likely to own mobile phones

### GENDER GAP



### PROFESSION



### VIOLENCE



 <b>14%</b> of landowners are women	 <b>214 Million</b> women do not have access to modern family planning methods	 <b>26%</b> is the proportion of women in parliaments worldwide
 <b>28%</b> of management positions are held by women	 <b>2,7 Billion</b> Women are legally restricted in their choice of employment	 <b>75%</b> of unpaid care and housework is done by women

Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://bit.ly/unReport2022))





When the Spanish women's soccer team won the World Cup recently, their joy was short-lived due to a controversial event. After the victory, the president of the Spanish Football Federation, Luis Rubiales, kissed star player Jennifer Hermoso on the lips without her consent, leading to a big argument about issues related to how women are treated and their safety.

### Does this incident represent a persisting Machismo culture in Spain?

The culture of machismo, characterized by the belief that men are superior to women, enabling male dominance, aggression, and violence against women, was widespread during the years of Francisco Franco's rule. This period was marked by women's inability to vote, seek divorce from their spouses, and societal expectations for them to have large families and stay at home while their husbands were the breadwinners. Despite the demise of Franco's fascist regime in Spain in 1975, many of the values promoted during his dictatorship continue to persist.

The legacy of machismo and the ideological messaging advanced during Franco's era has been transmitted across generations. However, in the years following Franco's death up until recent times, these viewpoints were less socially acceptable, especially in public. This shift can be attributed, in large part, to Spain's political landscape post-Franco, marked by alternating periods of governance between the Socialist Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and the moderate-Right People's Party (PP), both of which do not actively endorse a machista agenda.

Since its conception in 2013, Spain's farright party, Vox, has enjoyed an unprecedented rise to the forefront of Spanish politics, becoming the country's third-largest political party today. In a significant electoral breakthrough, Vox secured 12 seats in the 2018 Andalusian regional elections, marking the first time a far-right party gained representation in a Spanish regional parliament since the death of the fascist dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

Vox's remarkable growth appears to be underpinned by the belief that women activists in Spain are pushing their agenda too far. An organization known as Hazte Oír (Make Yourself Heard) even sponsored a "#StopFeminazis" bus, which drove through Barcelona featuring an image of Hitler wearing pink lipstick as a symbol of what they referred to as "militant feminists." This group encouraged Vox to intensify its anti-feminist stance and restore what they perceive as the natural order of things. By allowing this mindset to enter the mainstream discourse, Vox has effectively revived a previously dormant topic, which is now once again the subject of public debate.

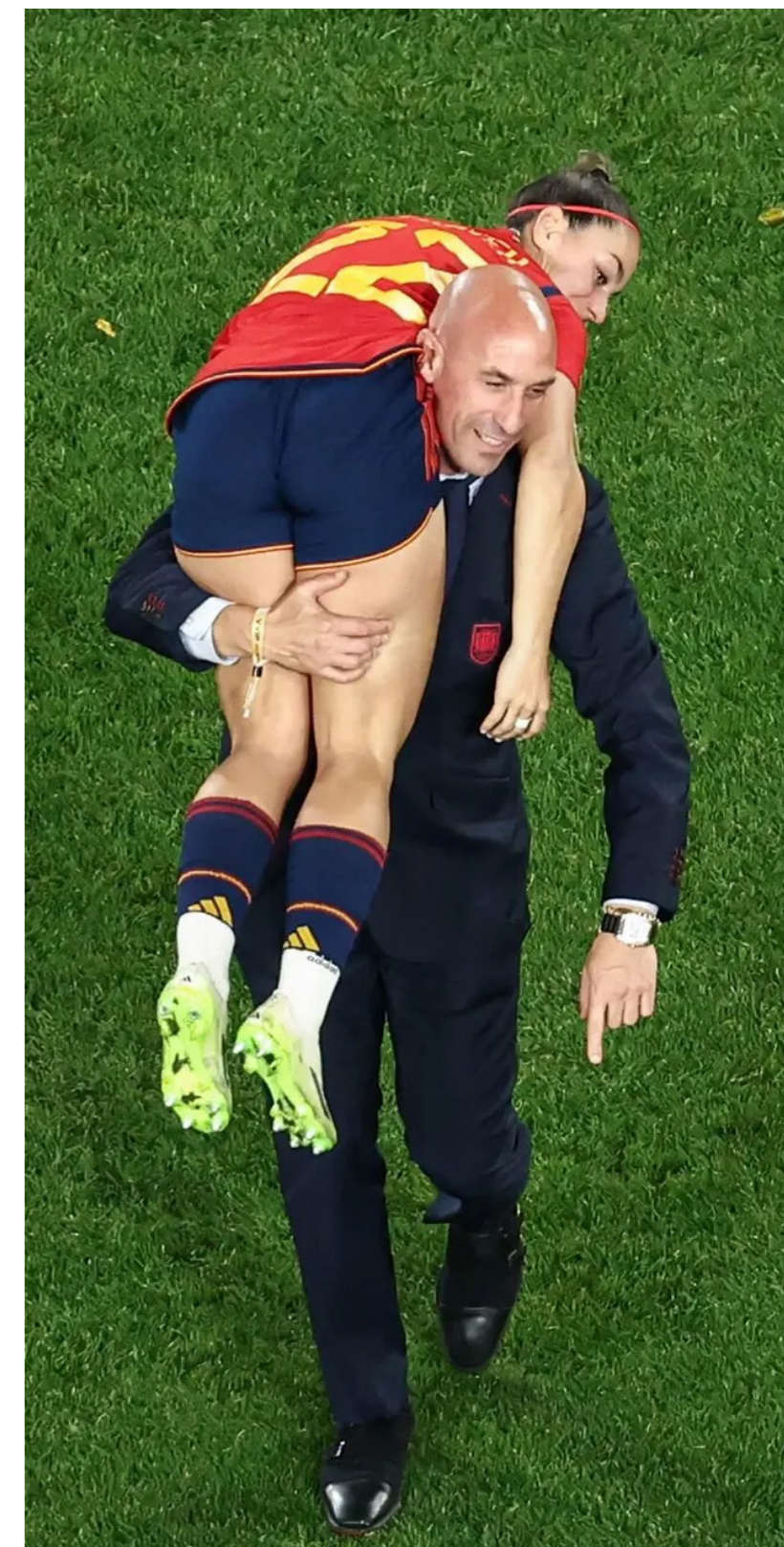
The consequences of a culture where sexist and abusive conduct and language not only exist but are widely tolerated are evident beyond the recent World Cup scandal. The former head coach of the Spanish women's national team, Ignacio Quereda, was removed from his position in 2015 following accusations of sexism. His successor, Jorge Vilda, has also faced similar complaints. In the past year, over a dozen players refused to participate on the women's national team due to concerns about unequal pay, intrusive treatment by Mr. Vilda, and an overall atmosphere of sexism.

The controversial incident of the forced kiss in the Spanish women's soccer team's World Cup victory ceremony has ignited a debate about the persistence of machismo culture in Spain, stemming from its historical roots during the Franco era. The incident, along with the rise of far-right party Vox, highlights ongoing challenges in achieving gender equality and addressing sexism in the country. Spanish media and government officials have characterized the forced kiss as one of the most deeply rooted symbols of machismo—a perception of masculine pride and entitlement. Activists have adopted the slogan "se acabó," signifying "it's over," to demand necessary changes. The world cup kiss serves as a stark reminder of the work required to overcome deeply ingrained gender biases and reshape societal norms in Spain.

### Sources:

*The New York Times (2023): Luis Rubiales and Spain's Kiss Scandal at the World Cup, Explained.*

*University of Leeds (2019): The Rise of Vox: Machismo Culture in Spain*



Luis Rubiales, the president of Spain's national soccer federation, carrying Athenea del Castillo on his shoulder after the team's World Cup final victory in Australia this month. Credit to David Gray/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



**“The universities position themselves [...] in society as advocates of equality between men and women, but do not contribute to questioning a binary idea of gender.”**



**Dr. phil Hanna Acke**  
University Lecturer at Åbo Akademi in  
Åbo/Turku, Finland

This contribution analyses whether gender equality in language use in German is on the way to be established as a norm in certain contexts. The university context is chosen for an exemplary study. At the universities analysed in the article, forms, which contribute to a representation of women in language or avoid a representation of men only, can be considered the norm: These forms are used as well as stipulated in recommendations.

Forms, which have been suggested to include persons who do not see themselves as women or men, are mostly absent and are not recommended either. Universities thereby position themselves in society as supporters of the equality of women and men. However, they do not question a binary conception of gender.

**INTERESTING TO KNOW:**

Some languages, like Finnish, Turkish, and

Chinese, do not have grammatical gender. They use the same pronouns and descriptors regardless of the gender of the person or object being referred to.

The use of gendered language reflects societal norms, values, and power dynamics. Language can shape and reinforce gender roles and stereotypes, so promoting gender-inclusive language is seen as a step towards more equitable societies.



Humboldt University Berlin



**PROFESSORINNEN und Professoren ... Professor:innen**

The generic masculine noun is rare overall and is almost nonexistent, especially in internal university administrative language. There has clearly been a change in language here, and gender-equitable use of language has become the norm in this area.

**STRIKING** how ever is that at the universities almost exclusively forms are used that correspond to the goals of the Second Women's Movement and make women visible or at least do not over-represent men linguistically.



INGLOSUS  
SDG YEARBOOK





## STATUS QUO - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

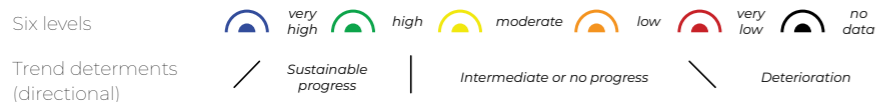
### What is the Status Quo?

Despite great progress, billions of people still lack access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a substantial increase in current global rates of progress: sixfold for drinking water, fivefold for sanitation and threefold for hygiene. Water use efficiency has risen by 9 per cent, but water stress and water scarcity remain a concern in many parts of the world. In 2020, 2.4 billion people lived in water-stressed

countries. The challenges are compounded by conflicts and climate change. Key strategies to get Goal 6 back on track include increasing sector-wide investment and capacity-building, promoting innovation and evidence-based action, enhancing cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders, and adopting a more integrated and holistic approach to water management.

GOALS AND TARGETS	ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT FOR ALL				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Access to safe drinking water					
Access to safe sanitation service					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**Dr. Friedrich Hetzel**  
 Head of department. Water and Waste Management  
 German Association of water, waste water and waste (DWA)

From the DWA's current perspective, achieving SDG 6 by 2030 is not possible. Unfortunately, the challenges associated with climate change, the prevailing political conflicts and other crises such as the pandemic are causing developments towards this goal to stall or even decline. That is why the DWA in Germany and worldwide is committed to putting the achievement of the SDG goals back at the top of the political agenda and supports partners all over the world through international projects.



## ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER

**2,4 BILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN WATER-STRESSED COUNTRIES**



**ONLY 1/4 OF THE COUNTRIES HAVE REGULATED 90% OF THEIR TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS THROUGH TREATIES**



**THE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEM ARE MINIMIZING AT AN ALARMING PACE**



**IN THE LAST 300 YEARS OVER 85% OF THE EARTH'S WETLANDS HAVE BEEN LOST**



**FOR AT LEAST 3 BILLION PEOPLE IS THE WATER QUALITY DUE TO LACK OF CONTROL UNKNOWN**



<p><b>32</b> of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters have agreed on contracts to use it</p>	<p><b>700 Million</b> people could be forced to leave their homes by 2030 due to water shortages</p>	<p><b>40%</b> of all schools worldwide have no toilets</p>
<p><b>2.2 Billion</b> people do not have access to clean drinking water</p>	<p><b>1 of 3</b> people worldwide do not have the opportunity to wash their hands at home</p>	<p><b>3.4 Billion</b> people do not have access to adequate sanitation</p>

Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/))





## STATUS QUO - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

### What is the Status Quo?

The world continues to advance towards sustainable energy targets – but not fast enough. At the current pace, about 660 million people will still lack access to electricity and close to 2 billion people will still rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking by 2030. At present, the pivotal question revolves around not just achieving energy efficiency but also fostering national energy independence. Energy must not be wielded as a political weapon, capable of stalling progress or distorting developmental frameworks. Instead, it should serve as a means to enhance the lives of citizens, elevating their

living standards without becoming entangled in political ideologies. Renewable sources power nearly 30 per cent of energy consumption in the electricity sector, but challenges remain in heating and transport sectors. Developing countries experience 9.6 per cent annual growth in renewable energy installation, but despite enormous needs, international financial flows for clean energy continue to decline. To ensure access to energy for all by 2030, we must accelerate electrification, increase investments in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and develop enabling policies and regulatory frameworks.

GOALS AND TARGETS	AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Achieve universal access to electricity					
Double the global rate of energy efficiency					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high, high, moderate, low, very low, no data  
 Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress, Intermediate or no progress, Deterioration

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**Christoph Klein, CFA, CEFA**  
 Managing Partner of ESG Portfolio Management GmbH

We aim to ensure affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for all. The utilization of renewable energies is a crucial contribution to climate protection (SDG 13). Energy supply is a critical factor for any location, especially in geopolitically uncertain times. It is essential to involve all stakeholders in the development of new technologies and to train workers in a timely manner. The involvement of all affected parties is indispensable for the sustainable success of expanding the necessary infrastructure.



## ENSURING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY

THE TOTAL CONSUMPTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY INCREASED BY **A QUARTER** BETWEEN 2010 AND 2019

BUT THE SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN TOTAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS ONLY



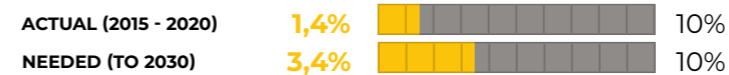
17%



PROGRESS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MUST BE ACCELERATED TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL CLIMATE GOALS



IF THE CURRENT TREND CONTINUES **1 IN 4** PEOPLE WILL STILL USE UNHEALTHY AND UNSAFE COOKING SYSTEMS BY 2023



**7.9 Tons**

is the CO2 production of every person in Germany on average every year

**268 Watts**

of green electricity/capita was installed in developing countries in 2021 - 9.8% more than in 2020.

**19.1%**

share of renewable energies in global final energy consumption (2020)

**0,7 Tons**

of CO2 emissions does every person in sub-Saharan Africa produce on average every year

**2.3 Billion**

people use cooking systems that are harmful to the environment and health

**675 Million**

people all over the world still do not have access to electricity

Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://bit.ly/unReport2022)), **The World Bank: CO2 Emission** ([bit.ly/4bTMJIF](https://bit.ly/4bTMJIF))







## AFRICA'S GREEN DEAL TO SET THE PACE FOR AFRICA'S THRIVING GREEN ENERGY SECTOR

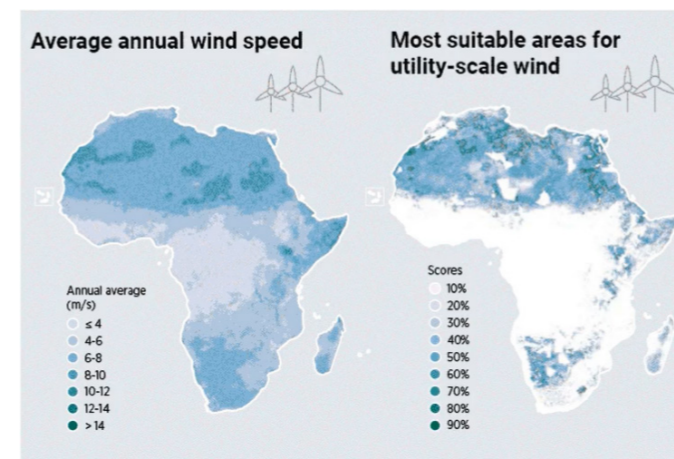
Shifting towards a renewable energy-centered system holds the potential to tackle numerous challenges in Africa, covering social, economic, health, and environmental dimensions. But how do renewables stand as a solution to combat energy poverty while ensuring essential energy services without detrimental impacts on human health or ecosystems and what are the strategies to pave the way for the economic transformation and industrialization?

According to the Renewable Energy Market Analysis 2022 of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), a substantial portion of Africa has been left out of the global energy transition. Over the past two decades, merely 2% of worldwide investments in renewable energy have been directed towards Africa, highlighting considerable regional discrepancies. Furthermore, Africa accounts for less than 3% of global employment opportunities in the renewables sector and the electrification rate in Sub-Saharan Africa remained stagnant at 46% in 2019, leaving 906 million individuals without access to clean cooking fuels and technologies.

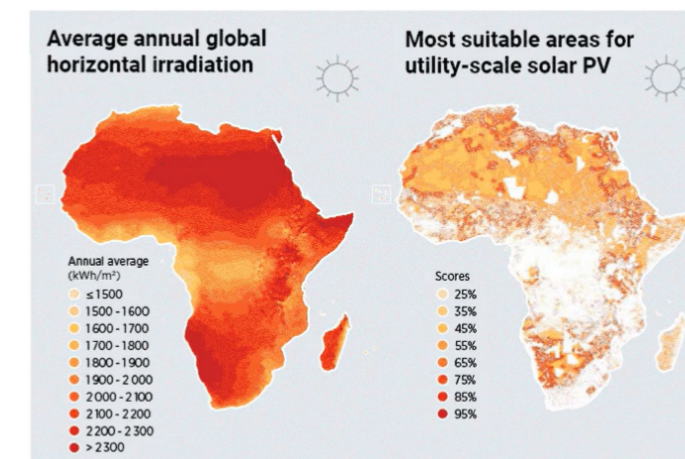
However, the continent holds immense potential and has witnessed remarkable progress over the past decade. Africa boasts extensive promise in wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal energy. As costs continue to decline, renewable energy sources are becoming more accessible. The estimated potential for renewable energy is 1,000 times

greater than the anticipated electricity demand in 2040, signifying an surplus of renewable energy potential to meet the continent's future requirements. The collective electricity generation from renewables in Southern and Eastern Africa could escalate from 20% in 2016 to 63% by 2040. This abundance of resources places the entire continent in a favorable position to capitalize on the ongoing energy transition.

Countries such as Central and Southern Africa possess plentiful mineral resources for manufacturing electric batteries, wind turbines, and various low-carbon technologies. Hence, average yearly investments in renewable energy soared tenfold from under USD 0.5 billion in the 2000-2009 period to USD 5 billion in the 2010-2020 period. Under IRENA's 1.5°C Scenario pathway, the continent would achieve 6.4 percent higher GDP, 3.5 per cent higher economy-wide jobs and a 25.4 per cent higher welfare index than that realised under current plans, on average up to 2050. To realize these benefits, a comprehensive policy framework incorporating climate and environmental objectives with economic development, job creation, social fairness for society at large, robust institutions, international collaboration and substantial coordination at the regional level is necessary. In Kenya, 87.42% of the energy generated is obtained from renewable energy resources, showcasing a roadmap scenario for many other African countries. President Ruto outlined Kenya's ambition to



Source: (a) Global Wind Atlas (DTU, 2015); (b) IRENA Global Atlas for Renewable Energy (IRENA, 2021d); Base map, UN boundaries.  
Note: m/s = meter per second; m = metre; s = second



Source: (a) Global Solar Atlas (DTU, 2015); (b) IRENA Global Atlas for Renewable Energy (IRENA, 2021d).  
Note: kWh/m² = kilowatt hours per square metre; PV = photovoltaic

achieve 100 per cent renewable power by 2030 and to fuel the green industries of the future by 2040: "Our ambition is not in question – it's how we make this ambition a reality. This journey demands a united front. As leaders across Africa, our strategies must be woven together, tailored to find African solutions to African challenges."

Africa's progress made in renewable energy deployment over the past decade demonstrates the continent's momentum towards a cleaner and more accessible energy landscape. Ultimately, Africa has the opportunity to not only meet its energy needs

but also spearhead a transformative shift towards a greener, more prosperous future for its people and the planet.

**Sources:**  
BIANNUAL ENERGY AND PETROLEUM STATISTICS REPORT: FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023.  
<https://www.irena.org/publications/2022/Jan/Renewable-Energy-Market-Analysis-Africa>





## STATUS QUO - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

### What is the Status Quo?

Multiple crises are placing the global economy under serious threat. Global real GDP per capita growth is forecast to slow down in 2023. Challenging economic conditions are pushing more workers into informal employment. As economies start to recover, the global unemployment rate has experienced a significant decline. However, the youth unemployment rate continues to be much higher than the rate for adults, indicating ongoing challenges in securing employment oppor-

tunities for young people. The pandemic has accelerated digital adoption and transformed access to finance. Globally, 76 per cent of adults had bank accounts or accounts with regulated institutions in 2021, up from 62 per cent in 2014. Achieving Goal 8 will require a wholesale reform of the financial system to tackle rising debts, economic uncertainty and trade tensions, while promoting equitable pay and decent work for young people.

GOALS AND TARGETS	DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Sustain per capita economic growth					
Achieve full employment					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high high moderate low very low no data  
Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress | Intermediate or no progress Deterioration

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**Martin Block**  
Head of service center for foundations and philanthropy at Engagement Global GmbH

The income generated through work determines prosperity or poverty. The conditions under which people work have a direct impact on their human dignity: Are they fairly paid or exploited? Do they work securely or precariously? Can working people join together to represent their interests? Are vulnerable persons protected or are they deprived of opportunities? We need to implement sustainability in working life in particular. Economic growth must benefit everyone, serve to combat poverty and meet ecological requirements.



## PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

DURING THE PANDEMIC  
**4 IN 10 ADULTS**  
IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES  
**OPENED A BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE FIRST TIME**

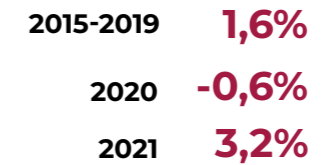


THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS COMPLICATED BY



LABOR PRODUCTIVITY HAS RECOVERED

OUTPUT GROWTH PER WORKER  
2015-2019, 2020, 2021



**1 OF 10**  
CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD  
HAVE TO WORK



**47%**  
of all women were in employment in 2022, compared to 72% of all men

**28 Million**  
people do forced labor

**2 Billion**  
Employees work informally and therefore usually do not have social insurance

**160 Million**  
Girls and boys had to do child labor in 2020

**24%**  
of adults worldwide did not have a bank account in 2021

**205 Million**  
People around the world were unemployed in 2022

Sources: United Nations (2023) [bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023), International Labor Organization





## CHALLENGES OF HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CONCLUSIONS

In the 2022/2023 report of Amnesty International, research across 156 countries uncovered a landscape marked by new conflicts, persistent long-standing disputes, and violations of international humanitarian law. These violations resulted human tragedies, often unmet with consistent international responses. The severe human rights impact of conflicts, the protection of displaced individuals, and various other egregious violations, including those amounting to crimes against humanity, were inconsistently addressed. This period witnessed heavy-handed repression of freedoms like expression, association, and peaceful assembly, with human rights defenders often bearing the brunt.

Amnesty International's findings revealed interconnected themes: repression of dissent contributing to conflicts, armed conflict leading to crackdowns on civil society, and sexual violence being a brutal facet of such conflicts. Various catalysts, including war, political turmoil, rising living costs, restrictions on abortion rights, violence against women, and discrimination, fueled widespread protests. The research also highlighted the escalating harms linked to Big Tech's business models, emphasizing the urgent need for more decisive action to combat the climate crisis and environmental degradation.

"Governments must stop using pretexts to repress dissent and prevent discussions of their human rights records. They must investigate killings, intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, stop security forces using unnecessary or excessive force during protests and repeal or amend legislation violating the right to peaceful assembly. At a multilateral level, governments should support negotiations to agree a new treaty to control the trade in law enforcement equipment. They should also consistently set up accountability mechanisms for all patterns of gross human rights violations."

Amid global actions to improve legislative protections, gender-based violence against women, girls, and LGBTI individuals remained prevalent. Noteworthy strides and setbacks were observed regarding abortion rights. While some nations started to recover from the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, others faced lingering effects. Economic crises stemming from the pandemic, coupled with unsustainable debt, conflict, and climate change, exacerbated the cost of living and food insecurity, disproportionately impacting marginalized groups and widening inequality.

"Governments must urgently take steps to mitigate the climate crisis and to keep global warming to under 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, including by prioritizing the speedy phase-out of fossil fuels, while guaranteeing a just and human rights-consistent transition to a zero-carbon economy. They must put in place measures that guarantee the rights of everyone, including marginalized individuals and groups, to an adequate standard of living, food, health, social security, housing and water. They must obtain the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous people for any projects on their territory. Wealthy states and international financial institutions must provide urgent debt relief and contribute funds to international efforts to support countries that need assistance to realize economic, social and cultural rights, including in the context of the climate crisis. Lower income countries should also benefit from greater fairness and inclusivity through the UN sponsored global tax reform that will deliver vital additional resources to this end."



During this year's COP28 conference in Dubai, the pledges made towards the Loss and Damage Fund are a commendable step forward in acknowledging the urgent need to address the dire consequences of global warming. However, these financial commitments, totaling around US\$420 million, fall significantly short of the substantial funding required to meaningfully support communities grappling with the ravaging effects of climate change. As Amnesty International's Climate Advisor Ann Harrison said:

"The amount pledged initially is barely enough to get the fund running, and little more. Billions of dollars are needed to make a substantive difference to communities in desperate need of help to rebuild homes after storms, or to support farmers when their crops are destroyed, or those permanently displaced by the climate crisis. Considering the vast and excess profits accrued by fossil fuel companies last year while they continue to trash the climate, and that some the donor states today were responsible for a large proportion of historical greenhouse gas emissions, this is a disappointingly small initial sum. It is dwarfed by the total US\$7 trillion in subsidies that many states, including some of these donors, provide annually to support the fossil fuel industry.

### Source:

Amnesty International Report 2022/2023.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>

Amnesty International (2023): Global: Initial pledges at COP28 to finance the Loss & Damage Fund fall far short of what is needed.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/11/global-initial-pledges-at-cop28-to-finance-the-loss-damage-fund-fall-far-short-of-what-is-needed/>





## STATUS QUO - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

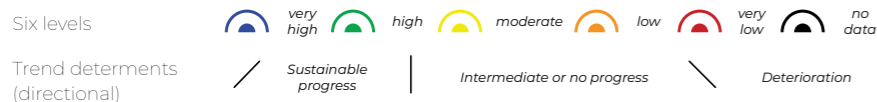
### What is the Status Quo?

The manufacturing industry's recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic remains incomplete and uneven. Global manufacturing growth slowed down to 3.3 per cent in 2022, from 7.4 per cent in 2021. Progress in least developed countries (LDCs) is far from sufficient to reach the target of doubling the manufacturing share in gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030. However, medium-high- and high-technology industries demonstrated robust growth rates. As of 2022, 95 per cent of the world's population

was within reach of a mobile broadband network, but some areas remain underserved. Global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from energy combustion and industrial processes grew by 0.9 per cent to a new all-time high of 36.8 billion metric tons, well below global GDP growth, reverting to a decadelong trend of decoupling emissions and economic growth. To achieve Goal 9 by 2030, it is essential to support LDCs, invest in advanced technologies, lower carbon emissions and increase mobile broadband access.

GOALS AND TARGETS	RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Raise industry's share of GDP					
Increase access to mobile networks					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**Dr. Volker Wissing**  
Member of the German Bundestag, Federal Minister for Digital Affairs and Transport

Sustainable infrastructure and industry require innovative approaches, which are developed by many brilliant minds. We provide support with balanced regulation, incentives and funding measures, for instance in digitalization and above all in artificial intelligence. AI is driving innovation and boosting sustainability in everything, from modernizing infrastructure or shaping industrial change. We have to make the most of this opportunity for sustainability and progress, for growth and prosperity.



## RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION

### LACK ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR RECOVERY

ONLY **1 OF 3** MANUFACTURES BENEFITS FROM A LOAN OR CREDIT (2020 - 2021)

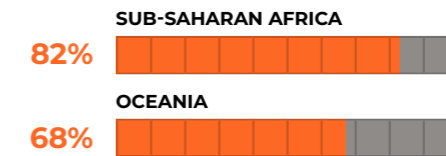


### ENERGY-RELATED CO<sub>2</sub>-EMISSIONS REACHED 26.8 BILLION METRIC TONS IN 2022 A RECORD HIGH



### 95% OF THE WORLD HAS MOBILE BOARDBAND ACCESS (3G OR HIGHER)

BUT COVERAGE IS ONLY 82% IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND 68% IN OCEANIA



**55%**  
of people in the least developed countries make their living from agriculture

**1%**  
is the share of the least developed countries in world trade (2021)

**36%**  
of people in the least developed countries use the Internet (66% worldwide)

**36,8%**  
billions tons of carbon dioxide were released from energy combustion and industrial processes

**13,6%**  
of all employees worldwide worked in the manufacturing industry in 2021

**13,6%**  
of all employees worldwide worked in the manufacturing industry in 2021

Sources: United Nations (2023) [\(bit.ly/unReport2023\)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/), WTO [\(bit.ly/49Odd6w\)](https://www.wto.org/), World Bank [\(bit.ly/3uOsiWF\)](https://www.worldbank.org/), ITU [\(bit.ly/3le8Ohm\)](https://www.itu.int/)





## STATUS QUO - REDUCED INEQUALITY

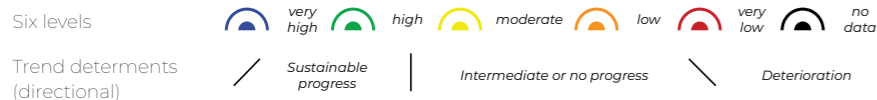
### What is the Status Quo?

The incomes of the poorest 40 per cent of the population had been growing faster than the national average in most countries. But emerging yet inconclusive evidence suggests that COVID-19 may have put a dent in this positive trend of falling within-country inequality. The pandemic has also caused the largest rise in between-country inequality in three decades. One in six people worldwide has experienced discrimination in some form, with women and people with disabilities disproportionately affected. The

year 2022 witnessed the highest number of refugees (34.6 million people) ever documented. This year is also a deadly one for migrants, with nearly 7,000 deaths recorded globally. Reducing both within- and between-country inequality requires equitable resource distribution, investing in education and skills development, implementing social protection measures, combating discrimination, supporting marginalized groups and fostering international cooperation for fair trade and financial systems.

GOALS AND TARGETS	REDUCE INEQUALITY IN GERMANY AND ABROAD				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Reduce Inequality within countries					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**Sabine Kaldonek**  
 Head of Communication at FEMNET

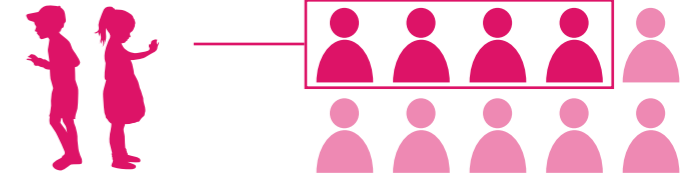
In striving for fair opportunities for all people worldwide, unequal conditions for women and children are particularly serious. Most women bear the burden of wage labour and care work, occupational health and safety is rarely adapted to women's needs, and the consequences of climate change have a particular impact on women's everyday lives. The goal of equal rights and opportunities for all can only be achieved if half of the world's population, namely women, can live and work in dignity.



## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

# REDUCE INEQUALITY IN GERMANY AND ABROAD

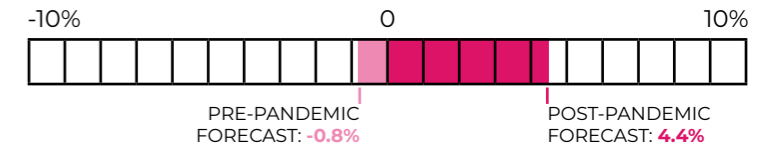
IN 2022, REFUGEE NUMBERS PEAKED AT **34.6 MILLION PEOPLE**  
**AMONG THEM: 41% CHILDREN**



NEARLY **7000 MIGRANTS DIED WHILE FLEEING IN 2022**  
**WE NEED TO ENSURE SAFE MIGRATION**



**CHANGE BETWEEN COUNTRY INEQUALITY (2019 - 2020)**



**1 OF 5** PEOPLE EXPERIENCE **DISCRIMINATION**



**DISCRIMINATION**  
 PROHIBITED UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

**12.60 US-\$**

is the average amount that migrants have to pay when transferring 200\$ to their country of origin

**76%**

of the world's wealth is owned by the richest 10%

**1 of 5**

people have experienced discrimination in their lives

**2%**

of the world's wealth is owned by the poorest half of the world's population

**71%**

of the world's population lives in countries where inequality has been rising since 1990

**100 Million**

people were on the run at the end of 2022

Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://bit.ly/unReport2022)), **UNDESA World Social Report 2020**, **UN-HCR Global Trends 2022**





## STATUS QUO - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

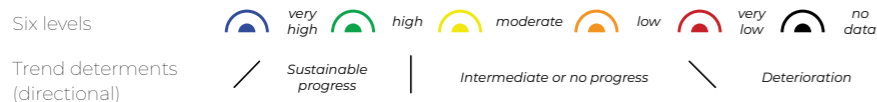
### What is the Status Quo?

The material footprint per capita in high-income countries is 10 times the level of low-income countries. The world is also seriously off track in its efforts to halve per capita food waste and losses by 2030. Global crises triggered a resurgence in fossil fuel subsidies, nearly doubling from 2020 to 2021. Reporting has increased on corporate sustainability and on public procurement policies, but has fallen when it comes to sustainable consumption and monitoring sustainable tourism.

Responsible consumption and production must be integral to recovery from the pandemic and to acceleration plans of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is crucial to implement policies that support a shift towards sustainable practices and decouple economic growth from resource use

GOALS AND TARGETS	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Reduction of population living in slums					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**Stefan Weil**  
 Chief Creative Officer and CO-Owner of Atelier MARKGRAPH

Responsibility begins on your own doorstep and in your immediate neighborhood. It is therefore essential to work locally in order to achieve and contribute to global goals. A rethink is a great opportunity, also economically. Prospering into a new understanding. A new understanding in which people remember that they are part of nature. Full of joy and energy. Ecological goals can only be achieved through technological advances. For example, in our studio we call this 'Luminous Green'. We launched the 'Green City Club' many years ago, very late in 2011 but unfortunately also much too early. With the global standard of the SDGs, there is enormous potential overall. We should all view the UN's guidance and inspiration as binding. And as rules for a new ethos. Initiatives like Making Frankfurt, which we helped launch, have the potential to be drivers of change. Again through fascination, inspiration, confidence and belief in the future. Go with the flow. Let it bloom and grow.



## MAKING CITIES AND SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE

**LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**  
 REQUIRES SPECIAL FOCUS ON  
**1 BILLION SLUM DWELLERS**



**IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA**  
 LESS THAN **1/3 OF CITY RESIDENTS** HAVE  
 ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



**THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES ALMOST DOUBLED BETWEEN 2015 AND 2021**



**THE URBAN POPULATION OF THE WORLD BREATHES POLLUTED AIR**



<p><b>1,1 Billion</b>                  people live in slums                  (2022)</p>	<p>For the <b>First Time</b>                  in human history, the majority of the world's population lives in cities</p>	<p><b>24%</b>                  of the world's population live in cities with more than a million inhabitants</p>
<p><b>2 Billion</b>                  people do not have access to regulated waste disposal</p>	<p><b>600 Million</b>                  city residents live without secure access to clean drinking water</p>	<p>Around <b>1000</b>                  cities and regions have set ambitious climate protection goals</p>

Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://unstats.un.org/Report2023)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://unstats.un.org/Report2022)), **World Bank** (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.URB.MCTY.TL.ZS?locations=IW>)





## STATUS QUO - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

### What is the Status Quo?

The material footprint per capita in high-income countries is 10 times the level of low-income countries. The world is also seriously off track in its efforts to halve per capita food waste and losses by 2030. Global crises triggered a resurgence in fossil fuel subsidies, nearly doubling from 2020 to 2021. Reporting has increased on corporate sustainability and on public procurement policies,

but has fallen when it comes to sustainable consumption and monitoring sustainable tourism. Responsible consumption and production must be integral to recovery from the pandemic and to acceleration plans of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is crucial to implement policies that support a shift towards sustainable practices and decouple economic growth from resource use.

GOALS AND TARGETS	RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Reduce domestic consumption per GDP					
Coverage of protected areas					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high high moderate low very low no data  
 Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress | Intermediate or no progress | Deterioration

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**STEFAN DIERKS**  
 Director Sustainability Transformation Melitta Group

Responsible Production is precondition of responsible consumption. Melitta Group is committed to a regenerative and circular economy, amongst others raising continuously the share of recyclates, and sustainably produced renewable materials. To foster responsible consumption, Melitta applies consumer information as well as joint social engagement, e.g., with Deutsche Stiftung Verbraucherschutz.



## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

# BUILDING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

UNSUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS ARE THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE TRIPLE BOUNDARY CRISIS



CLIMATE CHANGE



LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

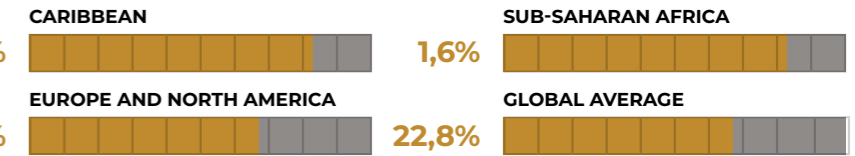


POLLUTION

MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S E-WASTE IS NOT DISPOSED SAFELY



1,2%  
46,9%



WORLDWIDE IS THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOT SUSTAINABLE



73,2 Billion Tons  
 85,9 Billion Tons  
 (Global Material Footprint)

**13%**  
of food was lost after the harvest in 2021

**732 Billion US**  
is the total subsidy of the use of coal, oil and gas in 2021

**95%**  
Recycling aluminum saves energy compared to manufacturing it

More than **12 Tons**  
of raw materials were consumed on average per capita for production and consumption worldwide

Less than **10%**  
of the resources used are part of a circular economy

**160**  
Chemicals are banned from production by the members of the textile alliance

Sources: **United Nations (2023), United Nations (2022), The World Bank(2022), Textilbündnis**





## STATUS QUO -CLIMATE ACTION

### What is the Status Quo?

With a climate cataclysm looming, the pace and scale of current climate action plans are wholly insufficient to effectively tackle climate change. Increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events are already impacting every region on Earth. Rising temperatures will escalate these hazards further, posing grave risks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasizes that deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are essential in all sectors, beginning now and continuing throughout this decade. To limit global warming to 1.5°C above

preindustrial levels, emissions must already be decreasing and need to be cut by almost half by 2030, just seven years away. Urgent and transformative action is crucial, going beyond mere plans and promises. It requires raising ambition, covering entire economies and moving towards climate-resilient development, while outlining a clear path to achieve net-zero emissions. Time is running out, and immediate measures are necessary to avoid catastrophic consequences and secure a sustainable future for generations to come

GOALS AND TARGETS	CLIMATE ACTION				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high, high, moderate, low, very low, no data  
 Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress, Intermediate or no progress, Deterioration

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION



**DARIUS SANAI**  
 Editor-in-Chief LUX Magazine

From a media perspective, there are two striking things for me about SDG13. The first is that it really underpins everything: climate change is affecting the spectrum of human life, from education and population movement to food, tourism, investment and much more. So SDG13 is the godparent of all the SDGs. The second is that almost nobody in the general public knows what it is. I would not assume any of our readers could name a single SDG, and they are largely intelligent and informed people. That's a failure on the part of media, and of individuals and organisations that influence and make media. How we change that is as much of a challenge as how we ensure SDG 13's fundamentally important aims are fulfilled.



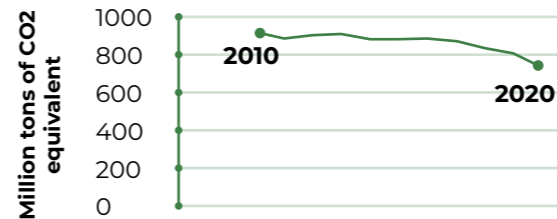
## 13 CLIMATE ACTION

# TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS



Global temperatures will rise by up to **3,2 degrees** by 2100

**2015-2020** were the warmest years on record



**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN GERMANY 2010 - 2020**  
 ALTHOUGH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FELL IN GERMANY, THE GLOBAL CONCENTRATION OF CO2 IN THE ATMOSPHERE CONTINUED TO RISE.

- Wildfires
- Floods
- Droughts



**7,64 Billion**

Euros invested by Germany in climate finance in 2020

**195 Million**

people are affected by climate-related extreme events

**0**

No G20 country is on course to achieve the Paris climate goals

**739,5 Million**

tons of CO2 emitted by Germany in 2020

**7,6%**

global greenhouse gas emissions must at least decrease by 2030

**1 Meter**

could sea level rise by 2100

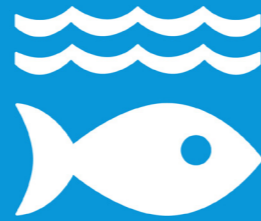
Sources: United Nations (2023), United Nations (2022), The World Bank(2022), BMZ







# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## STATUS QUO - LIFE BELOW WATER

*Achieving Sustainable Seas and Empowering Coastal Communities*

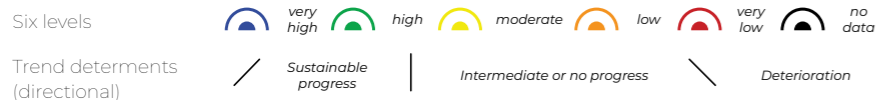
### What is the Status Quo?

The ocean is in a state of emergency as increasing eutrophication, acidification, ocean warming and plastic pollution worsen its health. Additionally, the alarming trend of overfishing persists, leading to the depletion of over one third of global fish stocks. While there has been some progress in expanding marine protected areas, combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, banning fishing subsidies and supporting small-scale fishers,

action is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet Goal 14. To counter these trends, swift and coordinated global action is imperative. This entails increasing funding for ocean science, intensifying conservation efforts, advancing nature- and ecosystem-based solutions, addressing the interconnections and impacts of human-induced pressures, and urgently turning the tide on climate change to safeguard the planet's largest ecosystem.

GOALS AND TARGETS	CONSERVE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels					
Coverage of protected areas					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



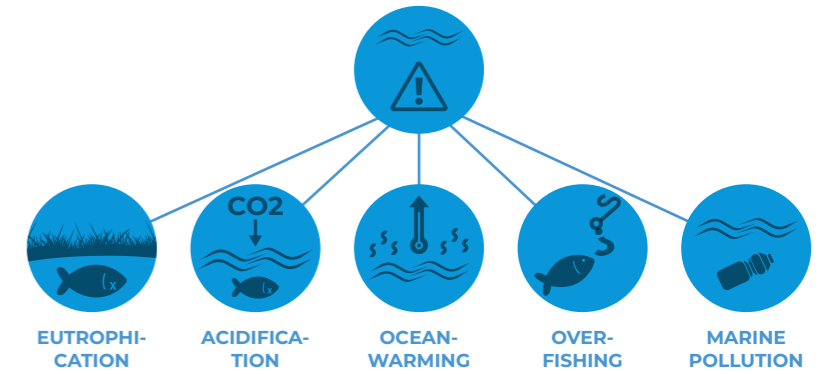
**Markus Müller**  
 Chief Investment Officer ESG at Deutsche Bank AG

Our interest in the sea seems innate. In his book, history professor John R. Gillis argues that we are “edge species”, neither land nor aquatic animals, but thriving at the interface between the two. “How” rather than “how much” is key for developing a sustainable blue economy. But with this reliance comes a responsibility: to balance humans’ ever-increasing intensity of demand with the ocean’s resources and ability to regenerate.

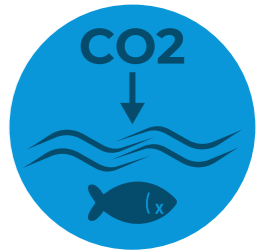


## CONSERVE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### OUR OCEANS THE LARGEST ECOSYSTEM IN THE WORLD IS THREATENED



### INCREASING ACIDIFICATION IS THREATENING MARINE LIFE AND LIMITS THE CAPACITY OF THE OCEANS



THE OCEAN ABSORBS ABOUT **1/4** OF GLOBAL ANNUAL CO2 EMISSIONS



Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://bit.ly/unReport2022))



Earlier this month I was in Juneau talking to scientists about climate change and degradation of the local marine environment. Rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification due to increases in atmospheric CO2 are reducing phytoplankton levels and threaten to cause multiple species die-offs.

This isn't just a problem for the Gulf of Alaska. Around the world the ocean is in trouble, and fixing it will take a lot of money. We can't know exactly how much, as the extent and nature of the ocean's problems are still unclear. Estimates exist, however,

Such enormous headline numbers are useful because they illustrate the size and seriousness of the problem. But I worry that they can also make us think a solution is so far out of sight as to be impossible. We mustn't fall into this thinking about the ocean - the consequences of inaction for many individual communities and the planet would be catastrophic. My experiences in Alaska reminded me that nature and the economy are ultimately inseparable: ignore the first, and we destroy the second.

We also shouldn't assume that the solution requires all-new finance. Rerouting existing resources will be key here, as we all find the best way to transition to a more sustainable economic model. I believe that the global financial system has the capability to

deliver what's needed. Let's put this in perspective: we are already funnelling very large amounts of money to meet environmental objectives in other areas. For example, UNCTAD estimates that in 2022 developing economies received US\$544bn in renewable-energy investments alone.

### So why is ocean finance struggling to deliver?

One reason is that ocean-conservation projects are varied, often run across multiple sectors and offer very different sorts of return. For example, there may be very significant long-term returns, but these may be delivered over varying time periods even within individual projects. All this can make financial returns difficult to aggregate and measure. Another factor that makes it harder to predict returns with certainty is our incomplete understanding of natural ocean processes. For example, as I learned in Juneau, the complex role of whales in the carbon cycle is only now starting to be understood.

But returns are not the only key metric we must consider. A second one is the cost of capital (which is, in part, also a proxy for risk).

” One study suggests that meeting UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Ocean use and conservation) by 2030 will require an investment of over US\$175bn each year, and the figure could well be much higher.



# The greatest challenge facing our ocean? Funding.

## #PositiveImpact

Climate change threatens our ocean and the rich biodiversity that it supports. To protect the marine environment and help it adapt to new conditions, we must work with nature and not against it. By donating to the Deutsche Bank Ocean Resilience Philanthropy Fund, you will be collaborating with expert scientists and fellow philanthropists on innovative, nature-based solutions designed to ensure a more sustainable future – for both ocean ecosystems and coastal communities.

To find out more about the initiatives selected for funding and the potential impact your donation could have, visit [deutschewealth.com/oceanfund](https://deutschewealth.com/oceanfund)

Scan this code to learn more



This content may be considered marketing material depending on the jurisdiction, and it is being circulated by Deutsche Bank AG and/or its affiliate companies. The Deutsche Bank Ocean Resilience Philanthropy Fund is administered by the Charities Aid Foundation (“CAF”), UK Registered Charity number 268369. CAF and Deutsche Bank are not affiliated. The role of Deutsche Bank AG and/or its affiliate companies is limited to promoting the Deutsche Bank Ocean Resilience Philanthropy Fund among a limited number of clients and Deutsche Bank AG and/or its affiliated companies accepts no further liability. The products, services, information and/or materials referred to within this content are not investment products, and may not be available for residents of certain jurisdictions. Fees are assessed per client based on the amount of the donation. For more information, please contact your Relationship Manager. Deutsche Bank AG is incorporated in the Federal Republic of Germany and its members' liability is limited. Deutsche Bank AG is subject to comprehensive supervision by the European Central Bank (“ECB”), by Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) and by Germany's central bank (“Deutsche Bundesbank”). Brokerage services in the United States are offered through Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., a broker-dealer and registered investment adviser, which conducts investment banking and securities activities in the United States. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. is a member of FINRA, NYSE and SIPC. Lending and banking services in the United States are offered through Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, a member of FDIC, and other members of the Deutsche Bank Group. Deutsche Bank and its affiliated companies do not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Prospective donors should seek advice from their own tax advisers and/or lawyers. © 2023 Deutsche Bank AG and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. This content may not be used, reproduced, copied or modified without the written consent of Deutsche Bank AG. 050875 022823



This is important because even if returns may stay uncertain for parts of ocean finance, we can have an impact on capital costs. This can be done in two interrelated ways: encouraging new capital markets and developing new investor partnerships.

Let's take some lessons from other sectors. The biggest one is that projects which rely only on domestic investment have a high cost of capital. Bring in other parties and this cost falls sharply. UNCTAD, again looking at renewable energy, found that bringing in international investors lowers the cost of capital by 8%. Add in multilateral development banks and the cost falls by 10%; put in international public/private partnerships too and the cost of capital can fall by more than 30%.

I don't believe that partnerships and new forms of blended finance will solve all the problems around ocean finance. But all savings on the costs of capital help, even if they aren't as big as those I've described for renewable energy. Even small savings on the costs of capital can make many new ocean finance investments viable and help us better match financial tools with environmental and economic goals.

The blue economy already accounts for around 2.5% of global gross value added - and for some individual economies it is proportionately much more important. It is already possible to identify many areas where increased finance will make a major difference to ocean conservation and thus to planetary well-being, and others will surely appear. We can't ignore ocean finance. We just need to think big and deep—like the ocean itself.



## 1.2 FROM SURFING TO ACTIVISM: A PERSONAL JOURNEY TO SAVE OUR OCEANS.

WRITTEN BY RICHARD CEDANO

I grew up surfing in Northern Peru, and ever since then have always felt a strong affiliation for the ocean: Thalassophilia, as they call it. It was during the 1983 El Niño event that I learned first hand the devastating effect just a couple of degrees of change in water temperature can have on the environment. The term El Niño was coined on the same beaches where I learned to surf and prepare ceviche, the flagship dish of Peru. The name came from local fishermen who observed how this warmer than usual marine current gets closer to shore, a phenomenon typically occurring during Christmas day.



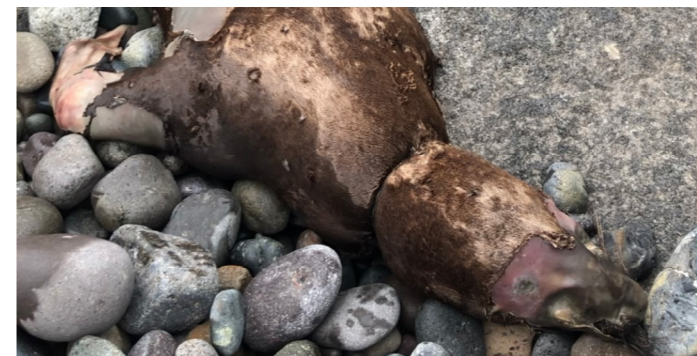
**Richard Cedano**  
Surfer and Environmental Activist in Peru

Some of the most notable consequences on the environment are heavy rains, floods, and waterborne diseases. I had the personal misfortune of losing a half sister, and almost died myself to Cholera. Now, as an adult without a formal degree, I've done my research and discovered the causes of that Niño event that shaped my life. It's how I understand the oceans are dying due to mankind's desire for perpetual growth and exploitation of finite resources. I've been a personal witness to changes in the oceans since the El Niño event. I saw how a whole generation of sea lion pups died stranded on our beaches due to malnourishment, and realized it signals the last ceviche I'll taste is likely just around the corner.

The love I have for the ocean is what motivates me to be a voice in the surfing community, advocating for the preservation of our oceans, and by extension - the planet in its entirety. I implore everyone to join forces and do more to protect the environment, it's the only way our future generations will be able to enjoy the simple pleasures brought to us by the oceans and nature as a whole.

I firmly believe that one of the best ways to facilitate change is through education and raising awareness. Art is a powerful tool when it comes to inspiring people to take an interest in making a difference, which is exactly why I decided a few years ago to write a sci-fi graphic novel with an environmental message. Since then, various people have got involved in the project with the goal of getting it published, which is why now more than ever we need financial help in order to see it through to completion.

To see more about my activism, visit my Facebook page: Surfers for Science.

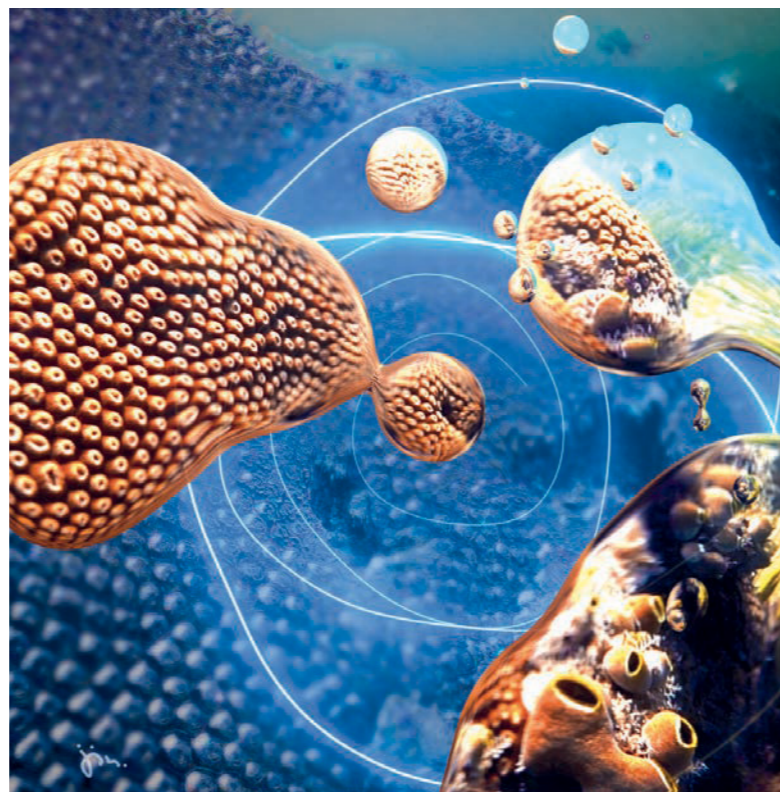
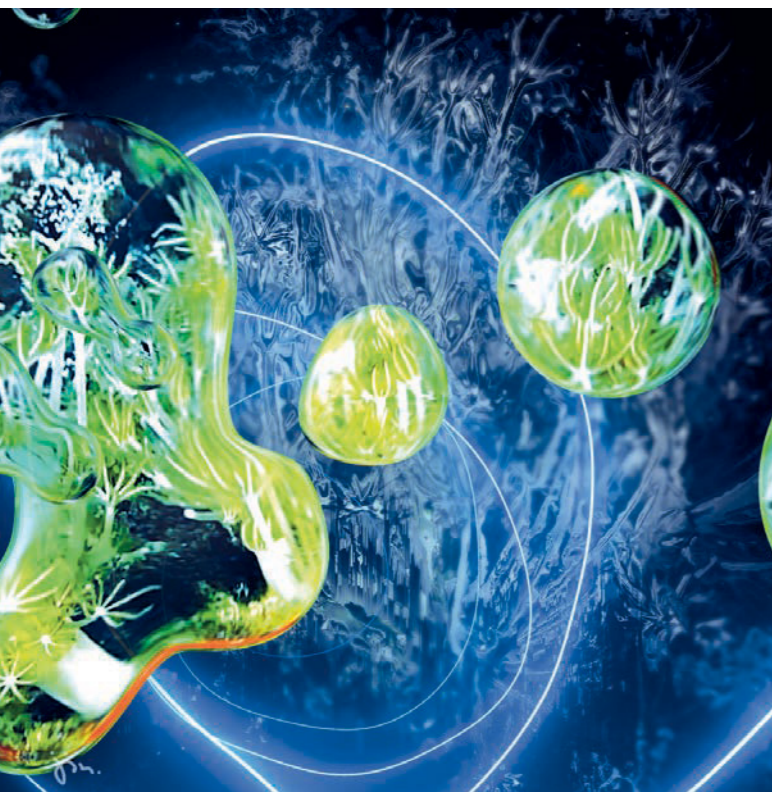


Dead Sea Lion at the coast of Lima



Richard Cedano surfing on the coast of Lima, Peru





Bei „Stepping beyond your bubble“ hat jink.one sich von Fotografien und Filmclips der Unterwasserwelt des Mafia Island Marine Park zu einzigartigen Videoinstallationen inspirieren lassen. Sie zeigen die Schönheit und Vielfalt intakter Korallenriffe, ihre Farben, ihre Lebendigkeit. Doch dazwischen blitzt der tote Meeresboden auf, grau und abgestorben. Foto: @jink.one



**EVERYDAY FUTURE – More than Hope – Help!**  
We can all make a difference – by changing consciousness – “Stepping beyond your bubble” – and by supporting valuable projects like Ropes of Hope. Under the QR code you can donate to Ropes of Hope through the art campaign of jink.one:

# ROPES OF HOPE

A (digital) glimmer of hope for the sea and humanity

This story tells how a coral project on Tanzania’s coast using local fishing communities, environmental DNA and artificial intelligence is saving marine biodiversity - and how the Bookbridge Initiative is supporting this project with innovative methods and NFTs.

**By Christoph Santner (Translated from German)**

If corals had a voice, they would scream loudly! Because they are increasingly suffering from life-threatening stress: dramatic warming of the oceans, pollution of the seas and brutal fishing methods are their existential threat. The science magazine One Earth recently published a study showing that more than half of the Earth’s coral reefs have disappeared since the 1950s. And although coral reefs only make up 0.2 percent of the ocean area, they are home to at least 25 percent of all marine animals, according to the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) International Coral Reef Initiative. If the coral reefs die, the symbiotic connections with algae, fish, crabs, sponges and various other creatures will also be destroyed once and for all. Valuable biodiversity, which provides people on the coasts with food and often a livelihood through tourism, is being lost. And the process is accelerating. Coral bleaching is spreading worldwide and only the skeletons of these marine animals remain.

### Hope hangs by a thread

But there are flagship projects that bring hope and inspire, such as ‘The Ropes of Hope,’ an ambitious program along the East African coast spearheaded by a motivated team led by molecular biologist

Dr. Jean de Villiers and his wife, Dr. Anne de Villiers. Their motto is visionary thinking - acting locally. Anne, who studied tropical agriculture and has been involved in African sustainability projects for decades, and her husband Jean, are committed to serving people, corals, the ocean, and biodiversity. Thirty years ago, they settled on the small East African island of Chole, nestled in the heart of the Tanzanian Mafia Island Marine Park (which has nothing to do with organized crime, of course). There, they launched a development initiative that includes an award-winning eco-tourism project featuring enchanting treehouses. The aim has always been to synergize ecology, education, and create new job opportunities. Their efforts were crowned with numerous successes, but then came Covid, causing a complete collapse of tourism. The government, concerned about the thousands of employees suddenly unemployed in the country’s beachfront hotels, lifted the maritime protection zones and allowed unrestricted fishing. Soon, ships with trawl nets appeared, resulting in devastating consequences for endangered fish species and, especially, the coral reefs, which were significantly decimated in a short period. Anne and Jean could not stand idly by.



## Corals grow on thick ropes

Jean learned about establishing coral gardens on ropes in the seawater through a pioneering project called Nature Seychelles. Corals reproduce when replanted on ropes at the right depth, allowing them the proper level of sunlight and considering ocean movements due to tides. Moreover, specific cleaner fish, in a symbiotic relationship, are necessary nearby to rid the corals of parasites and dead tissue.

To expedite coral cultivation, 'The Ropes of Hope' has trained numerous local underwater gardeners. They are constructing an expanding network of coral ropes, propagating various coral species to maintain genetic diversity. So far, over 15,000 corals have flourished. Additionally, more jobs have been created: women on the island produce ropes from coconut fibers, earning income through the initiative. Supporting the project, young marine biologists are always on-site, conducting their research. For instance, molecular biologist Nicole Schröter from the University of Oldenburg's oceanographic institute collaborates with Jean de Villiers, a partnership spanning years. Originally from South Africa, Jean studied not only in Cape Town but also in the USA and at the TU Berlin before completing his dissertation at the prestigious ETH Zurich. He continues to engage in scientific exchange with these institutions. "Understanding the complete functioning of an entire coral reef ecosystem is still largely unknown," acknowledges Jean de Villiers. A coral reef harbors more biodiversity than any other ecosystem, even surpassing rainforests. Therefore, de Villiers finds it puzzling that the budget allocated to NASA in the United States is more than a hundred times

that of the NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We send rockets to Mars, yet we have no idea what else lies hidden in the depths of the oceans!" he exclaims.

### The Intelligence of Nature

The current imperative for dedicated scientists is to explore and comprehend what's known as Environmental DNA (eDNA). Regularly, water samples are sent to London to be analyzed by Nature Metrics. This analytical institute has set an ambitious goal: "Access nature's intelligence." They examine the incredible abundance of genetic material floating within these samples. On one hand, they find the eDNA of long-extinct marine animals. On the other hand, there are "cryptic species," currently existing but not yet discovered because they hide in the caves of coral reefs or bury themselves in the sand. Artificial intelligence analyzes and sequences the massive volumes of eDNA, tagging them with barcodes to enable comparisons. Through the analysis of regularly submitted samples, "The Ropes of Hope" observes changes in biodiversity. Moreover, de Villiers is currently exploring another application of AI: akin to detailed photos of the Earth taken from satellites, underwater robots can now capture and assemble thousands of individual images of live coral reefs, creating precise photographic 3D maps through a method called photogrammetry. If done regularly, KI-based comparisons can precisely determine where, how, and when damages occur. The quicker the diagnosis, the faster the healing process. Nicole Schröter also affirms this, as she knows from experience "how heart-wrenching it is to witness the destruction of coral reefs due to trawling nets on one hand and global warming on the other." Countering this with



*Coconut fiber ropes, dedicated conservationists, divers, blockchain, and AI are working together to rebuild destroyed coral reefs. This has positive effects on the living conditions of the locals and promotes biodiversity in the sea. Foto: © Ropes of Hope*

scientifically backed coral reforestation is seen as a significant task by the molecular biologist.

### Thinking globally, acting locally

However, as Jean and Anne de Villiers know from years of experience, all their projects can only succeed when closely linked to local communities. Therefore, "The Ropes of Hope" has founded the "Coral Conservation Club." Starting from secondary education, children on the islands now follow a specialized curriculum that aims to empower them to become conservationists or even pursue marine biology, with scholarships for the most promising students. "Thus, the Coral Conservation Club becomes the headquarters for coral conservation advocacy," de Villiers smiles. Because the children not only learn the necessary theory and English, as their native language is Swahili, but also practical skills like swimming (which most cannot do), snorkeling, collecting water samples, and more. The hope is that a new generation will emerge, knowledgeable about the significance of coral reefs and thus committed to protecting them. The eldest on the islands still remember a time when the coral reefs were healthier, more

colorful, and more diverse. To ensure their knowledge is not lost, they are now being interviewed by 'The Ropes of Hope' and involved as storytellers for the children.

### Next Level Storytelling

Bestselling author and filmmaker Monika Czernin researched for her new book "Gebrauchsanweisung für Tansania" in Chole in 2020. She witnessed how existential the Corona crisis was for many people, but also how much help and solidarity this situation unleashed among the people in Tanzania. She witnessed the first steps of "The Ropes of Hope," Jean and Anne de Villiers' response to the crisis, aimed at halting the distress and coral degradation. Czernin has known Chole and the projects of Jean and Anne de Villiers for many years, witnessing how sustainably - both ecologically and socially - the couple advances development on the islands and how well they integrate with the communities. Hence, she moved beyond the role of an observer, realizing that this project requires more publicity and financial support to succeed. Just as "The Ropes of Hope" charted new paths, Czernin did the same: together with Melissa Müller, a successful author, she initiated the author

**“Biodiversity is the ultimate wealth we have available on our planet. Biodiversity is the universal currency of the future!”**

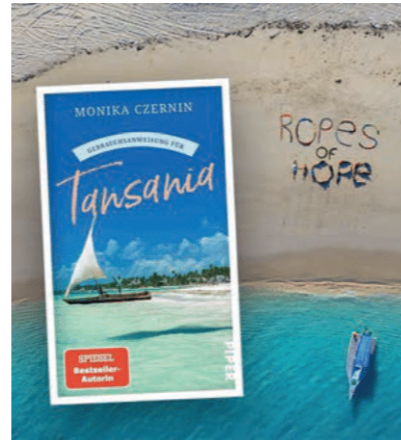
*Jean de Villiers*

and artist collective, bookbridge, to merge books with the new digital capabilities of Web3 and blockchain technology. “In the analog world, we like to build bridges between traditional readers and crypto-natives, reminding them how much they have in common. In the digital web3 context, a bridge is a protocol that connects blockchain systems, allowing users from one system to send assets and information to another,” explains Czernin enthusiastically about her project. She adds, “It’s about getting closer to each other and communicating!” Currently, the Tanzania book and the story of “The Ropes of Hope” are being made accessible to a young reader community through bookbridge. The project is listed on Creatokia, the first platform for “Next Level Storytelling” in Germany. This platform offers artists, musicians, authors, and publishers opportunities through Web3 to enhance interaction with their fans, create new forms of dynamic and interactive digital products, and attractive options for marketing their artworks.

**Digital Unique Pieces as Collectibles and Sponsorship**

With the stunning digital collectibles by the artist jink.one, anyone can now support “The Ropes of Hope” through Creatokia and simultaneously receive a digital artwork.

Instructions for use for Tanzania  
Monika Czernin  
224 pages, flex cover with flaps  
€ 16.00 [D], € 16.50 [A]  
Foto: © Monika Czernin



Each of these pieces is created from underwater photos and films of the Mafia Island Marine Park. They are impressive series of digital images and video sequences that artistically reinterpret the mystical array of colors and the underwater world of the reef. The digital collectibles can also be rented and traded as Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) on the Ethereum Blockchain. This allows coral enthusiasts to continue admiring and acquiring the digital artworks on Creatokia, contributing tangibly to the rescue of the reefs. The aim is to restore and make the beauty of this underwater world experiential for future generations. “Biodiversity is the ultimate wealth we have available on our planet. Biodiversity is the universal currency of the future,” Jean de Villiers believes wholeheartedly.

[theropesofhope.com](http://theropesofhope.com), [bookbridge.xyz](http://bookbridge.xyz)  
[www.creatokia.com/en/page/bookbridge/tansaniadigital](http://www.creatokia.com/en/page/bookbridge/tansaniadigital)

**CHRISTOPH SANTNER**

*is a long-time author, speaker and consultant on innovation topics. Since 2009, he has been writing for forum Nachhaltige Wirtschaften, among other things on digitalization and artificial intelligence in sustainability.*

INGLOSUS SDG YEARBOOK





## STATUS QUO - LIFE ON LAND

### What is the Status Quo?

Terrestrial ecosystems are vital for sustaining human life, contributing to over half of global GDP and encompassing diverse cultural, spiritual, and economic values. However, the world faces a triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Escalating trends of forest loss, land degradation and the extinction of species pose a severe threat to both the planet and people. Despite some progress in sustainable forest management, protected areas, and the uptake of national biodiversity values and natural capital accounting, most

improvements have been modest. The recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provides renewed impetus for Goal 15, outlining four outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050 and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. To fulfil Goal 15, a fundamental shift in humanity's relationship with nature is essential, along with accelerated action to address the root causes of these interconnected crises and better recognition of the tremendous value of nature.

GOALS AND TARGETS	PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEMS				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Conservation of ecosystems					
Protection of extinct species					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high high moderate low very low no data  
 Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress | Intermediate or no progress | Deterioration

## 15 LIFE ON LAND



**Yvonne Zwick**  
 Chairwoman, B.A.U.M. e.V. – German Network for Sustainable Business

Nearly 100 million net hectares of forest have been lost in the last two decades, and the global risk of species extinction has increased with each decade since 1993. If SDG 15 is not achieved, about 80 percent of all other SDGs will also be at risk, for example food security, clean water or combating climate change. Without preserving tropical forests, the 1.5-degree target cannot be achieved. We need a fundamental shift in the economy toward a regenerative economy – for our common future!



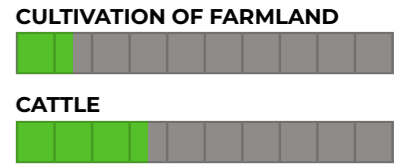
## PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEMS

10 MILLION

HECTARES OF FOREST ARE LOGGED OFF EVERY YEAR



ALMOST 90% OF GLOBAL DEFORESTATION IS DUE TO AGRICULTURE



THE WORLD IS FACING THE LARGEST SPECIES EXTINCTION SINCE THE DINOSAUR AGE



PROTECTED AREA COVERAGE OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS HAS STALLED SINCE 2015



**75%**

of the most biodiverse areas are in developing and emerging countries

For **1/3**

of humans, forests are an important basis of existence

**16%**

of the world's land areas are protected

**1 Million**

out of 8 million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction

**Growth**

The forest areas in Asia, Europe and North America are increasing

**75%**

of terrestrial ecosystems have been altered by humans



The recently released Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control reveals a staggering statistic – **more than 37,000 alien species have been introduced to different regions and biomes worldwide due to various human activities.** These species, which do not naturally belong to these areas, have been transplanted and, in many cases, have thrived, often outcompeting native species. This silent invasion not only disrupts ecosystems but also carries a hefty economic burden, further emphasizing the urgency of addressing this global crisis.

### Economic Impact

While the ecological implications are concerning, the economic consequences are equally alarming. The global cost of invasive alien species surpassed a staggering **\$423 billion annually** in 2019. To put this in perspective, these costs have **quadrupled every decade since 1970**, signifying an accelerating crisis.

### Drivers of Biodiversity Loss

Invasive alien species have earned their place among the top five major drivers of biodiversity loss alongside land and sea-use changes, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, and pollution. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, recently adopted by the international community, specifically highlights the need to “eliminate, minimize, reduce, and/or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services.” This underscores the growing recognition of the issue’s gravity on a global scale.

### Understanding the Invasive Alien Species Assessment

The IPBES Invasive Alien Species

Assessment is a critical step in addressing this global threat. It is designed to provide decision-makers with a comprehensive understanding of the current state of invasive alien species, their impacts, drivers, management, and policy options to effectively combat the challenges they pose. Approved by representatives of 143 member states of IPBES in Bonn, Germany, this report is a testament to the international community’s commitment to addressing this issue. As the world grapples with environmental challenges, this assessment offers a roadmap for policymakers to tackle this pressing issue on a global scale.

### Key Findings of the Assessment

The Invasive Alien Species Assessment is a evaluation, focusing on several crucial aspects:

- The report examines the wide range of invasive alien species that affect biodiversity and ecosystem services across the globe.
- It delves into the impacts of these species on various categories of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including agrobiodiversity, food security, human health, and livelihoods.
- The assessment identifies the major pathways and drivers behind the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, both between and within countries.
- It highlights the global status of and trends in the impacts of invasive alien species, taking into account various knowledge and value systems.
- The report assesses the effectiveness of current international, national, and subnational control measures and provides policy options for preventing, eradicating, and managing invasive alien species.

The threat posed by invasive alien species is an often overlooked and underestimated global crisis and it is crucial that the call to action in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is laid out. As the world grapples with environmental challenges, addressing the issue of invasive alien species is not only a matter of conservation but a necessity for the well-being of our planet and future generations. The Invasive Alien Species Report offers a roadmap for policymakers to tackle this pressing issue and emphasizes the need for collaborative international efforts to combat this silent invasion before it’s too late.







## 1.1 WORLD BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL: INVASIVE SPECIES CAUSE AN ANNUAL ECONOMIC LOSS OF 423\$ USD.

The recently released Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control reveals a staggering statistic – **more than 37,000 alien species have been introduced to different regions and biomes worldwide due to various human activities.** These species, which do not naturally belong to these areas, have been transplanted and, in many cases, have thrived, often outcompeting native species. This silent invasion not only disrupts ecosystems but also carries a hefty economic burden, further emphasizing the urgency of addressing this global crisis.

### Economic Impact

While the ecological implications are concerning, the economic consequences are equally alarming. The global cost of invasive alien species surpassed a staggering **\$423 billion annually** in 2019. To put this in perspective, these costs have **quadrupled every decade since 1970**, signifying an accelerating crisis.





**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

## STATUS QUO - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

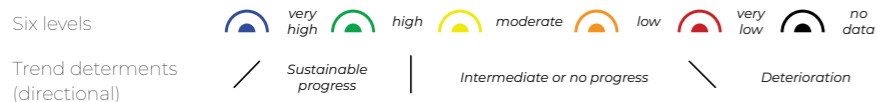
### What is the Status Quo?

Ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world are derailing the global path to peace and achievement of Goal 16. Alarming, the year 2022 witnessed a more than 50 per cent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths, largely due to the war in Ukraine. As of the end of 2022, 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide – an increase of 19 million compared with the end of 2021 and two and a half times the number

of a decade ago. In 2021, the world experienced the highest number of intentional homicides in the past two decades. Structural injustices, inequalities and emerging human rights challenges are putting peaceful and inclusive societies further out of reach. To meet Goal 16 by 2030, action is needed to restore trust and to strengthen the capacity of institutions to secure justice for all and facilitate peaceful transitions to sustainable development.

GOALS AND TARGETS	PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Proportion of unsentenced detainees					
Proportion of human right institutions					

Source: **United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022**  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>



**”**

**Martino Miraglia**  
 Human Settlement Officer at UN-Habitat, Nairobi

Goal 16 is the “enabling goal”, the backbone of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Nevertheless, ongoing and emerging crises and conflicts are jeopardizing global efforts to rebuild the social contract and promote peace. The devastating consequences of war and human rights violations have displaced a staggering 110 million people. In this equation, the role of local and regional governments and of local communities is central as it is at the local level where the impacts of crises are mostly felt, but also where solutions and innovation emerge. Achieving Goal 16 means adopting bottom-up approaches to governance and sustainable development anchored on coordination, dialogue and trust across levels and sectors. We need to jointly work to build the human, technical, and financial capacities of our local administrations, and to make sure that SDG localization is at the center of national political agendas.



## PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### PLEAS FOR GLOBAL PEACE GET LOUDER



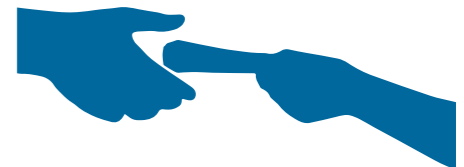
**1/3** OF THE WORLD POPULATION MOSTLY WOMEN AFRAID TO MOVE ALONE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD AT NIGHT



A RECORD NUMBER OF **100 MILLION PEOPLE** WERE EXPELLED WORLDWIDE



**CORRUPTION IS IN EVERY REGION** ALMOST **1/6** COMPANIES RECEIVE BRIBERY REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



<p><b>31%</b> of all prisoners worldwide are being held without conviction</p>	<p><b>2/3</b> of the world's population do not have full access to their fundamental rights</p>	<p><b>44%</b> of all countries, in that there were mass prodemocracy protests in 2019</p>
<p><b>68%</b> of the world's population live in autocratically governed countries</p>	<p><b>2,16 Bill. US\$</b> are lost every year through corruption and bribery</p>	<p><b>100 Mrd. US\$</b> are lost every year through corruption and bribery</p>

Sources: **United Nations (2023)** ([bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023)), **United Nations (2022)** ([bit.ly/unReport2022](https://bit.ly/unReport2022))





# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## STATUS QUO - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

### What is the Status Quo?

Developing countries are grappling with an unprecedented rise in external debt levels following the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by challenges such as record inflation, escalating interest rates, competing priorities and constrained fiscal capacity, underscoring the urgent need for debt relief and financial assistance. While official development assistance (ODA) flows continue to reach record peaks, the increase in 2022 is primarily attributed to spending on refugees in donor countries and aid to Ukraine. Despite a 65

per cent improvement in Internet access since 2015, progress in bridging the digital divide has slowed down post-pandemic. Sustained efforts are required to ensure equitable access to the Internet for all. Geopolitical tensions and the resurgence of nationalism hinder international cooperation and coordination, highlighting the importance of a collective surge in action to provide developing countries with the necessary financing and technologies to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

GOALS AND TARGETS	REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Region	World	Sub-Sahara	Eastern Asia	Latin America	Western World
Access to technology					
Countries with a national statistical plan					

Source: United Nations (2022): Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/progress-chart/>

Six levels: very high, high, moderate, low, very low, no data  
Trend determinants (directional): Sustainable progress, Intermediate or no progress, Deterioration



**Prof. Dr. Sven Simon**  
Member of the European Parliament

Europe needs to form strong partnerships with likeminded countries around the world to achieve shared growth and prosperity. Trade agreements are a key to ensure opportunities and stability in ever more uncertain world. We need a paradigm shift in our development policies towards a stronger emphasis on mutual trade, infrastructure development and institution building.

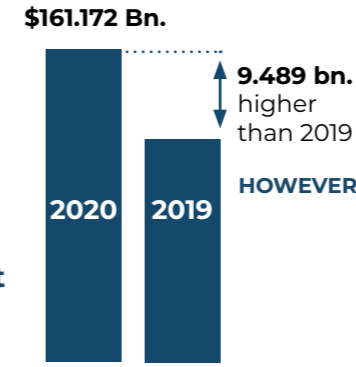


# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### NET ODA\*

(\*Official Development Assistance)

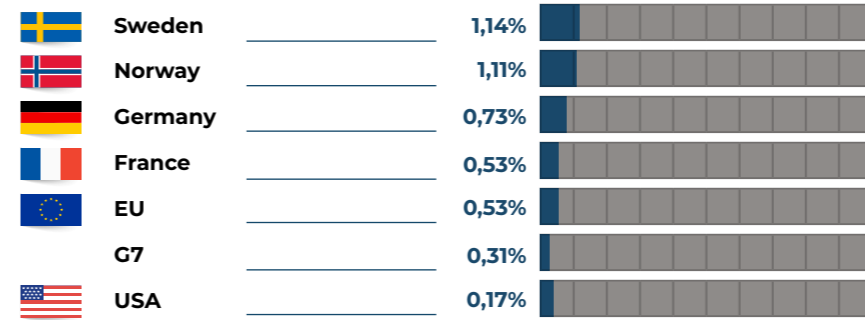


### ODA\* as a percent of GDP



AS A PERCENT OF GDP, ODA\* **DROPPED**

### ODA\* share of GDP 2020 (selection)



### ODA\*-Absolut in billion in 2020



**161 Billion**  
US \$ was the amount of official development cooperation (ODA)

**195 Million**  
people are affected by climate-related extreme events

**0**  
no G20 country is on course to achieve the Paris climate goals

**-7%**  
Reduction in remittances from emigrants to their families in developing countries

**0.3%**  
of GNI that OECD countries invest in development cooperation. Target is 0.7%

**1 Meter**  
could the sea level rise by 2100

Sources: United Nations (2023) [bit.ly/unReport2023](https://bit.ly/unReport2023), United Nations (2022) [bit.ly/unReport2022](https://bit.ly/unReport2022)

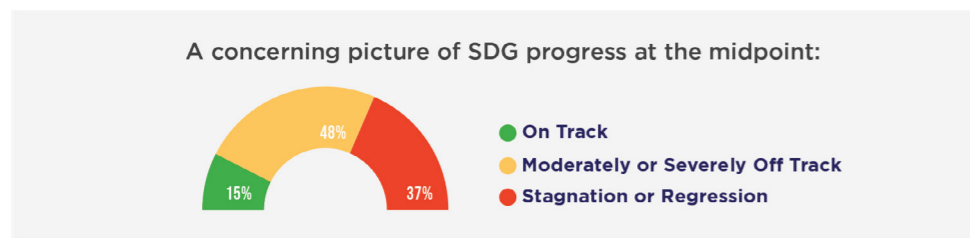


In 2015, 193 world leaders came together to chart a game plan that would transform our world. They envisioned a future where poverty would be eradicated, inequalities reduced, and climate change tackled head-on by 2030—the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born.

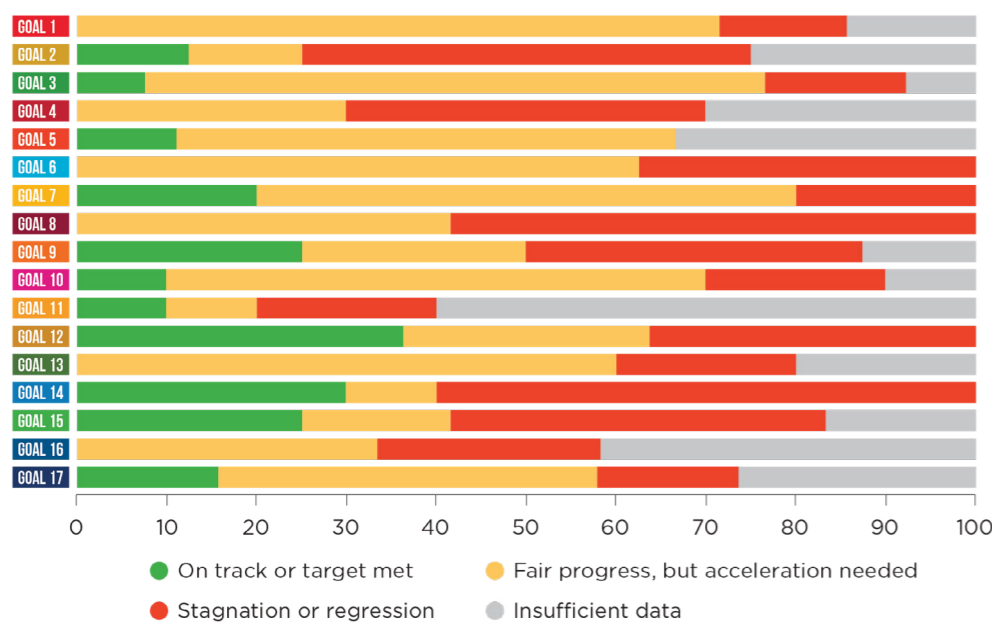
Today, we find ourselves at the halfway mark of this ambitious journey, but we are down at midpoint with only 12% of the goals on track. The challenges we face have been compounded by a triple threat—COVID-19, conflicts, and the climate crisis—that has pushed us backward, undoing years of hardearned development progress. However, amidst the setbacks, hope still flickers, for we know that any match can be won in the second half.

As we navigate this crucial juncture, we must emulate the spirit of the greatest teams. We need to unite, take action, and march forward together. Solutions to these challenges exist, and it is now that we must regroup, re-energize, and recommit ourselves to the cause. Let us envision a future where we triumph over adversity and create a world where every individual thrives.

The road ahead may be tough, but history has taught us that collective determination can achieve the impossible. It's time to come together, believe in our capabilities, and imagine winning. Together, we can make the second half of our journey towards the SDGs a resounding success and forge a brighter future for all. Let's rewrite the script and build a world where no one is left behind. The time for action is now.



Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



**Source:** United Nations (2023): Progress Reportt. <file:///C:/Users/teobr/OneDrive/Desktop/Yearbook%202024/Progress-Chart-2023.pdf>



**Diary Cop 28 Darius Maleki**  
Vice Chairman, INGLOSUS Foundation  
Frankfurt am Main, 10 December 2023

**COP28 – a Sustainable Financial Model or a Dream Bubble? A short story from a Foundation's perspective**

The aspect of Sustainability for the Future. Net Zero. Transformation Efforts. Emission Reductions. Inflation. Rising temperatures. Energy Prices. War & Unrest. Big Financing Gaps. Opportunity.

The list of key words travelling through my mind while entering the UN Blue Zone of COP28 at Dubai Expo City was endless, given the endless list of topics being covered during the 2 weeks of COP28.

However, maybe it makes sense to start from the beginning.

Right after leaving the plane at Dubai Airport from Frankfurt, I was stunned to see the intense advertisement within the Airport already, with dedicated entry points for COP28 delegates, as well as information counters in every corner. My excitement arrived right while stepping out into the arrival hall of Dubai Airport, where I immediately met familiar faces from other financial institutions, making their way to the conference.

I arrived on the sight of Expo City on 2 December in the morning. Right at the entrance of the Blue Zone I was overwhelmed by the internationality of the crowd, all in line for picking up the UN badges. Whether from Ghana, Australia, USA, China, Japan or from any other country of the world, wherever I looked at I saw a new origin, which underlined the importance and pull-effects of the COP28. For the first time I was really confirmed, that the global Sustainability Community grows at an unprecedented speed with great impact, as being showcased on all the COP28 Broadcasting systems

The first official event I visited was the DZ BANK / UNECE Conference which took



place in the Action Room in the Blue Zone. As representative of a foundation building the first german "SDG CITY", meaning my home town Frankfurt, I was equally proud to be surrounded by familiar Frankfurtian and international faces, allowing me to represent our project with great motivation. The overall topic of the session covered the aspect of Transition Finance, to drive forces to turn Ambitions into Action, represented together with UNECE, DZ BANK, UN CLIMATE CHANGE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS, the European Commission as well as the Regional Platform for Climate Projects. As son and grandson of a line of Bankers, I am well-aware of the importance of activating the financial sector to realize goals, whatever these goals might be. However, the narrative has changed dramatically with the rise of capital needs for Sustainable Transformation – since everyone waits for the banking sector to step in to close these gaps. We started with a keynote by Dario Liguti, Director Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE and Souad Benkredda, member of the Managing Board of DZ BANK. Closing with a summary by Tatiana Molcean, United Nations Under-Secretary General, some key messages shocked and surprised me:



At the moment we are on a 2 degree path, loads of scientific scenarios are missing to align the transition plans, which means that financial institutions need to understand sector-specific pathways. At this stage, financial institutions lack behind in understanding not only sector-specific needs, it already lacks behind in clearly identifying these sectors. Of course I thought that Banks in Germany know how to scale KYC-processes (Know-Your-Customers) that this would be an easy game for them. The reality looks very different. Furthermore, the overall understanding is there, but specialized. Disclosure mechanisms, API connectivity or anything else: The financial institutions, especially the fund managers, need to see the commercial value of their undertakings to be able to scale. Otherwise, expectation management needs to be re-evaluated. A shock for a Foundation, not a shock for a typical finance-guy like me.

I approached a director of UNECE about how we can scale then the technical know-how for the private sector? I mean, honestly speaking it is very heroic for the government to be ahead of the game, but if they cannot scale a tag-along of the private sector, it will result in a massive “drag-along”, which will only increase investor´s and fund managers´ eagerness to not follow net-zero activities. There needs to be a signalling of clear incentives for scaling private sector funding for transition funds.

His answer? Well, after a bit blurry narratives and reasons not to answer my questions, because honestly speaking, they do not really know either. However, it gives Foundations like us a clear signal, that there is a technical knowledge gap fillable as a charitable, non-partisan institutions. It gave me the clear signal, that there is a method to “tag-along”, which opens interesting new opportunities.

My overall thinking as “small human” alongside these big and important government officials was not so far off reality, which gave me a sense of hope for our business operations to remain relevant and up-to-date, or even further than their own knowledge. Big kudos to my team and Jon-Matteo Brüggerwerth, the



mastermind behind our SDG initiatives.

It is like a simple mathematical exercise, which cannot be amended: Public and Private Partnerships for Sustainability have to come with a sort of risk appetite to signal clear commercial incentives for positive upscale. Meaning, Sustainability cannot be a charity, it has to be a business case for the large corporations to step in. This narratives accompanied me through my entire COP28 journey, whether in Energy, Climate Finance, Technology or other sectors: No investment if no commercial value.

On one hand, it scares businesses and the ones exposed to climate risk on equal levels, however, everyone speaks about the “collective effort” for a sustainable future. Nonsense, if you ask me after the COP28. Wars, Unrest, Covid and other crises still dampen the business world and now everyone wants to go sustainable? If the foundation of a house is weak, would you invest in a new roof?

This is a questions that still needs to be discussed, which will also hinder – or increase – transformation efforts for the future. However, COP28 gave me a clear picture of where we stand at the moment, especially country-wise.

The interconnectivity of the buildings and areas of COP28 was – excuse my language – insane. Never I have been at a place before, where every visitor´s wish was fulfilled. From food Booths to bikes and shuttles everywhere, we could easily escape the heat for a few moments while travelling from building to building. For the first three days I visited endless Country Pavilions (the list is so long, but I was especially surprised to see great presence from Ghana, Vietnam, Irak and Japan compared to other “big nations”) in both the green and blue zone and came back with plenty food for though to prepare our lighthouse events “FRANKFURT SDG NIGHT DAVOS” at the World Economic Forum and the “DIGISUSTAIN 2024” In April ([www.digisustain.de](http://www.digisustain.de)). I am sitting right now in my office in Frankfurt, with an overwhelming reminiscence, brining all the contacts, ideas and visions in order, to plan our next steps. The topic sustainability will be around for many years – decades – so we need to prepare ourselves for the coming times, to stay economically and socially viable and to act as a role-model for future generations to come. Maybe we should re-evaluate the term “Sustainable Transformation” to “Sustainable and Generational Transformation”, so we can reconvene in one “Dream Bubble” all together, to bring ambitions to life. Scalability is key. Understanding is key. The Exchange is key.

If we understand the key mechanisms, we might have a chance. Let´s see. For now I will work my way through all the business cards, emails and presentations gathered during my 6 days at COP28. It will be an all-nighter, probably.

**THE END**





**INGLOSUS**  
**SDG** YEARBOOK

Published by

