

**Report of the  
Secretary-General  
on the Work of  
the Organization**

2021

# Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization

2021

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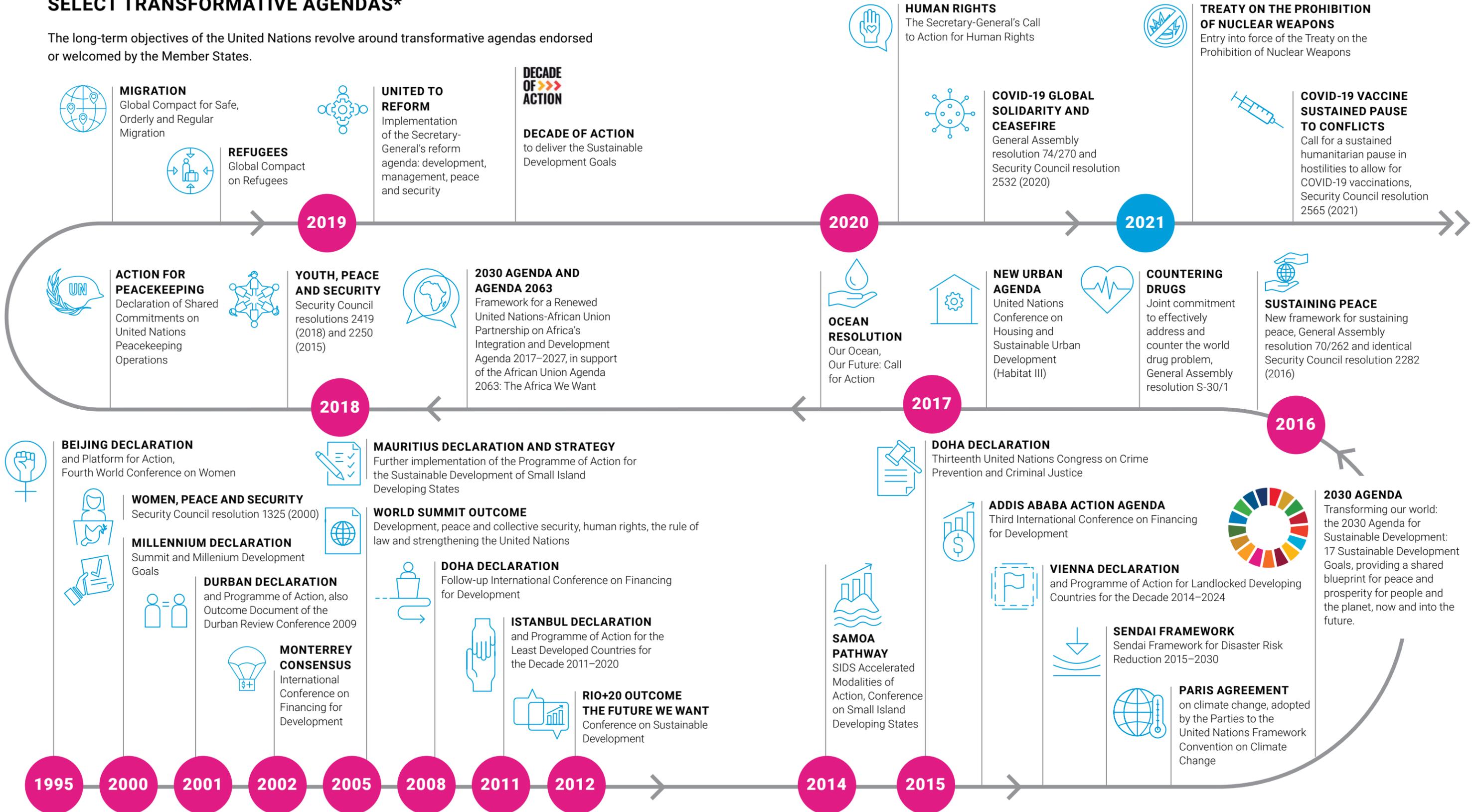
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**Cover:** Fatema and her 7-year-old daughter. Fatema, who is a domestic worker in Kalayanpur Slum, lost her job due to the COVID-19 crisis. (Dhaka, Bangladesh; 22 July 2020)  
© WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

# SELECT TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDAS\*

The long-term objectives of the United Nations revolve around transformative agendas endorsed or welcomed by the Member States.



\* The diagram shows select transformative agendas since 1995. The list is not exhaustive. The United Nations programme of work is also guided by several other legislative mandates.

Flags outside the General Assembly building during the general debate of the seventy-fifth session. (New York; 23 September 2020)  
© UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

# Introduction

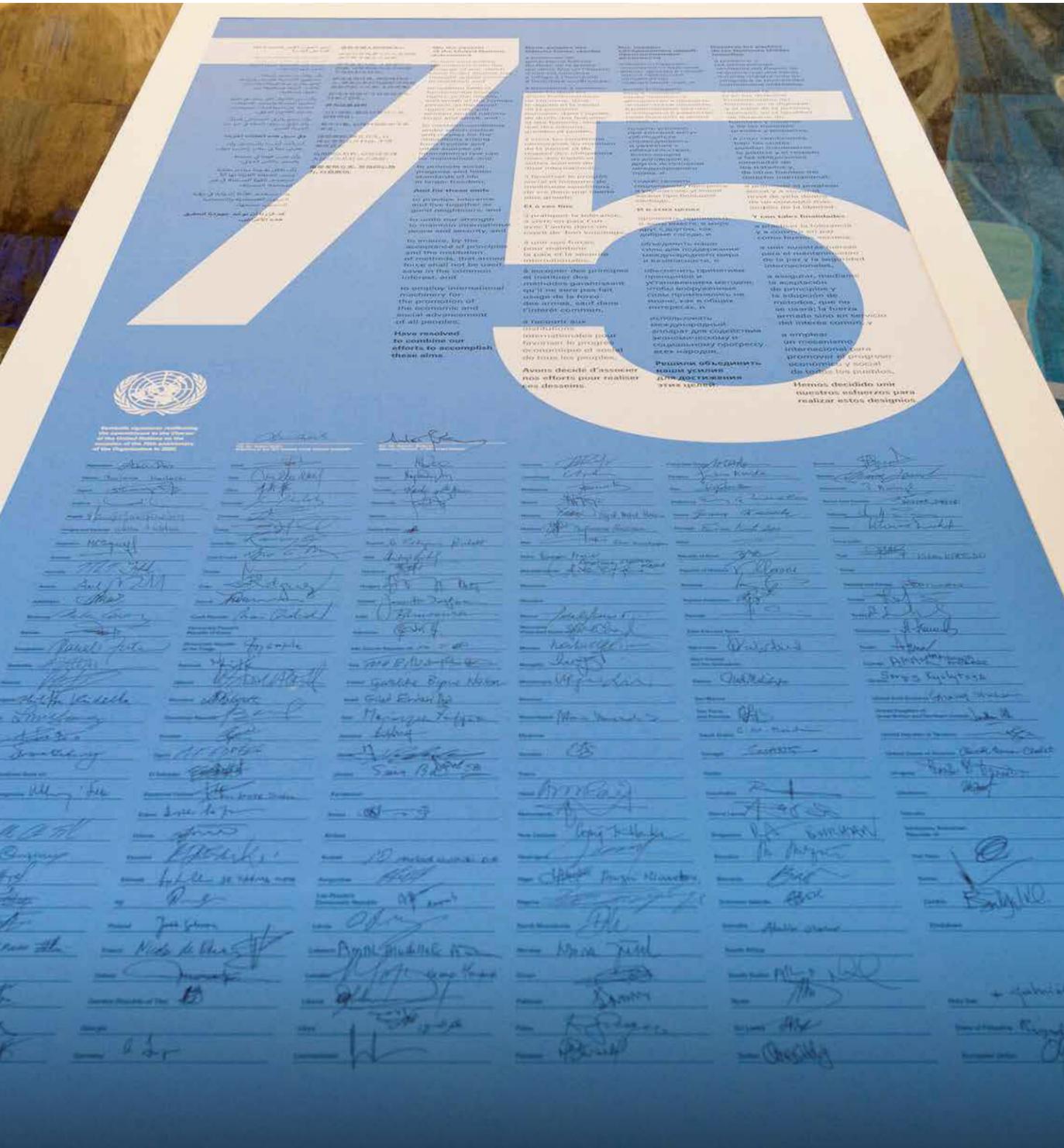
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## KEY PRIORITIES

- Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development
- Maintenance of international peace and security
- Development in Africa
- Promotion and protection of human rights
- Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance
- Promotion of justice and international law
- Disarmament
- Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism

This report is issued in response to Article 98 of the Charter of the United Nations, which mandates the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on the work of the Organization to the General Assembly. The key priorities covered in the report correspond to the eight priorities established by the General Assembly each biennium, together with a final chapter on the effective functioning of the Organization.



To commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, Volkan Bozkir, President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, invited all Member States and observer States to sign the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations as a gesture of recommitment to its principles. (New York; 23 October 2020) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías

## INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic dominated the past year, around the world and at the United Nations. We are a world in mourning for the millions of people whom we have lost. The pandemic is the greatest shared global challenge since the founding of our Organization; every country has faced pain, uncertainty and vulnerability. The global health, social, economic and human rights crises triggered by the pandemic have underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation and tested it to the limit.

The United Nations has been central to the pandemic response, from safeguarding people and jobs to assisting Governments in ensuring a sustainable and equitable recovery. We supported some 160 countries in tackling the health, humanitarian, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and helped more than 260 million children to access remote learning. At the same time, we contributed to the creation and operationalization of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and its COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility. The only way to end the pandemic is to deliver vaccines to every country.

We have also been leading and actively contributing to the larger conversations around health security, global financial stability and the dawning recognition of the world's deep fragility. That fragility relates to rising poverty and hunger; prolonged conflicts and human rights crises; skyrocketing levels of inequality within and between societies; the ungoverned development of new technologies; the erosion of the nuclear disarmament regime; and the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and rising levels of air and water pollution. It has never been clearer that our fates are interconnected and that the inability to solve shared problems is creating unacceptable risks.



“ The global health, social, economic and human rights crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation – and tested it to the limit. ”

António Guterres, Secretary-General

The path to stronger, more resilient societies lies in a transformative recovery process rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Over the past year, we have worked closely with Governments around the world to launch the decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, by supporting recovery packages that address the climate crisis, invest in renewable energy and sustainability, reduce inequalities and exclusion and promote gender equality. We have supported broad efforts to provide robust social protection systems and strengthen health systems and universal health coverage. My call for peace in the home in April 2020 was followed by a system-wide focus on the importance of gender-sensitive response policies, including protection against gender-based violence.

Our discussions on financing for development forged a new way of doing business, in collaboration with international financial institutions, and created space for innovative ideas to help low- and middle-income countries to invest in their people and avoid defaulting on debt. A series of round-table discussions, focusing on women economists, articulated new strategies for a green, inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Our efforts to mobilize global climate action, from science-based reports to public advocacy and private negotiation, have contributed to creating a growing coalition for net zero emissions by mid-century and to increasing awareness in the investment community that fossil fuels are riskier

and more expensive than renewable energy. The Climate Ambition Summit, held in December 2020, delivered plans and pledges from 75 countries and many businesses and cities on the steps that they intended to take to cut global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels, in accordance with the Paris Agreement. We also mobilized the international community to address the funding gap for adaptation and resilience measures, highlighting the need to put these on an equal footing with efforts to curb emissions. As we look forward to the crucial events on climate and biodiversity in 2021, we will build on these results in an effort to create irreversible momentum for a green recovery and a just transition.



“ Keeping the promise of the SDGs will help us respond and recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure humanity and the planet are ready to meet the SDGs for everyone everywhere. ”

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General



“ The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the greatest challenges ever to face the United Nations, and I am proud of the way we stayed open for business and delivered for the people we serve. ”

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet

OVER  
**36,000**  
UNITED NATIONS  
SECRETARIAT  
STAFF DELIVERING  
RESULTS ACROSS  
8 PRIORITY  
AREAS

**Sustainable Development**

More than **240 million** people accessed essential services with support from United Nations country teams and resident coordinators; **120 million** people benefitted from social protection schemes.



**Peace and Security**

Deployed **40+** peacekeeping, special political missions and offices to prevent conflict and support peacebuilding efforts.



**Development in Africa**

Supported **38** countries and **3** Regional Economic Communities in developing national strategies to harness the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.



**Human Rights**

Launched the Surge Initiative, supporting **59+** Member States in placing human rights at the centre of COVID-19 socioeconomic response plans.



**Humanitarian Assistance**

Helped to mobilize **\$19.1B** to assist **264.2** million people in **64** countries and territories.



**Justice and International Law**

As of 2020, deposited **632** multilateral treaties addressing matters of worldwide interest with the Secretary-General.



**Disarmament**

Supported the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 22 January 2021, following the fiftieth ratification.



**Drugs, Crime, Terrorism**

Contributed to COVID-19 preparedness in detention centres in **50+** Member States, resulting in improved prison conditions and basic services for detainees.



Divisions between major Powers and fragmentation within States contributed to a challenging environment for peace and security over the past year. However, across the globe, my special envoys and I seized a number of openings in conflict situations to advance the cause of peace. My appeal for a global ceasefire to respond to COVID-19 was endorsed by 180 Member States and by the Security Council and was the foundation for a second resolution calling for a ceasefire to allow COVID-19 vaccinations.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, more than 40 United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions continued their vital work to protect civilians and advance peace. Many responded to the pandemic by delivering key equipment, addressing misinformation and advocating public health measures. We intensified our efforts to implement commitments on women and peace and

security and increased the number of women heads and deputy heads of peace operations, peacekeepers and mediators as we marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). We also assisted 19 electoral processes in 2020 and supported 60 countries in developing their capacity with regard to elections. Across the United Nations, we continued to promote the voices and rights of young people in decision-making on peace and security.

Human rights were already under threat before COVID-19 unleashed a shadow pandemic of abuses. The seven areas for action in my call to action for human rights provided a robust framework to push back and to mainstream a culture of human rights within the United Nations. Nearly 90 countries partnered with the United Nations to reform discriminatory laws, including laws that entrenched gender

inequality, in 2020. The new guidance note on the protection and promotion of civic space, adopted in September 2020, commits the entire United Nations to taking concrete steps to safeguard and promote this critical underpinning for open and inclusive governance. We continued to implement the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and preparations are under way for an interministerial conference on the issue later in 2021.

Throughout the pandemic, we put gender equality and women's rights at the centre of our efforts, giving visibility to the effectiveness of women's leadership and advocating response and recovery plans that target women's specific needs and invest in the care economy. Our family planning programmes helped to prevent over 14 million unintended pregnancies, nearly 40,000 maternal deaths and more than 4 million unsafe abortions in 2020, when access to health services was particularly constrained.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the value of the recent reforms to our development, peace and security, and management structures, which

enabled us to adjust our business operations and respond quickly to the needs of Member States. In the months following the start of the pandemic, United Nations country teams rolled out 121 socio-economic response plans covering 139 countries and territories. More than \$3 billion was repurposed, and an additional \$2 billion was mobilized for immediate support.

The management reforms allowed us to adjust policies and procedures quickly to accommodate the new realities on the ground. At the same time, we were able to deploy dedicated capacities to focus on key areas of concern, including health and supply chain management. The new annual programme budget meant that we could incorporate lessons from the response to the pandemic into the budget for 2022 rather than 2024, as would previously have been the case.

Our response to the pandemic coincided with a record liquidity crisis, exacerbated by fluctuations in payment patterns. By exercising careful control over our fiscal expenditure, we succeeded in minimizing the damage to our programme delivery.



Secretary-General António Guterres delivers an address entitled "State of the Planet" at Columbia University. (New York; 2 December 2020) © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



“Our work preventing, responding and rebuilding from crises must always be guided by the principles of equality and inclusion of all. We must strive in particular to achieve gender equality and disability inclusion.”

Ana Maria Menéndez, Senior Advisor on Policy



“Integration does not mean joint action on every activity; rather, it entails a strategic division of labour that leverages different entry points and feeds into a common approach.”

Volker Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination



Mahmoud teaches his 10-year-old son to wash his hands thoroughly. The United Nations has been scaling up preparedness and response programmes across Yemen, reaching more than half a million people through house-to-house visits. (Al-Makha district, Yemen; 9 June 2020) © OCHA



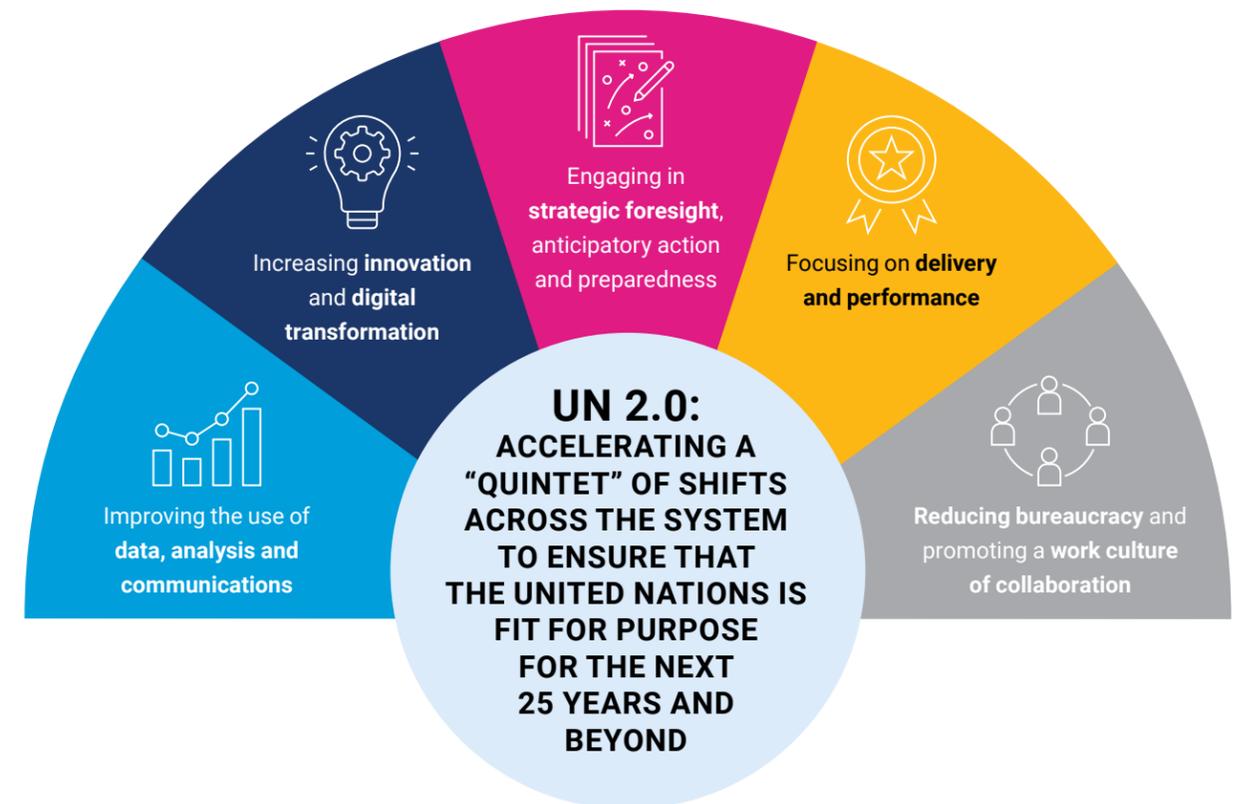
A wall of thank-you notes to health-care workers at the Javits Center, a vaccination site in New York City. (New York; 25 February 2021) © UN Photo/Evan Schneider

United Nations personnel are our most important asset, and we have made strenuous efforts over the past year to protect them from the impact of the pandemic. We facilitated the successful medical evacuation of more than 200 personnel and partners, and the response time for such emergency evacuations decreased by half throughout 2020 until March 2021. Our personnel made full use of remote arrangements and telecommuting to continue their vital work without disruption.

Our efforts to build inclusivity and diversity into every aspect of our work continued to bear fruit, with progress towards gender parity at every level. We continued to focus on improvements in peace operations, where the challenges are greatest. We launched a new geographical diversity strategy and saw increased action across the board on disability inclusion, following the launch of the first ever

strategy to address this issue two years ago. We also launched an important internal discussion on racism and discrimination, and we are finalizing the first ever strategic action plan to address racism within the United Nations.

The past year saw the start of a process of deep reflection on the future of multilateralism. Based on the global listening exercise we undertook to mark our seventy-fifth anniversary, and a process of engagement with Member States, thought leaders and young thinkers and public consultations, we are now preparing a report with recommendations on advancing our common agenda for September 2021. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations will thus become the launching point for a reinvigorated, networked and inclusive multilateralism that is fit for the future.



## UNITED NATIONS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 DEMONSTRATES GLOBAL REACH, SCALABILITY AND CROSS-PILLAR COORDINATION

### Global reach

Extended global presence with access to remote, restricted and crisis-affected areas

**1.6B**



items of PPE, including biomedical and diagnostic supplies delivered or shipped to **195 countries and territories**.

**175M**

vaccine doses delivered or shipped via COVAX in 4 months to **131 countries and territories**.



**300+**

plane loads of cargo, or 148,000 cubic metres, dispatched through 8 global air hubs to **173 countries**.



### Scalability

Expertise in rapidly delivering critical supplies and programmes to at-risk populations on a global scale

**3.86B**

vaccine doses secured and optioned through COVAX in **4 months**.



**3B** people

reached with messaging on prevention and access to health services since **March 2020**.



**301M**

children assisted with distance or home-based learning since **March 2020**.



**106M**

people reached with hygiene supplies, water and sanitation.



**78M**

people, including children, reached with psychosocial support.



**47M** households

receiving additional social assistance, including cash grants with UN system help.



### Key initiatives

The United Nations coordinates multi-donor interventions

- Helped create the **ACT-Accelerator**, with **\$14.1B** pledged to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.
- Helped create **COVAX**, the vaccine arm of the ACT-Accelerator, which has delivered **175M doses** to **131 countries** as of mid-June 2021.
- Established the **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund**, which mobilized **\$70M** to implement United Nations socioeconomic response and recovery plans with 206 unfunded priority programmes.
- Rapidly issued **23 COVID-19 policy briefs**, which informed national response plans.
- Launched the **Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond**, initiative to galvanize action aimed at recovering better.
- Co-hosted the 2020 Africa Dialogue Series **COVID-19 and silencing the guns in Africa**.

\* Figures as of June 2021



An aeroplane delivers 90 tons of water, medical, sanitation and hygiene supplies as part of the United Nations response to COVID-19. (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; 19 June 2020) © UNICEF

### COVAX: ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES

Even as the total number of individuals vaccinated against COVID-19 increases, for millions around the world, the pandemic continues to pose a significant threat. In more than 50 countries, the percent of deaths from COVID-19 is on the rise. The COVAX initiative aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country and territory in the world, because no one is safe until everyone is safe.

#### Share of people who received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine

As of 1 June 2021



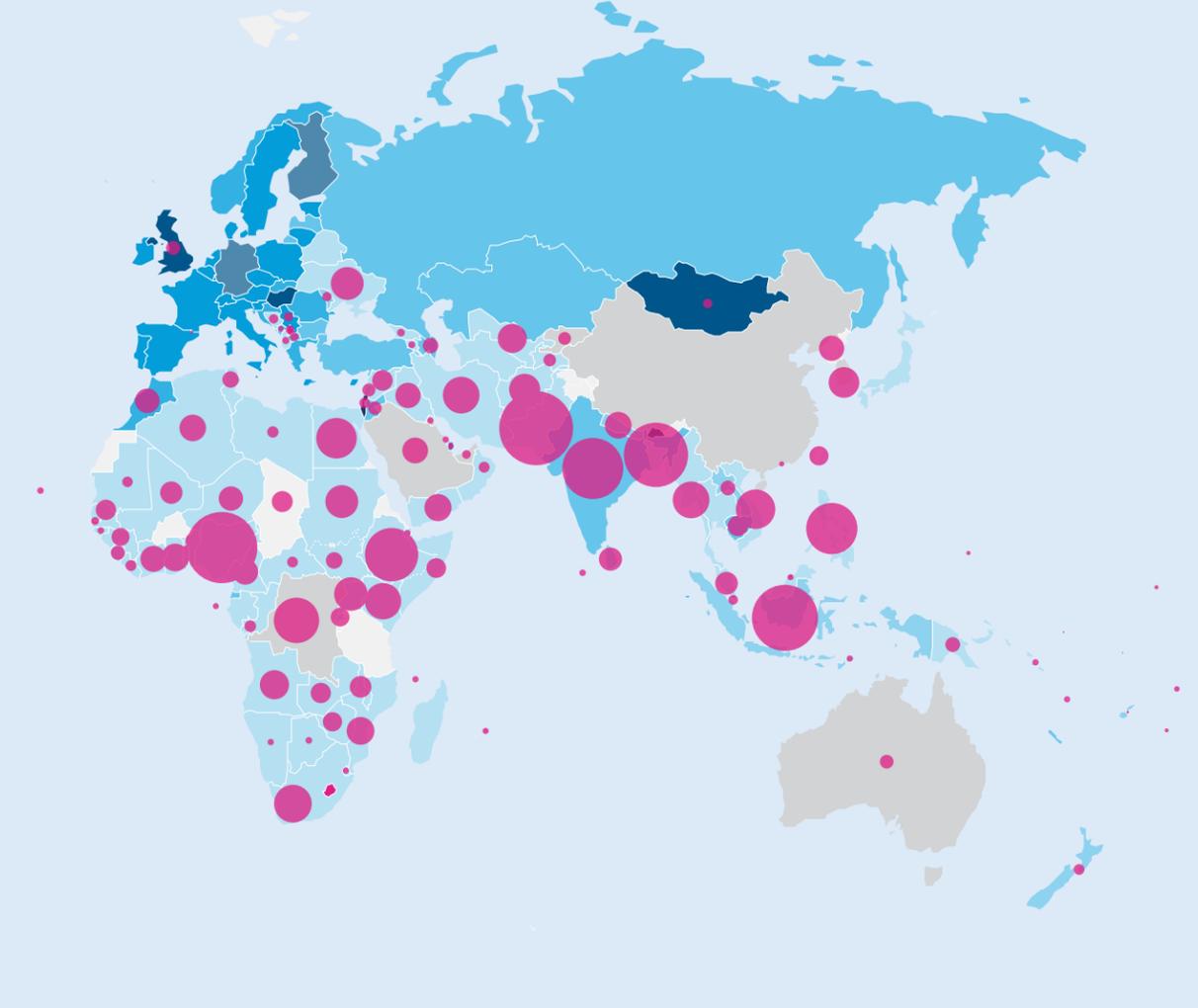
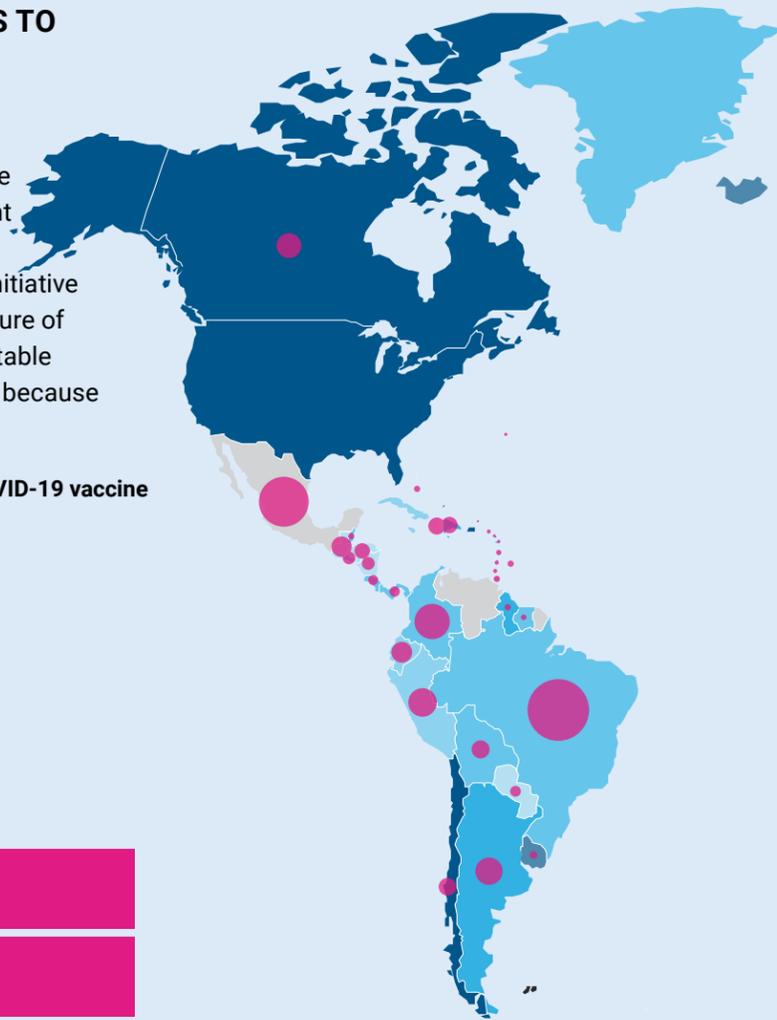
#### Number of COVAX-allocated doses

### COVAX DISTRIBUTION

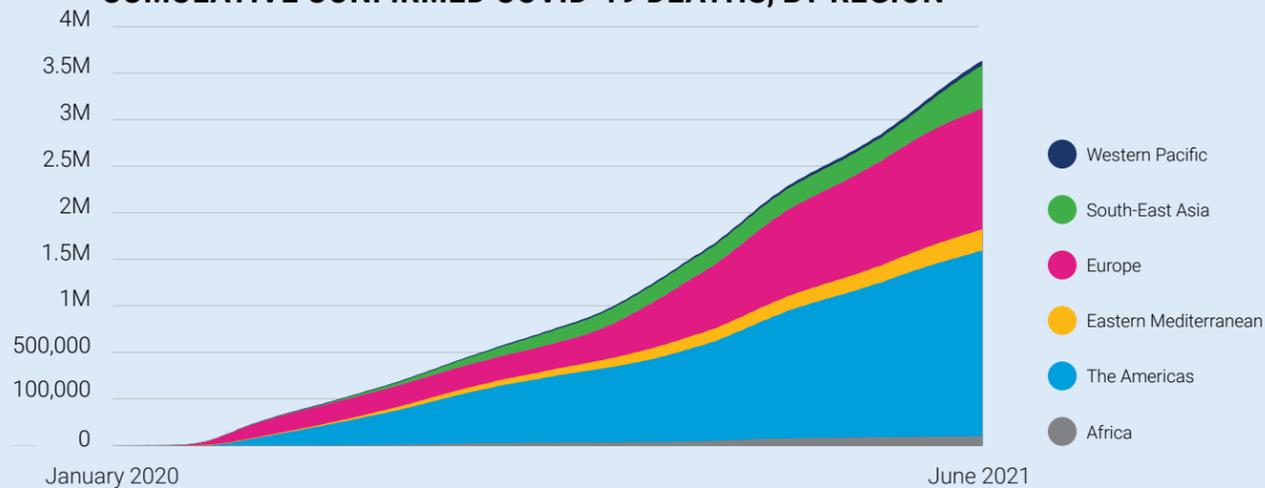
**78M** doses shipped to **124** countries

**3.866B** doses secured and optioned through COVAX

**2B** vaccine doses available for delivery by end of 2021



### CUMULATIVE CONFIRMED COVID-19 DEATHS, BY REGION



A health professional shows a vial of the first COVAX vaccines in Ethiopia. (Eka Kotebe, Ethiopia; 21 March 2021)  
© UNICEF/Nahom Tesfaye

# United Nations Family: Our Work

The Secretariat is one part of the broader United Nations family, which includes agencies, funds and programmes, subsidiary organs, functional and regional commissions and training institutes, among others.

Below is a sample of the work of the broader United Nations family.



The United Nations is supporting authorities in Central Java, Indonesia, to ensure women and children continue to have access to essential health, nutrition and immunization services, as well as key information on COVID-19. (Central Java, Indonesia; 2020) © UNICEF/Fauzan Ijazah

## Climate action

Protected, improved or restored **344M hectares** of landscapes and marine habitats

Provided access to **clean, affordable and sustainable energy** for **800,000 households** headed by women in **16 countries**

## Women

Supported **45 Member States** in increasing **women's participation in electoral processes**, including through advocacy and use of temporary special measures

Assisted **2M women** per month in **overcoming pregnancy and childbirth complications**

Aided **337,000 girls and women** in **preventing/addressing female genital mutilation**

## Food security

Delivered **24B meals** for **138M people** in **80+ countries**

Provided **16M children** with **daily school meals**

## Human rights

Supported **8,594 victims** of **contemporary forms of slavery** in **23 countries**

Partnered with **89 countries** to **reform discriminatory laws**

Assisted **40,000 victims of torture** in **78 countries**

## Peace and security

Maintained **12 peacekeeping operations** with **90,000 peacekeeping personnel**, including **4,333 female peacekeepers**

Provided **mediation support on 95 occasions** in more than **24 different contexts**

Directly assisted in the conduct of **22 elections** and provided capacity development support to **53 Member States** on **electoral processes and institutions**

## Displacement

Assisted **81,000 stateless** individuals in **acquiring/confirming their identity**

Supported **82.5M people fleeing war, famine and persecution**



A staff member of the World Health Organization talks to a mother during a mass measles and polio immunization campaign, that reached nearly half a million children in Mogadishu and the Benadir region (Mogadishu, Somalia; 1 September 2020) © Ismail Taxta

## Children

Supported over **301M children**, including **147M girls**, with **remote learning**

Aided **244M children** in the **prevention of stunting** and other **forms of malnutrition**

Reached over **2.2M children with disabilities** across **144 countries** through **disability-inclusive development and humanitarian programmes**

Provided **47.2M children and caregivers** with **community-based mental health and psychosocial support** in humanitarian situations

## Safe water and sanitation

Distributed **critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** services and supplies for **106M people**, including **58M children**

Provided **18.3M people** with access to **safe drinking water**

## Disease prevention

Shipped **71M doses of COVID-19 vaccines** through COVAX to **125 countries** and **1.1B** items of **personal protective equipment**

Managed a stockpile of **500,000 Ebola vaccines** available for **outbreak response**

## Livelihoods

Helped **5M people** in obtaining a job or a better livelihood in **28 crisis-affected countries**

Aided **1.2M vulnerable people** in **13 countries** with tenure security and the resolution of land disputes

Helped **24M people** gain access to **financial services** in **22 countries**

Engaged with **30 Governments** to build **multidimensional poverty indices** to **improve social inclusion**

A group of youth hold up cards representing the Sustainable Development Goals. (Cuba; 2020)



## Promotion of Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development



### KEY PROGRAMMES

- Support to global policymaking organs
- International cooperation for development
- Regional cooperation for development



### INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$1.6B**

\$493M regular assessed  
\$1.1B voluntary contributions



### SELECT MANDATES

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 70/1
- Political declaration of the high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 74/15
- Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, General Assembly resolution 74/3
- Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy, General Assembly resolution 74/217
- Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, General Assembly resolution 72/279
- Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, General Assembly resolution 75/233
- Victoria Falls Declaration on the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa, ECA/RFSD/2020/16



### SELECT ENTITIES

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Development Coordination Office
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Regional Commissions
- UN-Habitat
- United Nations Environment Programme
- UN-Women



Mexico City Generation Equality mural by artist Adry del Rocio. The mural is intended to be a landmark reflecting on an equal world. (Mexico City, Mexico; 29 March 2021) © UN Women/Dzilam Méndez



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

One year after my call for a decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, our efforts face monumental challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic is having devastating impacts, in many cases reversing years of development progress and deepening pre-existing inequalities. The Goals are now more critical than ever. More than 3.4 million lives have been lost to COVID-19, hunger has increased, and nearly 120 million people have been pushed into poverty. A multilateral response and international solidarity have never been more important.



“The global pandemic was a stress test of the UN development system reform; fortunately, our new arrangements have proven their worth, delivering stronger leadership and more effective UN country teams supporting authorities to respond and recover better for the SDGs.”

*Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination*

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The Organization fosters international cooperation and partnerships on transformative global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, the Vienna Programme of Action and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Serving in 162 countries and territories, resident coordinators lead United Nations country teams, mobilizing United Nations development system entities to deliver on the objectives of cooperation frameworks agreed upon with host Governments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and local levels.



“We must continue to advance evidence-based policies that support Member States in their efforts to recover better and move the world towards sustainable development for all.”

*Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs*

## KEY OUTCOMES

### Meeting the 2030 Agenda in the time of COVID-19

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, I mobilized a comprehensive health, humanitarian and socio-economic response, including a series of 23 policy briefs on the consequences of the crisis and recovering better. These efforts were complemented by concrete analysis, policy recommendations and proposals provided by the broader United Nations system.

Guided by the United Nations framework on the immediate response to COVID-19, the first of its kind, 121 socioeconomic response plans were prepared, covering 139 countries and territories to support an inclusive and green recovery. We also repurposed \$3 billion in funding and mobilized an additional \$2.18 billion to support recovery efforts, leveraging a new catalytic instrument, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, and other resources.

On the health front, the ACT Accelerator, and its COVAX Facility, which is on track to deliver at least 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses in 2021, supported the rapid development of tests, treatments and vaccines.

In July 2020, world leaders participated in the high-level political forum on sustainable development, reaching over 125,000 participants and viewers as a result of its virtual format. A total of 47 countries participated in the voluntary national review process, of which 26 were first-time presenters, demonstrating their deep commitment to the 2030 Agenda despite the limitations posed by the pandemic.

The inaugural Sustainable Development Goals Moment in September 2020 marked the high point of efforts throughout the year to reinforce the position of the 2030 Agenda framework and beyond as a unifying and highly relevant framework for response and recovery efforts and to guarantee a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS STOCKTAKING



**135+**

senior government officials convened in 2020...



**1,100+**

registered participants, including the private sector and civil society...



**125,000+**

viewers reached, owing to its virtual format...



Progress examined in

**47**

countries...



Review process will be completed in

**177**

countries by 2021.



A worker at a supermarket wears a PPE mask promoting the Unite campaign, distributed on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. (Quito, Ecuador; 25 November 2020) © UN Women/Johis Alarcón



A nurse takes a girl's temperature at a primary health-care centre. (Beirut, Lebanon; 3 April 2020) © UNICEF

### Scaling up financing for development

In May 2020, I partnered with Canada and Jamaica to launch the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, promoting concrete financing solutions to the COVID-19 crisis to leaders and ministers of finance. To inform a recovery that is sustainable and inclusive, round tables included eminent women economists, resulting in an ambitious menu of short-, medium- and long-term policies tailored to the needs of various stakeholders. Significant progress was made on the Group of 20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, which delivered more than \$5 billion in relief since it took effect. The 2021 forum of the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond further advanced action-oriented dialogue on the

solutions for financing the COVID-19 recovery and achieving the 2030 Agenda; the outcome document of the 2021 forum was the most ambitious since its inception, raising the commitment level of the international community against the backdrop of the COVID-19 crisis.

To scale up financing for development, the annual Sustainable Development Goals business forum gathered over 10,000 participants who engaged on good practices and solutions for the implementation of the Goals. We also launched the SDG Investor Platform in partnership with the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance, providing private sector investors with tools to drive new levels of capital towards the Goals.



“We are concerned with the exacerbation of pre-existing inequalities and uneven recovery from the global pandemic. We have strengthened support to Member States to ensure trade, investment, and technologies contribute to an inclusive, resilient and gender- and nature-friendly recovery.”

*Isabelle Durant, Acting Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*



“Let us forge a common agenda to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to advance sustainable development through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.”

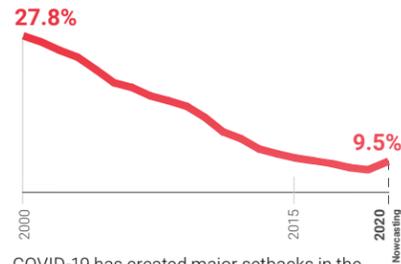
*Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

The 2021 SDG Investment fair was held virtually on 13 and 14 April, and featured presentations by Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya and Pakistan.

# THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: AN OVERVIEW

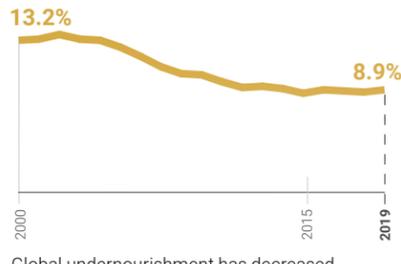
Variations in the frequency of data collection across the Goals contributes to different cut-off dates in the charts below.

**1 NO POVERTY**  
Proportion of population below international poverty line, total (%)



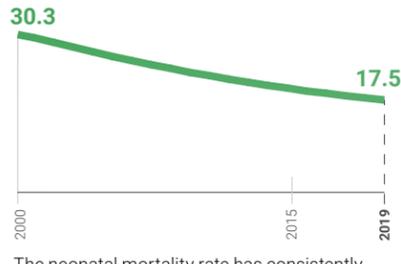
COVID-19 has created major setbacks in the reduction of poverty.

**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)



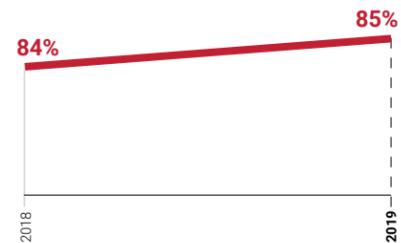
Global undernourishment has decreased since 2000. Estimates are based on projected values.

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)



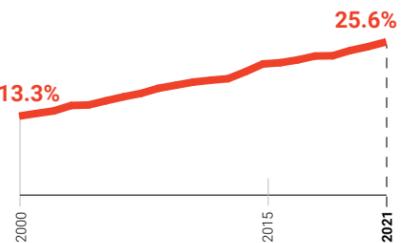
The neonatal mortality rate has consistently declined.

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  
Primary school completion rate



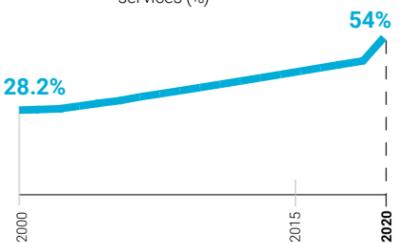
Universal and equitable access to primary education is yet to be achieved.

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**  
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (% of total number of seats)



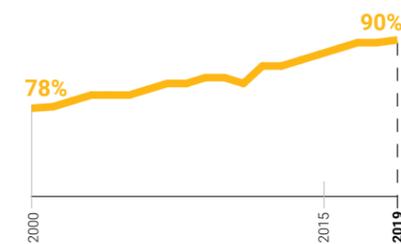
Major progress has been made towards addressing female underrepresentation in national parliaments.

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**  
Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)



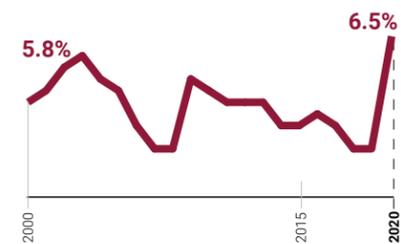
More people have access to safely managed sanitation services today than in 2000.

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**  
Proportion of population with access to electricity (%)



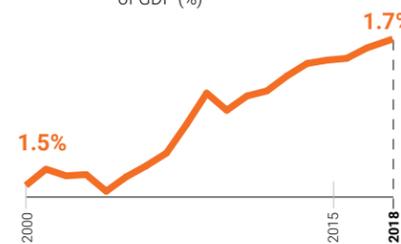
The vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity.

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
Unemployment rate (%)



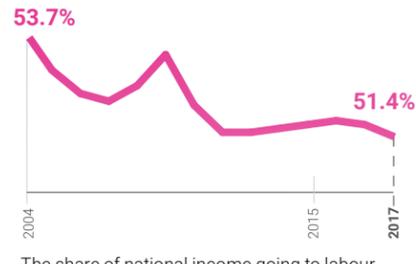
Global unemployment has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, erasing progress made over the past two decades.

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (%)



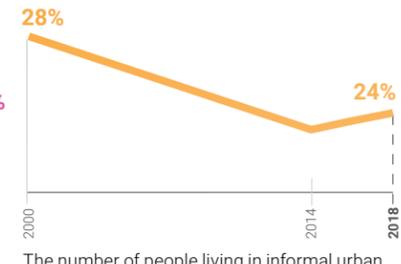
Research and development is increasingly prioritized across the globe.

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  
Labour share of GDP (%)



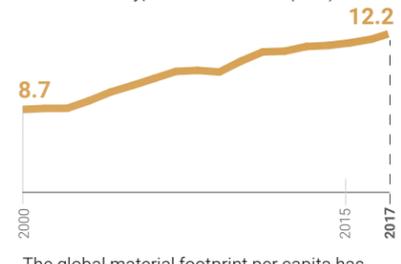
The share of national income going to labour has shown a downward trend.

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**  
Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)



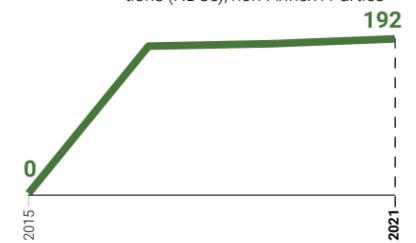
The number of people living in informal urban settlements has declined since 2000.

**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**  
Material footprint per capita, by type of raw material (tons)



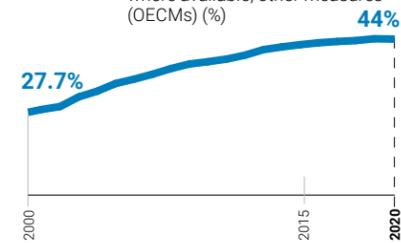
The global material footprint per capita has increased.

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**  
Number of countries that have communicated their first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), non-Annex I Parties



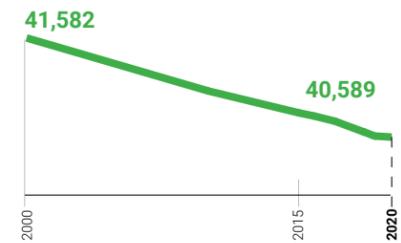
All 191 Parties to the Paris Agreement, and Eritrea, have communicated their first NDCs.

**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**  
Mean proportion of marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas and, where available, other measures (OECMs) (%)



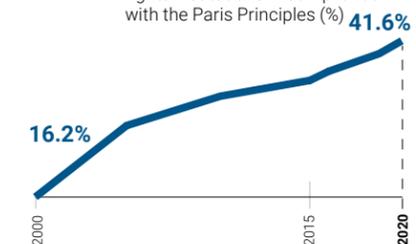
The proportion of key areas placed under conservation designation has increased since 2000.

**15 LIFE ON LAND**  
Forest area (thousands of km<sup>2</sup>)



More efforts are needed to conserve and restore forests around the world.

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**  
Proportion of countries with independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (%)



Less than 50% of countries have human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

**17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS**  
Net Official Development Assistance (ODA) (% of Development Assistance Committee GNI)



The 0.7% aid/GNI target for international aid has yet to be collectively achieved. Source: OECD

### ACCELERATING PROGRESS

The Sustainable Development Goals are not on track to be achieved by 2030, despite progress in some areas. Furthermore, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has slowed – and in some cases, reversed – across the 17 Goals. This makes the Decade of Action all the more urgent, requiring the support of Member States and other partners.

For a detailed progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, visit [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/progress-report](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/progress-report).

### Leaving no one behind

To enhance our support to small island developing States, whose unique vulnerabilities have been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, we proposed, as requested by the General Assembly, recommendations for the development and use of a multi-dimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States to guide programmatic support.

To support the 3.6 billion people who lack Internet access, the Commission for Social Development adopted policies to promote digital inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons. We also supported over 300 million children and youth around the world in continuing their education online during the pandemic.

To combat food insecurity and unhealthy diets, in 2021 the Commission on Population and Development adopted by consensus a resolution on population, food security, nutrition and development that will inform upcoming international meetings and forums.

Implementation of Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth is gaining momentum across the United Nations system with the finalization of the United Nations country team scorecard to benchmark progress. In 2020, the first reporting by 33 entities and 130 United Nations country teams indicated that our response to youth needs during the COVID-19 crisis had been rapid and robust.

In 2021, we launched the first Global Report on Ageism. The report is aimed at increasing the visibility of ageist attitudes, characterized by stereotypes or discrimination based on old age, and facilitates comprehensive policy responses that support every stage of life.



“ Inequality defines Latin America and the Caribbean. A transformative and sustainable recovery must be based on climate action, eradicating all forms of inequality, ending poverty and building inclusive social and fiscal compacts towards universal social protection. ”

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



“ To harness the transformative powers of urbanization and fulfil the promise of sustainable development, cities need effective planning, management and governance. ”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat



“ Now more than ever before, the most vulnerable States require our special attention and support to survive the confluence of the climate crisis and COVID-19. ”

Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu, Former High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS



The pandemic is intensifying the inequalities experienced by the world's one billion people with disabilities. (Bangladesh; 5 April 2020) © UNDP Bangladesh/Fahad Kaizer



Life Below Water advocate Şahika Ercümen dived in the Bosphorus to draw attention to the increasing pollution of the seas during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Istanbul, Turkey; 27 June 2020) © Şebnem Coşkun - Anadolu Agency/UNDP Turkey

## Climate action

Our climate action leadership comes at a critical moment as global temperatures continued to rise in 2020, contributing to wildfires, droughts, floods, coral bleaching, locust swarms and increased frequency of extreme weather events, crippling communities and impeding development. Unsustainable consumption and production are driving climate, biodiversity and pollution crises.

A global coalition of stakeholders committed to net zero emissions by 2050 expanded, with many Governments increasing interim targets to deliver on 45 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030. I continued to encourage countries to support the energy transition in developing countries and ensure that the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion in new annual pledges on climate finance is met or surpassed for the period 2021–2025.

Over the course of 2020, we provided significant support to Member States enhancing nationally determined contributions and delivering on climate and environment priorities, with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to guide our action at the country level.

As the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011–2020) concluded, the United Nations held its first summit on biodiversity in September 2020. Attended by 72 Heads of State and Government, the summit helped to ensure that climate and biodiversity emergencies remained at the fore of the global sustainable development agenda.

In April 2021, the first stocktaking report on the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 was produced. While progress is being made towards increasing global forest area, particularly in Asia, Europe and Oceania, the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and escalating climate and biodiversity crises are threatening to offset those gains.

Early warning, early action programmes have been critical in reducing disaster mortality as extreme weather events doubled between 2000 and 2019. A partnership with the World Broadcasting Unions on the “Media saves lives” project trained over 500 journalists to communicate with citizens to reduce vulnerability in the event of a disaster.



“2020 has taught us that the global community is capable of rapid, transformational change. As we seek to recover from COVID-19, we need a common and transformative approach to addressing the triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution.”

*Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme*

### Gender equality

COVID-19 has exacerbated gender inequalities in every society, pushing more women into unemployment, poverty, increased care burdens and spiralling violence against women and girls. From the start of the crisis, the United Nations system has responded by ensuring that gender equality is at the start of response and recovery planning. One of the first policy briefs that I released addressed the impact of the pandemic on women and girls. In addition, anticipating increases in violence against women and girls, I appealed for peace in the home, a call taken up by over 140 Member States.

To drive gender-sensitive responses to the pandemic, we increased the availability and breadth of gender data, capturing intersecting inequalities through The World’s Women 2020. We also published a dashboard of gender indicators on the Women Count data hub and established the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, which assesses the extent to which 3,100 national policy measures are gender-responsive. The Women Rise for All series highlighted the effectiveness of women’s leadership and gender-balanced decision-making, reinforcing the Organization’s commitment to the consistent advocacy of temporary special measures, including quotas, in the implementation of my

call to action for human rights. While commemorations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were delayed, the year was spent mobilizing to ensure that concrete results are secured from the global Generation Equality Forum.



**“The universal and catastrophic lack of representation of women’s interests has gone on too long. Excluding women in decision-making bodies denies women meaningful solutions to their problems. The response to COVID-19 and climate cannot be left to men alone.”**

*Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN-Women*



Seventy-five fathers and their children joined a series of activities to promote positive models of masculinity and highlight the role of men in combating gender-based violence and discrimination. (Kufr Nimeh, West Bank/State of Palestine; 15 August 2020) © UN Women/Sanad Abu Latifa

### SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Despite a global surge in gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spotlight Initiative continued to make significant progress towards ending violence against women and girls. In 2020:



**650,000+**

women and girls provided with services to address gender-based violence



**84**

laws and policies signed or strengthened in 17 countries



**1M**

young people joined in- and out-of-school programmes



**880,000**

men and boys educated about positive masculinity, respectful family relationships, non-violent conflict resolution and parenting



**22%**

increase in the number of convictions of perpetrators of violence, compared with 2019



**\$146M**

delivered to date to civil society organizations



Sou Fujimoto’s “Cloud” was lit in orange as part of the Orange the World campaign to end violence against women. (Tirana, Albania; 25 November 2020) © UN Women/Eduard Pagria

### Regional support

Core to our development system reform was the harnessing of United Nations expertise and technical capabilities at the regional level to strengthen support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/23, regional collaborative platforms were established, bringing together regional commissions and regional offices of United Nations development system entities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, and Arab States to provide coordinated support to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams and strategic direction on common priorities at the regional and subregional levels. The platforms built issue-based

coalitions, rolled out knowledge hubs, strengthened data systems and advanced efficiency efforts.

Regional collaborative platforms published their first annual regional United Nations development system results reports of system entities. Regional forums on sustainable development provided guidance on priority areas for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The regional commissions developed the COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker, an interactive platform containing over 6,600 policy responses from 194 countries, establishing a knowledge platform for good practices for COVID-19 recovery and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



“Solidarity is what we need for our hopes to become real. As we advance in the Decade of Action, positive change and innovation should drive our collective effort.”

*Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*



“We must abandon the take-make-waste model to embrace a circular economy approach as a means to deliver on climate change and create green jobs.”

*Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe*



As part of the UN4Beirut initiative, more than 250 staff members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations cleaned affected areas of Beirut. (Beirut, Lebanon; 8 August 2020) © ESCWA

# United Nations Development System

Three years ago, Member States adopted the most far-reaching reforms of the development system in the history of the Organization to ensure that we were equipped to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impact was the first litmus test for the system. The reinvigorated, independent and impartial resident coordinator system and the new generation of United Nations country teams rose to the challenge. Over 240 million people were supported with essential services, 36 million received critical water and sanitation supplies and 120 million benefited from social protection schemes.

In December 2020, the General Assembly adopted resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, sending a strong signal of ongoing support for the reforms as it shifted attention to results, identifying substantive areas for action by the United Nations development system until 2025.

In addition, to strengthen collaboration across the humanitarian, development and peace pillars, a new Sahel investment mechanism was conceived to

scale up the joined-up United Nations response in the Sahel; a new Secretary-General's planning directive is being rolled out for Burkina Faso; and the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration facilitated closer cooperation with country leadership, with a focus on the Sudan.

## KEY OUTCOMES

**91%** of programme country Governments indicate that the United Nations is more relevant to their country's development needs, compared with three years ago.

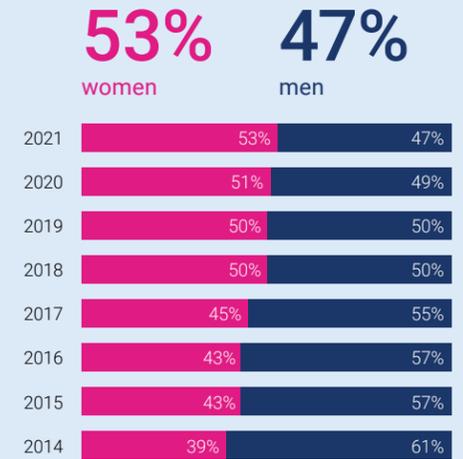
**92%** say that resident coordinators (RCs) have ensured a coherent United Nations response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**85%+** of programme country Governments reported that RCs and UNCTs have the right profile, skillsets and capacities to support their country's development.

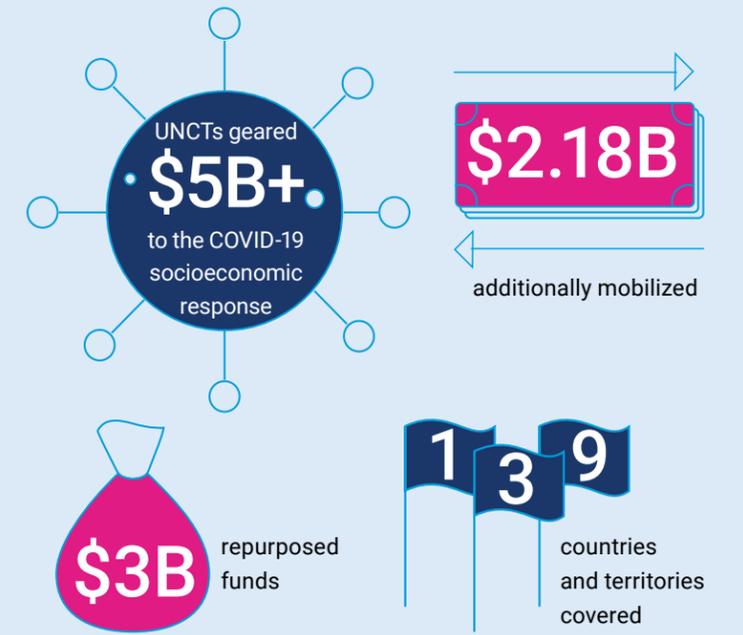


United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) community facilitator Tanzima Akter distributes antibacterial soap to a family in Dhaka. (Dhaka, Bangladesh; May 2020) © UN Women/Fahad Abdullah Kaizer

## 53% OF RESIDENT COORDINATORS ARE WOMEN

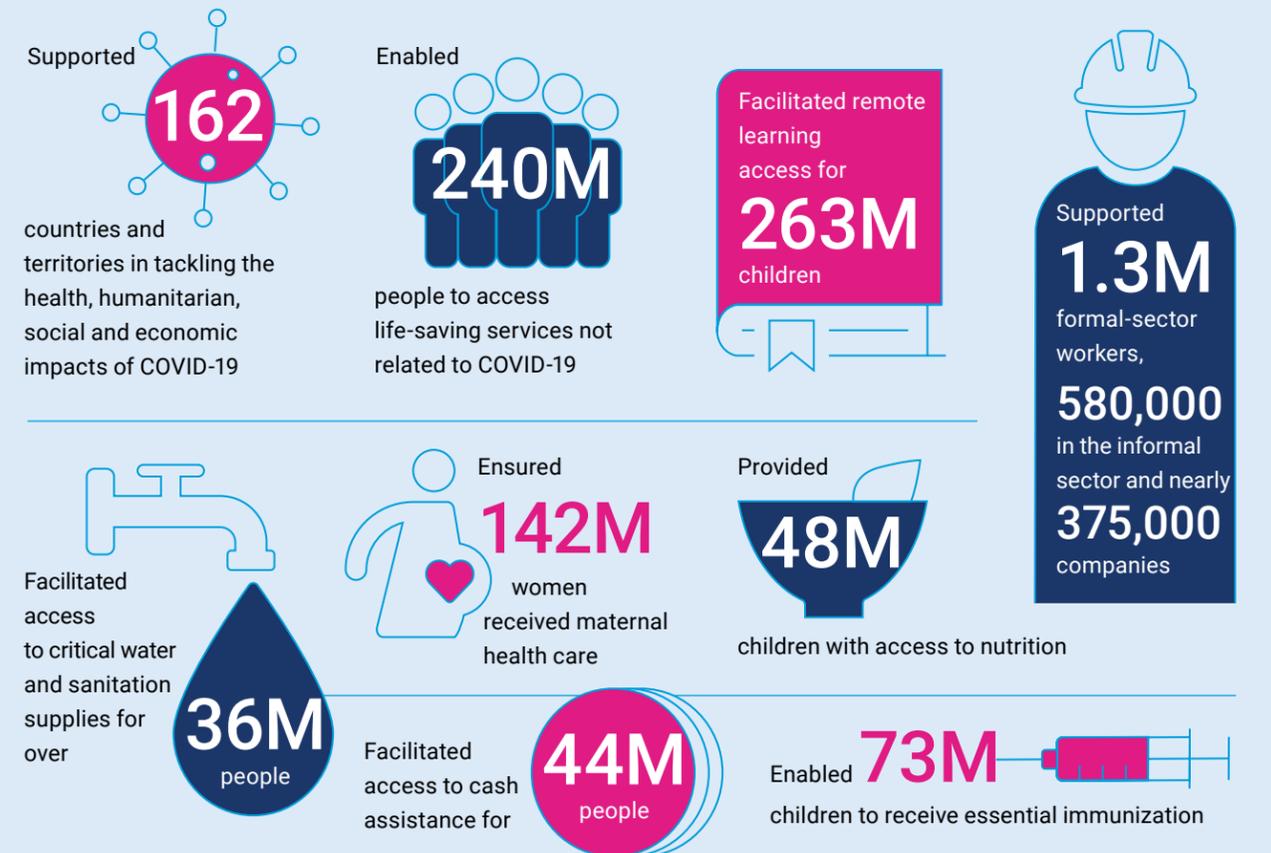


\* As of April 2021



## TACKLING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19

United Nations country teams have rolled out 121 immediate response plans to help 139 countries and territories tackle the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



In Cyprus, women-led intercommunal dialogues and initiatives have helped to build trust between communities. (Cyprus; February 2020)

© UNFICYP



# Maintenance of International Peace and Security

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## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Support to global policymaking organs
- Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts
- Peacebuilding support
- Policy, evaluation and training
- Protection of civilians
- Rule of law and security institutions
- Electoral assistance



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$7.6B**

\$895M regular assessed (including \$711M for special political missions)

\$6.4B peacekeeping assessed (2019/2020)

\$318M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

- Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar, General Assembly resolutions 72/199 and 72/262 C
- Peacebuilding and sustaining peace, General Assembly resolutions 72/276 and 75/201; Security Council resolutions 2282 (2016) and 2558 (2020)
- Women, peace and security, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2493 (2019)
- Children in armed conflict, Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 2427 (2018)
- Sexual violence in armed conflict, Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 2467 (2019)
- Youth, peace and security, Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020)
- Safety and security of peacekeepers, Security Council resolution 2518 (2020)
- Cessation of hostilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Security Council resolution 2532 (2020)
- Comprehensive review of special political missions, General Assembly resolution 75/100



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- Department of Peace Operations
- Peacekeeping operations, special political missions and support offices



The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia supported a humanitarian convoy to facilitate the transfer of essential medical supplies. (Cauca, Colombia; 7 May 2020) © UN Verification Mission in Colombia



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

Our capacity to respond to crises and incipient or potential conflict was tested as never before in the past year. The pandemic, for the most part, did not affect the underlying dynamics of armed conflict, but it undermined trust in institutions, exacerbated inequality and created new flashpoints for tension. Because COVID-19 restrictions hindered in-person diplomatic action, my special representatives and envoys leveraged technology to prevent conflict, de-escalate crises and advance peace processes, including in some conflicts that underwent dangerous escalation. The reform of our peace and security pillar resulted in more cohesive responses.



“ The pandemic has been a political stress test, with some seeing acute crisis as leverage in battle or at the negotiating table. But it has also confirmed that political will to make and sustain peace can overcome any barrier, especially if there is support from the global community. ”

*Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs*

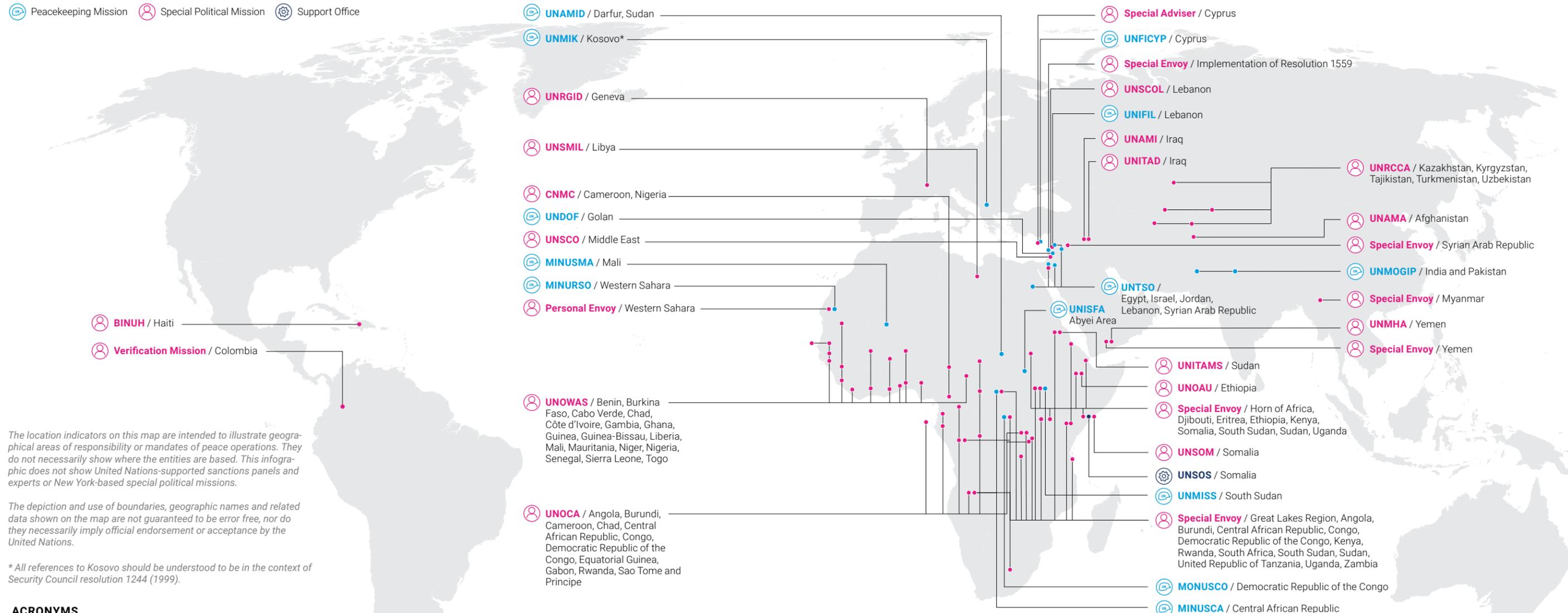


“ It is only through our collective dedication to strengthening peacekeeping that our missions will be stronger, safer and relevant. The missions who we serve and who depend on us expect no less. ”

*Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations*

# PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS AND SUPPORT OFFICES

 Peacekeeping Mission 
  Special Political Mission 
  Support Office



The location indicators on this map are intended to illustrate geographical areas of responsibility or mandates of peace operations. They do not necessarily show where the entities are based. This infographic does not show United Nations-supported sanctions panels and experts or New York-based special political missions.

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on the map are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\* All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

ACRONYMS	
<b>BINUH</b>	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti
<b>CNMC</b>	United Nations Support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission
<b>MINURSO</b>	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
<b>MINUSCA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
<b>MINUSMA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
<b>MONUSCO</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>UNAMA</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
<b>UNAMI</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
<b>UNAMID</b>	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
<b>UNDOF</b>	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
<b>UNFICYP</b>	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
<b>UNIFIL</b>	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
<b>UNIOGBIS</b>	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau
<b>UNISFA</b>	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
<b>UNITAD</b>	United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
<b>UNITAMS</b>	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan
<b>UNMHA</b>	United Nations Mission to Support the Hedaydah Agreement, Hudaydah
<b>UNMIK</b>	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
<b>UNMISS</b>	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
<b>UNMOGIP</b>	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
<b>UNOAU</b>	United Nations Office to the African Union
<b>UNOCA</b>	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
<b>UNOWAS</b>	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
<b>UNRCCA</b>	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
<b>UNRGID</b>	United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions
<b>UNSCO</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
<b>UNSCOL</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
<b>UNSMIL</b>	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
<b>UNSOM</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
<b>UNSOS</b>	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
<b>UNTSO</b>	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

In addition to the missions listed here, a Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General is supporting peacemaking efforts in Mozambique.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports Member States through a wide range of activities in the area of international peace and security, grounded in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Through its political, peacebuilding and peacekeeping engagements, the Organization assists in the prevention, mitigation, management and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Organization also dedicates capacities to advancing women's participation in peace processes, tackling violence against children, sexual violence in conflict, and children and armed conflict, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and the prevention of genocide.

## KEY OUTCOMES

### Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

We adjusted our working methods to advance conflict prevention and peacemaking despite the additional challenges posed by the pandemic. My special representatives and envoys engaged with conflict parties to move towards ceasefires and lasting political settlements. In the Sudan, we continued our support to the transition with the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS). The Mission advocated the implementation of the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan and worked to bring non-signatory armed groups into the peace process to achieve a comprehensive and inclusive peace. To that end, UNITAMS supported the peace talks between the transitional Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the good offices process and the implementation of the United Nations Initiative for the Consolidation of Peace contributed to the holding of elections in an overall peaceful climate. In Libya, intra-Libyan dialogues facilitated by the United Nations Support

## SUPPORTING MEDIATION EFFORTS



Operational support was provided on **95+** occasions...



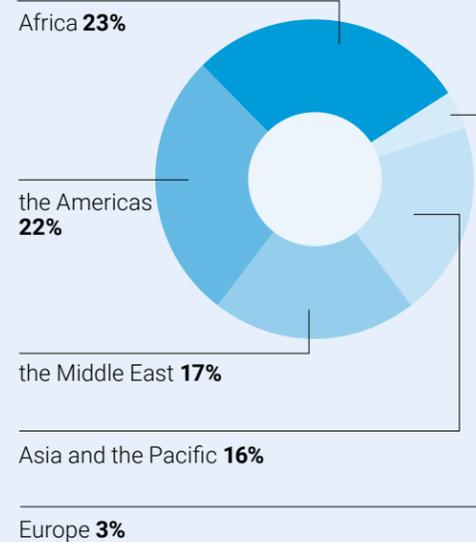
in more than **24** different contexts.



Support was provided in the areas of design and management of mediation and dialogue facilitation efforts; gender and inclusion; constitution-making; and ceasefire/security arrangements.



We provide support in



Representatives from the Parliament, Government and National Election Commission of Somalia participate in discussions that aim to increase women's political participation in the country. (Mogadishu, Somalia; 7 January 2020)  
© Ilyas Ahmed

Mission in Libya led to the signing of a ceasefire agreement on 23 October 2020, a political road map and the selection of an interim executive authority to lead the country towards elections scheduled for 24 December 2021. In South Sudan, we provided good offices and mediation to strengthen trust in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.

My special envoys and representatives also worked to help defuse tensions around electoral processes. In Malawi, my Special Representative to the African Union assisted in responding to the challenges posed by a drawn-out presidential electoral process, including by defusing tensions and promoting trust in, and respect for, national recourse institutions. My Special Representative for the Central African Republic used his good offices in helping to ensure that presidential and legislative elections remained on schedule despite a challenging environment.

Our close partnership with regional organizations remains central to our work. Cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, as well as other partners, contributed to preventing and defusing election-related tensions and violence in West Africa and the Sahel, notably surrounding the presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire on 31 October 2020. In Myanmar, following the declaration of a state of emergency by the military on 1 February 2021, my Special Envoy on Myanmar and I led international calls to uphold the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar, while ensuring a coherent United Nations approach to maintaining assistance to the people of Myanmar and to strengthening United Nations partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The United Nations maintains more than 40 special political missions and 12 peacekeeping operations,

comprising more than 90,000 civilian and uniformed personnel. Our peace operations are staying the course in complex situations and adapting to better assist national efforts to build and sustain peace. Planning for the United Nations transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and the Sudan was carried out in close collaboration with missions and United Nations country teams. In the Sudan, the United Nations reflected the country's democratic transition in adapting its own structure in the country, with the closing down of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the ramping up of UNITAMS to support the political transition and the peace process and contribute to peacebuilding in the country.

My Action for Peacekeeping initiative, endorsed by 154 Member States and four partner organizations, continued to mobilize collective support for peacekeeping operations, including strengthening

the safety and security of peacekeepers, enhancing the performance and accountability of missions and ensuring that integrated strategies support the achievement of political objectives. On 29 March 2021, I introduced Action for Peacekeeping Plus to further strengthen Action for Peacekeeping commitments and results.

Our instruments for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts keep evolving with emerging risks, threats and trends. Our missions are using digital tools to monitor media and online content, including for disinformation and hate speech. In the Central African Republic during the recent presidential elections and in South Sudan, we worked with social media companies to counter hate speech and misinformation. In Mali, the Mission's weekly radio show, *Le vrai du faux*, fights misinformation. Digital tools also supported broader participation in dialogue processes in Libya, where the United



A UNIFIL peacekeeper monitors the Blue Line during a patrol in the vicinity of Bastarra. UNIFIL carries out some 450 activities daily, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. (South Lebanon; 21 May 2020) © UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz



A4P plus aims to accelerate progress made on A4P implementation by focusing on seven key priorities. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and innovative, data-driven and technology-enabled peacekeeping are mainstreamed across the seven priorities. To date, A4P has been endorsed by 154 Member States and four partner organizations.

Nations Support Mission in Libya engaged with large groups of women, youth and local representatives and the broader Libyan public via digital platforms to gather views. In response to the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and my recently launched Data Strategy, we developed a web-based tool to facilitate social media reporting and are developing other digital tools to help missions to address disinformation and hate speech. More broadly, through the United Nations Innovation Network, we are exploring, pioneering and leveraging cross-cutting methodologies, including new technologies, behavioural insights and immersive visualization, to advance the implementation of our mandates.

In 2020, I released my first report on youth and peace and security (S/2020/167) since the Security Council adopted resolution 2250 (2015), in which it recognized the essential role of young people in preventing and resolving conflict and in sustaining peace.

### Protection of civilians

Peacekeeping operations and special political missions continued to play an important role in protecting civilians, in support of the primary responsibility of host States, including through political engagement to prevent and resolve conflict, support to the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law and the facilitation of humanitarian assistance. To mitigate the operational constraints imposed by the pandemic, operations adapted community engagement, patrolling and capacity-building. For example, in South Sudan, a key milestone was achieved when protection of civilians sites were redesignated as sites for internally displaced persons, secured by national authorities. In the Sudan, UNITAMS is supporting the implementation of a national strategy to protect civilians. In the Central African Republic, amid electoral tensions, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic stabilized several regions, mitigating harm to civilians and enabling popular participation.

#### OUR PEACEKEEPING WORK

 **90,000+**  
peacekeepers...

 including  
**4,333**  
female peacekeepers...

 in  
**12**  
operations...

 in  
**12**  
countries.

#### CLIMATE SECURITY

The climate security mechanism has expanded efforts to support United Nations field missions, country teams and other partners in regions highly affected by the linkages between climate change and peace and security. The mechanism has launched multi-stakeholder projects in the Americas, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa aimed at strengthening integrated and gender-sensitive approaches to risk analysis and management. Across all engagements, the mechanism leverages partnerships to promote peacebuilding and climate action for sustainable solutions.



After living at the UNMISS protection site in Juba for several years, 13 internally displaced people voluntarily returned to their hometown. (Malakal, South Sudan; 25 February 2020) © UN/Isaac Billy

# Women, Peace and Security

In February 2021, women represented 48 per cent of heads and deputy heads of mission, leading efforts to find political solutions to crises. We have also made progress in increasing the number of uniformed women deployed, exceeding all but one of the targets set out in the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028 in 2021. The number of deployed women in uniform has increased fivefold in the past three decades, and we are working towards full gender parity based on our uniformed gender parity strategy. To that end, we continue to take measures to improve the work environment and mitigate barriers to women’s meaningful contribution to peacekeeping.

Twenty years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), however, women’s direct

participation in track 1 peace processes remains one of the least implemented goals of the women and peace and security agenda. In 2021, I called upon Member States to implement temporary special measures, including quotas, to increase women’s equal participation in peace and other decision-making processes.

In 2020, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund saw significant growth in its support to women who prevent conflict, respond to crises and accelerate the achievement of peace in their communities. The Fund supported 293 local organizations in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings, reaching 6.4 million people in 22 countries. It also provided financing to 62 civil society organizations responding to COVID-19 in 18 countries.



Belvia de Bonheur Roimale is one of 258 women who recently joined the National Gendarmerie of the Central African Republic through a recruitment campaign initiated by MINUSCA. This photograph was featured in the Women Wage Peace photo exhibit at United Nations Headquarters, New York, in 2020, which showcased women transforming peace in peacekeeping contexts. (Central African Republic; 2019) © MINUSCA/Hervé Sereffio

## OUR WORK TOWARDS EQUAL REPRESENTATION

In 2020, **40%** of the Secretary-General’s Envoys, Representatives and Advisers were women.

The Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Board on Mediation was composed of **50%** women.

Women accounted for **40%** of staff in United Nations mediation teams.

In United Nations-led and co-led peace processes, **23%** of negotiators and delegates were women.

In 2020, the Peacebuilding Fund maintained its focus on gender-responsive peacebuilding. Some 40 per cent of its investments supported gender equality and the empowerment of women, exceeding its annual target of 30 per cent and, for the sixth year in a row, the 15 per cent target set in my Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding. Guided by its gender strategy, the Peacebuilding Commission delivered tangible support to numerous women peacebuilders. The Commission also increased the number of women briefers from 6 in 2019 to 25 in 2020.

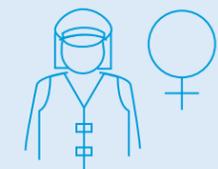
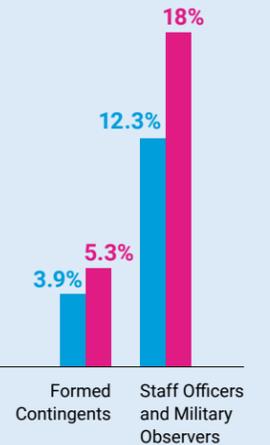
## ACHIEVING UNIFORMED GENDER PARITY

● at the launch of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (2018) ● 2021



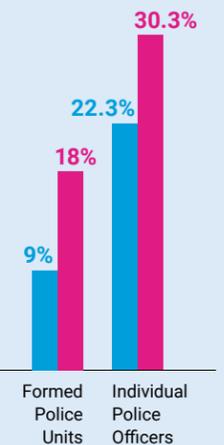
### Military

Number of female staff officers and military observers increased by nearly 50% since the launch of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy



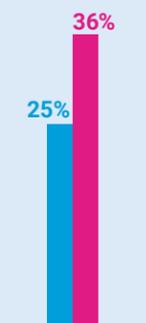
### Police

Accomplished target of at least 25% in seconded professional police posts at United Nations Headquarters and 21% in field missions by 2019 to 2020



### Justice and Corrections

Number of women serving as justice and corrections personnel surpassed the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy target by 3% in 2019 and 2.6% in 2020



### Peacebuilding support

On 21 December 2020, the General Assembly and the Security Council concluded the third review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, unanimously adopting twin resolutions 75/201 and 2558 (2020).

The Peacebuilding Commission engaged in 15 separate country- and region-specific contexts in 2020, including multi-partner support for peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, engagement with women former combatants and survivors in Colombia and mobilization of support for the National Development Plan and National Reconciliation Framework of Somalia.

The Peacebuilding Fund provided nearly \$174 million in investments across 39 countries in 2020, 97 per cent of which contributed to targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the Organization's instrument of first resort to support integrated programming for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, 83 per cent of the investments from the Fund went to joint programmes. Key priorities included supporting system-wide responses to facilitate transitions in eight countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan; women and youth inclusion

in 20 countries; and cross-border and regional approaches involving 20 countries, including in Central America and the Sahel region.

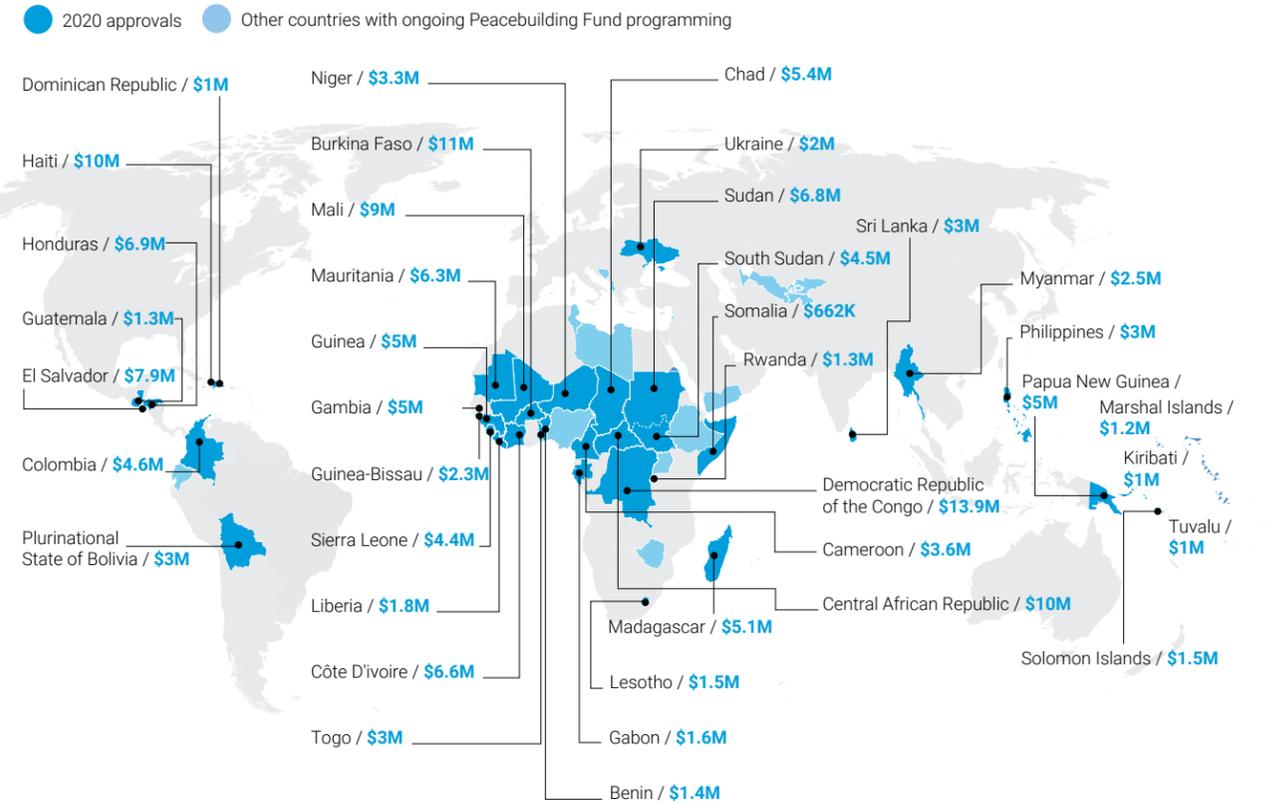
We also strengthened our partnership with the World Bank, collaborating in 47 country contexts in the priority areas of prevention, food security, forced displacement and COVID-19 response.



**“ Inclusive and sustainable development, and conflict prevention and peacebuilding are two sides of the same coin. ”**

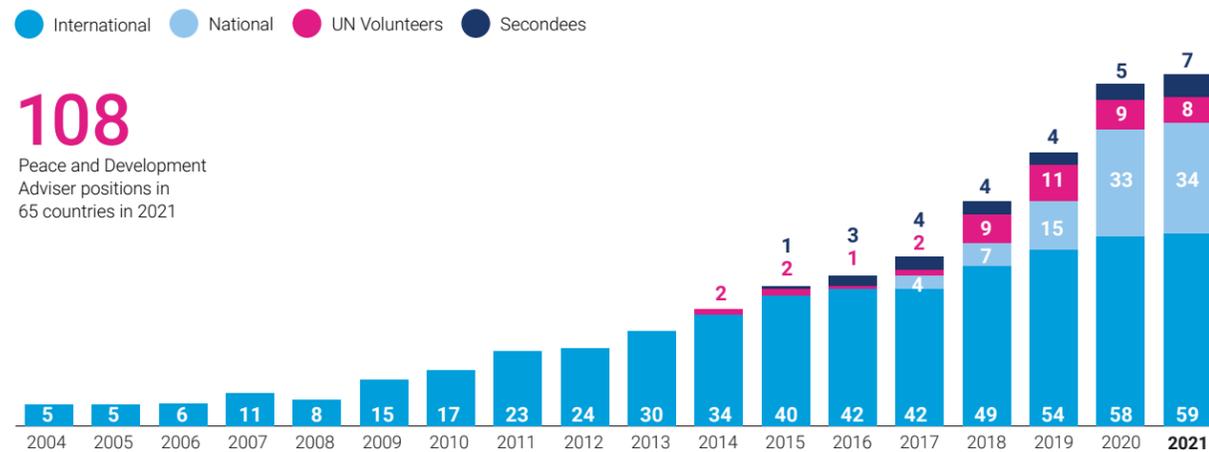
*Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support*

### SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND 2020



The final boundary between Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

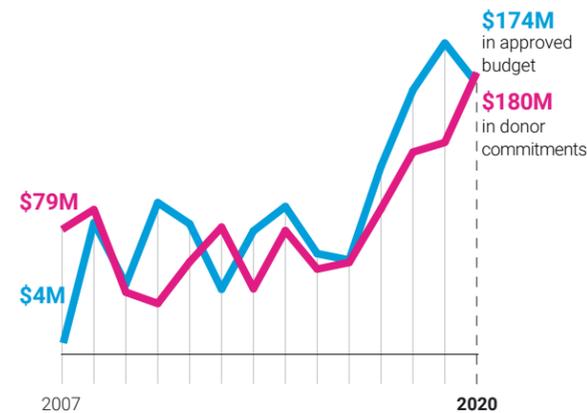
### PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISERS WORK TO BUILD NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION



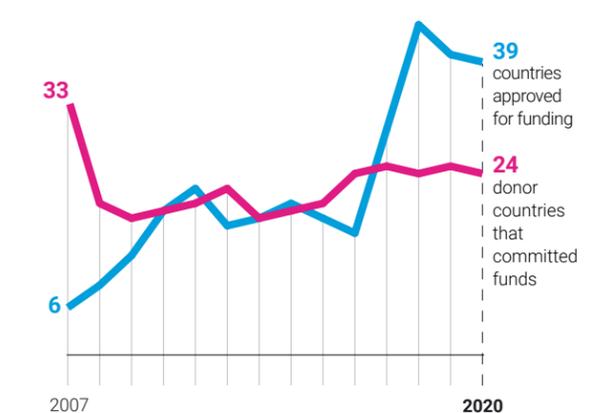
\* Survey pending finalization, some numbers may vary as additional responses are included.

Peace and Development Advisers are deployed by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs-UNDP Joint Programme.

### \$174M APPROVED FOR PROJECTS AND \$180M RECEIVED IN NEW COMMITMENTS



### MORE COUNTRIES BENEFIT FROM THE FUND WITH A STABLE NUMBER OF DONORS



### Electoral assistance

The year 2020 was a challenging one for elections. Member States faced difficult decisions on postponing or proceeding with elections that involved complex legal, political, human rights and public health considerations.

We provided electoral assistance in 54 States and territories, including 9 under a Security Council mandate. We directly assisted 22 elections and referendums in 2020, including in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova and Vanuatu, as well as in New Caledonia (France). We conducted 13 needs assessments, both virtually and in person, and 12 advisory missions.

We supported the African Union in developing a framework for electoral assistance and the League of Arab States in strengthening its electoral database and institutional memory.

Promoting women's participation is a guiding principle in our electoral support. All electoral needs assessments incorporated gender considerations. The United Nations supported the efforts of 45 Member States to increase women's equal participation in electoral processes, including in advocating and adopting temporary special measures. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, we supported women's political participation and measures to combat gender-based violence in politics, and national efforts led, for the first time, to gender parity on candidate lists. Our global roster campaign to diversify our pool of electoral experts led to a 25 per cent increase in the number of women experts.



Despite the fragile security situation in the Central African Republic, women mobilized to call for peaceful elections. Women accounted for 46 per cent of registered voters. (Central African Republic; 27 December 2020) © MINUSCA/Hervé Sereffio

### Rule of law and security institutions

Strengthening the rule of law and security sector governance remains a core pillar of stability and durable peace. We continued to support the capacity of countries and areas in which the United Nations has field missions, including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen, as well as Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> by reinforcing accountability for crimes fuelling conflict, extending prison security, enhancing the capacity and accountability of defence and security forces in line with international human rights and humanitarian law, disarming and

demobilizing ex-combatants and reintegrating them into civilian life, and mitigating explosive threats, on the basis of Security Council mandates.

We assisted, provided tools to and advised Member States on how to better address potential drivers of conflict related to the rule of law and security sector governance, as well as how to mitigate COVID-19-related risks to national rule of law and security sectors.

We assisted 16 peace operations undertaking human rights-compliant planning and operations through policy guidance and training to enhance their support to national authorities. We provided explosive ordnance risk education

#### OUR ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Provided capacity development for **54** Member States on electoral processes and institutions...

and conducted **13** needs assessments, both virtually and in-person.

Directly assisted in the conduct of **22** elections, including supporting health and safety measures to reduce COVID-19 risks.

Conducted a global roster campaign which resulted in a **25%** increase in the number of female United Nations electoral experts.

#### OUR SUPPORT TO RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

**9,000+** UN Police officers developed national capacities in host States.

**1.7M** people received explosive ordnance risk education and **24,000+** trained in explosive threat mitigation and response.

**38,700+** beneficiaries of UN DDR/community violence reduction programmes in the DRC, CAR and Darfur.

**34%** of government-provided justice and corrections personnel serving in 8 United Nations peace operations are women.

<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

to over 1.7 million people and explosive threat mitigation and response training to over 24,000 first responders and peacekeepers. In response to COVID-19, our health and safety-related guidance enabled the continuation of community violence reduction programmes, including in the Central African Republic, which saw 4,000 beneficiaries in 2020.

### Security Council affairs

Amid the pandemic, we provided support to 79 public meetings and 46 informal consultations of the Security Council, as well as 143 videoconference briefings and 126 videoconference consultations. We also helped to facilitate adoption by the Council of 57 resolutions and 13 statements by the President of the Council, many of them in accordance with new remote working methods. The Secretariat continues to support the Council's subsidiary bodies, including sanctions committees and working groups.

### Violence against children, children and armed groups, sexual violence in conflict and victims' rights

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the existing vulnerabilities of conflict-affected children, and escalation of conflict and disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law had a severe impact on children. Children are killed and maimed by warring factions and are victimized by recruitment as soldiers on the front lines or used by parties to conflict in supporting roles. In 2020, there were nearly 24,000 verified violations against children by government forces and non-State armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups by the United Nations.

Cross-border spillover of conflict and intercommunal violence are a concern, particularly in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin.

Grave violations affect boys and girls differently. Whereas 89 per cent of children recruited and used were boys, 97 per cent of sexual violence was perpetrated against girls. Sexual violence remains vastly underreported, owing to stigmatization, cultural norms, absence of services and safety concerns. In 2019–2020, the United Nations verified over 2,500 cases. In March 2020, the United Nations signed a framework of cooperation with the Government of the Sudan to address impunity related to conflict-related sexual violence. The United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network closed its multi-project trust fund, which supported 52 projects in 16 conflict-affected countries, and launched a successor fund to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 2467 (2019).

Ending violations against children and providing them with long-term and sustainable reintegration programmes is essential to sustaining peace and development. The Organization has increasingly focused on ending and preventing violations through engagement with peace processes and has also deepened its cooperation with regional organizations to protect children.



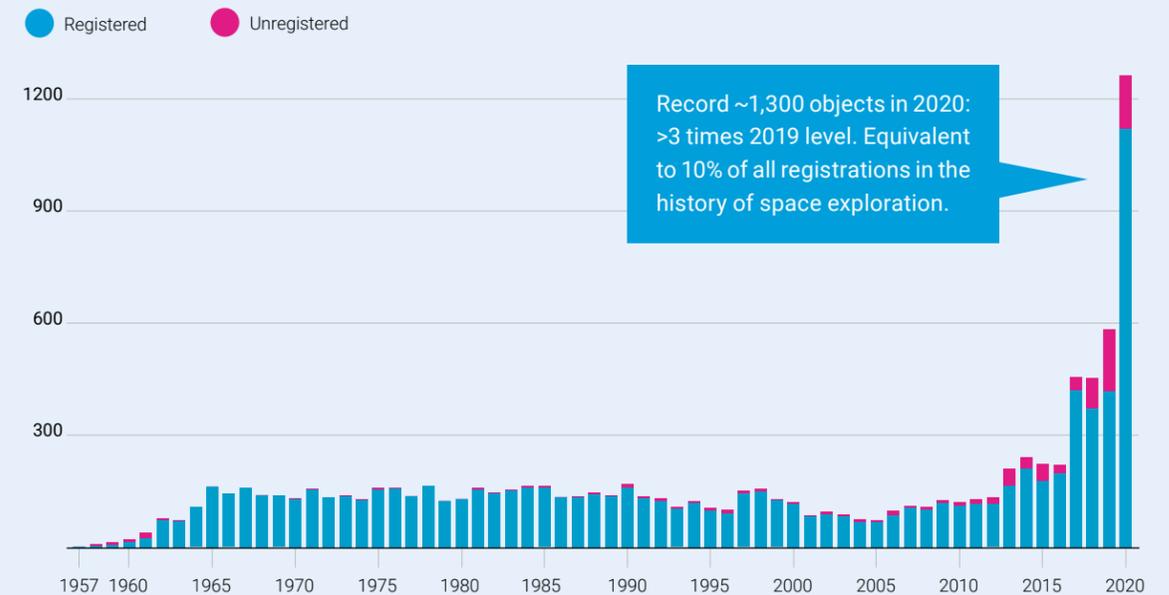
“The contribution space is making to our daily lives is undeniable. It is therefore essential to preserve its long-term sustainability while also enabling greater access to space. Because when we think about the future, we must think about space.”

*Simonetta Di Pippo, Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs*

### Outer Space

The year 2020 saw a record number of objects and satellites launched into space. This rapid development creates opportunities for a better future but also poses challenges to safety, security and sustainability in outer space. To that end, we launched a campaign with the European Space Agency to raise awareness of space debris. We also partnered with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to expand awareness of the landmark Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, adopted in 2019, and began extensive stakeholder engagement with the support of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency on the topic of space sustainability.

### OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE OVER TIME



Children attending a class at J.N Kambarage Academy primary school. (Suba, Kenya; 30 March 2020) © ILO/Marcel Crozet



# Development in Africa



## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Coordination of global advocacy of and support for African Union development initiatives
- Regional coordination of and support for African Union development initiatives
- Public information and awareness activities for African Union development initiatives
- Regional cooperation for economic and social development in Africa



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$111M**

\$101M regular assessed

\$10M voluntary contributions (including for the Economic Commission for Africa)



## SELECT MANDATES

- Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, General Assembly resolution 71/254
- A monitoring mechanism to review commitments, towards Africa's development, General Assembly resolution 66/293
- Political declaration on Africa's development needs, General Assembly resolution 63/1
- Ending conflict in Africa, Security Council resolution 2457 (2019)
- New Partnership for Africa's Development, General Assembly resolution 73/335
- Support for the the New Partnership for Africa's Development, General Assembly resolution 57/7
- Implementation of the recommendations on the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, General Assembly resolution 73/336
- Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, General Assembly resolution 57/300



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- Economic Commission for Africa
- Department of Global Communications



Lemlem and her daughter Mariam benefitted from the support of health extension workers who cared for Mariam when she was diagnosed with pneumonia at one week old. (Ethiopia; 29 March 2021) © UNICEF



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our support to Africa's response and recovery was swift and integrated, focusing on health and humanitarian interventions as well as socioeconomic support to protect vulnerable populations. In line with the principles underpinning our partnership with the African Union, we also supported and complemented the regional response through operational, policy and advocacy actions.



“ The disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic provide an opportunity for African countries to promote a paradigm shift and take ownership of their path toward development. ”

*Cristina Isabel Lopes da Silva Monteiro Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa*

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations promotes sustainable development and peace in Africa by contributing to accelerating the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. We do so by addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and the interlinkages among peace, security, human rights and development. We also help to foster intra-regional integration and international cooperation on the continent.



“ Our main priorities for Africa are to ensure rapid access to vaccines, affordable liquidity for a sustainable, inclusive and digital private sector-enabled recovery, while advocating for policies that protect the poor. ”

*Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa*

### KEY OUTCOMES

In our support to Africa’s pandemic response, we provided early policy guidance, including my policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on Africa. Our country teams conducted country-level and thematic COVID-19 socioeconomic assessments, informing 47 socioeconomic response plans to ensure a green and inclusive recovery. To prevent misinformation during the pandemic, we worked with the African Union on outreach campaigns to fight myths and raise awareness about the virus and its spread. These efforts amplified the United Nations Verified campaign and were offered for free to 275 media institutions and platforms.

We launched the Africa knowledge management hub on COVID-19 and the Africa dashboard as a digital one-stop shop for information and data. We also supported the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020–2030 of the African Union and consolidated advancements in the framework of the Digital Centre for Excellence for digital identity, trade and economy.

### THE UNITED NATIONS IS INVESTED IN AFRICA

**40%+**  
of Secretariat spending is delivered in Africa.

**2**  
out of 5 United Nations staff members work on the continent.

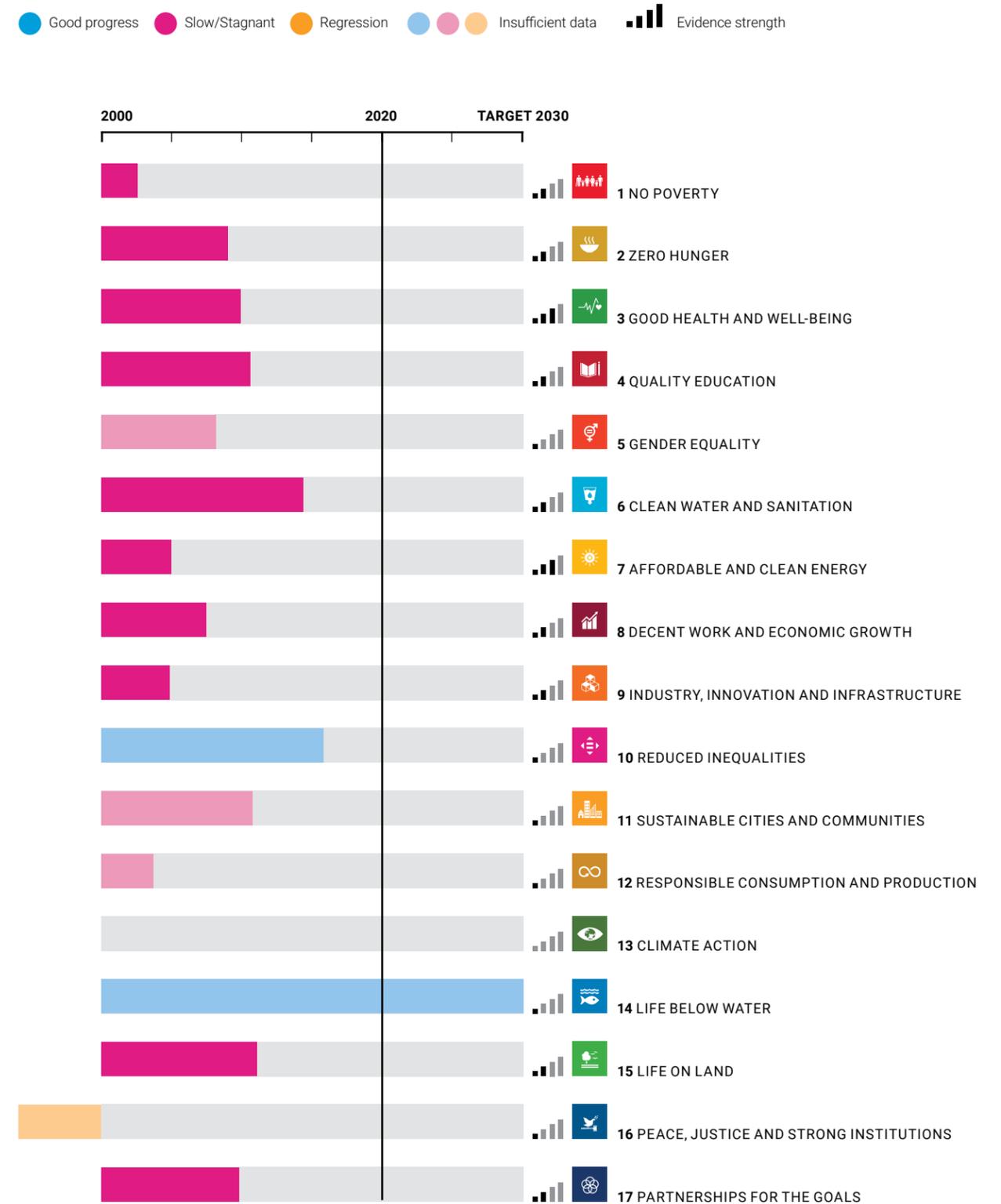
**22**  
United Nations entities have liaison presence with the African Union.

**37%+**  
of United Nations Secretariat staff are from Africa.



United Nations NGO partners are training farmers in post-harvest food-loss reduction and other practices to improve productivity and expand access to markets. (Namalu, Uganda; 9 July 2020) © WFP/Hugh Rutherford

### AFRICA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



As of October 2019

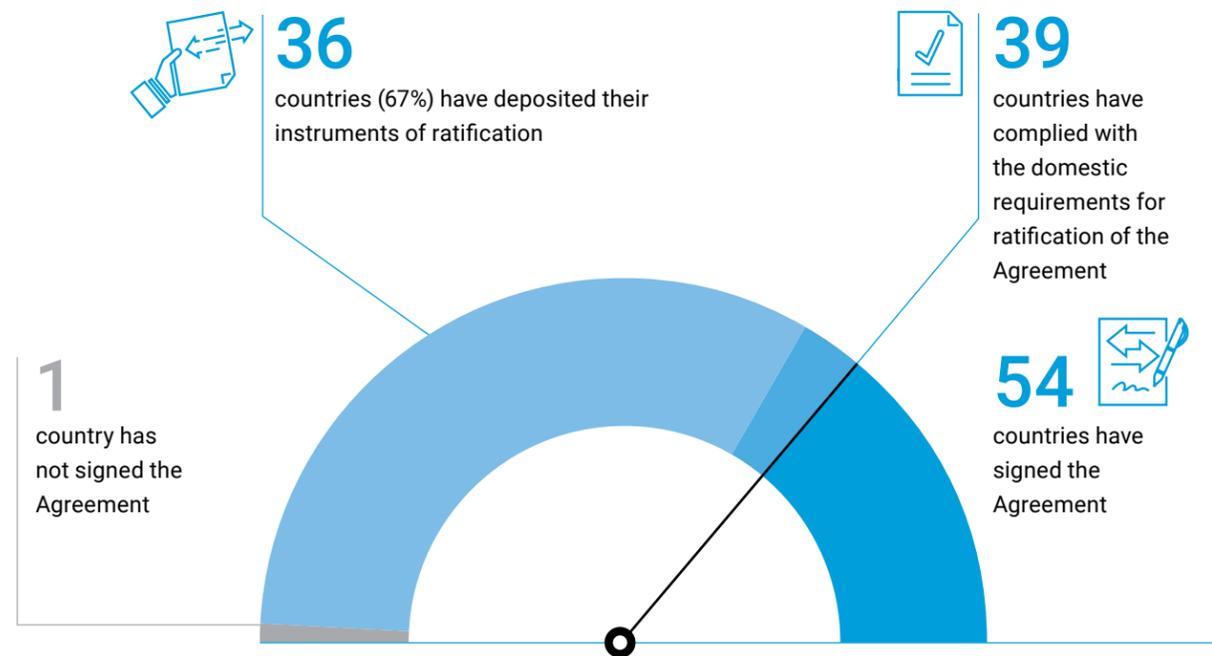
We supported 38 countries and three regional economic communities in developing national strategies to harness the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which covers a market of \$2.3 trillion and 1.3 billion people. Along with regional partners, including the African Union, our support to the launch of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform helped African countries to purchase certified medical equipment, including 670 million COVID-19 vaccine doses. We also supported the mobilization of funds for the Great Green Wall, with over \$14 billion pledged in support of the initiative.

In support of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its support plan, we established a new Sahel investment support mechanism and appointed a Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel to mobilize resources and strengthen collective engagement across the region.

In November 2020, the Deputy Secretary-General undertook a mission to West Africa, visiting five countries to amplify the call for international solidarity where it was needed the most and to assert, at the highest levels, an agenda of hope and a better future in Africa.

In May 2021, we expanded our annual Africa Dialogue Series to one month of activities organized in partnership with the African Union on the theme “Cultural identity and ownership: reshaping mind-sets”. The 2021 Dialogue was aimed at leveraging the continent’s identity, history and achievements, thereby promoting a new narrative that leads to building forward and better and to achieving Africa’s transformative agenda.

**AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) AGREEMENT**



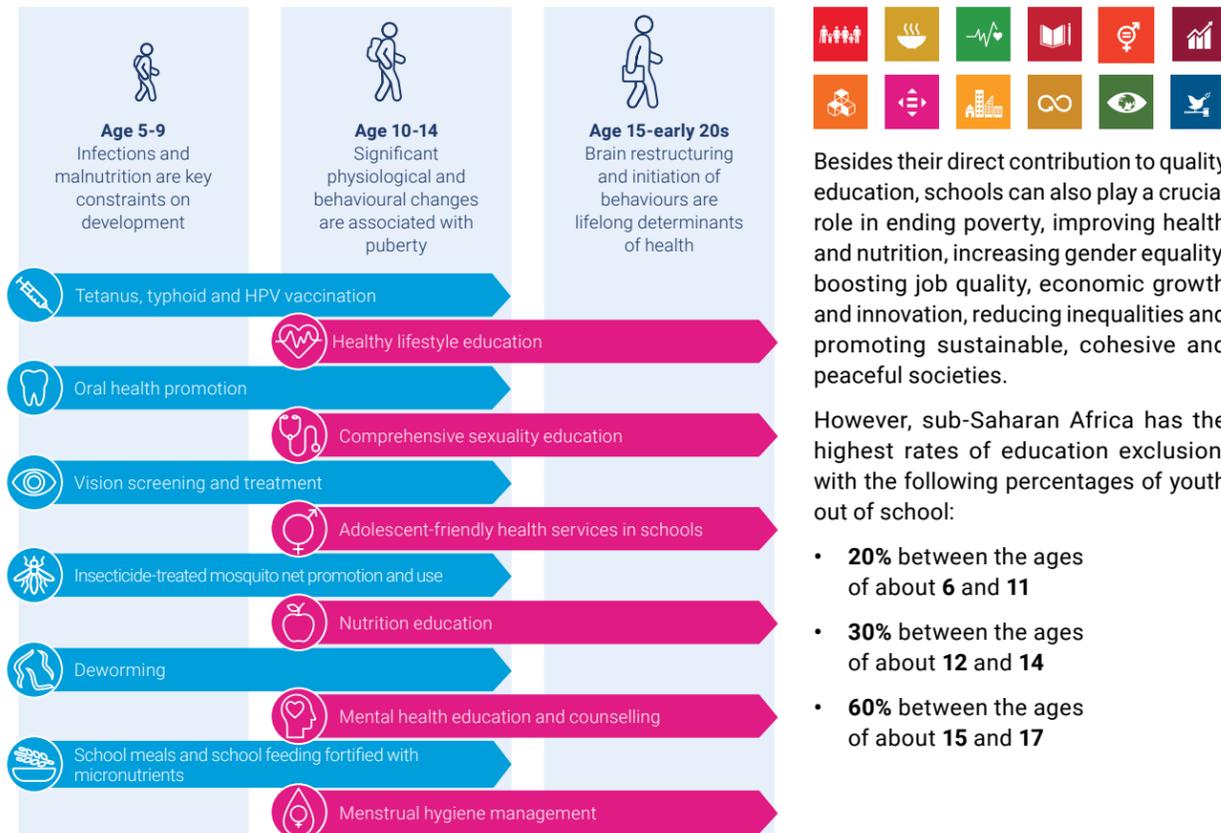
As of May 2021



More than 200 local women have been employed in road construction in the Gambia – a labour-based construction team comprising more than 60 per cent women. (Gambia; 14 January 2020) © UNOPS/Ricci Shryock

## PROMOTING SCHOOLS AS DEVELOPMENT HUBS IN AFRICA

### ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS DURING SCHOOL YEARS



Besides their direct contribution to quality education, schools can also play a crucial role in ending poverty, improving health and nutrition, increasing gender equality, boosting job quality, economic growth and innovation, reducing inequalities and promoting sustainable, cohesive and peaceful societies.

However, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of education exclusion, with the following percentages of youth out of school:

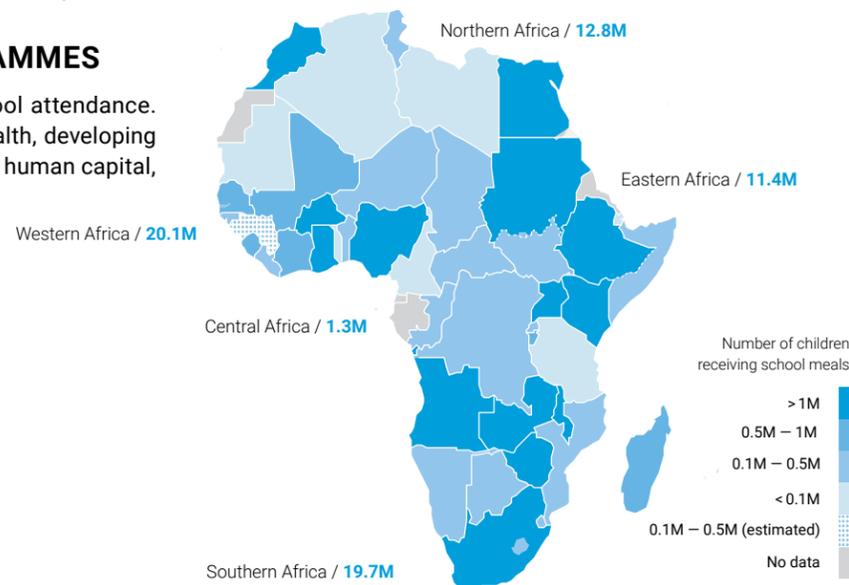
- 20% between the ages of about 6 and 11
- 30% between the ages of about 12 and 14
- 60% between the ages of about 15 and 17

Source: Global Partnership for Education, based on Bundy et al., 2018.

### SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

are a crucial tool for increasing school attendance. They also contribute to improving health, developing individual potential and strengthening human capital,

reaching **65.4M** children, a massive increase from 38.4M in 2013



Artists paint murals in an informal settlement to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention. (Nairobi, Kenya; June 2020)  
 © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

Students and beneficiaries of United Nations programmes at Mpapa Primary School in Mangochi, Malawi. (Mangochi, Malawi; 5 November 2020) © UNFPA



# Promotion and Protection of Human Rights



## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Supporting human rights treaty bodies
- Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms
- Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities
- Mainstreaming human rights, the right to development, research and analysis



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$309M**

\$120M regular assessed  
\$2M peacekeeping assessed  
\$187M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, General Assembly resolution 217 (III)
- Declaration on the Right to Development, General Assembly resolution 41/128
- High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights, General Assembly resolution 48/141
- Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, General Assembly resolution 68/268
- Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review, General Assembly resolutions 60/251 and 65/281



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



A view of the installation “Pandemic Classroom” at United Nations Headquarters to draw attention to the need for Governments to prioritize the reopening of schools. More than 168 million children globally were affected by the complete closure of schools for almost an entire year owing to COVID-19 lockdowns. (New York; 2 March 2021) © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

Human rights are at the centre of the work of the United Nations, including its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic exposed systemic inequalities, my call to action for human rights rallied the United Nations to ensure that human rights are integrated into recovery efforts, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.



“ We will all draw from this terrible crisis deeper understanding of the preventive and protective impact of human rights laws and tools as drivers of peace and security, social stability, public health, a healthy environment and economy and sustainable development. ”

*Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights*

## KEY OBJECTIVES

Our work to advance the protection and promotion of human rights spans the three pillars of United Nations engagement, including in the following thematic areas: support for international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming human rights within development and peace and security efforts; and advancing the core principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability.

### HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

#### United Nations system guidance

**1** comprehensive system-wide policy brief on COVID-19 and human rights.

**18** focused United Nations policy briefs and technical documents on COVID-19 impacts on vulnerable groups and on thematic and geographical issues.

#### Human rights guidance

**12** targeted guidance notes, with recommendations for Governments, United Nations bodies and others.

#### Socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19

The Surge Initiative: operational advice to **59** countries on integrating economic, social and economic rights, SDGs and rights-based macroeconomic analyses into responses.

#### Data and analysis

**10** specific indicators developed to assess COVID-19 human rights impacts.

#### Human rights trends and good practices

**1** COVID-19 information management tool created.

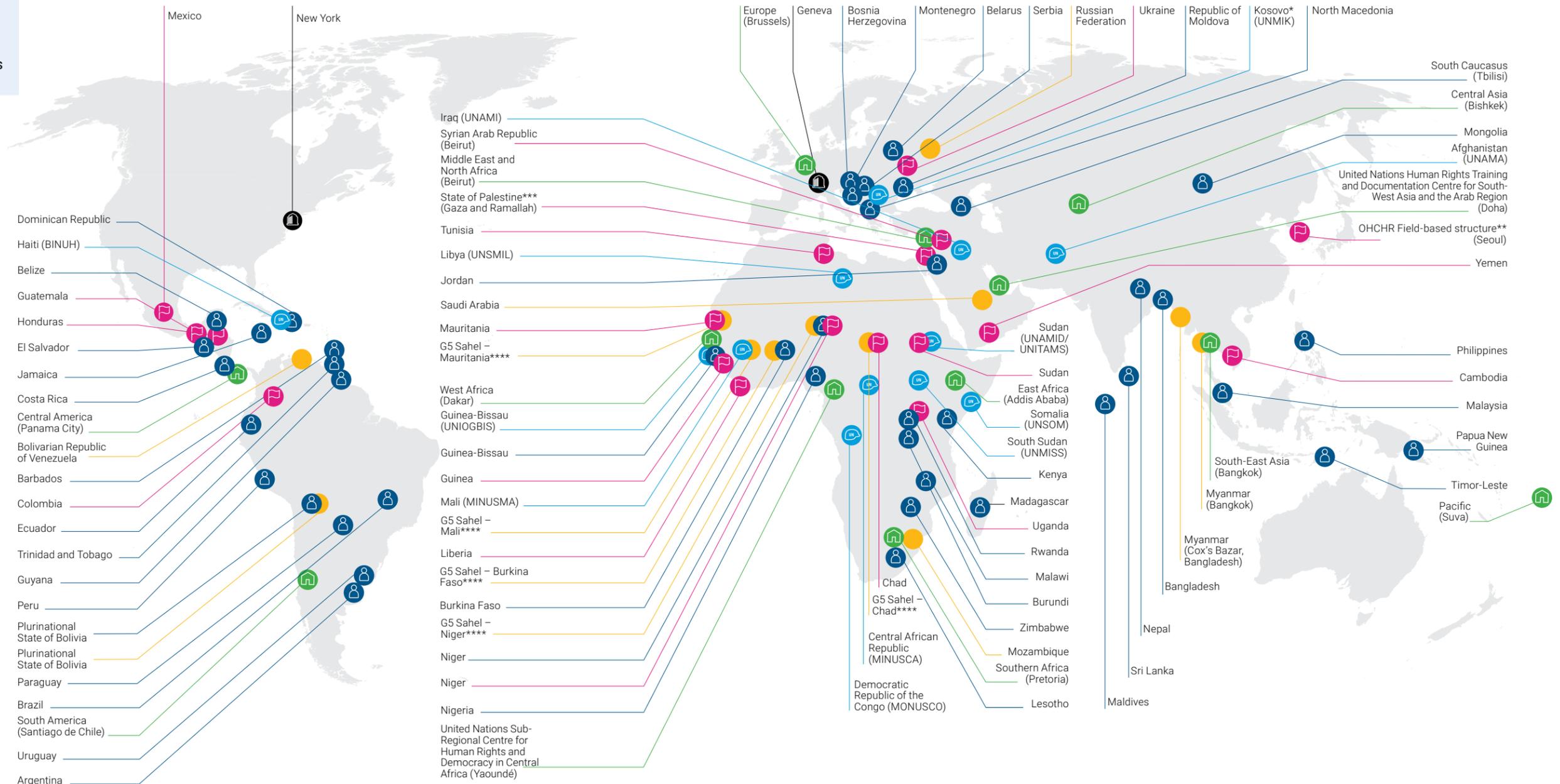
#### Persons in detention

Some **267,500** individuals benefited from urgent release/alternatives to detention.

# UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2020

**2 + 92**  
Headquarters field presences

-  **2** Headquarters
-  **18** Country/stand-alone offices/human rights missions
-  **12** Regional offices/centres
-  **12** Human rights components of United Nations peace/political missions
-  **43** Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals
-  **7** Other types of field presences



\* Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

\*\* Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

\*\*\* Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

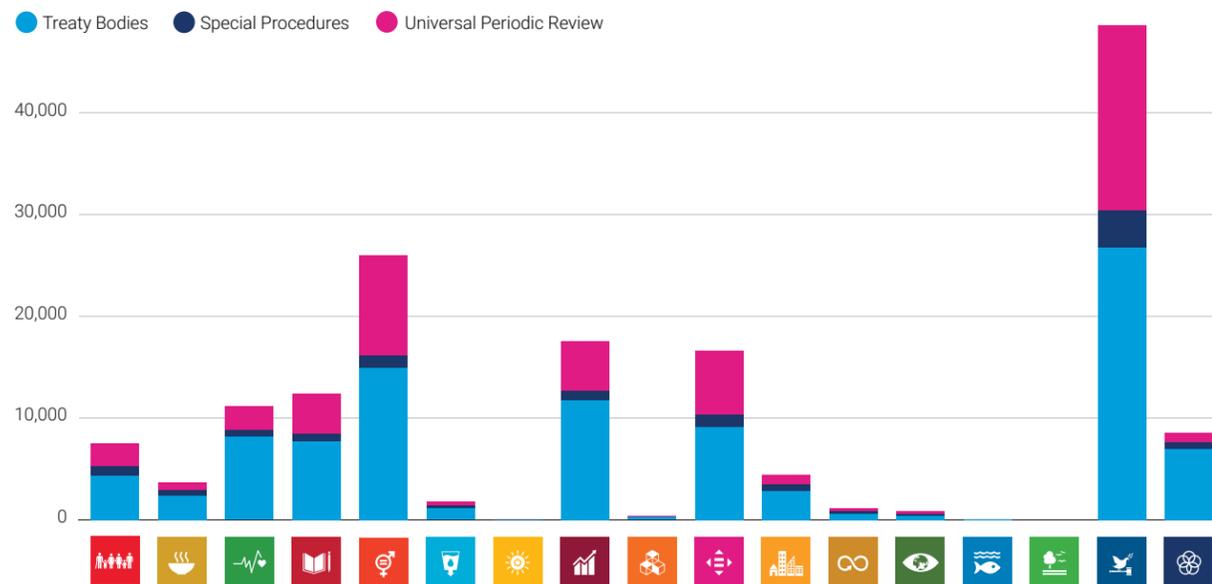
\*\*\*\* G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



Tahera lives in Cox's Bazar with thousands of other displaced Rohingya families. The United Nations is working to create safe spaces for young people who are at risk of sexual assault and health issues in the refugee camp. (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; 22 January 2021) © UNFPA/Carly Learson

### UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX: DISTRIBUTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ACROSS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The Universal Human Rights Index is accessed by 50,000 unique users each year. It allows stakeholders to access country-specific information from international human rights mechanisms.

### KEY OUTCOMES

#### Support for international human rights mechanisms

In 2021, we used innovative modalities to continue to provide support to treaty-based and intergovernmental bodies and found new ways of engaging civil society and victims with special procedures using digital technology. We also launched the new Universal Human Rights Index, which contains over 180,000 recommendations of United Nations human rights mechanisms.

#### OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

- 40,000+** victims of torture in 78 countries received rehabilitation support.
- 15,000+** victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 33 countries obtained assistance.
- 12** human rights components in United Nations peace missions, including 573 staff.
- 43** human rights advisers deployed in United Nations country teams.



Local activists and experts on disability inclusion at the events to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2020. (Suva, Fiji; December 2020)

## EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES



A United Nations human rights team visits Mayan weavers in Santiago Sacatepéquez, Guatemala. OHCHR purchased and distributed 3,000 masks featuring traditional weaving patterns to support local economic development. (Santiago Sacatepéquez, Guatemala; November 2020) © OHCHR

## Human rights within development efforts

Substantial efforts have been made, including under my call to action, to advance the integration of human rights into development interventions at the country level. New guidance allows United Nations field presences to better align their work with recommendations of universal periodic reviews, and similar efforts are under way to strengthen engagement with the treaty bodies.

To combat increasing inequality, we launched the Surge Initiative, promoting economic, social and cultural rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the Initiative, and in line with my call for a renewed social contract, we engaged with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in more than 59 countries to ensure that human rights were at the centre of national-level COVID-19 socioeconomic response plans.

## Peace and security

In 2020, the Security Council held its first open debate on human rights in United Nations peace operations, and we released a study showing that human rights components are significant enablers for the implementation of the mandates of peace operations. We also created three emergency response teams to strengthen human rights risk analysis, in line with my call to action for human rights.

My annual report on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2021/312) listed 52 parties credibly suspected of sexual violence in situations on the agenda of the Security Council. I also encouraged all State and non-State parties to adopt and implement specific commitments to eliminate conflict-related sexual violence.

## Non-discrimination

In 2021, racial discrimination has been a key focus in our work to address inequality and counter discrimination, which have often led to intergenerational

injustices. In June 2020, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 43/1 on systemic racism in law enforcement against Africans and people of African descent, and we issued a guidance note on racial discrimination in the context of COVID-19. We also reactivated the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, issuing guidance for country teams on combating racial discrimination and protecting minorities, and created a checklist for country teams to work towards eliminating laws that are discriminatory against women and girls.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences collected 270 submissions on increased violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflected in her report to the General Assembly on the impact of COVID-19 and domestic violence (see A/75/144). The Special Rapporteur encouraged Member States to maintain services and adopt specific protection measures during the pandemic and to contribute to commitments to eliminate violence against women and girls advocated in my call to action for human rights.

In May 2020, a meeting of religious leaders resulted in the Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the United Nations, which focuses on countering hate speech, among other priority areas.

## Participation

In September 2020, the United Nations produced a guidance note on the promotion and protection of civic space, to support the effective implementation of all three pillars of the United Nations. As a result, United Nations personnel are exploring strategies to promote more inclusive civil society participation and to preserve and expand online civic space.



In 2020, the Committee on the Rights of the Child held its first session outside of Geneva, in a regional-level session that was moderated by children. It was also the first time that sign language interpretation was used for all the meetings. (Samoa; March 2020) © OHCHR

## Accountability

We continued to support States and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of context-specific, victim-centred and human rights-based accountability and transitional justice processes. In 2020, we published a study with recommendations on the impact of drug policies on prison overcrowding in South-East Asia. We also worked with Kenyan authorities and grass-roots groups to fund litigation, resulting in compensation for residents of an informal settlement affected by environmental degradation and lead poisoning.

### ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Important progress was made in the fight against impunity for sexual violence as the United Nations provided support to a trial in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that resulted in life sentences for two former armed group commanders convicted of war crimes. In Yemen, the United Nations documented patterns of intimidation and sexual violence against politically active women, resulting in Security Council sanctions against those responsible.

## OUR SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES' COOPERATION



# 12

treaty actions: **2** signatures, **5** ratifications and **18** accessions.



# 12

Governments hosted **13** visits by special procedures mandates.



# 39

State-party reports reviewed by the treaty bodies.



# 2,818

official documents submitted for meetings of human rights mechanisms, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.



In Ukraine, a civilian from a village close to the "contact line" speaks with a United Nations human rights officer about how he lost his home to fires and how the pandemic has affected his community. (Popasna, Luhansk region, Ukraine; November 2020) © Zhenya Pedin

Flooding from the Ruzizi River has displaced thousands of families and disrupted schooling for nearly 10,000 children. The school is being used as a living space for those displaced by the floods. (Bujumbura Rural Province, Burundi; 20 April 2020) © OCHA/Lauriane Wolfe



# Effective Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance



## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response
- Emergency support services
- Humanitarian information and advocacy
- Natural disaster reduction
- Policy and analysis



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$2.1B**

\$104M regular assessed (including for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)

\$2B voluntary contributions (including for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-based Pooled Funds)



## SELECT MANDATES

- Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 46/182 and 75/127
- International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, General Assembly resolution 75/124
- Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, General Assembly resolution 75/125
- Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, General Assembly resolution 74/160
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, General Assembly resolution 69/283
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 70/1



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



Abdullah, aged 7, lives in a former school with 700 other families displaced by the war in Yemen. His father bought 12 birds when they left Hudaydah in 2018 and they now raise homing pigeons. "I love the birds and they make me happy. I am learning from my father how to look after them". (Settlement for internally displaced people in Dar Saad, Aden, Yemen; 23 November 2020)

© OCHA/Giles Clarke



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

The past year has been one marked by enormous challenges, with humanitarian needs reaching record levels. Armed conflicts, the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic transformed the humanitarian landscape, compounded risks and exacerbated inequalities. Disasters were increasingly frequent and devastating. Disturbing trends unfolded, including the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence, increasing forced displacement and mounting food insecurity. In response, the United Nations continued to coordinate and support the provision of humanitarian assistance, reaching more than 264 million people.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations works to ensure coordinated, coherent, effective and timely humanitarian responses to save lives and alleviate human suffering in disasters, conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies. We advocate humanitarian principles, promote respect for international humanitarian law and mobilize resources to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises with partners. Facilitating early action and rapid responses, including through anticipatory approaches, remains crucial to effective coordination. In addition, the United Nations advocates disaster risk reduction through prevention and early warning systems to prevent disasters from happening and mitigating their negative impacts when they do.



“Humanitarian organizations showed true grit this difficult year. My message is: Please keep going. Without your courage and commitment things would be a lot worse.”

*Mark Lowcock, Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Coordinator*

## KEY OUTCOMES

In 2020, the United Nations worked with partners to mobilize a record \$19.1 billion to assist 264 million people in 64 countries. The United Nations coordinated humanitarian responses to both acute and protracted crises and disasters across the globe, including the destructive port explosion in Lebanon and the desert locust outbreak in the Greater Horn of Africa.

In response to the specific impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 was launched to address the ensuing humanitarian needs in 63 countries. With the generous support of donors, \$3.7 billion was mobilized, providing life-saving assistance and support, as well as personal protective equipment kits and essential health, protection and education services. Complementing the United Nations-led health and socioeconomic responses to the pandemic, the Plan exemplified the strength of coordination, coherence and agility across the United Nations system and its partners.

### OUR SUPPORT TO COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

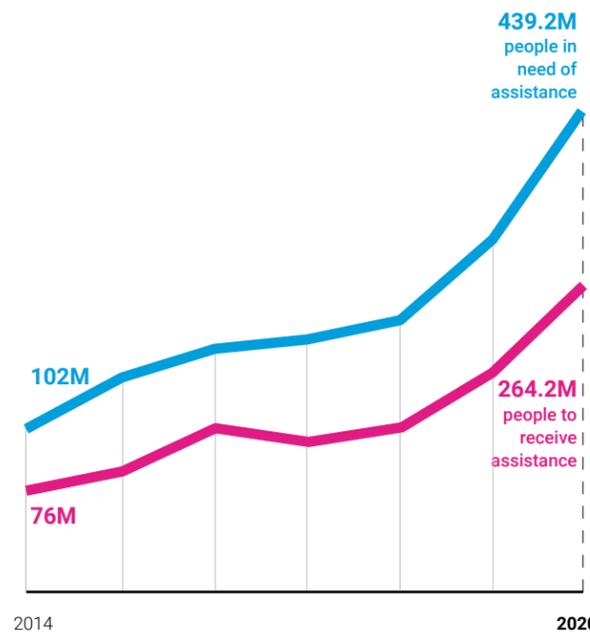
**64** countries affected and in need of humanitarian assistance.

We helped coordinate **39** response plans, regional plans and appeals...

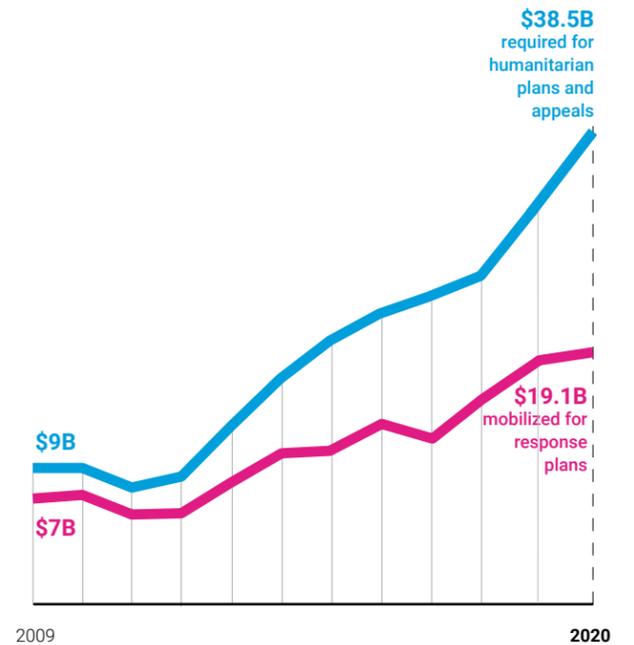
providing assistance to **264.2M** people in need...

and mobilized **\$19.1B** in humanitarian assistance.

### MORE THAN 439 MILLION PEOPLE WERE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN 2020



### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND DONOR SUPPORT REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2020



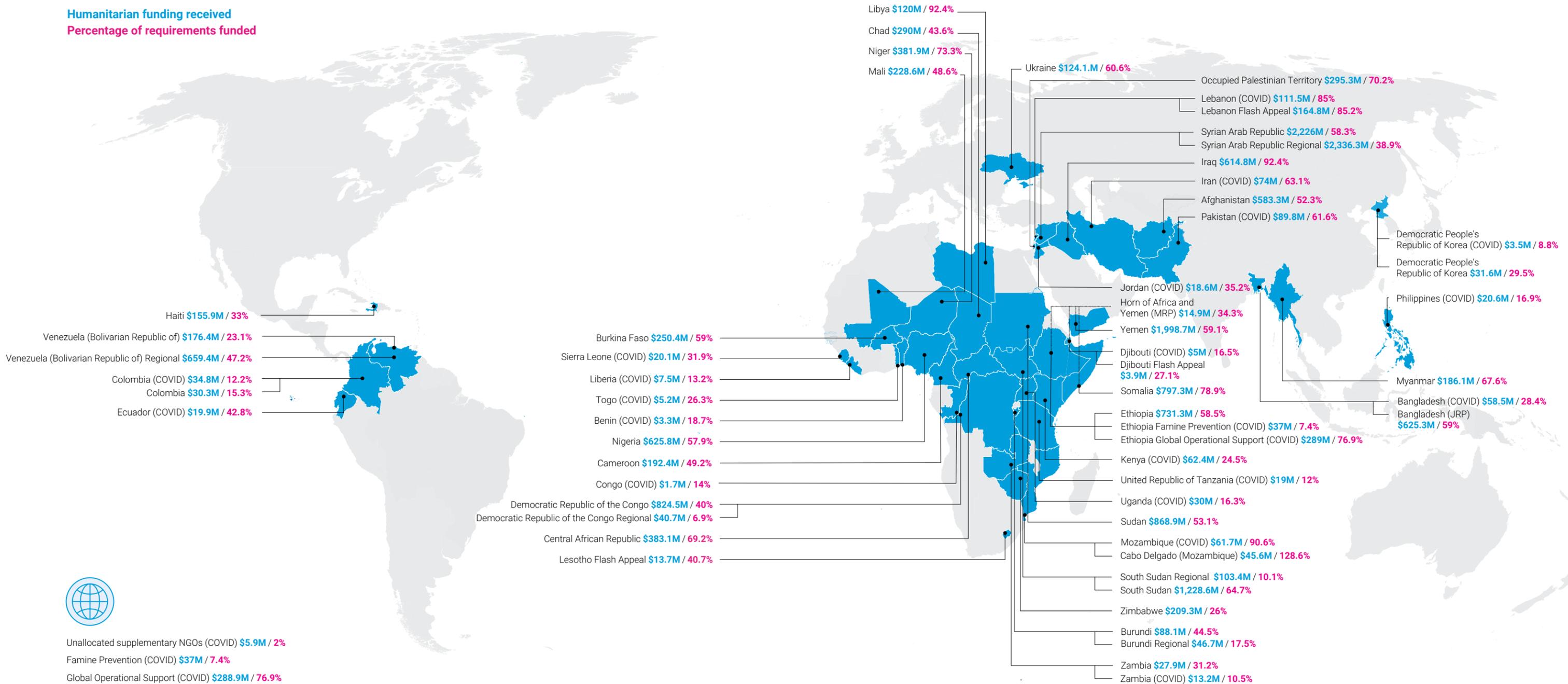
Mohasen Khatab works as a psychosocial aid worker at the Maram Foundation after being displaced from her home in Kakr Zitta. Her goal is to reduce harm and relieve psychological stress on those affected in the Atma camp. (Atma, Syrian Arab Republic; 17 November 2020) © OCHA



Thirteen-year-old Syrian refugee, Abdallah, says goodbye to his mother Um Abdallah, who lost her sight as a result of the psychological effect of the conflict, before leaving their apartment in east Amman, Jordan. They have been living in Jordan for eight years after fleeing their home in Homs, Syrian Arab Republic. (East Amman, Jordan; 10 March 2020) © UNHCR/Jordan Hawari

# WITH 39 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS AND APPEALS, THE UNITED NATIONS HELPED MOBILIZE \$19.2B OF THE \$38.5B NEEDED TO ASSIST 264.2M PEOPLE IN 64 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Humanitarian funding received  
Percentage of requirements funded



Unallocated supplementary NGOs (COVID) \$5.9M / 2%  
Famine Prevention (COVID) \$37M / 7.4%  
Global Operational Support (COVID) \$288.9M / 76.9%

Funding data as of 24 June 2021

MRP: Migrant Response Plan; JRP: Joint Response Plan

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

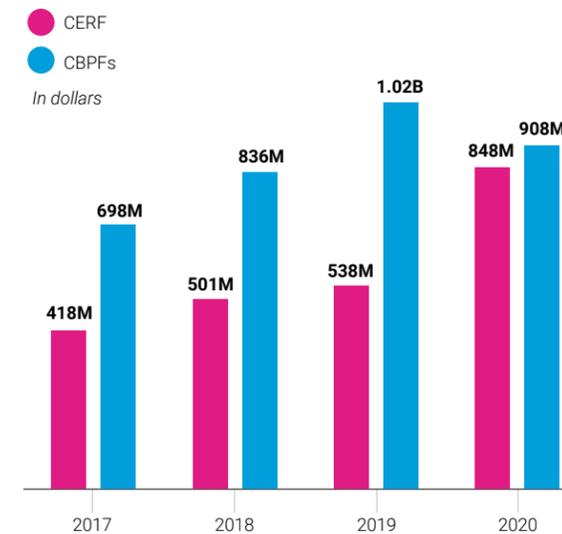
Beyond the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian pooled funds were indispensable in responding to the unprecedented needs, and \$1.8 billion was allocated to partners in 2020, including a record \$848 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund and \$909 million from country-based pooled funds. Of that amount, allocations of \$492 million were targeted to mitigate the pandemic's impact on more than 20 million people in 49 countries. Pooled funds also supported early action to address the spread of the Ebola virus in the Great Lakes region and to reduce the severity of the desert locust outbreak in the Greater Horn of Africa, where 13 million people had their livelihoods and food security protected. In addition, high-level pledging events mobilized resources for responses in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the central Sahel, among others.

In 2020, humanitarian partners advanced anticipatory action initiatives in over 60 countries, and \$140 million was committed by the Central Emergency

Response Fund for additional pilot projects. For the first time, the Fund disbursed funding based on predictive analytics frameworks for responses ahead of disasters. In Bangladesh, pre-agreed funding released before peak flooding helped to provide cash assistance and hygiene and dignity kits to vulnerable people and protect their livelihoods. In Somalia, pre-agreed financing and actions made the funding allocation process three times faster than previously, supporting 1.3 million people ahead of rising food insecurity and the compounding effects of locusts, floods and COVID-19.

To address the imminent and grave risk of multiple famines, including in South Sudan, Yemen and north-east Nigeria, I established a high-level task force on preventing famine, facilitating rapid system-wide efforts to avert famine and counter acute food insecurity. The initiative is aimed at mobilizing resources, advocating improved access to at-risk and affected people and enhancing data and real-time information-sharing.

## COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS (CBPFs) AND CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)



- In 2020, **\$1.8B** was allocated across 66 countries and territories
- With 2020 CERF funding, **41.7M** people were able to access health care
- CERF allocated over **\$60M** to programmes focused on gender-based violence. CBPFs allocated **\$390M** to projects relating to gender equality.
- For the first time ever, CERF allocated **\$25M** for front-line NGOs to deliver life-saving COVID-19-related services



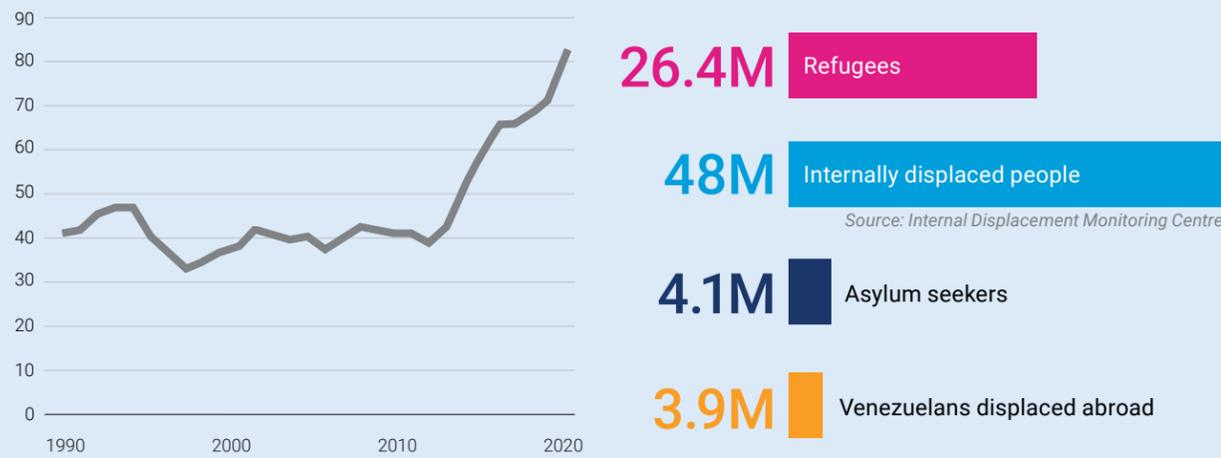
A woman attempts to prevent a swarm of desert locusts from devouring her crops. Ravenous locust swarms threaten the entire East Africa subregion. (Katitika village, Kitui county, Kenya; 24 January 2020) © FAO/Sven Torfinn



On 4 August 2020, a warehouse at the Port of Beirut exploded, causing widespread casualties and destroying large parts of the city. Immediately after the explosions, humanitarian actors began providing support to thousands of affected people with regard to basic needs. (Beirut, Lebanon; 4 August 2020) © OCHA/Farid Assaf

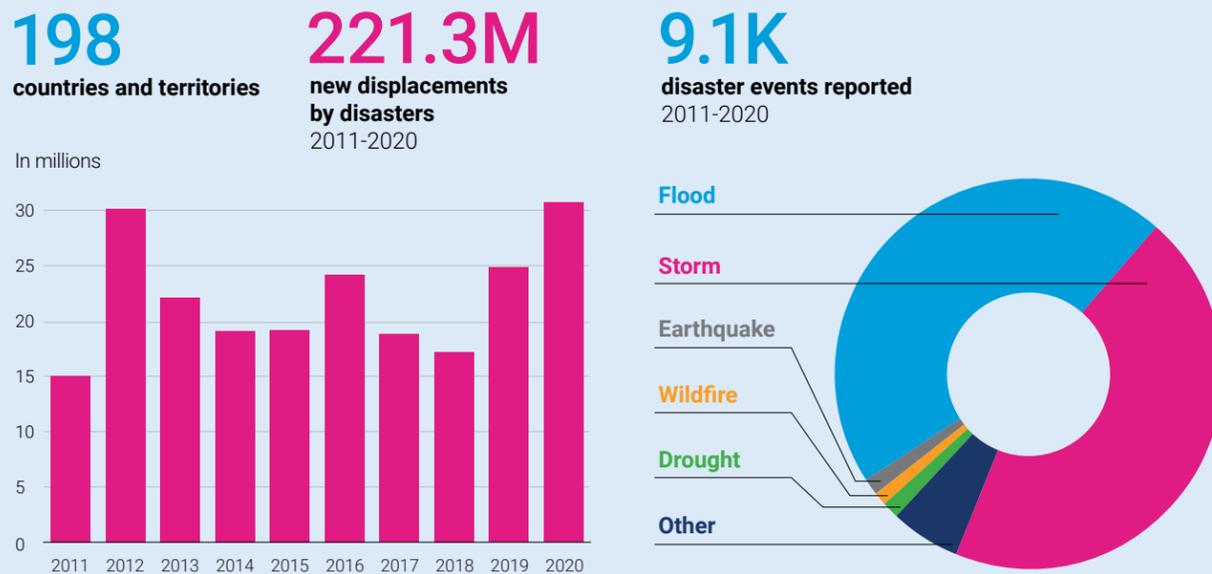
# Displacement

## 82.4 MILLION PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED BY CONFLICT OR VIOLENCE IN 2020



Source: UNHCR / 18 June 2021

## NEW DISPLACEMENTS TRIGGERED OR CAUSED BY DISASTERS (2011–2020)



Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre



Heavy monsoon rains flooded the northern and north-eastern districts of Bangladesh. The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund provided support to communities to prepare for and protect themselves from the next major monsoon flooding. (Bangladesh; 1 July 2020) © WFP/Mehedi Rahman

## TOP COUNTRIES AND POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY DISASTERS (2020)

	India	Cyclone Amphan	18M		Honduras	Hurricane Eta	4.6M
	China	Flood	10M		China	Flood	4.2M
	Mali	Drought	6.8M		Niger	Drought	3.7M
	Bangladesh	Flood	5.4M		Philippines	Typhoon Rolly (Goni)	3.4M
	Philippines	Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco)	4.9M		Burkina Faso	Drought	2.9M

The United Nations also scaled up disaster risk reduction and risk analysis in the humanitarian programme cycle. For example, in Pakistan risk analysis and mitigation were integrated into response planning, and the Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management, enhanced transboundary early warning systems. Through the reform of the United Nations development system, disaster risk reduction has also been mainstreamed and integrated into 24 new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks signed in 2020. 24 new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks signed in 2020.



“ COVID-19 has demonstrated that we ignore risk at our peril. Humanitarian needs are rising and outstripping funding pledges. We can’t afford to continue the disaster-respond-recover-repeat cycle. We must put prevention first to provide people with a safe, secure future. ”

*Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction*

**OUR SUPPORT TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**



**5,000+**

government officials and disaster risk stakeholders trained in 2020, of which **48%** were women.



**55M+**

people inhabit cities enrolled in the Making Cities Resilient initiative.

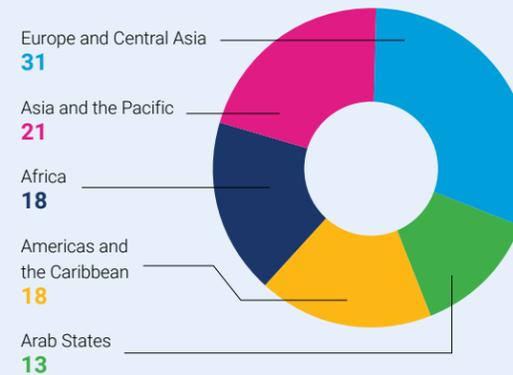


As of 31 December 2020,

**143**

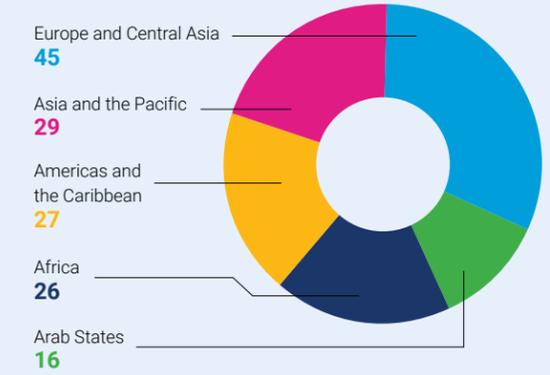
Member States and observer States reported through the Sendai Framework monitor.

**COUNTRIES REPORTING NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020**



At present, 143 Member and observer States report in the Sendai Framework monitor. By December 2020, 101 countries had national disaster risk reduction strategies in place, enabling the effective reduction of disaster risk. For example, no lives were lost in the volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**COUNTRIES USING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020**



in April 2021, owing to actions taken by the Government in line with its national disaster risk reduction strategy. The United Nations response, which included rapid allocation of funding and a joint environment mission team, is an example of the complementarity of humanitarian response and recovery efforts.



In 2020, Sudan experienced record flooding, with nearly 900,000 people affected, thousands of whom lost everything. (Sudan; August 2020) © OCHA/Fayez Abu Bakr

The Great Hall of Justice.  
(The Hague, Netherlands; 8 February 2021)  
© UN Photo/ICJ-CIJ/Frank van Beek



# Promotion of Justice and International Law



## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Legal services to the United Nations as a whole
- Legal services for the United Nations organs, funds and programmes
- Extraordinary international accountability mechanisms
- Custody, registration and publication of treaties
- Development and codification of international law
- Law of the sea and ocean affairs
- International trade



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$198M**

\$92M regular assessed

\$4M peacekeeping assessed (2019/2020)

\$84M other assessed

\$18M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

- Charter of the United Nations
- Progressive development and codification of international law: International Law Commission, General Assembly resolutions 94 (I) and 75/135
- Teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, General Assembly resolutions 2099 (XX) and 75/134
- Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework, General Assembly resolutions 97(I), 73/210 and 75/144
- Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade: United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, General Assembly resolutions 2205 (XXI) and 75/133
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, General Assembly resolutions 52/26, 75/89 and 75/239
- Promotion and furtherance of international justice: General Assembly resolutions 57/228B and 71/248; Security Council resolutions 1315 (2000) 1966 (2010), 1757 (2007) and 2379 (2017); and Human Rights Council resolution 39/2



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of Legal Affairs
- International Court of Justice
- International accountability mechanisms



Burhanudeen Gafoor, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations, presiding over the thirtieth meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (New York, 24 August 2020)  
© UN Photo/Manuel Elía;



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

Since its inception, the United Nations has been at the centre of international law-making, providing unique contributions to the development, codification and implementation of international law.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

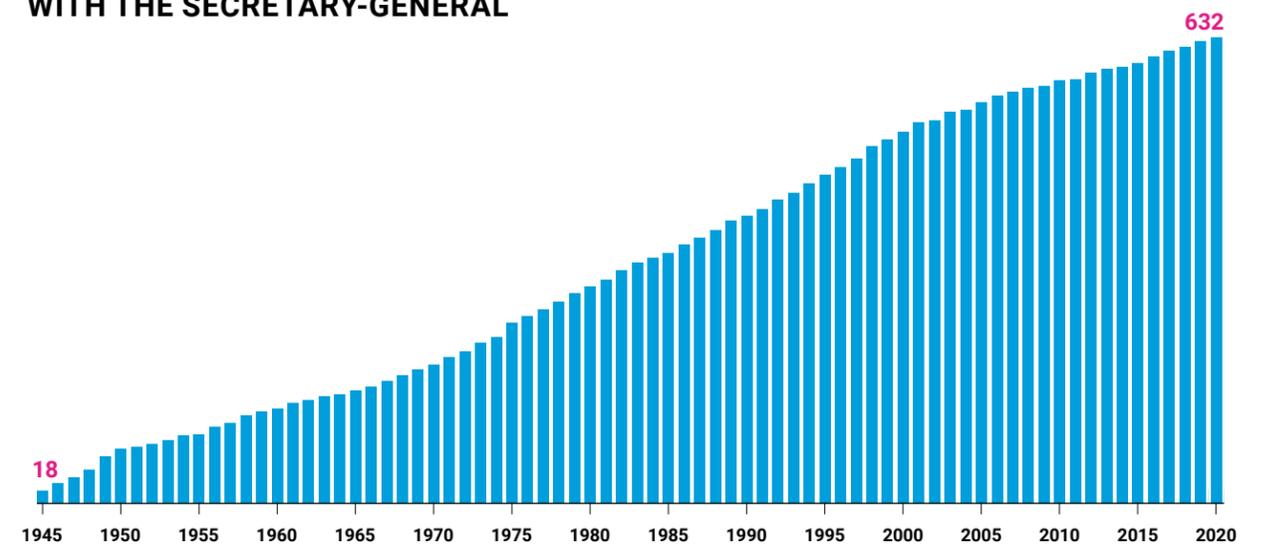
The United Nations promotes justice and international law through various actions and mandates, such as those related to oceans and the law of the sea, international trade, international treaties and agreements, peace operations, international tribunals and sanctions. In addition, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, settles legal disputes submitted by States and provides advisory opinions on legal questions.



**“International cooperation and international law are mutually indispensable and naturally require an inclusive and networked multilateralism as their framework.”**

*Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations*

## CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL TREATIES DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



## KEY OUTCOMES

Our work on the establishment of the legal framework for the United Nations resident coordinator system globally has contributed to the implementation of the broader reform of the development system in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2021, we have also dealt with legal issues arising in relation to the United Nations and its operation as a result of the pandemic and supported business continuity.

In 2021, the International Court of Justice continued to consider many high-profile cases, such as the case concerning the *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)*, in which it rendered its judgment in December 2020. The Court also commemorated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its inaugural session, which took place on 18 April 1946.

Highlights from other United Nations or United Nations-assisted tribunals during the reporting period include the following: on 18 August 2020, the Trial Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon convicted Salim Jamil Ayyash in relation to the attack in Beirut on 14 February 2005 that killed the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafik Hariri, and

21 others and injured 226 more. The three others accused, Hassan Habib Merhi, Hussein Hassan Oneissi and Assad Hassan Sabra, were found not guilty. The Trial Chamber subsequently sentenced Mr. Ayyash to five concurrent sentences of life imprisonment.

In November 2020, Félicien Kabuga made his initial appearance before the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, where he stands charged with seven counts of genocide and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Rwanda in 1994.

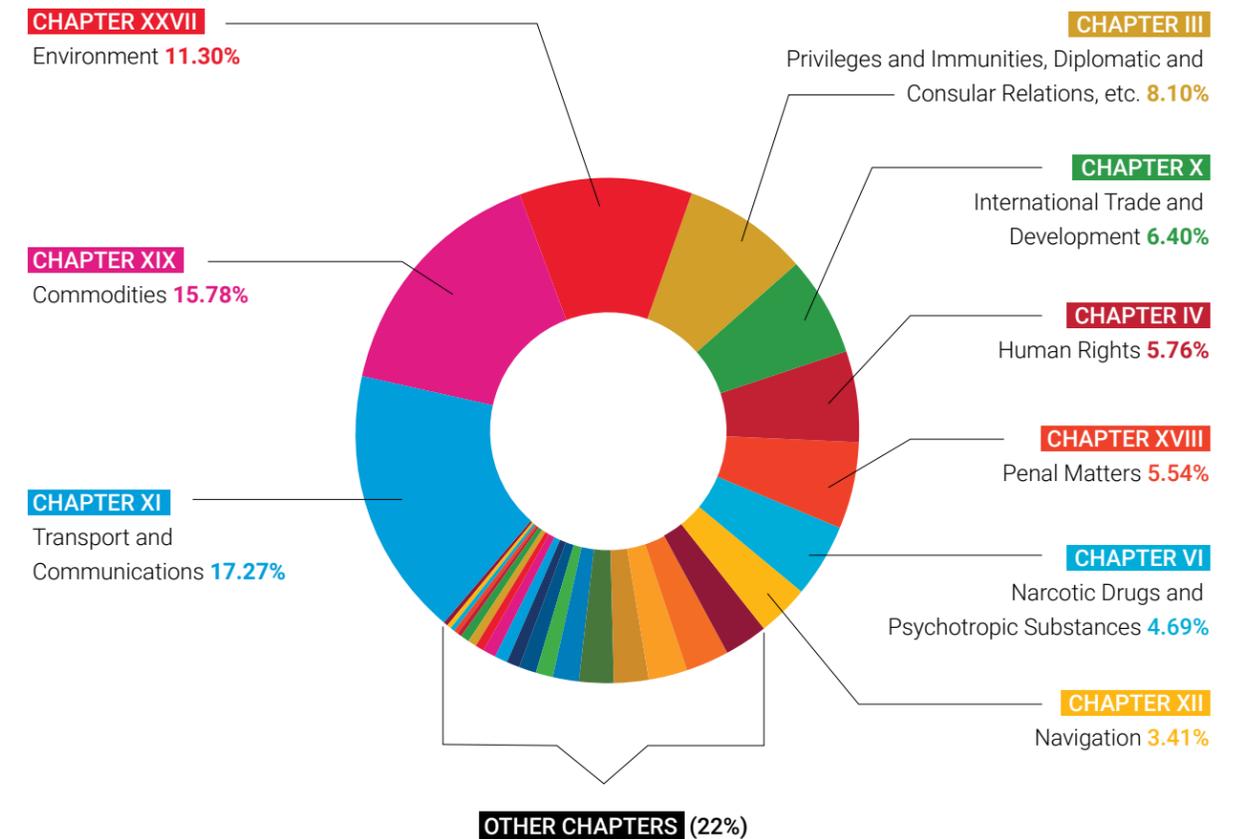
On 8 June 2021, the Appeals Chamber of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals rendered its judgment in the *Mladić* case on the appeals filed by Ratko Mladić and the Prosecutor against the judgment rendered by a Trial Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on 22 November 2017. The Appeals Chamber dismissed the appeals in their entirety and affirmed Mr. Mladić's conviction for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war. It also affirmed the sentence of life imprisonment imposed on him by the Trial Chamber.



In the case *Prosecutor v. Ratko Mladić*, the Appeals Chamber of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals affirmed Ratko Mladić's (pictured) convictions and dismissed his appeals in their entirety. (The Hague, Netherlands; 9 June 2021). ©IRMCT/Leslie Hondebrink-Hermer

## MULTILATERAL TREATIES DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESS MATTERS OF WORLDWIDE INTEREST

Multilateral treaties, proportion by chapter (as of March 2021)



- CHAPTER IX: Health
- CHAPTER XXVI: Disarmament
- CHAPTER VII: Traffic in Persons
- CHAPTER XIV: Educational and Cultural Matters
- CHAPTER XXI: Law of the Sea
- CHAPTER XXV: Telecommunications
- CHAPTER VIII: Obscene Publications
- CHAPTER V: Refugees and Stateless Persons
- CHAPTER XIII: Economic Statistics
- CHAPTER XXII: Commercial Arbitration and Mediation

- CHAPTER XV: Declaration of Death of Missing Persons
- CHAPTER XVI: Status of Women
- CHAPTER XXIII: Law of Treaties
- CHAPTER XXIV: Outer Space
- CHAPTER XXVIII: Fiscal Matters
- CHAPTER II: Pacific Settlement of International Disputes
- CHAPTER XVII: Freedom of Information
- CHAPTER XX: Maintenance Obligations
- CHAPTER XXIX: Miscellaneous

Japanese Peace Bell at United Nations Headquarters. (New York; August 2019)  
© UN Photo/Manuel Elías



# Disarmament

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## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Multilateral negotiations and deliberations
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Conventional arms
- Information and outreach
- Regional disarmament



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$31M**

\$15M regular assessed

\$16M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

- Disarmament, General Assembly resolution S-10/2
- The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, General Assembly resolution 75/241
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, General Assembly resolution 75/38
- Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, General Assembly resolution 75/48
- Regional disarmament, General Assembly resolution 75/49
- United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, General Assembly resolution 75/61
- Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, General Assembly resolution 74/64



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for Disarmament Affairs



The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean conducted its Specialized Course on Firearms Investigations from a Gender Perspective from 18 to 31 August 2020. (Argentina; August 2020)  
© UNLIREC



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

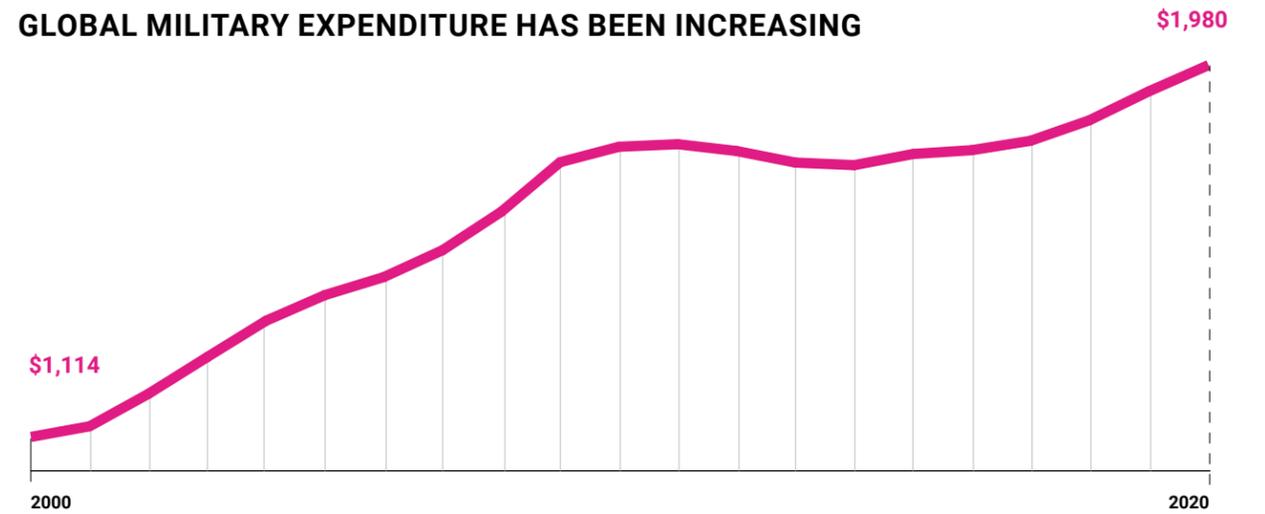
In 2021, the United Nations continued its core work of reinforcing the norm against the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and pursuing their elimination, and of advancing the regulation and limitation of conventional weapons. The United Nations also tackled the challenges arising from new technologies and in cyberspace. As military expenditures rose to \$1.98 trillion in 2020, the highest level since the end of the cold war, disarmament remains central to the work of the United Nations.



“ This pandemic has the potential to unite societies, institutions and individuals, just as the hard lessons of the Second World War laid the foundation for deeper international cooperation and stronger institutions to support our common security. ”

*Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs*

## GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN INCREASING



Source: SIPRI. Figures are in billions of US dollars at constant 2018 prices and exchange rates.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports multilateral negotiations and efforts aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament, focusing on the elimination of nuclear weapons, upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction, regulating conventional weapons, responding to the challenges of emerging weapons technologies and promoting regional disarmament efforts and public awareness.

## KEY OUTCOMES

While several key milestone meetings were postponed in 2020 owing to the pandemic, the United Nations continued to support Member States in the area of disarmament. For example, we provided policy, procedural and technical advice to the President-designate of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in expanded virtual consultations. We assisted Member States in addressing existing and potential threats relating to State use of information and communications technologies, and we supported new thinking on norms, rules and principles to reduce military threats to outer space systems. We also updated voluntary guidance on ammunition stockpile management and supported expert discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems.

In 2021, the operational readiness of my Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons was reinforced through updated rosters of experts and analytical laboratories. We also improved coordination with other parts of the United Nations system to enhance preparedness for a deliberate biological event and fostered a gender-balanced network of young biological scientists from the global South through the Youth for Biosecurity initiative.

### OUR DISARMAMENT WORK



# 500%

increase in youth participation at disarmament and non-proliferation events through strengthened outreach efforts.



In 2020, partnered with

# 7

countries in sub-Saharan Africa to promote the voluntary handover by civilians of illegally held small arms as part of the African Union's Amnesty Month initiative.



As of December 2020, there were

# 525

qualified experts on the roster of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons.



Channeled funds to

# 94

arms control-related projects, benefitting 144 Member States in all regions.



In November 2020, the United Nations joined with partners to showcase how disarmament and arms control can help to eliminate gender-based violence.

## THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AT 45



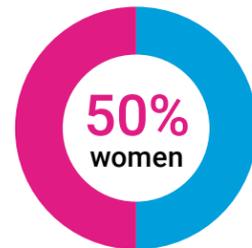
At the regional level, we supported the implementation of the Road Map for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030, which was developed with the aim of preventing and combating illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition. Working with national authorities in Africa and Latin America, we built their capacity for integration of small arms control and gender-based violence prevention. In support of the Silencing the Guns initiative of the African Union, we worked collaboratively with 10 countries to raise awareness of the negative effects of the illicit proliferation of small arms at the urban and community levels.

Under the United Nations SaferGuard quick-response mechanism, we fielded an assistance mission to Equatorial Guinea following explosions at a military camp. The mission assisted the Government in assessing the cause of the explosion and provided technical advice on ammunition management to reduce future risks.

On 22 January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force, following the fiftieth ratification. The Treaty is the first multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty in over two decades and represents the concerns of many States over the growing dangers posed by nuclear weapons. The United Nations is working to ensure a successful first Meeting of States Parties that will contribute to the Treaty's goals.

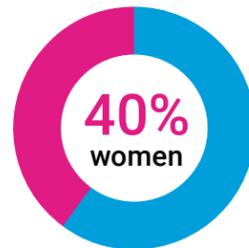
### GENDER PARITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN DISARMAMENT

#### Ammunition GGE



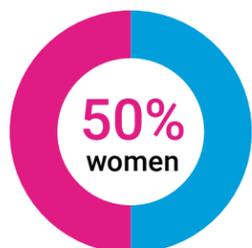
9 women and 9 men constitute the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

#### Cyber GGE



10 women and 15 men constitute the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace

#### Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters



8 women and 8 men sit on the Board

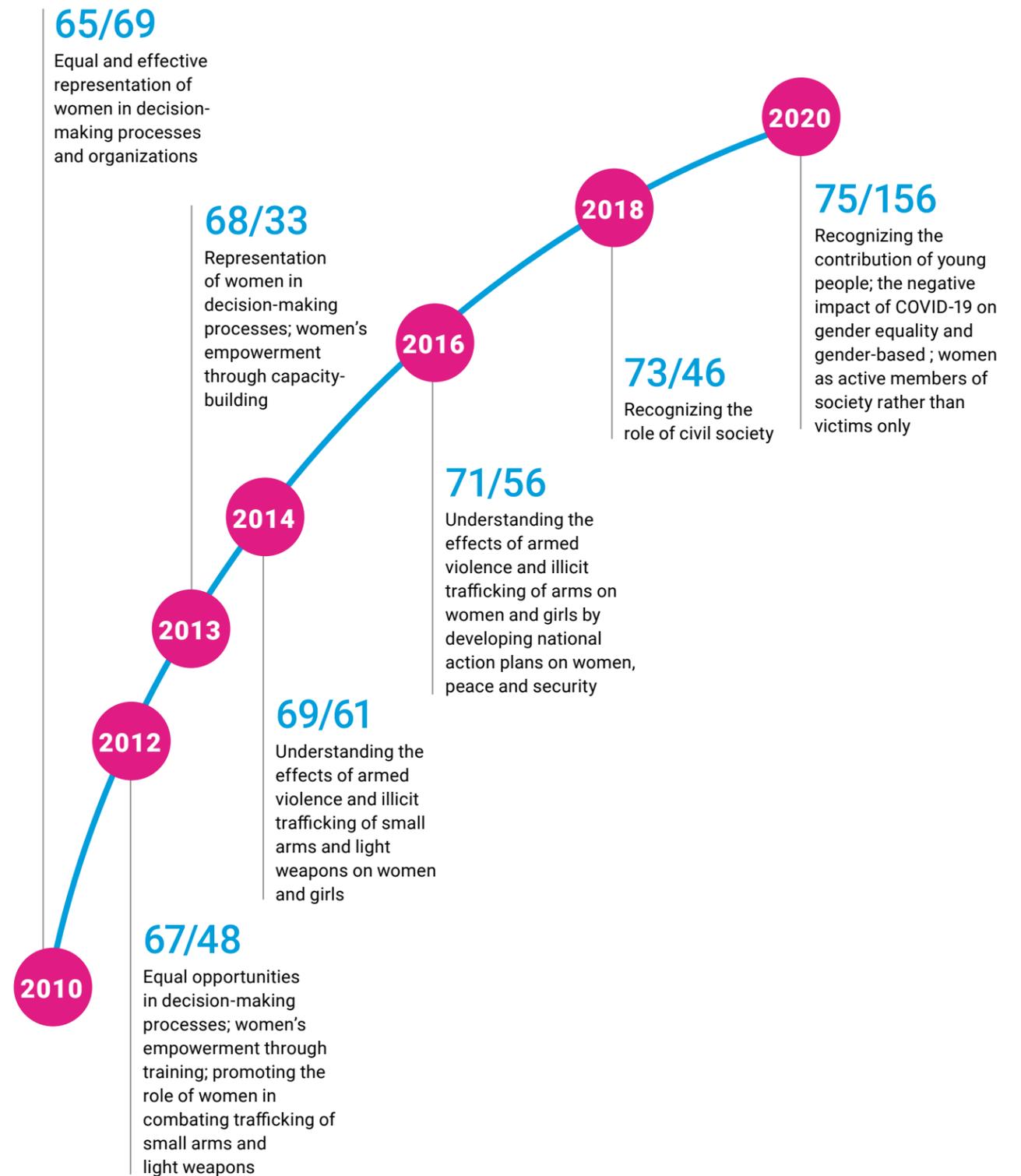
#### Scholarship for Peace and Security



137 women and 15 men. The Scholarship targets unrepresented groups in the disarmament field

In line with the Secretary-General's 2018 Agenda for Disarmament, the United Nations is continuing to make progress in the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament and international security.

### TEN YEARS OF RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL



The United Nations is partnering with Les Cafés Malongo on a sustainable livelihood project in Lao People's Democratic Republic, with the goal of enabling farmers to export 200 tons of coffee by 2025. (Vanmai, Lao People's Democratic Republic; April 2020)

© UNODC/Xaysavath Keouangvichith



# Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Combating Terrorism



## KEY PROGRAMMES

- Countering the world drug problem
- Countering transnational organized crime
- Countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism
- Countering corruption
- Justice
- Research, trend analysis and forensics
- Policy support
- Technical assistance



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$360M**

\$27M regular assessed

\$333M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, General Assembly resolution 72/284
- Strengthening the capability of the United Nations System to assist Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, General Assembly resolution 71/291
- United Nations Convention against Corruption
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto
- International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, General Assembly resolution 75/198
- Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, General Assembly resolution 75/196



## SELECT ENTITIES

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Office of Counter-Terrorism



At the Semarang Female Correctional Facility in Indonesia, a project on the ancient technique of batik dyeing was initiated to train inmates so that they could acquire a commercially viable skill. (Semarang, Indonesia; February 2020) © UNODC



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified our exposure to crime and violence. With confinements came intensified risk of domestic violence and online sexual exploitation. Emergency and economic responses to the pandemic raised corruption risks, and organized criminal groups falsified medical products to raise profits. Prisoners were among the most vulnerable to the pandemic, and ensuring access to justice for all has been a significant challenge.

Terrorists have exploited the political and socio-economic fallout of the pandemic in conflict-affected or fragile regions. The global threat posed by Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates was compounded by growing concerns over neo-Nazi and other racially or ethnically motivated groups resorting to terrorist violence.



“Fragility and inequality have made the world more vulnerable to crime, corruption, drugs and terrorism. We need greater inclusion and access to justice to leave no one behind.”

*Ghada Waly, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports Member States in tackling issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism by advancing compliance with standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice and implementing principles and standards in international instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



“We need to remain vigilant, united, and anticipate the evolving and complex threat posed by terrorists.”

*Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, Office of Counter-Terrorism*

## KEY OUTCOMES

### Crime prevention and countering transnational organized crime

The United Nations contributed to COVID-19 preparedness in detention centres in more than 50 Member States, which resulted in improved prison conditions and basic services for detainees. We provided personal protective equipment and sanitary items to prison authorities and supported the availability of quality health-care services for prisoners.

In South-East Asia and South America, we analysed fraud and corruption risks related to economic rescue measures for COVID-19 and contributed to whistle-blower protection in Kenya and Mexico. As a result, Member States were able to ensure that investigations, prosecutions and international cooperation continued despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With online presence increasing during the pandemic, we expanded support to Member States on cybercrime and online abuse. For example, we provided training to teachers and authorities on cybercrime prevention, detection, identification and management, with an emphasis on online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

### OUR SUPPORT TO CRIME PREVENTION, DRUG CONTROL AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

**299** laboratories across 87 countries with strengthened forensic capacity to detect drugs.

**61,000+** students, educators and academics participated in activities of the Education for Justice initiative, aimed at promoting the rule of law through education.

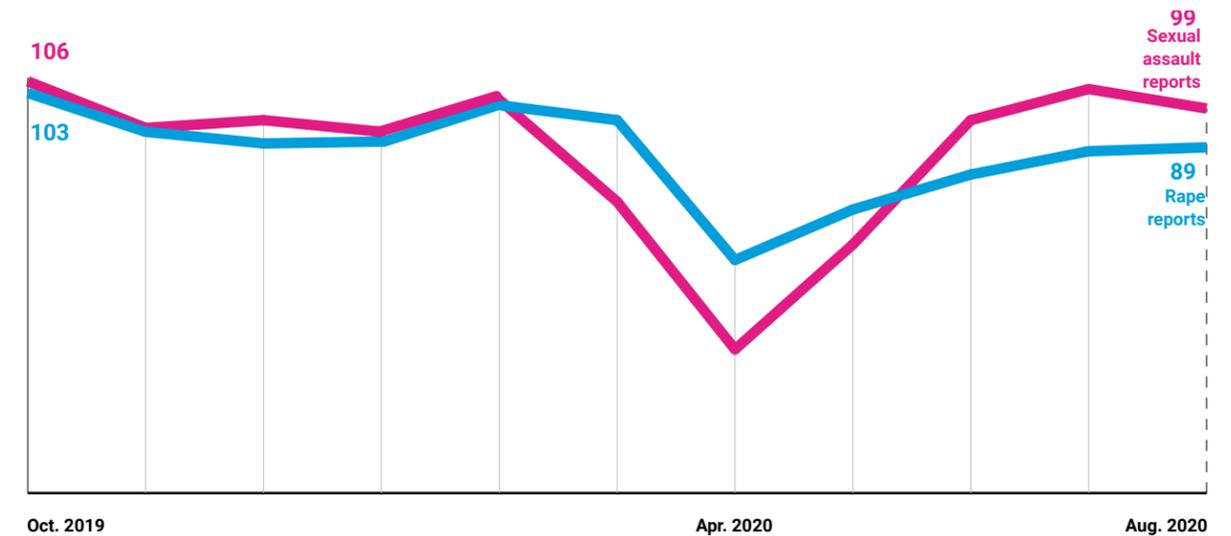
**50** Member States with enhanced COVID-19 preparedness and responses in prisons.

Supported the production of **144** tons of parchment coffee through alternative development activities in Myanmar, targeting families previously engaged in opium farming.

**5,100+** teachers in Honduras received training on online child sexual abuse and exploitation. As a result, 13 girls between the ages of 9 and 12 were identified by teachers as victims.

**600,000** families across 45 countries participated in the United Nations drug use prevention programme.

### REPORTS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT TO AUTHORITIES DECREASED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCKDOWN MEASURES

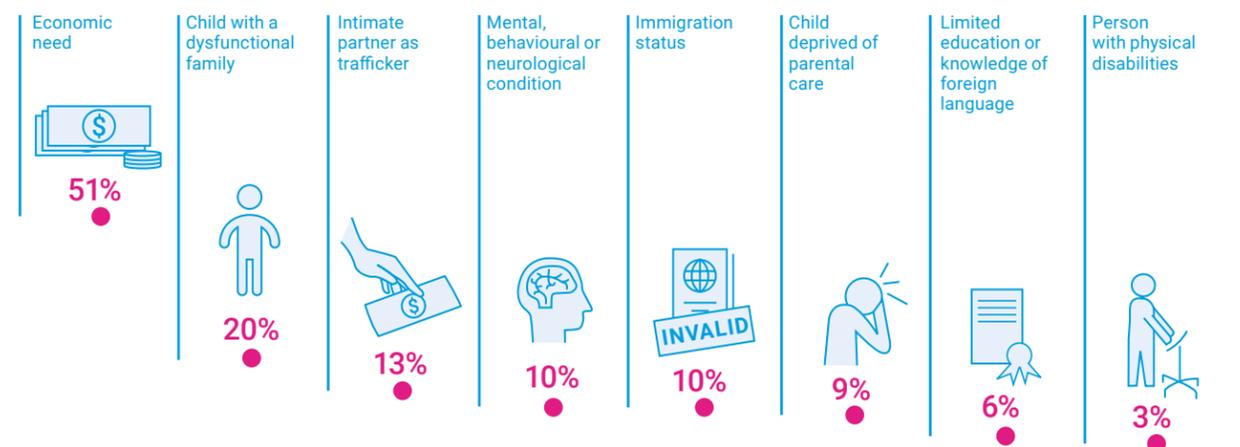


More information is needed to interpret the pattern. It should be noted that there was a decrease in the accessibility of institutions for reporting incidents and a possible decline in incidents outside the domestic sphere.

Source: Country-level data collected as part of the UNODC Global Initiative to improve knowledge of the impact of COVID-19 in crime and drugs. Note: Rape concerned 21 countries; sexual assault concerned 15 countries.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKERS OFTEN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRE-EXISTING VULNERABILITIES

Percentage of cases by pre-existing factor



Some cases reported more than one factor. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected several conditions of vulnerable victims of trafficking in persons. The vulnerability condition of the victim before being trafficked was reported in 233 court cases of a total of 489 cases collected by UNODC.

Source: 2020 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

### Countering the world drug problem

In 2021, we continued the International Collaborative Exercises programme, providing forensic laboratories with updated information on the identification and testing of drugs. As a result, forensic and testing quality was strengthened in 299 laboratories in 87 countries.

We also supported alternative development across various regions, switching from illicit to licit crops. In Colombia, more than 8,600 farming families and 90 rural organizations increased their productivity and income by developing competitive and quality-standardized products.

We reached more than 600,000 families across 45 countries in our work on drug use prevention. The programmes also reached vulnerable populations such as refugees and internally displaced persons, including 100,000 internally displaced families in Kachin State in Myanmar.

### Terrorism prevention

To promote multilateral cooperation for counter-terrorism, we launched the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, connecting 43 entities and 131 Member States. We also organized the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week in July 2020 and the second Counter-Terrorism Week in New York in June 2021.

In our support to Member States, we assisted 40 countries with regard to the use of passenger data to counter the travel of terrorists and serious criminals and began deploying the goTravel software. We initiated a global programme to counter the financing of terrorism, training more than 400 officials from 20 countries and contributing to new software for financial intelligence units. We supported over 100 Member States in addressing the risk of bioterrorism, as well as linkages between terrorism and illicit arms trafficking and organized crime.

Our new Global Framework provides a whole-of-United Nations approach to supporting Member States in the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign nationals returning from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, who may have alleged or actual links or family ties to designated terrorist groups.

We promoted resilience to violent extremism conducive to terrorism through sports and good practices to protect major sporting events from terrorist attacks. We launched a new International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism to better inform and support United Nations and Member State efforts to prevent violent extremism and terrorism. We also continued to raise awareness of the plight of victims of terrorism and promoted their rights and role in terrorism prevention. For example, our Victims of Terrorism Support Programme highlighted the trauma and isolation that victims experienced during the pandemic, giving them a platform to advocate for their rights.



A family skills training at Cox's Bazar refugee camp focuses on the prevention of drug use, violence and crime. (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; May 2020) © UNODC

### OUR COUNTER-TERRORISM WORK

Engaged **175** Member States in counter-terrorism capacity-building activities.

Involved **9,000+** participants in our capacity-building activities.

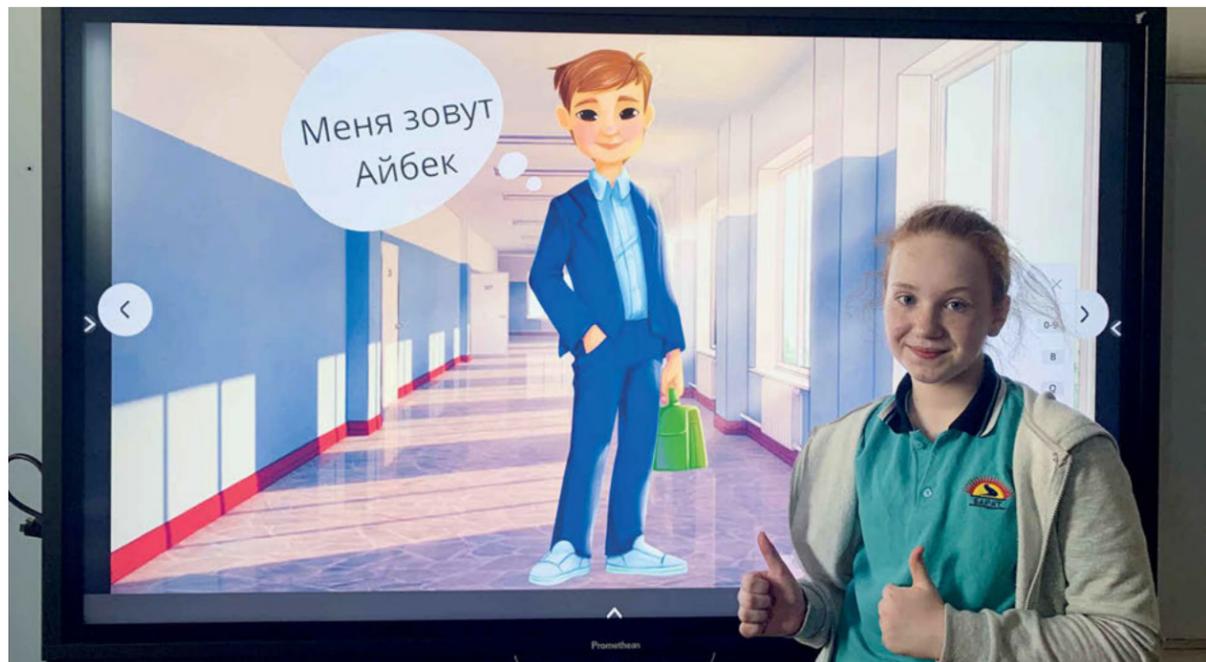
Delivered **68** active capacity-building programmes and projects for a total budget of **\$63M** to support Member States in their implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

**43** partners have joined the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and are connected with **127** Member States on our online Coordination Platform.

Organized **120** outreach events for over **6,600** participants from all **193** Member States.



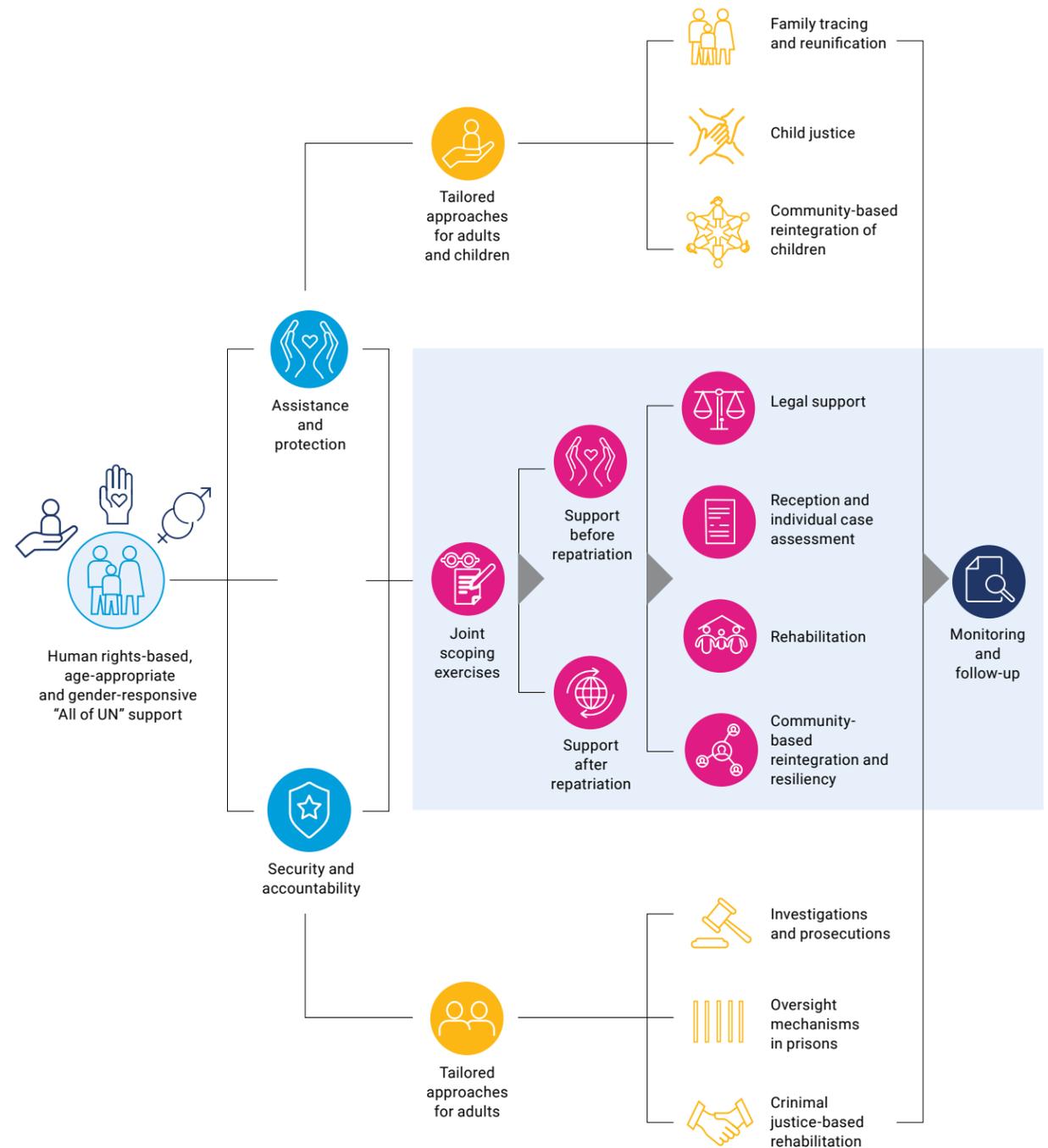
The United Nations empowered young leaders to create a “brave space” with their peers and led a discussion with 600 young women and men on solutions to prevent and counter violent extremism in hard-to-reach and fragile contexts. (Sydney, Australia; November 2020) © UNOCT



In 2020, the Justice Accelerators initiative was piloted in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, where secondary students competed by developing technology-based solutions for rule of law challenges in their communities. The winning

teams developed artificial intelligence solutions to identify hate speech and violent extremist language in websites, as well as an online platform linking providers of affordable and pro bono legal aid with people in need of such services.

### GLOBAL FRAMEWORK ON UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES ON INDIVIDUALS RETURNING FROM THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND IRAQ\*



\* The Global Framework is co-led by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNICEF.

Photo exhibit outside United Nations Headquarters, featuring 75 winning images from #TheWorldWeWant, a global photo contest in support of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. (New York; 17 September 2020)  
© UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

# Effective Functioning of the Organization



## KEY PROGRAMMES

- General Assembly affairs and conference management
- Global communications
- Oversight
- Management strategy, policy and compliance
- Offices away from Headquarters
- Operational support
- Safety and security



## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$1.6B**

\$1.2B regular assessed

\$343M peacekeeping assessed (2019/2020)

\$50M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

- Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 72/266 A and B and 73/281
- Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, General Assembly resolutions 73/289 and 74/271
- Human resources management, General Assembly resolution 72/254
- Procurement, General Assembly resolution 69/273
- Multilingualism, General Assembly resolution 71/328
- Pattern of conferences, General Assembly resolution 73/270
- Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021, General Assembly resolution 75/252



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- Department of Global Communications
- Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- Department of Operational Support
- Department of Security and Safety
- Office of Internal Oversight Services
- United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna
- Ethics Office



The United Nations flag flying at half-mast in honour of those who lost their lives during the COVID-19 outbreak. (New York; 13 April 2020) © UN Photo/Evan Schneider



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## KEY WORK STREAMS

With more than 36,000 staff in 463 duty stations, the work of the United Nations Secretariat is underpinned by the effective management of finance, human resources, information and communications technology, supply chains, facilities, conference services and security and safety operations, as well as communicating the work of the Organization to global audiences.

## KEY OUTCOMES

The COVID-19 pandemic was an early test of our reforms. Our reforms enabled us to adjust our business operations and respond quickly to the needs of Member States. Unlike responses to past emergencies, such as the Ebola crisis, the Organization did not need to create new structures to manage its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new reform structures in development, peace and security and management facilitated a unified and agile response to the pandemic, saving time and money.

Virtual meeting platforms and remote simultaneous interpretation allowed delegates and staff to continue their work in more than 1,200 meetings. On site, physical barriers, air filtration systems and enhanced hygiene measures increased safety in our buildings. Through our “Reimagine the UN together”



“By strengthening our systems for resilience, we make it easier for mandates to be implemented more effectively and accountably, through the development of innovative global management strategies and policies for an inclusive workforce.”

*Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance*

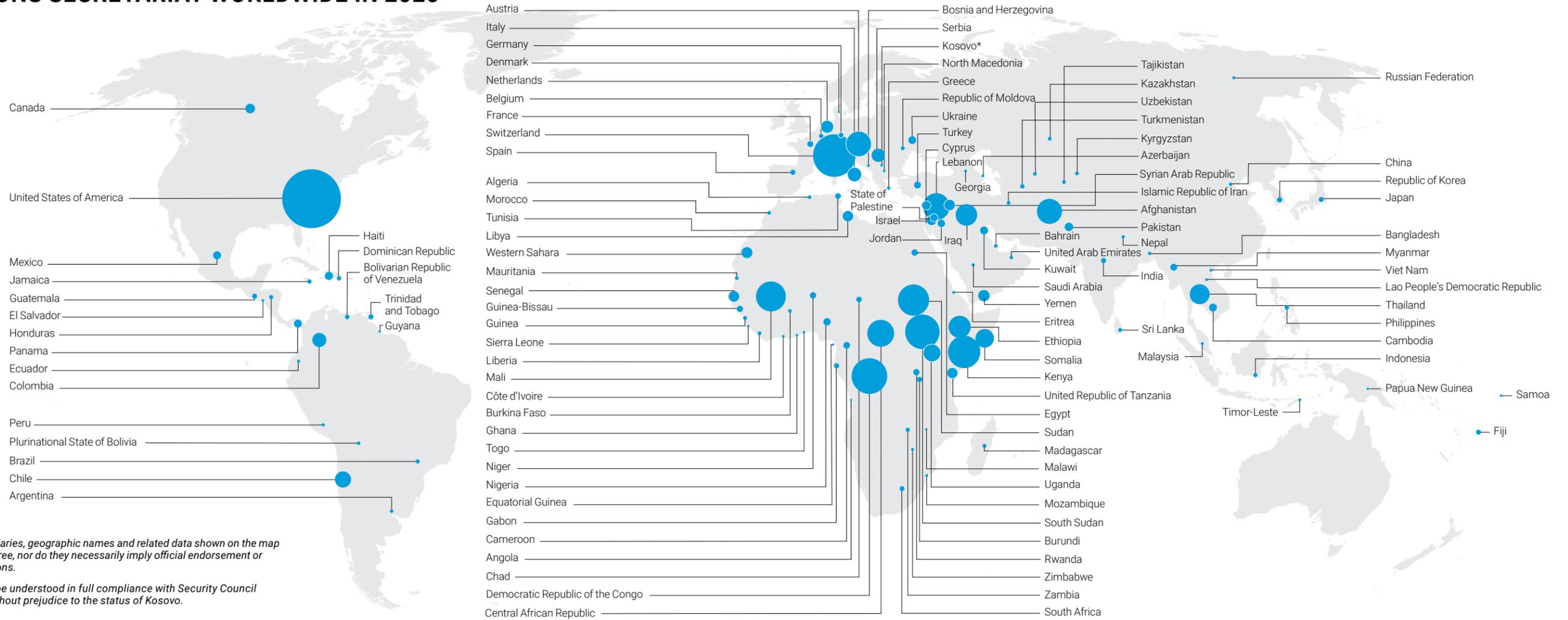


“This past year has demonstrated, perhaps more than ever, how necessary it is for the UN to be agile and responsive. The groundwork we laid enabled our operations to adapt immediately to the changing dynamics of our world.”

*Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support*

# OVER 36,000 STAFF WORKED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT WORLDWIDE IN 2020

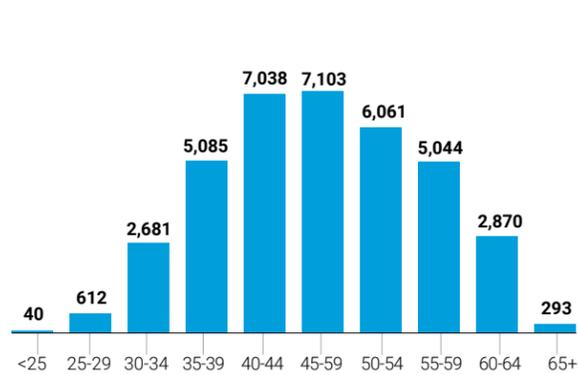
● Represents number of staff



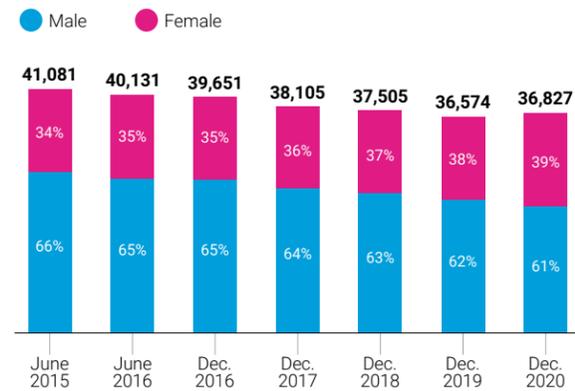
The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on the map are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\*Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

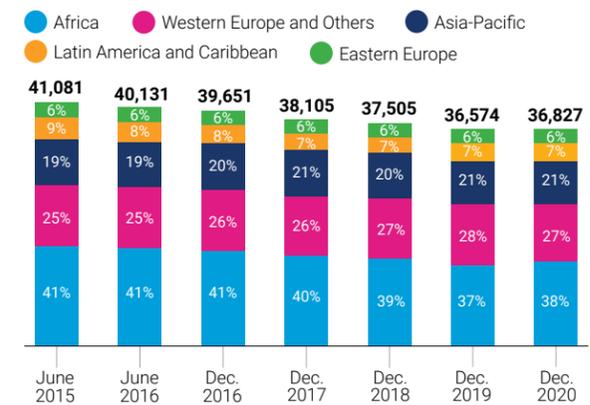
## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF SECRETARIAT STAFF IN 2020



## FEMALE REPRESENTATION IS INCREASING AMONG SECRETARIAT STAFF

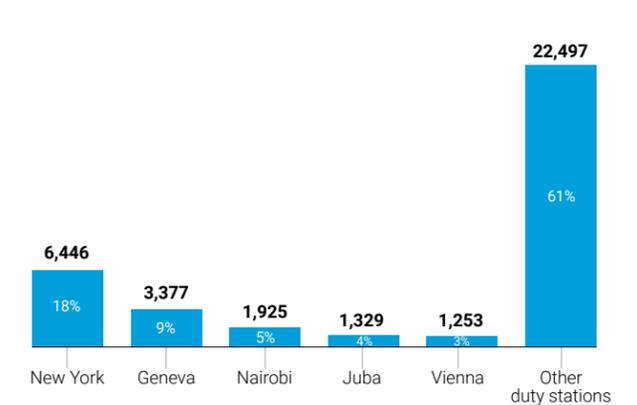


## SECRETARIAT STAFF BY REGIONAL GROUP\*



\*The five regional groups were formed to facilitate the equitable geographical distribution of seats among the Member States in different United Nations bodies

## SECRETARIAT STAFF BY LOCATION



challenge, some 85 teams submitted innovative solutions to advance new and better ways of doing business.

To enable the continuation of our life-saving work around the world, we established a system-wide task force on medical evacuations, which mobilized 117 medical evacuations, established hubs in Accra and Nairobi and made arrangements with hospitals in several locations. By June 2021, our vaccine task force had delivered 222,500 vaccines to United Nations personnel and members of our partner organizations in 47 countries. We also continued to provide security to some 180,000 personnel and 400,000 of their dependants in more than 125 countries.

The new management structures at Headquarters have facilitated the United Nations response to COVID-19 by clarifying departmental responsibilities and enhancing their responsiveness. We were able to update and adjust policies to respond to operational requirements. An integrated supply

chain system allowed the United Nations to quickly obtain critical goods and services at highly competitive prices. Personal protective equipment and medical equipment were successfully sourced and supplied to duty stations in need. The Organization's supply chains, especially for strategic goods and services, have remained resilient even in these challenging circumstances, with no interruptions experienced despite different national travel and cargo restrictions.

The enhanced delegation of authority framework not only aligned responsibility with authority but also enabled managers to respond more quickly and flexibly to the situations that they were facing during the pandemic. A new governance mechanism, the Management Client Board, was established to ensure effective operations. For the first time, all types of entities in the Secretariat, particularly those outside headquarters duty stations, were represented in input into the development of administrative policy on a continuous basis.



A MEDEVAC team finalizes an evacuation. (Iraq; August 2020)

## OUR EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING EFFORTS

 **75M+**  
visitors accessed un.org.

 **27.5M**  
users consulted the dedicated Sustainable Development Goals website.

 We provided security to **180,000** personnel and **400,000** of their dependents in **125** countries.

 Our Verified initiative published **1,000+** pieces of digital content – in at least **50** languages – to combat COVID-19 misinformation.

 Verified videos were viewed **660M** times and reached **25M** people directly on their cell phones.



“Technologies are more effective when they are used as enablers of transformations in the business processes.”

*Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management*



“At the end of the day, it is about our stakeholders trusting us to always deliver the results they need. Robust and responsive internal oversight demonstrates our commitment to accountability for results and transparency, and continuously fosters that trust.”

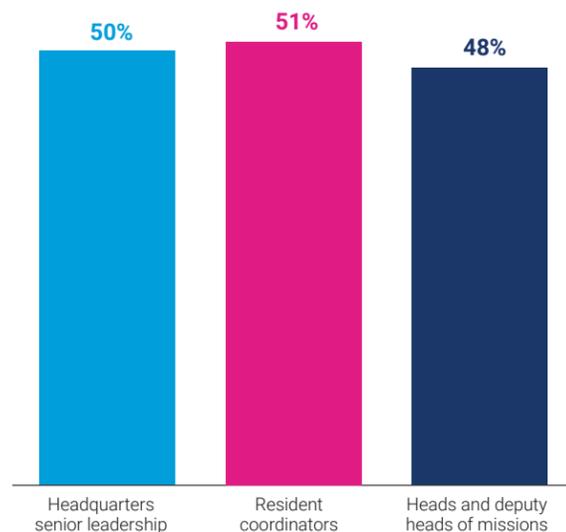
*Fatoumata Ndiaye, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services*

Central investments in information and communications technology provided staff with modern tools to seamlessly continue their work. In various duty stations, staff members were able to continue to work remotely while connecting and collaborating with their colleagues globally.

Reforms also helped to strengthen accountability and transparency. A new evaluation capacity was formed, analytics capacities were significantly reinforced, and a Secretariat-wide risk register with corporate-level risk treatment and response plans was adopted and a risk management approach introduced.

The annual budget is now in its second year of implementation. It has improved the accuracy of our resource estimates and planning assumptions, thereby improving mandate delivery and accountability for results. We are now able to adjust our programme planning and incorporate lessons from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic into the budget for 2022. Under the biennial budget, such steps would have had to wait until the biennium 2024–2025.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO GENDER PARITY AT HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE FIELD (% WOMEN, AS OF 2020)



### UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATION

In May 2020, the Secretary-General launched a review of United Nations integration to maximize cross-pillar collaboration for the consolidation of peace and acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals. Colleagues across the system are currently following up by revising policies, developing practical tools and incorporating behavioural insights to support implementation of the review’s recommendations.



“We work to enable United Nations programme delivery in challenging security environments.”

Gilles Michaud, Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security

Achieving an equitable workforce remains a key priority. In 2021, we maintained gender parity among Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General, which was reached for the first time in 2020. We launched a strategy to advance equitable geographical representation and evaluated our recruitment processes to reduce bias and other barriers to inclusive hiring. We also launched the talent pool initiative to better leverage female talent within the United Nations common system.

To strengthen accountability, we created management dashboards to track our performance in areas such as gender parity and geographical representation and launched our first ever results portal for Member States. We also trained conduct and discipline focal points and expanded our Misconduct Tracking System.

In 2021, I signed the Secretariat’s first statement of internal control, providing assurance to Member States that Secretariat-wide mandated activities are being implemented effectively and efficiently; financial reporting is reliable and compliant with International Public Sector Accounting Standards; and regulations, rules and procedures adhere to the regulatory framework.



“At the UN, we live, breathe and exercise compassion for others to overcome indifference, to reset and recover better than we ever were.”

Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

### COMMUNICATING WITH GLOBAL AUDIENCES

Produced, published and translated information in **126** languages.

Provided communications support in **180** countries.

**92M+** views of live and on-demand streaming coverage of United Nations meetings and events across United Nations multimedia platforms.

United Nations video packages were aired more than **80,000** times by broadcasters.



A United Nations Security Officer inside the General Assembly Hall during the seventy-fifth session. (New York; 26 September 2020) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías

The rights and dignity of victims remain at the centre of our work to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse. In May 2020, the Victims' Rights Advocate concluded a pilot mapping of victims' services, capacities and approaches in 13 countries with United Nations presences. Since 2019, we have also quadrupled the number of United Nations entities submitting action plans to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.

In March 2021, the High-level Committee on Management approved the *Investigators' Manual: Investigation of Sexual Harassment Complaints in the United Nations*, which lays out common general principles for fair, transparent and accountable investigation processes.

In September 2020, I established the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify the extent of personal, interpersonal, structural and institutional racism in the Organization and its impact on mandate delivery. The Task Force will devise a long-term strategic action plan on how to end racism and racial discrimination in the United Nations and propose measures to promote diversity and inclusion and develop policies and tools to create a safe environment in which racism can be reported and addressed promptly without fear of reprisal.

Cash shortfalls continued to affect our work in 2020. The year started with record arrears of \$711 million in our regular budget, and we faced a \$173 million gap in collections by the end of March. Facing a cash-flow deficit, we temporarily suspended hiring for regular budget operations and scaled down all expenses. Cash inflows remained unpredictable

and the year-end arrears climbed to \$808 million. Stop-gap interventions cannot address these structural problems, and the problem will spill over into succeeding budget years.

In peacekeeping, outstanding contributions totalled \$1.7 billion by the end of the financial period, in June 2020. In 2019, the General Assembly authorized measures that provided important liquidity relief, including the settlement of payments to troop- and police-contributing countries. These measures have facilitated our ability to meet operational requirements and payments to those countries. However, sustained and predictable funding is needed to ensure the success of our peacekeeping operations. I appreciate the efforts of those Member States that have paid in full and on time and urge others to meet their financial obligations.



“Principled and ethical conduct of UN staff will be of vital importance to continuing to foster public trust in the UN.”

*Elia Yi Armstrong, Director, Ethics Office*



### REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT IN FIELD MISSIONS

As part of our efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of our field operations, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei installed 50 hybrid solar air conditioners, which consume 29 per cent less power and reduce fuel consumption

by about 400 litres per year. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force implemented three photovoltaic systems, reducing the mission's carbon footprint by about 250 tons of carbon dioxide each year.



A member of the Facilities Management Service cleans the carpet in the General Assembly Hall in preparation for staff to return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. (New York; 27 May 2020) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías





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