



IMPACT



SDG 1

Core Objective: Providing poor people with equal rights to economic resources, basic services, and property; building the resilience of vulnerable populations; creating pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks to help eradicate poverty.

SDG overview: SDG 1 aims to eradicate poverty in all forms by 2030. It consists of 7 targets, with each target focusing on a specific problem, such as unequal distribution of economic resources, vulnerability of the poor to climate-related and economic shocks

Significance: Living in poverty affects every facet of life, be it health, education, nutrition, etc, hence progressing in any other SDG will be much harder if people remain in poverty. On the other hand, eradicating poverty will bridge the existing economic inequalities between people and nations.

Primary Targets:

1.4 Ensure equal rights to economic resources, basic services, property, and financial services.

1.5 Build resilience of vulnerable populations against climate-related and economic shocks.

1.b Create pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks.

Root Causes:

- **Discrimination and Social Divide:** Communities such as women, rural populations, marginalised groups, etc. often lack equal access to opportunities and resources, creating a division.
- **Illiteracy:** Due to a lack of quality education and skills, many people are unable to secure well-paying jobs.
- **Unemployment:** Without a regular and stable source of income, many are unable to afford basic necessities such as housing, food, healthcare and water.
- **Climate Change and Disasters:** Increased calamities like tsunamis, floods, droughts, storms destroy homes, crops and millions of jobs, pushing more people into poverty.

Challenges:

- **Low Wages:** Thousands work full-time jobs but are still unable to earn enough to afford basic necessities.
- **High Cost of Living:** Prices of commodities such as healthcare, food and fuel continue to rise due to inflation, while income can barely keep up.
- **Economic Divide:** Due to systematic and structural flaws, those with wealth have better access to resources and opportunities. This leads to 'the rich getting richer and poor getting poorer'.

Correlation with other SDGs:

From a broader scope, SDG 1 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice-versa. Hence, eradicating poverty will not only help achieve sdg 1 but also other SDGs as well. Here is an example of how a SDG can be related to another

SDG 4- Quality Education: Families who live in poverty lack the money and resources to fund their children's education. Hence, their education is undermined. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 4 and SDG 1 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 4 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 1 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path for linking SDGs with one another

Existing initiatives :

The ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012:

It is one of the most significant policies to reduce poverty and increase social security for all. The policy guarantees basic income security for old age people through pensions and support. The Social Protection Floors Recommendation complements the existing Conventions and Recommendations. Mainly, it helps the member states cover the unprotected, poor and the most vulnerable, that also include workers in the informal economy and their families. Hence, it aims to ensure that each person gets to enjoy and sense a basic level of social security.

International Fund for Agricultural Development rural poverty programs:

The International Fund for Agricultural Development's main aim is to end poverty and hunger through investment in rural people. This is done through programmes and projects that mirror the major objectives of their Strategic Framework 2016-2025. The main focus of the programs is on rural women, youth, indigenous communities and smallholder farmers. All of this is achieved through financing programmes, measuring results, innovating and working with rural people themselves.

Case Studies:

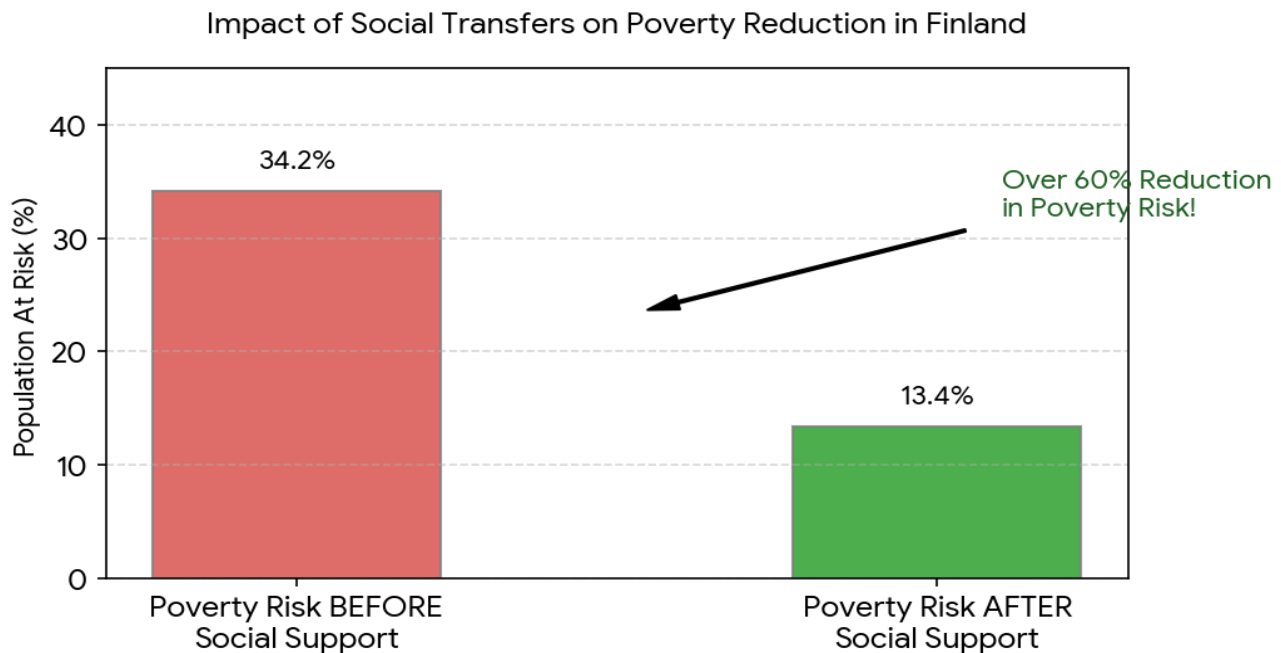
Finland: Success of SDG 1

Finland is considered to be a leading example of the success of SDG 1, having one of the lowest poverty rates globally, homelessness reduction and a welfare system, with accessible healthcare, free quality education, universal social protection and employment support programs.

Key Policies of Finland:

1. Housing First Programme, 2008: Unlike programmes worldwide, where individuals are required to find employment to complete treatment before receiving housing, Finland provides permanent housing immediately and then offers support services. Housing is treated as a basic right.

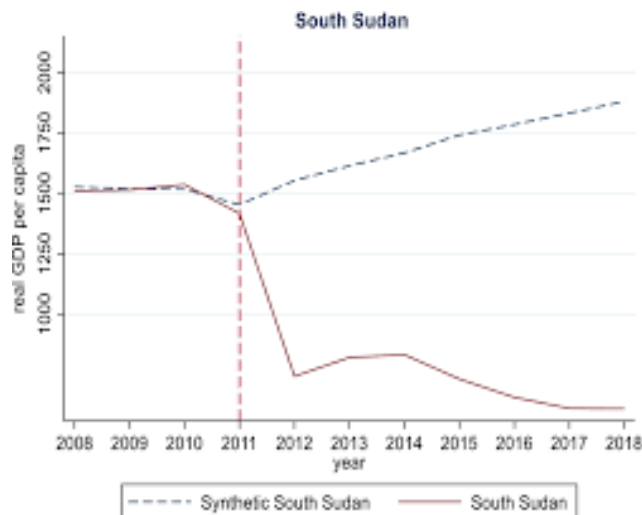
2. Universal Social Protection System: Covers unemployment benefits, child and housing allowances, disability support pensions and income assistance, creating one of the most comprehensive welfare systems.
3. Active Labour Market Policy: Through this, the government heavily invests in vocational training, skill development, job-search and training programmes.



This graph shows what the poverty risk could have been without state intervention and what it actually is due to state help.

Case Study :

In late January 2012, South Sudan's government made an unprecedented decision to shut down oil production throughout the country. A bitter transit fee and export dispute with Sudan, after Khartoum began seizing southern oil to compensate for unpaid pipeline and port fees, had prompted this grave measure. Oil provides more than 98% of the government's revenue, and its shutdown caused a major economic crisis. This was followed by salary delays, collapsing government revenues, deteriorating public services, and sharply rising prices. After this, the extreme party has only worsened, with 82% to 90% of the population living on less than 2.15 dollars a day. Due to the prolonged civil war, pipeline ruptures and hyperinflation, these economic collapses in South Sudan are causing catastrophic, nationwide food shortages.



The graph shows the estimated GDP of South Sudan in contrast to reality. The blue line, indicating Synthetic South Sudan, shows the expected GDP of the place before the events of 2011. On the other hand, the red line shows the actual GDP, revealing deterioration and decline in the state's wealth, with increasing poverty.

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https://www.researchgate.net/figure/GDP-per-capita-South-Sudan-versus-synthetic-South-Sudan_fig1_352070027

SDG 2

Core Objective: Increasing agricultural productivity while ensuring sustainable food production systems and agricultural practices to help reduce food price volatility, and improve food commodity markets

SDG overview: SDG 2 aims to end hunger and achieve food security globally by 2030. It consists of 8 targets, with each target focusing on a specific problem such as agricultural inefficiency and food price volatility

Significance: Proper nutrition is required for the survival and well-being of humans. Meanwhile, hunger and malnutrition lead to stunting and vulnerability to illnesses. Progressing towards this SDG will not only end hunger but also bring agricultural prosperity

Primary Targets:

- 2.3** Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, especially women, indigenous peoples, and family farmers.
- 2.4** Ensure sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity while protecting ecosystems.
- 2.c** Improve food commodity markets and access to timely information to help reduce extreme food price volatility.

Root Causes:

- **Economic Disparity:** While the availability of food might not be a problem, due to vast differences in income, accessibility is a problem for many.
- **Climate Change:** Changing rainfall patterns, droughts, floods and heatwaves cause destruction and reduce crop yields and livestock rearing.
- **Poverty:** Many people simply cannot afford food, due to rising prices and stagnant minimum wages, even when available in markets.
- **Unsustainable Agricultural Practices:** Various practices like water misuse, excessive use of chemicals and overgrazing reduce food security in the long term.

Challenges:

- **Transportation and Food Waste:** During production, storage, transportation and consumption, large amounts of food are lost, mostly through wastage.
- **Conflicts:** Due to conflicts and wars, farming gets disrupted and destroyed, creating famine situations and interrupting transport chains.
- **Pest Plagues:** Crop yields and lots of incomes are destroyed due to out-of-control pests and disease pathogens.

Correlation with other SDGs

From a broader scope, SDG 2 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice versa. Hence, ending hunger will not only help achieve SDG 2 but also other SDGs as well. Here is an example of how an SDG can be related to another

SDG 3- Good Health and Well-Being: Ending hunger would mean providing everyone with proper nutrition, which is required to maintain good health and well-being. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 2 and SDG 3 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 3 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 2 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path for linking SDGs with one another

Existing Initiatives:

Feed the Future

Feed the Future is a global initiative that was initiated by the United States Government to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in developing countries. As millions of people faced food shortages, prices increased, Feed the Future was launched to help countries achieve food security by improving their agricultural framework and reducing reliance on food aid. It offers grants to advance organic farming practices and achieve environmental sustainability, helping local farmers achieve financial stability.

It helps strengthen the bond between growers and communities by supporting small farms, local agriculture and their workforce. Through education, advocacy, and innovative partnerships, they encourage and amplify solutions that help achieve equitable access and ecological stewardship. This initiative has helped millions of people improve food security and their income across several areas that include Africa, Asia and Latin America.

School Meals Coalition

The School Meals Coalition is a massive organisation led by the government in partnership with regional organisations, international agencies, civil society groups, researchers and development partners. It consists of over 100 member countries and 160 partners worldwide. The School Meals Coalition was formed to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive. The Coalition supports governments and their partners to improve the quality of school meals and strengthen these systems globally, in a manner which is tailored to local contexts and which promotes the sharing of international best practices. Reports show that the Coalition member countries have been largely responsible for much of the recent growth in national school meal coverage, with hundreds of millions of children benefiting from school feeding programs globally.

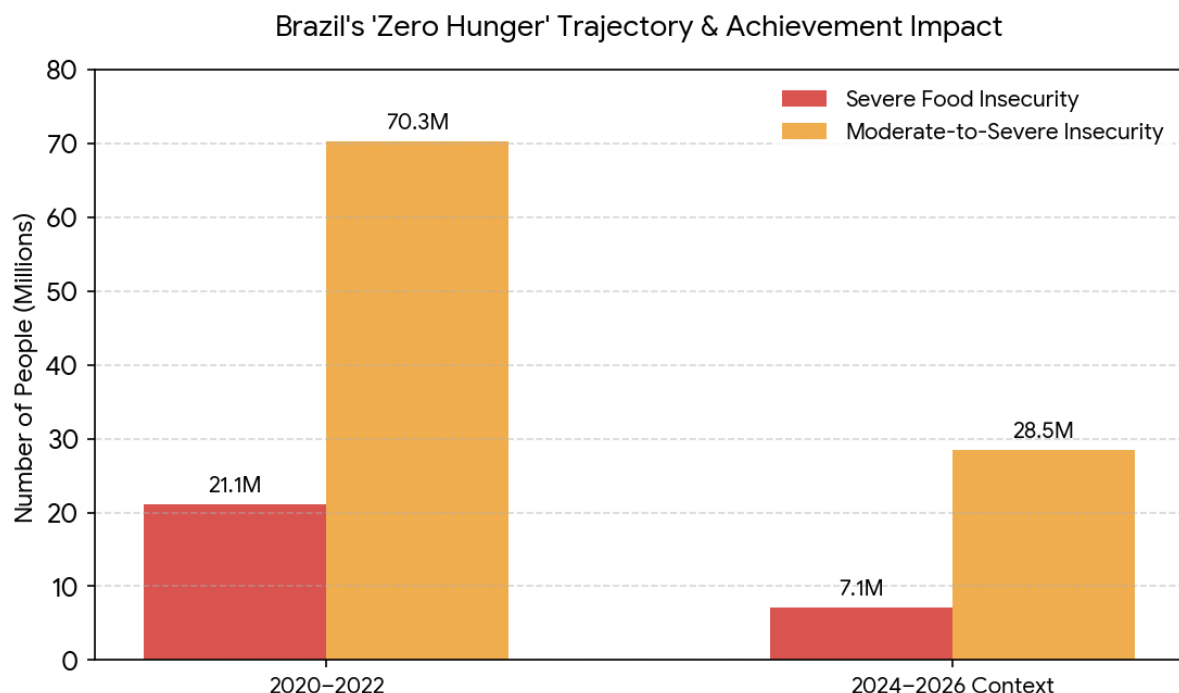
Case Studies:

Brazil: The Success of SDG 2

Through several large-scale government initiatives centred around nutrition, food access and support for poor families and small farmers, Brazil has achieved one of the most drastic reductions in hunger, becoming one of the best examples of the proper execution of SDG 2.

Key Policies of Brazil:

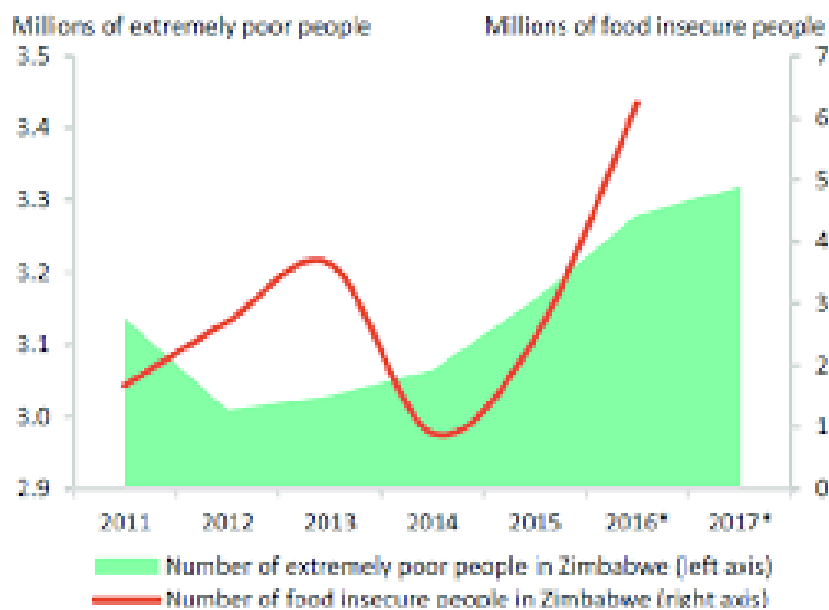
1. Fome Zero (Zero Hunger Programme), 2003: Featuring school meal and food assistance programmes, support for small farmers, community kitchens and water access initiatives (particularly for drought-prone areas), this programme has become Brazil's flagship anti-hunger strategy.
2. Bolsa Familia Programme: Considered as one of the largest cash-transfer programmes. Poor families receive financial concessions if the children regularly attend school, vaccinations are up to date, and health checkups are maintained. Due to the concessions, families are able to afford basic necessities, improving food security and nutrition.
3. National School Feeding Programme: This programme provides free, nutritious meals to approximately 43 million students, with ingredients sourced from local small scale farmers, inadvertently creating nutrition standards for schools as well.
4. Small Farmers Support: Includes credit and food purchasing programmes, rural development support and technical assistance, all through heavy government investment.



This graph depicts the people living in severe and moderate during the years of 2020-22 in Brazil and what those numbers look like with various key measures and initiatives in place during the period 2024-26, seeing a dramatic improvement through government intervention.

Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe is in a severe, multi year food crisis as of today, which is escalated by climate change and continuous economic instability. Yearlong droughts have slashed staple crops, leaving millions of people dependent on food aid and emergency rations to satisfy their needs. Zimbabwe, which used to be a major food exporter before the 2000s, now heavily depends on export and aid to merely survive its population. The Fast Track Land Reform Programme was one of the major reasons for this food crisis. In 2000, president Robert Mugabe had launched the programme to correct the colonial era land inequality, where land was in hands of only a few farmers. The government then acquired all the commercial farms, and redistributed this land to thousands of black Zimbabweans who did not have access to land. This policy was implemented rapidly, without adequate planning, financing, training, or agricultural support. This caused major agricultural disruptions, and led to a food crisis.



This graph shows the increasing number of poor and food insecure people living in Zimbabwe, and how the issue has not been resolved, instead escalated due to the policy implemented by Robert Mugabe.

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SDG 4

Core Objective: Working towards achieving SDG 4 by developing educational systems that support relevant skill development, provide inclusive learning for all, along with increasing the supply of qualified teachers.

SDG Overview:

SDG 4 aims to provide inclusive and quality education for all by 2030. It consists of 10 targets, with each target focusing on a specific problem such as shortage of teachers, gender disparities and low literacy amongst adults.

Significance:

Education forms the base for employment and skill-development, it is essential that every person in the world is educated to achieve economic prosperity. Without education, a person is limited to opportunities such as employment, health care and further aggravates social and economic inequalities.

Primary Targets:

4.4 Increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

4.a Build and improve safe, inclusive, and effective educational facilities.

4.c Increase the supply of qualified teachers through training and international cooperation.

Root Causes :

- **Child Labor:** Children are often forced to drop out of school and enter the labor force to support their families.
- **Poverty:** School supplies are often too expensive and families prioritise steady income instead of regular school attendance.
- **Discrimination and Societal Norms:** Communities such as marginalized groups, people from rural areas, specially-abled and girls are often not allowed to enter school, their education considered unimportant.
- **Lack of Qualified Teachers:** Many schools lack trained teachers, particularly in low income and rural areas. This creates disproportionate student-teacher ratios and makes for a harder learning environment.
- **Inadequate Funding:** Many governments are unable or unwilling to allocate the UN recommended **4-6% of their GDP** towards education, leading to poor infrastructure, low teacher salaries and shortage of resources.

Challenges:

- **Conflicts:** Wars cause infrastructure destruction and displace millions, creating severe educational disruptions within the conflict areas, while refugees face difficulty in rejoining the education systems.
- **Poor Infrastructure:** Schools lack adequate resources and supplies to support attendees, with several schools lacking sanitation facilities, clean drinking water, electricity and proper classrooms.
- **Digital Divide:** Particularly in rural and low income areas, several students lack access to computers, digital tools, the internet and even electricity. This leads to them falling behind in digital education and basic online skills, leading to loss of future opportunities.

Correlation of SDG 4 with other SDGs:

From a broader scope, SDG 4 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice-versa. Hence, progressing towards quality education will not only help achieve sdg 4 but other sdg's as well. Here is an example of how a SDG can be related to another

SDG 1- No poverty: Education helps develop skills that open doors for employment and empowers a person financially. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 4 and SDG 1 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 1 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 4 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path on how to link SDGs with one another

Initiatives Worldwide to Progress Towards SDG 4:

1. Global Education Coalition

The Global Education Coalition, launched by UNESCO is a worldwide partnership that was launched during March 2020 to work as a supporting system for SDG 4, bringing together various UN agencies, governments, NGOs, media groups, companies, and universities. The key objectives were to expand digital learning, improve teacher training, promote gender equality in education and increase employability in digital skills.

2. Teacher Task Force for Education 2030

Teacher Task Force for Education 2030 serves as an international alliance that is led by UNESCO, aiming at solving the teacher shortage at the global level, as well as improving the quality of teachers.

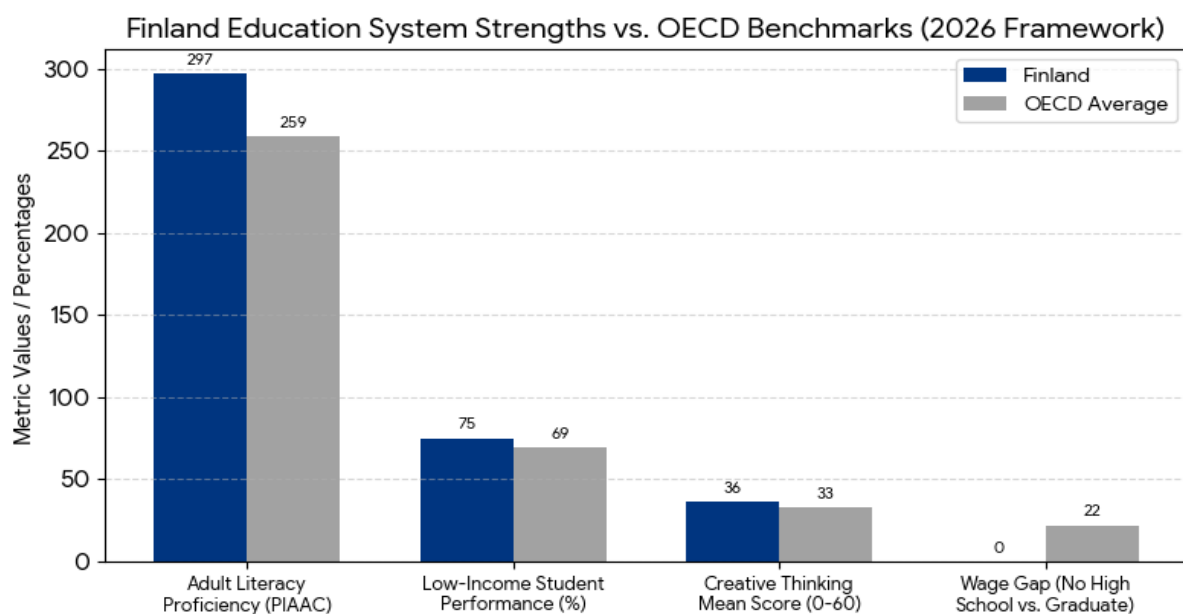
Case Studies:

Finland: Successful Implementation of SDG 4

Finland is considered to be one of the best examples of the proper implementation of SDG 4 with highly qualified and trained teachers, student centred education system, high investment from the government and equal access to opportunities policies. Finland has gone as far as to offer free education from preschool to higher education to Finnish and EU students.

Key Policies of Finland:

1. Basic Education Act, 1998: Guarantees free compulsory education opportunities to all children.
2. Compulsory Education Reform, 2021: This reform extends the ages of compulsory education to the age bracket of 16 to 18.
3. Learning Support Reform, 2025: The policy focuses on providing support to struggling students through study groups and individualized student specific support. This policy aims to improve learning difficulties detection and create a faster intervention process.
4. Teacher Education Policy: Main subparts of this policy include requiring teachers to be masters degree holders themselves, receiving continuous professional development through training, curriculum development and research opportunities. It also includes a highly competitive and selective entrance and freedom to articulate the curriculum and assessments according to the students.



This graph shows how Finland rates higher when compared to global OECD benchmarks as of 2026, with them scoring 297 in Adult Literacy Proficiency (PIAAC), 75% in Low Income Student Performance, a 36 in Creative Thinking and having no wage gaps between Graduates and No High School student/citizens.

Afghanistan: A Major SDG 4 Failure Case

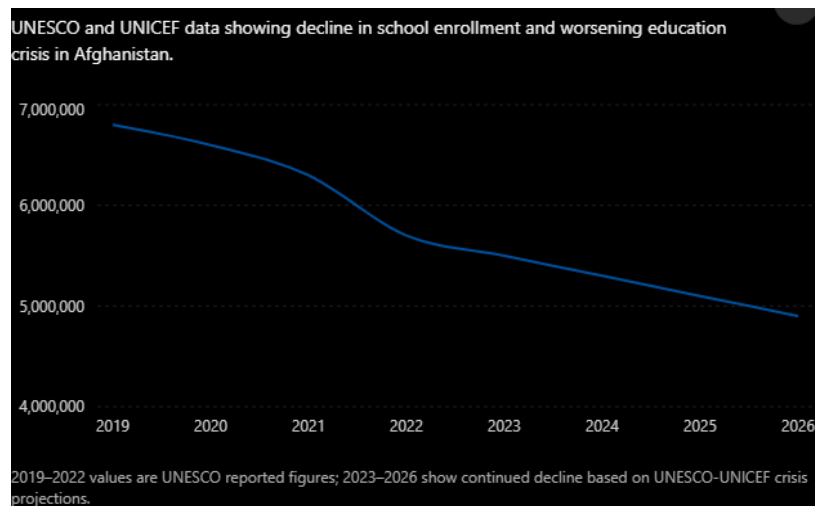
Afghanistan is considered as one of the most modern examples of the failure of SDG 4, especially in relation to girls' education, equal access, school infrastructure, teacher availability and educational freedom. The rise of Taliban has worsened this issue to an unimaginable level.

Major policies that have aggregated this situation are the post 2021 policies, that are the Taliban Restrictions on Female Education.

Key restrictions include:

1. Ban on Secondary Education for Girls
2. University Restrictions
3. Restrictions on Female Teachers

UNESCO has recognized Afghanistan to be the only country where girls are officially banned from schools. These initiatives have led to increased poverty, infrastructure problems and even mental health issues.



Education, which was at rise before 2021, began to fall, and by 2026, around 2.2 million girls were excluded from secondary education. The graph shows how primary enrollment decreased, with data showing that it declined sharply from 6.8 million students in 2019 to 5.7 million in 2022.

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2. <https://data.unicef.org/sdgs/goal-4-quality-education/>
3. <https://globalgoals.org/goals/4-quality-education/>

SDG 5

Core Objective: Empowering women by providing them with equal rights to economic resources, property, and financial services; recognising and valuing their domestic work and unpaid care; and access to technology and digital tools.

SDG overview: SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower girls and women by 2030. It consists of 9 targets, with each target focusing on a specific problem such as unpaid domestic work done by women, unequal rights to property ownership, inheritance, financial services, etc.

Significance: A society functions properly only when each person is respected and has a say; however, discrimination based on gender creates inequalities amongst males and females that limit an individual's potential and development. Hence, every person must be provided equal opportunities and rights.

Primary Targets:

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through public services, infrastructure, and shared responsibility within households.

5. a Give women equal rights to economic resources, property ownership, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources.

5.b Promote the use of technology and digital tools to empower women.

Root Causes:

- **Patriarchal Norms:** Gender stereotypes and traditional beliefs and practices often put women and girls in a weaker economic and social position.
- **Discrimination:** Women are not awarded the same opportunities as men and are often overlooked within their household in terms of basic rights such as education, healthcare, property, etc.
- **Unpaid Domestic Care:** Women perform the majority of household chores such as cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children, without receiving compensation for the daily manual labour performed by them.
- **Wage Gap:** Historically, women in the workforce have earned less than men for an equal share of work done and are overrepresented in low-paying jobs.

Challenges:

- **Lack of Education:** In many regions, especially rural and low-income areas, most girls still face numerous obstacles in entering schools, as their education is not considered important.
- **Digital Division:** In several places, women have less access to electronics and the internet than men, and often lack basic digital skills due to zero training/guidance.
- **Weak Law Enforcement:** Even though most countries have brought into effect equality laws, gaps and oversights in the implementation and execution of these laws exist, maintaining the gender divide.

- **Underrepresentation in Leadership:** In various political, social, economic and decision-making institutions, women face a lack of representation.

Correlation with other SDGs:

From a broader scope, SDG 5 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice versa. Hence, achieving gender equality will not only help achieve SDG 5 but also other SDGs. Here is an example of how an SDG can be related to another

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities: As the name suggests, gender inequality is one of the biggest forms of inequality, and reducing it would help build more inclusive societies. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 5 and SDG 10 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 10 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 5 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path for linking SDGs with one another.

Initiatives Worldwide to Progress Towards SDG 5:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

It is an initiative that was adopted by the United Nations and is also known as the "International Bill of Rights for Women". It is a legally binding international treaty that mandates countries that enrol to take steps to eliminate gender discrimination in all areas of life. Countries that ratify CEDAW are required to regularly submit reports on progress in these terms. These reports are reviewed by experts who make recommendations, and the governments are then expected to reform policies that violate women's rights. Countries that ratify CEDAW must submit regular reports on their progress. As of today, over 180 countries are parties to CEDAW, making it one of the most widely ratified human rights treaties in the world.

HeForShe

HeForShe is a global movement created by UN Women to achieve gender equality by encouraging males to participate as partners and advocates for change. This movement was launched in 2014, and it tagged gender inequality as an issue that was universal, not just concentrated on women. It seeks to build broad engagement across governments, businesses, universities, and communities worldwide. It serves as an invitation for men and people of all genders to come forward and stand in solidarity with women to create a bold, visible and united force for gender equality. The men are supposed to not be on the sidelines, but work with the women and with each other to build businesses, raise families, and give back to their communities. It promotes and provides solutions periodically to solve this escalating issue, empowering both genders equally, working towards a successful global world. It has helped gender equality reach a different level, making it seem like a societal responsibility rather than just a mere issue.

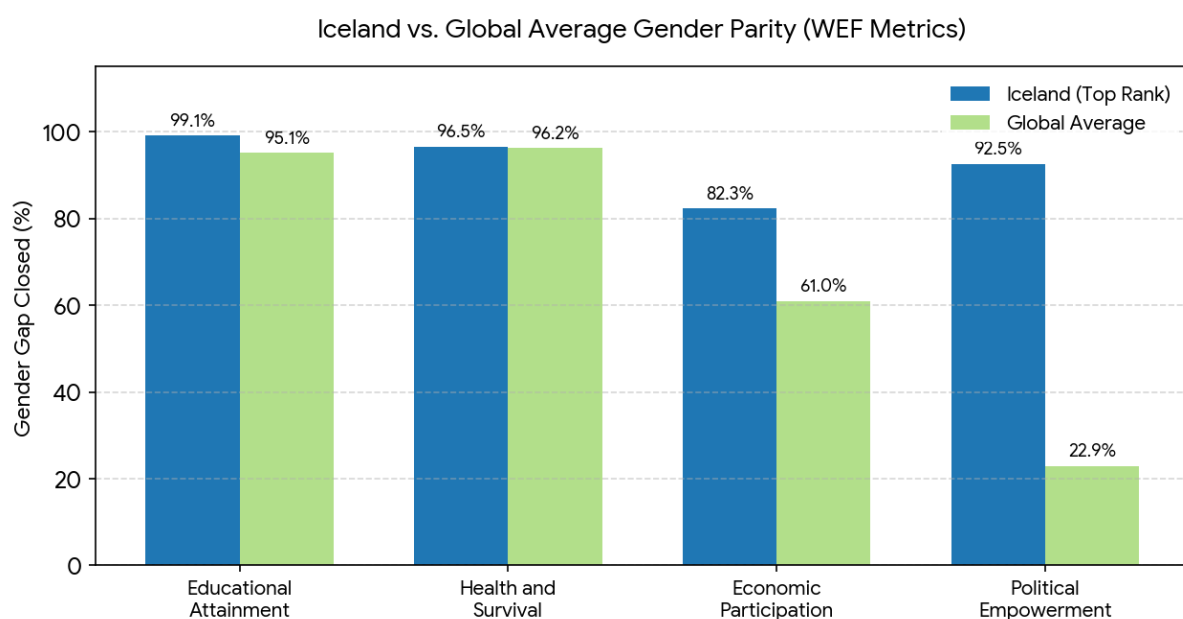
Case Studies:

Iceland: The Ideal of SDG 5

Having integrated gender equality into their society, policymaking and education, Iceland ranks as one of the most gender-equal countries in the world with high female political representation, strong gender equality laws, equal access to education and healthcare and workplace equality initiatives.

Key Policies of Iceland:

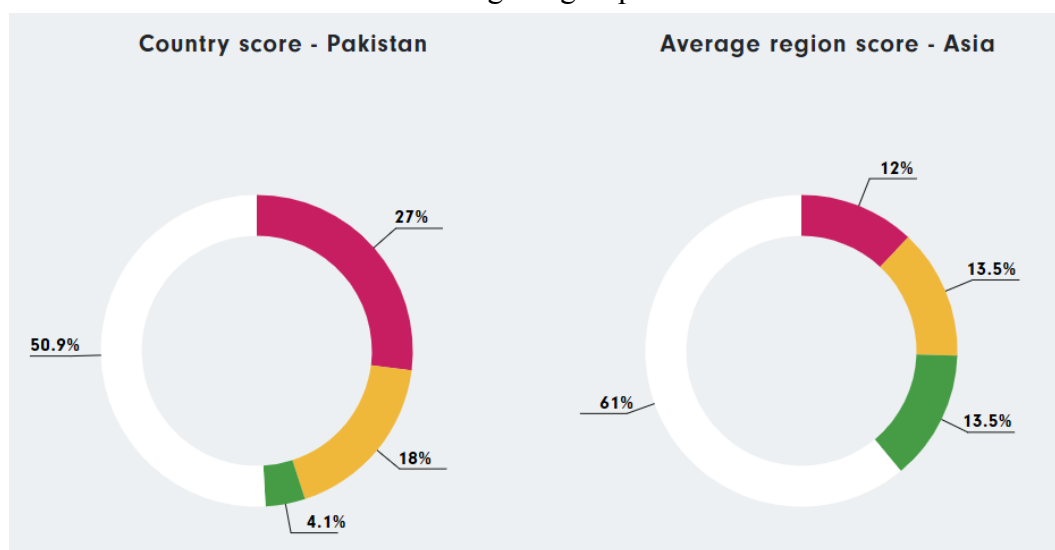
1. Equal Pay Certification Law, 2018: Legally requires companies and institutions to prove that they pay the same amount to their female and male employees. Employers face penalties for non-compliance, and companies with 25+ employees require government certification stating that they pay the same amount.
2. Equal Status and Equal Rights Irrespective of Gender Act: Provisions include the prohibition of gender discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities in employment, education, decision-making and social life. Requires institutions to promote equality as well.
3. Gender Quota Law for Corporate Boards, 2010: In Iceland, all major companies are to ensure 40% representation of each gender on all corporate boards.
4. Gender Mainstreaming Policy: States that the government must take into gender impact during legislation and budgeting. Equality must be integrated into education, healthcare, employment, economic planning and public expenditure.



This graph shows Iceland's metrics compared to the rest of the world's, with Iceland achieving the top rank in all of the metrics put forth by the World Economic Forum. Educational attainment, health and survival, economic participation and political empowerment are just a few of the metrics represented in the graph above.

Pakistan:

Pakistan was ranked last among the 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, having 56.7% gender parity, which served to be the highest since 2006. As of today, Pakistan remains the only country in South Asia to have closed less than 60% of its overall gender gap. This rank is a result of long discrimination against women. A major policy guiding this through the late 20th century was the Hudood Ordinances. The Hudood Ordinances were a package of five laws that were promoted in Pakistan under the military government of Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq. The purpose of these laws was to Islamize Pakistan's criminal justice system. This was done by supplementing and amending the existing penal code with offences and punishments derived from Islamic jurisprudence. But the Hudood Ordinances became controversial for women primarily because of how the Zina Ordinance interacted with sexual conduct laws. It has caused difficulty in obtaining justice in rape cases and also increased the risk of women getting imprisoned.



The pie chart shows a comparative study between Pakistan and the rest of Asia. It is seen that Pakistan has a higher percentage of low-performing women than the average of Asia, while the percentage of high-performing women is well below the average. This situation in Pakistan is extremely disheartening.

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SDG 6

Core Objective: Improving water and sanitation resources by reducing pollution, minimizing dumping of hazardous chemicals while integrating water and sanitation management at all levels with strong participation of local communities

SDG overview: SDG 6 aims to provide clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. It consists of 8 targets with each target focusing on a specific problem such as water pollution, dumping of hazardous chemicals and exploitation of water resources.

Significance: Water is a basic amenity that is required by all not just to drink but for some it is also required to carry out their livelihood. Sanitation and hygiene are also equally important to maintain good health and development. Without clean water and sanitation, people face a greater risk of catching diseases as well as it leads to poor living conditions.

Primary Targets:

6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, minimizing dumping of hazardous chemicals, and increasing wastewater treatment and recycling.

6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including cooperation across borders where necessary.

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Root Causes:

- **Water Pollution:** Agricultural run-off, industrial waste, non-biodegradable wastage dumps (plastics), sewage create contamination and pollution when dumped into water for long periods of time.
- **Overused Water Resources:** Unsustainable agricultural practices and excessive water extraction from groundwater and other sources deplete water supplies.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Lack of proper pipelines, water treatment and management facilities, sewage systems and adequate water storage arrangements limit the amount of clean water available.
- **Poverty:** Several communities simply do not have enough funds to afford hygiene services, sanitation facilities and safe water systems.

Challenges:

- **Weak Governance and Management:** Unequal distribution and management occur due to inefficient resource allocation, weak policies and corrupt governance.
- **Urbanization:** Growing populations and industrialization put a strain on water resources.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Restricted knowledge about sanitation and water management practices lead to diseases and management.

Correlation with other SDG's

From a broader scope, SDG 6 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice-versa. Hence, providing clean water to all will not only help achieve SDG 6 but other SDGs as well. Here is an example of how a SDG can be related to another

SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities: For cities and communities to become sustainable and safe, they need clean and safe drinking water that is managed smartly as well as hygiene and sanitation. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 6 and SDG 11 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 11 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 6 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path on how to link SDGs with one another

Initiatives Worldwide to Progress Towards SDG 4:

The WHO Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Waste Strategy

At least 1.4 million preventable deaths are driven by unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), while climate shocks, outbreaks, migration and aging infrastructure present additional challenges. To combat this issue requires coordinated global action, and the WHO has been working hard to resolve this issue through global cooperation. The WHO sets evidence based norms and standards to strengthen monitoring systems and help countries include WASH into their daily health policies. The WHO water, sanitation, hygiene and waste strategy 2026–2035 has offered an opportunity to improve WHO's relationship with WASH partners, increase investment and offer an opportunity to strengthen WHO's contribution to improving health through WASH actions within and beyond WHO. This is not just a specific law or policy, but a strategy to achieve SDG 6. Some of the major initiatives of this strategy include universal access to WASH services, strengthening healthcare facilities, preventing disease outbreaks and cross-sector cooperation.

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a global partnership working to achieve universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene. It works through political leadership, collaboration, and accountability. It is hosted by bringing together governments, donors, research institutions, regulators, and private sector partners to advance towards human rights to water and sanitation. The SWA mainly aims to eliminate inequalities in relation with water resources, by raising political will, good governance, and proper financing. This partnership focuses on the most alienated and vulnerable sections of the society, and also puts women at the center, not just as recipients but also as agents. SWA works by harnessing the collective power of its partners, to support government-led, multi-stakeholder action at national, regional, and global levels.

Case Studies:

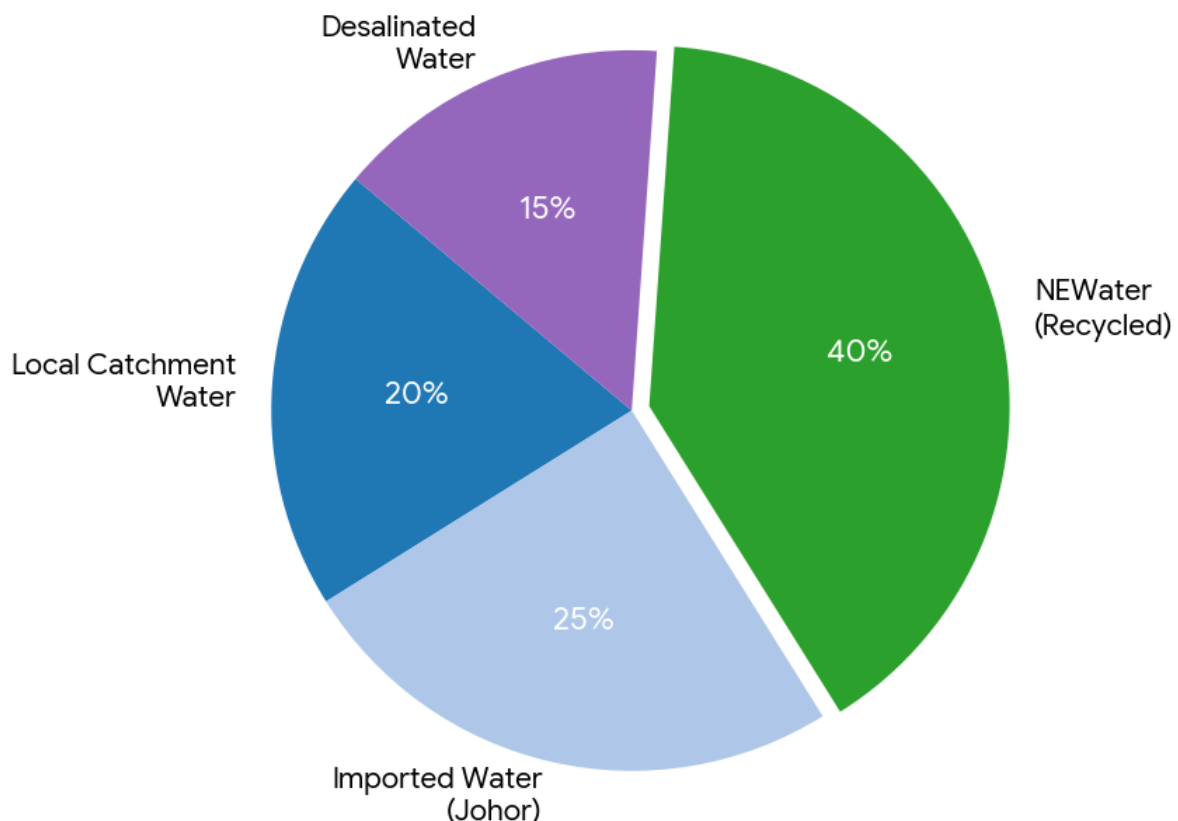
Singapore: Achieving SDG 6

Even though Singapore is a water scarce country, through sustainable water management, efficient governance and technological innovations like water recycling, universal access to clean water is possible, in the long term.

Key Policies of Singapore:

1. Four National Taps Strategy: By diversifying water supply through four major sources, Singapore has reduced its dependence on only a single source of water and that in turn improved water security throughout the country.
2. NEWater Programme: One of the world's most advanced water recycling systems, wastewater is purified, treated with advanced filtration technology and then converted into ultra-clean reusable water. This programme covers a significant part of the country's demand.
3. Desalination Project: Singapore invests highly in desalination projects that convert seawater or saltwater into freshwater/drinking water. This generates another water source to keep up with the country's needs.
4. Public Utilities Board (PUB): This is a centralized and highly efficient water management system that deals with water sustainability, flood management, drainage, sewerage and supply. The board also handles planning for the long term.

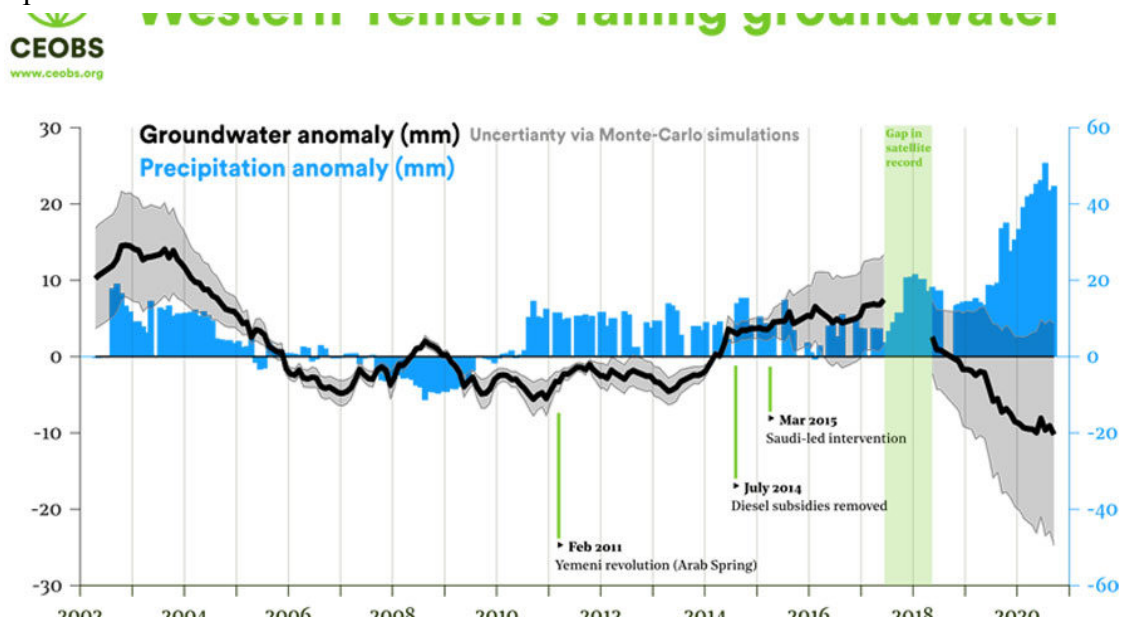
Singapore's Water Security Mix



This graph shows the different ways Singapore sources its water to reduce dependency and have multiple back ups in times of need. NEWater or recycled water covers about 40%, desalinated water covers 15%, imported water makes up 25% and local catchment water covers 20%.

Yemen:

Millions of people lack access to safe drinking water in Yemen. The water infrastructure in the country has by far been severely damaged by conflict and outbreaks of waterborne diseases often take place. The major policies that have exacerbated this issue include Agricultural Groundwater Over-Extraction Policies. Over-extraction of groundwater is majorly driven by unregulated, diesel-powered agricultural pumping for high-water cash crops like qat. Decades of unregulated groundwater use have caused the country's resources to deplete.



The graph shows the significant decrease in the groundwater levels in Yemen over the past few years. It shows a basic replenishment vs depletion rate with depletion rates growing higher by the second. This shows a major failure of SDG 6.

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SDG 13

Core Objective: Combating and limiting climate change by strengthening adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards, improving awareness and education on climate change mitigation and developing mechanisms for effective climate change planning and management in all countries.

SDG Overview: SDG 13 aims to combat climate change and its impact. It consists of 5 targets with each target focusing on a specific problem such as vulnerability to natural disasters and lack of awareness on climate change mitigation, adaptation etc.

Significance: Climate change is one of the most discussed problems in the world, however the threshold set for global warming (1.5°C) has already been exceeded. Climate change doesn't only affect human beings but every living-being on Earth and leads to many catastrophic natural disasters.

Primary Targets:

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.3 Improve education, awareness, and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning systems.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth, and local communities.

Root Causes:

- **Excessive Use of Fossil Fuels:** The use of huge amounts of coal, oil and natural gas (fossil fuels) releases large amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- **Unsustainable Consumer Habits:** Overconsumption of commodities to create rapidly changing lifestyles with wasteful habits puts a strain on various resources, harming the environment in the process.
- **Industrialization:** Various sectors of the economy consume large quantities of resources just to maintain themselves, creating pollution and contributing to global warming.
- **Limited Awareness:** Majority of the public isn't aware of harm caused by them on a daily basis, and this in turn reduces the support extended towards sustainable practices and climate policies.

Challenges:

- **Weak Environmental Governance:** Inefficient climate laws and policies and weak enforcement of the same lead to delayed climate action, gradually adding to the problem.
- **Slow Clean Energy Transition:** Many regions still use fossil fuels as primary sources of energy for growth and development contributing heavily to climate change.

- **High Cost Mitigation:** Green and clean infrastructure require hefty investments that many areas can not afford.
- **International Disagreements:** Many nations cannot reach collective agreements on how to move forward on climate action, research and funding leading to delays and unnecessary stoppages.

Correlation with other SDG's

From a broader scope, SDG 13 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice-versa. Hence, limiting climate change will not only help achieve SDG 13 but other SDGs as well. Here is an example of how a SDG can be related to another.

SDG 15- Life on land: Climate change causes many catastrophes like forest fires, soil erosion, floods that affects all life on land be it humans or animals. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 15 and SDG 13 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 15 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 13 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path on how to link SDGs

Existing Initiatives:

The Paris Agreement

As climate change turns into a global emergency, what it needs today is not just attention but international cooperation and coordinated solutions. To tackle this problem, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris reached a breakthrough on 12 December 2015: the historic Paris Agreement. The agreement in basic terms guided all the nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and it aims at providing financing to developing countries to mitigate this issue. This agreement is a legally binding international treaty, and as of today 195 parties have joined this agreement. The Agreement provides a clear pathway for developed nations to advise and help developing nations to mitigate the issue of climate change. Implementation of the Agreement has proved to be beneficial for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund is the biggest climate financing institution that has been created to help countries address this issue through adaptation and mitigation projects. It was established under the United Nations climate framework in 2010, and serves as the major funding mechanism for international climate action.

A major policy that is included in this institution is to channel financial resources towards low emission and climate resilient development paths. The fund supports projects, programs, policies, and institutional capacity-building efforts across the developing world. The funding for these projects is sent through development banks, UN agencies, national institutions, and private-sector partners. The GCF provides grants, guarantees, loans, and similar funds,

supporting both public-interest climate initiatives and larger blended-finance projects designed to attract additional investment.

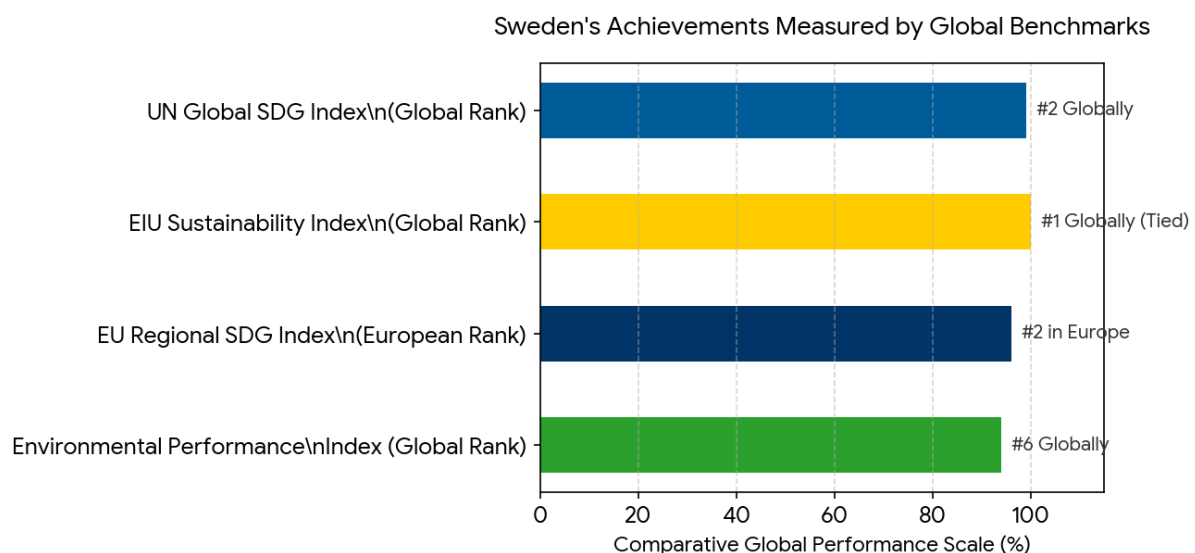
Case Studies:

Sweden: SDG 13 Done Right

Sweden has managed to maintain steady economic growth while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy use, sustainable urban planning, low-carbon energy systems and strong climate laws and has been internationally recognized for the same.

Key Policies of Sweden:

1. **Climate Policy Framework:** this framework includes the Climate Act, long term climate targets and an independent Climate Policy Council. The independent council oversees climate policies and determines whether they align with Sweden's climate goals. An independent council ensures reduced corruption and proper climatic regulations and actions.
2. **Climate Act, 2018:** Targets of this act include net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and negative emissions henceforth. The act also legally requires all governments to pursue climatic policies aligned with Sweden's climatic goals. The policy also requires mandatory policy planning, reports integrated into the national budget and climate action melded into all sectors.
3. **Carbon Tax Policy, 1991:** The purpose of this tax is to reduce fossil fuel use, promote cleaner industries and encourage use of renewable energy. This tax is one of the world's first and highest carbon taxes.
4. **Fossil Free Sweden Initiative, 2015:** This initiative aims at making Sweden one of the world's first completely fossil free nations through partnerships with various industries, sector specific plans for emissions reduction and green innovation support.

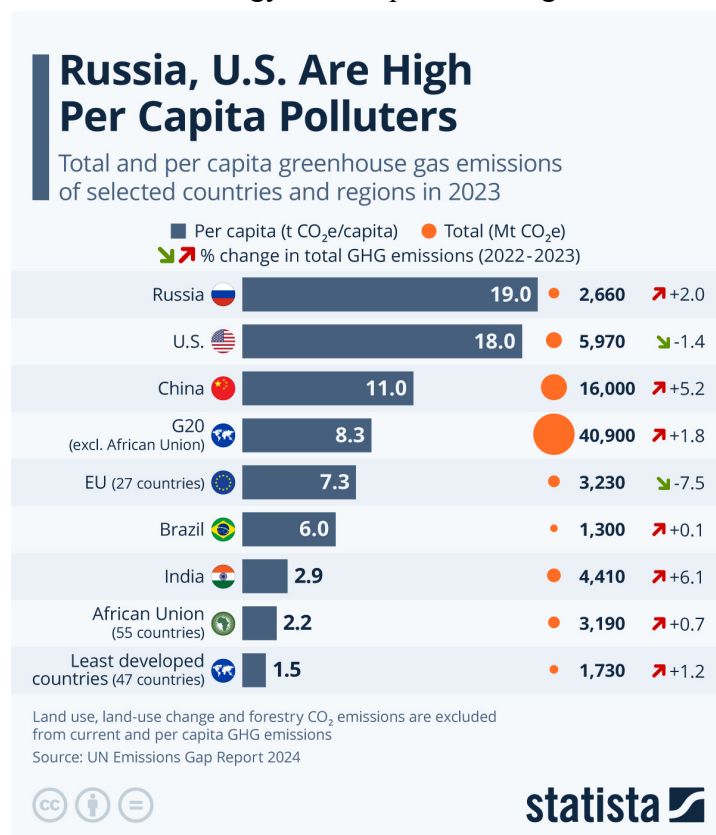


This graph shows how Sweden's climatic achievements are ranked throughout various international indexes. On the UN's global SDG index Sweden ranks second, tied at first on the EU sustainability index, second again on the EU regional SDG index and sixth on the

environmental performance index. All of these reflect on Sweden's laser focused dedication to reducing climatic damages.

Russia

Russia stands as the fourth largest emitter of green house gasses today, responsible for 4 percent of the world's total global emissions, and its per capita emissions are double the world average. This massive contribution mainly comes from policies that prioritize massive hydrocarbon extraction, fossil fuel subsidies, and the militarized expansion of energy infrastructure in the Arctic. Additionally it has no major policy to curb carbon emissions and work towards climate change. A key policy that has led to increasing climate change in Russia is the Russian Energy Strategy, wherein the government actively projects increases in the production and export of coal, oil, and natural gas. These policies increase carbon emissions and energy consumption leading to a worsening climate situation.



The graph shows the increased per capita GHG emissions by the US and other developing countries, and how developmental policies in such countries harm the environment as a whole.

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SDG 16

Core Objective: Promoting peace and justice by reducing all forms of violence, corruption and bribery in all forms, and building strong institutions by increasing participation of developing countries in global governance institutions.

SDG Overview: SDG 16 aims to promote peaceful societies, provide access to justice for all and build accountable institutions. It consists of 12 targets with each target focusing on a specific problem such as increase in violence, death rates, corruption, bribery.

Significance: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions are all required to maintain order and balance in society. Without access to justice, law and order, mechanisms to hold institutions accountable, people can easily be stripped away of their rights and give rise to corruption and violence.

Primary Targets:

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

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all forms.

16.8 Strengthen the participation of developing countries in global governance institutions.

Root Causes:

- **Political Instability:** Frequent government changes, civil rises and weak execution lead to weak systems and general instability.
- **Weak Governance:** Poor administration and efficient institutions pave the way for lack of accountability and degradation of public services.
- **Poverty:** Lack of funds and resources along with inequality can lead to crime , violence and instability.
- **Abuse of Power:** Misuse of resources weakens government institutions and reduces public trust for the government.

Challenges:

- **Digital Threats:** With recent technical advancements, cyber threats have also increased, with misinformation, cyberattacks and online crimes.
- **Lack of Public Awareness:** Most people are not aware of their civic rights and basic legal education, reducing public accountability.
- **Slow Reforms:** Creating fully-functioning, transparent and accountable institutions requires a long term commitment, which proves difficult with changing governments and political atmosphere.

Correlation with other SDGs:

From a broader scope, SDG 16 is directly co-dependent on many other SDGs and vice-versa. Hence, building societies which are peaceful, provide access to justice and have accountable institutions will not only help achieve SDG 16 but other SDGs as well. Here is an example of how a SDG can be related to another.

SDG 5- Gender Equality: Having strong and stern laws, transparent governments and peaceful communities can help protect women's rights and prevent discrimination. Using this information, we can establish a link between SDG 15 and SDG 13 and show that progress in one SDG benefits other SDG's as well.

However, just because SDG 5 is used here as an example, it doesn't mean that SDG 16 can be correlated to only one SDG. This example shows the path on how to link SDGs

Existing Initiatives:

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), drafted in 2003 is the only legally binding universal anti corruption movement. It takes a comprehensive approach to tackle corruption, where it emphasizes the need of preventive measures, law enforcement and international cooperation. The Convention united countries against corruption and hence fosters international corruption. The Convention also serves as a crucial tool driving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals forward, targeting targets 16.5 and 16.6 majorly, with over 190 countries being a part of this.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime helps countries address and solve the issue of organized crime, corruption, illicit drugs and similar problems. It promoted health, justice and security by making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism, coordinating international responses to curb threats and helping the member states implement similar conventions and standards. The UNODC gives out global reports, advises countries in drafting policies, trains justice officials and also supports cross-border cooperation against criminal networks. The UNODS also publishes research such as the World Drug Report, supports the Blue Heart Campaign Against Human Trafficking, and assists countries in implementing conventions against organized crime and corruption. These efforts have helped strengthen international cooperation and prevent crimes on a large scale.

Case Studies:

Norway: The Way to SDG 16

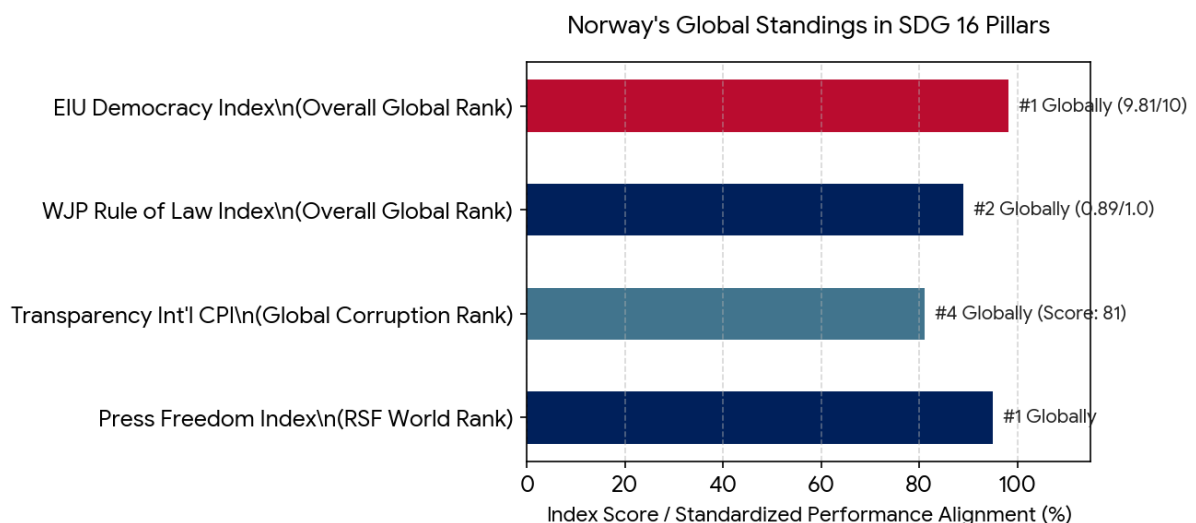
Norway ranks among the world's top nations when it comes to peace, governance, institutional effectiveness and transparency. Norway has achieved this through implementing an independent judiciary, strong democratic institutions and high rule of law.

Key Policies of Norway:

1. **Public Administration Act:** This act ensures that citizens have a right to be informed about any and all decisions affecting them, rules against misuse of governmental

power and impartiality for the due process. Through this act, Norway ensures transparency and accountability.

2. Freedom of Information Act(Public Access to Information Act): The act guarantees public access to government documents and official information. Citizens and journalists can request access to government records promoting transparency and reducing government secrecy.
3. Anti-Corruption Provisions in the Penal Code: It covers bribery, corporate corruption, influence peddling and abuse of power for both public and private sectors. The anti-corruption laws are enforced by Norway's independent courts and investigative bodies, ensuring fairness and efficiency.
4. Human Rights Act, 1991: The act integrates major international laws and treaties into Norwegian law. Laws such as European Convention on Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This helps make human rights protection enforceable through Norwegian law.
5. Independent Parliamentary Ombud: This parliament specifically investigates complaints against public authorities. The parliament also monitors abuse of power, protects citizens against authority injustice and promotes fair treatment. It also provides independent oversight of government institutions.

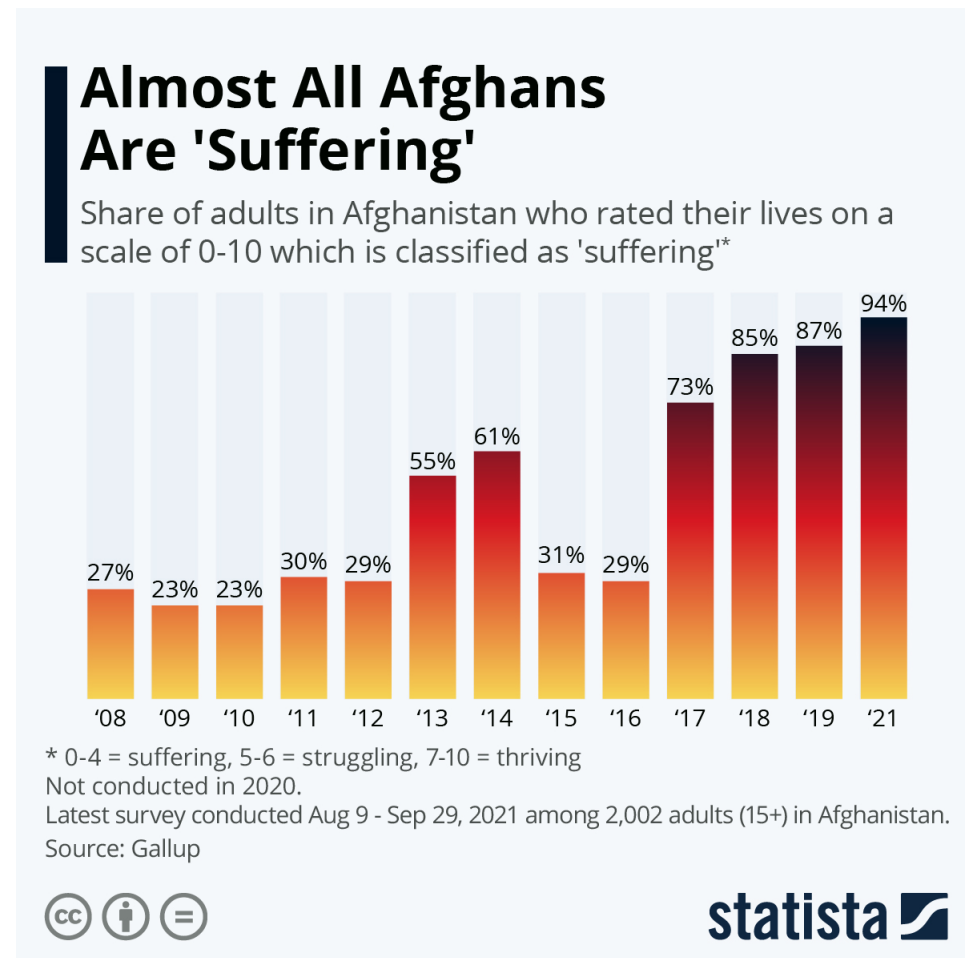


As shown by the graph, Norway ranks number one in EIU democracy index, second globally in WJP rule of law index, fourth in global corruption and globally number one in the press freedom index. The graph shows Norway's dedication to justice and building strong accountable institutions which maintain peace in the country.

Afghanistan:

The rise of Taliban in 2021 was followed by economic collapse, pushing millions into criminal economies that included the trafficking of opium, synthetic drugs (like methamphetamine), and unregulated minerals. Corruption has also been a cause of concern in this country, that has been systematically driven by policy failures, the massive and poorly

monitored influx of foreign aid, and the exploitation of the illicit drug and mineral economies. The International Aid and Procurement flaws have exacerbated this issue. When international aid is received, policy flaws often direct this money in the wrong way, denying millions of Afghans justice and basic rights. Funds that were allocated for infrastructural development were directed to the leader's personal needs. A SIGAR review found that many aid-funded projects were abandoned, deteriorated, unused, or failed to achieve their intended purpose. This shows the rise of corruption and an unjust system.



The graph shows a huge deterioration in the well being of Afghans over a period of time. The percentage of people classified as “suffering” has risen from around 20 to 30 percent between the early stages to over 94 percent in 2021. This shows a concerning failure of Afghanistan in accordance with SDG 16.

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