

Young People Shaping the Future Through Digital Transformation

/ 7th Youth Forum on the SDGs Implementation

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UNICEF Innocenti: For Every Child, Answers





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



The Challenge

Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals 2023

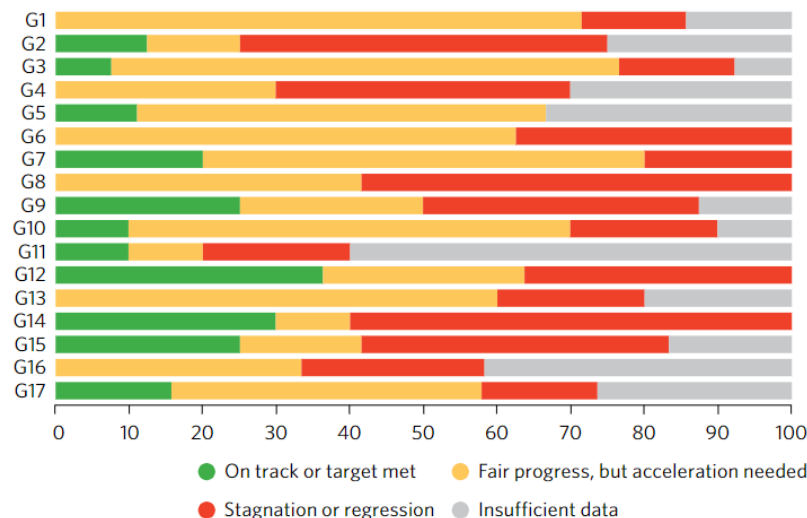
Promise in Peril? Where Do We Stand Halfway to 2030?

Of the approximately 140 **targets** that can be evaluated, half of them show **moderate or severe deviations from the desired trajectory**.

More than 30 per cent of these **targets** have **experienced no progress or, even worse, regression below the 2015 baseline**.

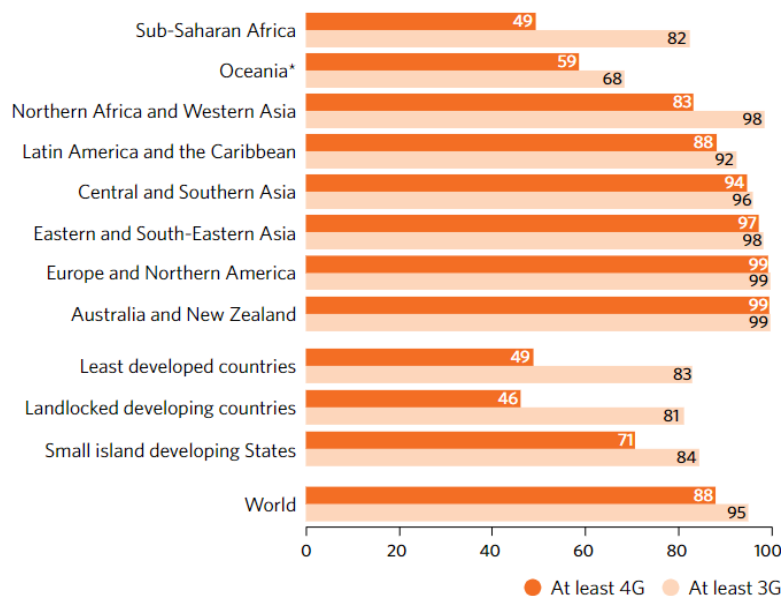
Underscores the **urgent need for intensified efforts** to ensure the **SDGs stay on course and progress towards a sustainable future for all**.

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



More than 95% of the World Connected? But What About the Final Frontier?

Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, 2022 (percentage) *



In 2022, **mobile broadband coverage of 3G or higher** was available to 95 per cent of the global population, a **significant increase** from 78 per cent in 2015.

However, **connecting the remaining 5 per cent** presents challenges. The **coverage gap** is 18 per cent in **sub-Saharan African** and 32 per cent in **Oceania**.

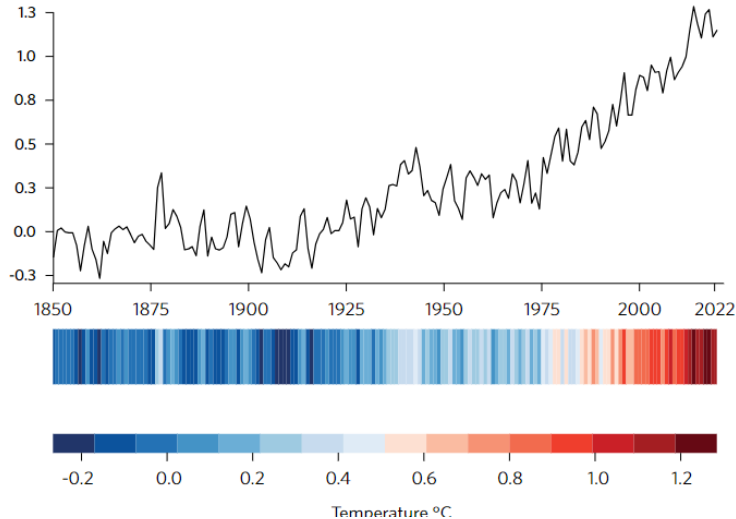
Particularly in **low-income countries**, there are **barriers to 5G deployment**, including **high infrastructure costs**, **device affordability**, and **regulatory and adoption constraints**.

* Excluding Australia and New Zealand

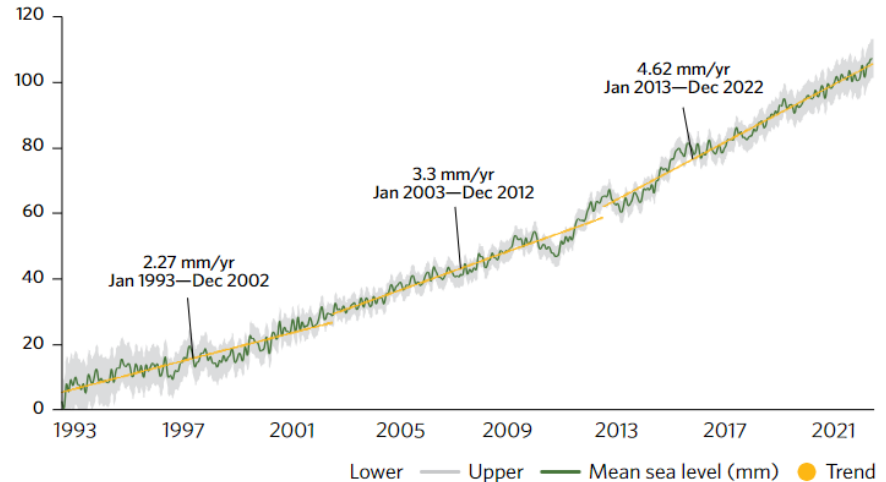
** Data in this slide are drawn from *The Sustainable Development Goals Report - Special edition (United Nations, 2023)*

Entering the 'Era of Global Boiling,'* with record-setting rising sea levels...

Global annual mean temperature relative to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900 average), 1850-2022 (degrees Celsius)



Global mean sea level, 1993-2022 (millimetres)



Note: Based on satellite measurements.

* UNSG António Guterres, *<Hottest July ever signals 'era of global boiling has arrived' says UN chief>* (2023)

** Data in this slide are drawn from *The Sustainable Development Goals Report - Special edition* (United Nations, 2023)

Against This Backdrop, Young People Today Are Facing More Complex Challenges

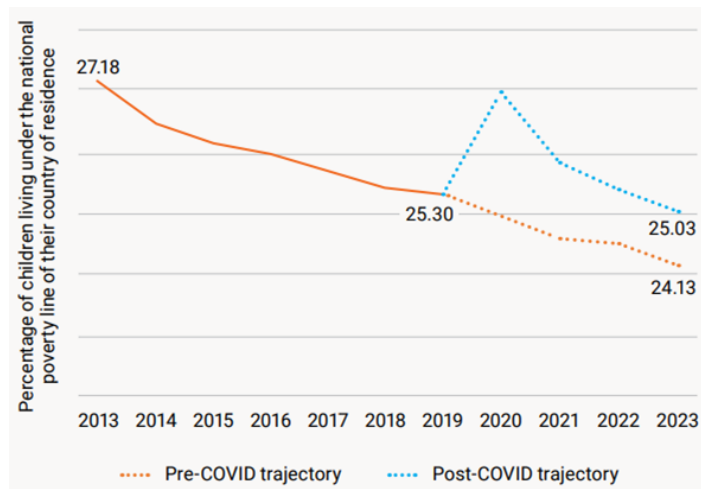
Life satisfaction for young people (ages 15 to 30) has declined between 2019 and 2021, while remaining steady for other age groups.

In 2023, one in four children will be **living below the poverty line**. We may now be on a permanently lower trajectory for reducing child poverty.

Data from 160 countries show that **young people are becoming more dissatisfied with democracy**.

In 2022, more than **12,000 protests took place globally** in connection w/ equitable access to food and energy. **Students and youth participated** in 600+ of them.

Children Living Under National Poverty Lines, Pre-COVID and Estimated Current Trends



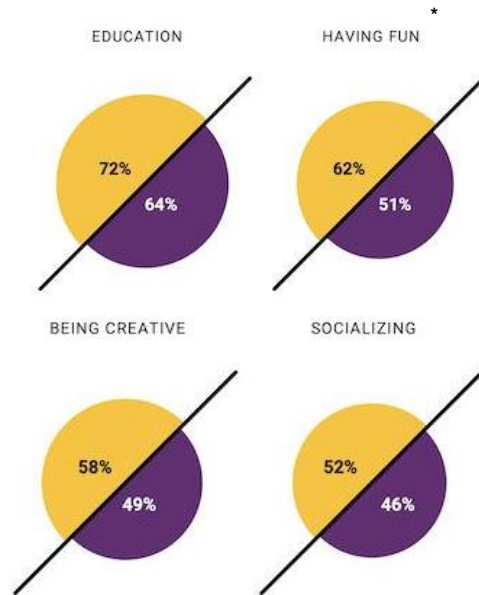
The Opportunity

Opportunity for Young People in Digital Transformation

Yes, Young People are Born Digital Natives in a Large Part of the World Today

Young People vs.
Older Generation
Who Believe
Digital Technology
Helps Children 'a lot'
in Various Spheres
(percentage)

15-24 YEAR-OLDS
40+ YEAR-OLDS



Worldwide, 75% of young people (15-24 years old) **use the Internet**, showing 10% more than among the rest of the population.*

Overall, young people also see **greater benefits, and fewer risks**, from children's online lives compared with older generations.

About 77% of young people across 21 countries surveyed say **they use the internet daily**, versus just 52% for those over 40 years old.

* ITU Facts and Figures, *<Three-quarters of 15- to 24-year-olds use the Internet>* (2022)

** All Other data in this slide are drawn from *the Changing Childhood Project by UNICEF x Gallup* (2021).

Opportunity for Young People in Digital Transformation

And That Uniquely Positions Young People as Shapers of Today and Tomorrow.



Our Experiment



“**Foresight** is the innate human capacity to think about – to perceive – futures in a systematic way to imagine and engage with alternative futures and to then identify those futures which need to be shaped, nurtured and felt in the present.”

—

Maree Conway

Founder, Foresight in the Present



“**Meaningful youth engagement** refers to how youth should be involved in decision-making and policymaking processes. (...) If the multilateral system is to be fit to deliver a present and future that works for all, then meaningful youth engagement must become the norm rather than the exception.”

—

UNSG António Guterres (2023)

Our Common Agenda Policy Brief

Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-making Processes

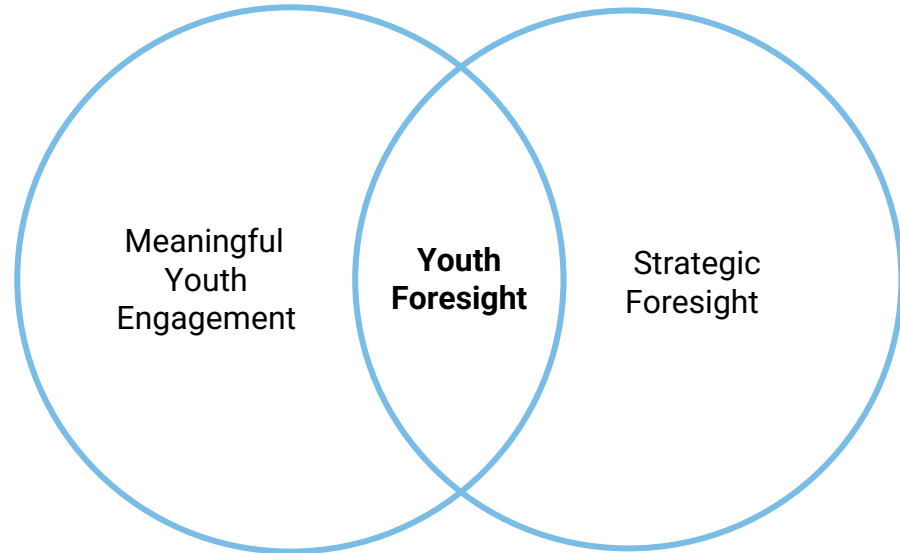
Effective Youth Foresight emerges from the intersection of MYE & Strategic foresight

What and Why

1. Process of anticipating change and preparing for what is possible
2. Looking beyond what is probable
3. Meeting young people "where they are"
4. Value of the future space and acknowledgment of young people's role

Impact

1. Policy and social impact
2. Trends analysis and global discourse
3. Building agency and space
4. Shaping strategy *with* young people



UNICEF Innocenti's Youth Foresight Work

We Recruited 9 Young Foresight Practitioners as Fellows in 2022



Fisayo
Nigeria



Joshua
Germany



Ricardo
Honduras



Ijun
Republic of Korea



Nourhan
Egypt



Deona
United States
of America



Iman
Kenya



Asra
Pakistan



Jacob
United Kingdom

UNICEF Innocenti's Youth Foresight Work

They designed & facilitated a 2 day participatory foresight workshop – *virtually*!



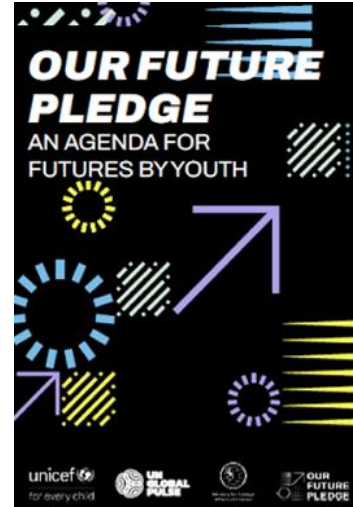
UNICEF Innocenti's Youth Foresight Work

Their insights contributed to two of UNICEF's Global Products in 2023



UNICEF REPORT

**Prospects for
Children in the
Polycrisis**



YOUTH-LED REPORT

**Our Future Pledge:
An Agenda for
Futures by Youth**

UNICEF Innocenti's Youth Foresight Work

Sparking the #OurFuturePledge youth-led social media campaign – both online and offline!

UN Youth Envoy @UNYouthEnvoy · Apr 8
Want to learn what futures thinking/foresight is about & how young people can design the future they want? 🌱

Join @UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellows for the launch of the #OurFuturePledge campaign at 9 am EDT this Saturday 🌟📅
mailchi.mp/81408b5626a6/r...

APRIL 8 LAUNCH WEBINAR #OurFuturePledge campaign

Youth Foresight Fellows are on a mission to promote greater access to foresight. This is why they created the #OurFuturePledge campaign. With this webinar, you will learn more about foresight, how this campaign was made, and how to get involved.

0:02 704 views

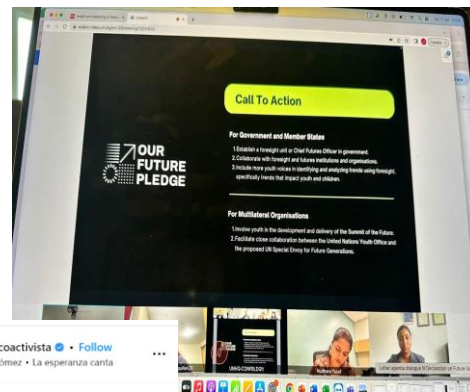
OUR FUTURE PLEDGE

4 20 52 4,761



CHILDREN - #OurFuturePledge
@UNICEFINnocenti @UNICEF - Blessyn Kure
Honoured to be one of 50 global change-
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Hey everyone,
Kindly check out the video I made for
#OurFuturePledge



franciscoactivista • Follow
Marta Gómez • La esperanza canta

franciscoactivista • Me siento muy contento de hacer parte de esta campaña de @unicefinnocenti #OurFuturePledge junto con 50 líderes de todo el #Planeta.

Creo que nuestra generación está llamada a enfrentar grandes retos relacionados con lograr un planeta más habitable para todos y que sea un planeta que ame la vida y creo que la primera tarea para empezar a tomar acción es imaginar un futuro más amable con todas las formas de vida. Los invito a pensar en eso mundo en el que queremos vivir con ecoesperanza y a que esta nos impulse a la acción para ser recordados como la generación que puso la vida en el centro de todo!

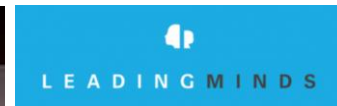
2,898 likes
1 DAY AGO



Scaling Up the Impact

Scaling Up the Impact through Digital Transformation & Climate Action

Planned Leading Minds Conference on Climate Breakthroughs in 2024



+



Powering Action



Scaling Up the Impact through Digital Transformation & Climate Action

Let's Make This an Exciting Time to Be A Young Person!



Thank you!

Sign up to our
mailing list!



ychoi@unicef.org