



Science in the City

Building Participatory Urban Learning Community Hubs
through Research and Activation





REDUCED INEQUALITIES: WHY IT MATTERS

Almost
2 in 10
people
reported having
personally
experienced
discrimination
on at least one
of the grounds
established by
international
human rights
law



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reducing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind are integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Inequality within and among countries is a persistent cause for concern. Despite some positive signs toward reducing inequality in some dimensions, such as reducing relative income inequality in some countries and preferential trade status benefiting lower-income countries, [inequality still persists](#).

[COVID-19 has deepened existing inequalities](#), hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest. It has put a spotlight on economic inequalities and fragile social safety nets that leave vulnerable communities to bear the brunt of the crisis. At the same time, social, political and economic inequalities have amplified the impacts of the pandemic.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



On the economic front, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased global [unemployment](#) and dramatically slashed workers' incomes.

COVID-19 also puts at risk the limited progress that has been made on [gender equality](#) and women's rights over the past decades. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex.

Inequalities are also deepening for [vulnerable populations](#) in countries with weaker health systems and those facing existing humanitarian crises. Refugees and migrants, as well as indigenous peoples, older persons, people with disabilities and children are particularly at risk of being left behind. And [hate speech](#) targeting vulnerable groups is rising.

What's the goal here?

To reduce inequalities within and among countries.

Why?

Inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity continue to persist across the world. Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth. This, in turn, can breed crime, disease and environmental degradation.

We cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from the chance for a better life. And despite some positive signs, inequality is growing for more than 70 per cent of the global population, exacerbating the risks of divisions and hampering economic and social development. Furthermore, COVID-19 is hitting the most vulnerable people the hardest, and those same groups are often experiencing increased discrimination.



What are some examples of inequality?

Women and children with lack of access to healthcare die each day from preventable diseases such as measles and tuberculosis or in childbirth. Older persons, migrants and refugees face lack of opportunities and discrimination – an issue that affects every country in the world. One in five persons reported being discriminated on at least one ground of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law.

Among those with disabilities, 3 in 10 personally experienced discrimination, with higher levels still among women with disabilities, including based on religion, ethnicity and sex, pointing to the urgent need for measures to tackle multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

How do we tackle discrimination?

In today's world, we are all interconnected. Problems and challenges like poverty, climate change, migration or economic crises are never just confined to one country or region. Even the richest countries still have communities living in abject poverty. The oldest democracies still wrestle with racism, homophobia and transphobia, and religious intolerance. Global inequality affects us all, no matter who we are or where we are from.



Can we achieve equality for everyone?

It can – and should be – achieved to ensure a life of dignity for all. Political, economic and social policies need to be universal and pay particular attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

What can we do?

Reducing inequality requires transformative change. Greater efforts are needed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and invest more in health, education, social protection and decent jobs especially for young people, migrants and refugees and other vulnerable communities.

Within countries, it is important to empower and promote inclusive social and economic growth. We can ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of income if we eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

Among countries, we need to ensure that developing countries are better represented in decision-making on global issues so that solutions can be more effective, credible and accountable.

Governments and other stakeholders can also promote safe, regular and responsible migration, including through planned and well-managed policies, for the millions of people who have left their homes seeking better lives due to war, discrimination, poverty, lack of opportunity and other drivers of migration.



BEFORE COVID-19

INCOME INEQUALITY WAS FALLING IN SOME COUNTRIES

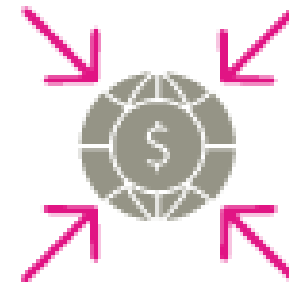


GINI INDEX FELL
IN 38 OUT OF 84 COUNTRIES
(2010-2017)

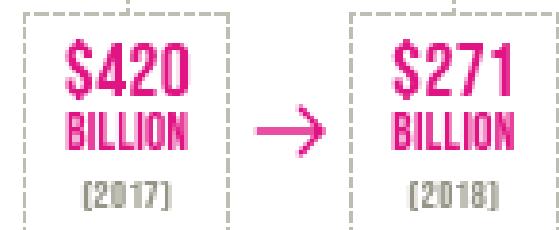


THE **GINI INDEX** MEASURES INCOME INEQUALITY AND RANGES FROM 0 TO 100, WHERE 0 INDICATES THAT INCOME IS SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL PEOPLE, AND

GLOBAL RECESSION COULD SQUEEZE DEVELOPMENT AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



RESOURCE FLOWS FOR DEVELOPMENT



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

**THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS
ARE BEING HIT HARDEST BY THE PANDEMIC**



OLDER PERSONS



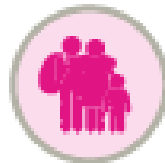
**PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**



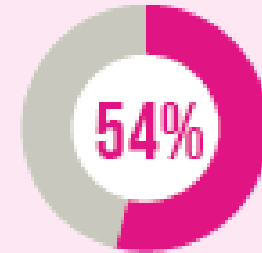
CHILDREN



WOMEN

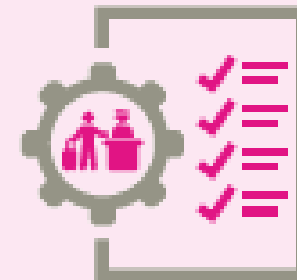


**MIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES**



OF COUNTRIES

**WITH DATA HAVE A
COMPREHENSIVE SET OF
MIGRATION POLICIES**



Facts & Figures

- Evidence from developing countries shows that [children in the poorest 20 per cent](#) of the populations are still up to three times more likely to die before their fifth birthday than children in the richest quintiles.
- [Social protection](#) has been significantly extended globally, yet persons with disabilities are up to five times more likely than average to incur catastrophic health expenditures.
- Despite overall declines in [maternal mortality in most developing countries](#), women in rural areas are still up to three times more likely to die while giving birth than women living in urban centers.
- [Up to 30 per cent](#) of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are also more likely than men to live below 50 per cent of the median income
- Of the one billion population of persons with disabilities, [80per cent live in developing countries](#).
- [One in ten](#) children is a child with a disability.
- Only [28 per cent of persons](#) with significant disabilities have access to disability benefits globally, and only 1per cent in low-income countries.

Goal 10 Targets

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Goal 10 Targets

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

10.A Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

10.B Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

10.C By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent



Goal 17 Targets

Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries



Links

- [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States \(UNOHRLLS\)](#)





To find out more about Goal #10 and the other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

