Part 2

The SDG Index and Dashboards

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Part 2

The SDG Index and Dashboards

The SDG Index and Dashboards provide an annual assessment of SDG progress covering all 193 UN member states. The SDG Index score is presented on a scale of 0 to 100 and can be interpreted as a percentage towards optimal performance on the SDGs. While all 193 UN member states have a country profile, some countries are not ranked due to missing data. This year, a total of169 countries are ranked in the SDG Index, including two new countries not previously ranked: Eritrea and Timor-Leste. This year's SDG Index incorporates 123 indicators, including 101 global indicators and 22 additional indicators used for the OECD countries' dashboards. A new indicator from the FAO, on progress towards productive and sustainable agriculture, was added to track progress on SDG 2 (No Hunger). Additional changes in the indicators used are described in the methods section (see Part 5).

This year's edition presents, for the first time, retroactively calculated SDG Index rankings. Because the selection of indicators is refined with each successive edition of the *Sustainable Development Report* (SDR), rankings from different editions are not perfectly comparable. The retroactive rank calculation uses the same set of indicators and quantitative thresholds across time, allowing rankings to be compared year on year. This year's report also refines the "headline" SDG Index (SDGhi), which draws on 17 SDG indicators to evaluate progress made by countries and regions on the SDGs while minimizing statistical biases due to missing time-series data.

The SDG Index builds on a peer-reviewed, statistically audited, and transparent methodology (Lafortune et al., 2018; Papadimitriou et al., 2019; Schmidt-Traub et al., 2017). An online public consultation was held between 17 and 27 April 2026, gathering comments and suggestions from more than 100 different organizations, including approximately 20 national governments and federal agencies, including national statistical offices. The full database and methodological papers, as well as regional and local editions of the SDG Index and Dashboards, are available on the SDG Transformation Center website (https://sdgtransformationcenter.org/).

Status of SDG progress globally

Based on current rates of progress, none of the 17 SDGs will be achieved by 2030 (Figure 2.1). At the global level, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) are particularly off track, with major SDG challenges (as indicated by red on the dashboards) and stagnation in progress since 2015.

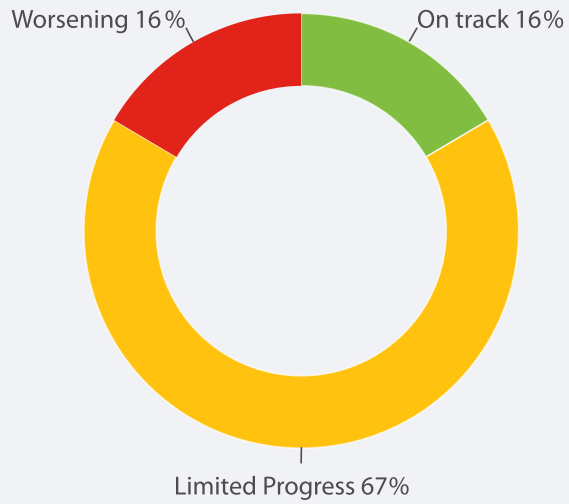
Overall, less than 20 percent of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved globally (16.5 percent) (Figure 2.2). The five targets that are most on track globally are mobile broadband subscriptions (SDG 9), adolescent fertility rate (SDG 3), new HIV infections (SDG 3), Internet use (SDG 9), and electricity access (SDG 7). By contrast, the indicators furthest off track tend to be related to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) – which also covers unsustainable diets and agriculture – and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). More specifically these include prevalence of obesity (SDG 2), progress towards productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), timeliness of administrative proceedings (SDG 16) Press Freedom Index ranking (SDG 16), and Corruption Perceptions Index score (SDG 16).

As in previous editions, European countries, particularly the Nordic countries, top the 2026 SDG Index. Finland ranks first, followed by Sweden and Denmark (Figure 2.3). However, even these countries face significant challenges in achieving several SDGs, including SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). These challenges are driven partly by unsustainable consumption patterns and negative international spillover effects. Countries at the bottom of the SDG Index ranking tend to be affected by conflict, security issues, political instability and limited fiscal space. As in last year's edition, Chad, the Central African Republic and South Sudan rank at the bottom of this year's SDG Index.

Figure 2.1
World SDG Dashboard 2026

Source: Authors

Figure 2.2
Status of SDG targets: percentage on track



Source: Authors' calculations.

Figure 2.3
2026 SDG Index scores and rankings

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Finland	87.4	45	United States	75.3
2	Sweden	86.3	46	Cyprus	75.3
3	Denmark	85.7	47	Armenia	75.1
4	Norway	84.1	48	Montenegro	75.0
5	Germany	84.0	49	China	74.7
6	Austria	83.9	50	Kyrgyz Republic	74.6
7	France	83.4	51	Russian Federation	74.5
8	United Kingdom	82.5	52	Azerbaijan	74.3
9	Iceland	82.3	53	Brazil	74.2
10	Czechia	82.2	54	Bosnia and Herzegovina	73.9
11	Poland	82.1	55	Israel	73.9
12	Estonia	81.8	56	North Macedonia	73.9
13	Croatia	81.8	57	Argentina	73.9
14	Latvia	81.7	58	Vietnam	73.8
15	Slovenia	81.7	59	Singapore	73.8
16	Spain	81.2	60	Costa Rica	73.6
17	Portugal	81.1	61	Georgia	73.5
18	Belgium	81.1	62	Fiji	73.4
19	Netherlands	81.0	63	Maldives	73.3
20	Japan	81.0	64	Dominican Republic	73.0
21	Slovak Republic	80.9	65	Uzbekistan	72.9
22	Switzerland	80.3	66	Peru	72.9
23	Lithuania	80.0	67	Kazakhstan	72.0
24	Hungary	80.0	68	Morocco	71.7
25	Ireland	80.0	69	Colombia	71.6
26	Italy	79.9	70	Algeria	71.6
27	New Zealand	79.5	71	United Arab Emirates	71.4
28	Canada	79.1	72	Tunisia	71.3
29	Australia	79.0	73	Bhutan	71.1
30	Malta	78.9	74	Indonesia	70.8
31	Moldova	78.8	75	Mexico	70.5
32	Greece	78.6	76	Malaysia	70.4
33	Chile	78.5	77	Türkiye	70.2
34	Korea, Rep.	78.4	78	Suriname	70.0
35	Belarus	78.3	79	Ecuador	69.9
36	Serbia	78.2	80	Philippines	69.9
37	Romania	78.1	81	Oman	69.9
38	Uruguay	77.9	82	Jordan	69.7
39	Luxembourg	77.5	83	Belize	69.5
40	Cuba	76.6	84	Jamaica	69.3
41	Bulgaria	76.2	85	Barbados	69.0
42	Ukraine	75.9	86	Egypt, Arab Rep.	69.0
43	Thailand	75.4	87	Brunei Darussalam	68.9
44	Albania	75.4	88	Panama	68.9

Figure 2.3
(continued)

Rank	Country	Score
89	Iran, Islamic Rep.	68.8
90	Nepal	68.7
91	Mongolia	68.6
92	Sri Lanka	68.5
93	Paraguay	68.4
94	India	68.3
95	Cabo Verde	68.2
96	El Salvador	68.1
97	Mauritius	68.0
98	Tajikistan	67.8
99	Bolivia	67.6
100	Namibia	67.1
101	Qatar	66.4
102	Timor-Leste	66.2
103	The Bahamas	66.1
104	Saudi Arabia	65.9
105	Bahrain	65.7
106	Kenya	65.6
107	Venezuela, RB	65.4
108	Cambodia	65.3
109	South Africa	65.2
110	Bangladesh	64.8
111	São Tomé and Príncipe	64.8
112	Botswana	64.6
113	Nicaragua	64.4
114	Rwanda	64.3
115	Guyana	64.2
116	Gabon	63.9
117	Ghana	63.9
118	Senegal	63.4
119	Côte d'Ivoire	63.2
120	Kuwait	62.9
121	Lebanon	62.9
122	Lao PDR	62.5
123	Myanmar	62.4
124	Iraq	62.0
125	Honduras	61.8
126	Trinidad and Tobago	61.3
127	Guatemala	60.9
128	Turkmenistan	59.9
129	Benin	59.7

Rank	Country	Score
130	Syrian Arab Republic	59.6
131	Pakistan	59.3
132	Togo	59.1
133	Eswatini	59.0
134	The Gambia	58.5
135	Cameroon	57.6
136	Tanzania	57.6
137	Mauritania	57.4
138	Zimbabwe	57.2
139	Guinea	56.8
140	Malawi	56.5
141	Ethiopia	56.3
142	Sierra Leone	55.9
143	Nigeria	55.7
144	Uganda	55.5
145	Lesotho	54.9
146	Burkina Faso	54.4
147	Comoros	54.4
148	Djibouti	54.3
149	Mali	54.0
150	Zambia	53.9
151	Burundi	53.5
152	Guinea-Bissau	53.3
153	Mozambique	53.0
154	Madagascar	52.9
155	Congo, Rep.	52.5
156	Angola	52.4
157	Papua New Guinea	52.2
158	Liberia	50.9
159	Haiti	50.7
160	Niger	49.6
161	Afghanistan	48.8
162	Eritrea	48.7
163	Congo, Dem. Rep.	48.3
164	Yemen, Rep.	47.8
165	Sudan	47.7
166	Somalia	46.2
167	Chad	43.9
168	Central African Republic	43.3
169	South Sudan	39.9








Note: Due to annual adjustments to the SDG Index dataset and revisions made by statistical custodian agencies to past data series, scores and ranks are not fully comparable across different editions of the SDR.
Source: Authors

SDG progress by world regions and countries

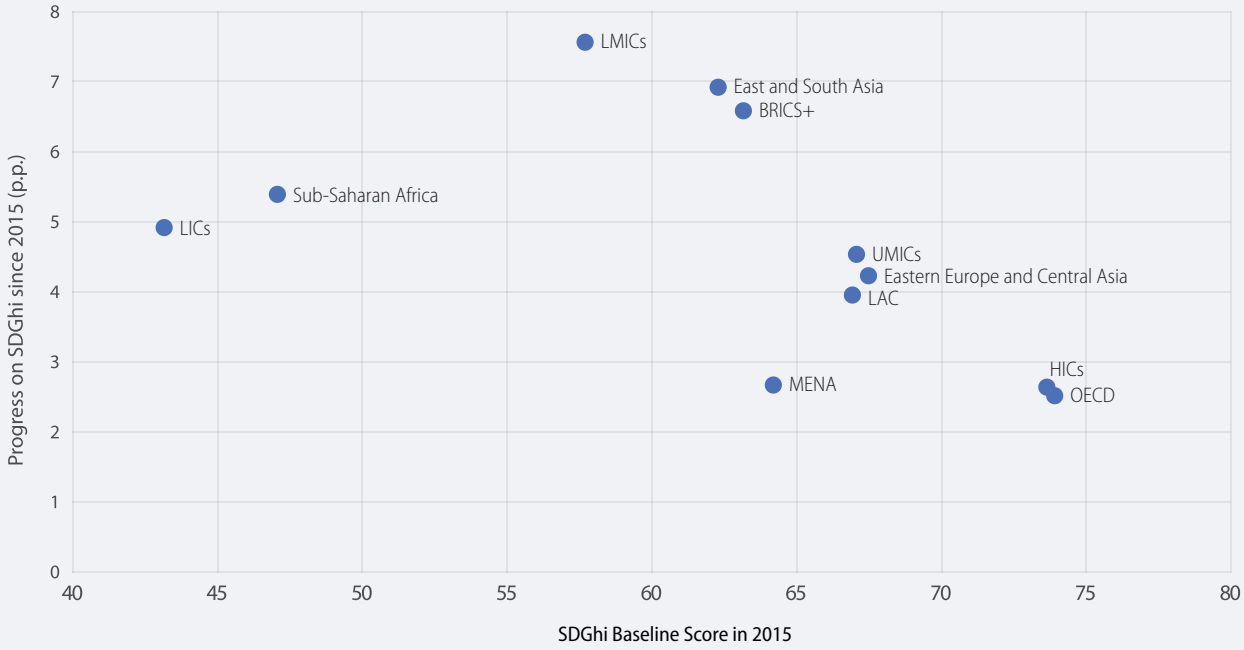
The "headline" SDG Index (SDGhi) comprises 17 SDG indicators (one per SDG) to measure overall country progress on the SDGs. This reduced number of indicators aims to limit statistical biases related to missing time-series data across countries. Results were compiled for 146 countries: these are presented in the country profiles. Among the countries excluded due to missing data, many face major SDG challenges or even reversals in progress, often due to conflict or structural vulnerabilities. The 17 headline SDG indicators are listed in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1
The 17 headline indicators used to measure overall country progress on the SDGs, 2015–2025 or closest available year

SDG	Indicator	Source
1	Poverty headcount ratio at $3.00/day	World Data Lab
2	Prevalence of undernourishment	FAO
3	Life expectancy at birth	UNDESA
4	Lower secondary completion rate	UNESCO
5	Seats held by women in national parliament	IPU
6	Population using at least basic sanitation services	JMP
7	Population with access to electricity	IEA, IRENA, UNSD, WB, WHO
8	Adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution	Global Findex Database
9	Population using the internet	ITU
10	Gini coefficient	World Bank
11	Annual mean concentration of PM2.5	Washington University in St Louis
12	Production-based nitrogen emissions	UNEP
13	CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production	Global Carbon Project
14	Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity	Birdlife International et al.
15	Red List Index of species survival	IUCN and Birdlife International
16	Corruption Perceptions Index	Transparency International
17	Index of countries' support to UN-based multilateralism (Reduced version)	SDSN's SDG Transformation Center

Source: Authors

Figure 2.4
SDG Index: baseline versus progress, by region and income group



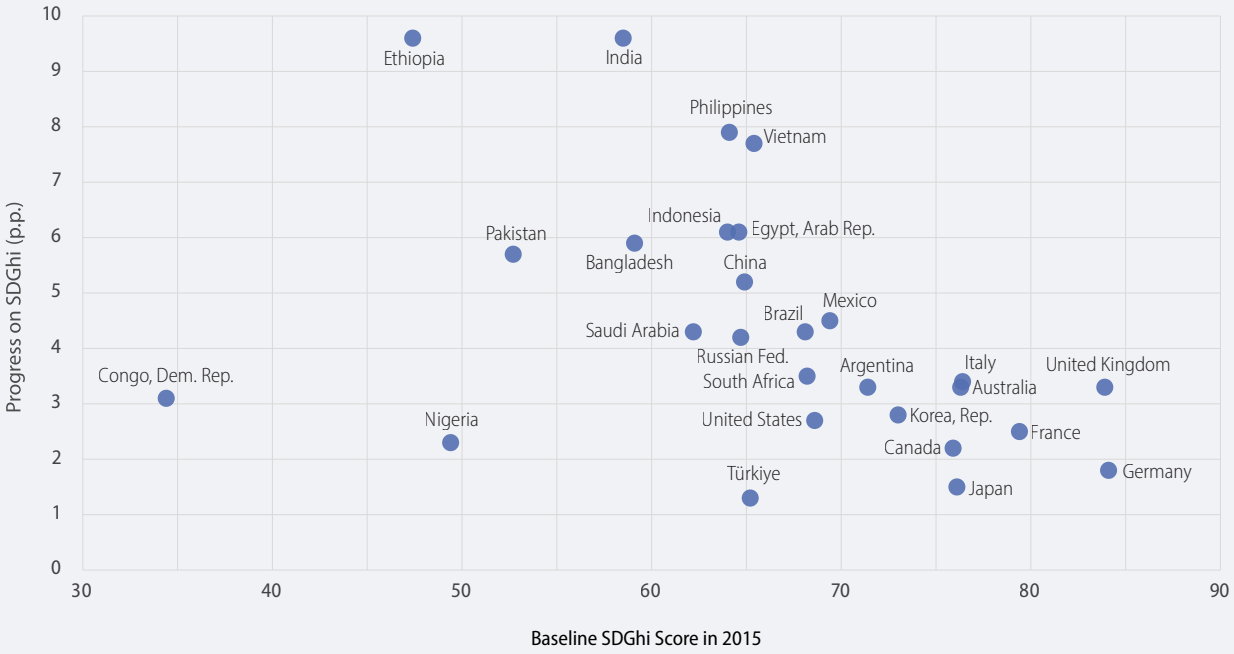
Source: Authors

In general, high-income and OECD countries started with higher SDG baseline scores, primarily driven by their better performance on socio-economic goals, but they have generally shown limited progress on the SDGhi (Figure 2.4). By contrast, although emerging economies in the BRICS+, East and South Asia, and lower-middle income countries started with lower 2015 baselines, they have since progressed much faster. East and South Asia has been the fastest-progressing region since 2015. Sub-Saharan African and low-income countries, which started from the lowest 2015 baselines, have progressed more slowly than their income levels would have predicted, revealing a slow pace of convergence.

Regional and income group aggregates may hide meaningful differences in SDG progress across countries. Among the G20 and large countries, Ethiopia and India have displayed the greatest level of progress since 2015, gaining 9.7 and 9.6 percentage points respectively. They are followed by the Philippines and Vietnam (+7.9 p.p. and +7.7 p.p. respectively), demonstrating the rapid pace of progress among the largest Asian economies, which also includes China (+5.2 p.p.). By contrast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (+3.1 p.p.) and Nigeria (+2.3 p.p.) have progressed much more slowly, despite their low baseline scores. In most cases, rapid progress has been driven primarily by progress on socio-economic SDG indicators, rather than on environmental goals.

To dive deeper into the drivers of SDG progress, as well as persisting disparities within regions and countries, the SDSN has published multiple regional and subnational editions of the SDG Index. These editions also identify specific policy and financing priorities across regions and at multiple territorial levels (Box 1). This work increasingly draws on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Earth observation (EO) technologies, which support the

Figure 2.5
SDG Index Baseline versus progress, G20 and large countries



Source: Authors

development of timely and granular investment, policy and monitoring frameworks for the SDGs at all levels.

Figure 2.7 shows the SDG Index rankings since 2015 of the ten largest countries, together with Finland, the top performer globally. These rankings have been calculated retroactively using the same basket of indicators for each year, so that they can be compared year-on-year. The ranking changes illustrate the relative difference in performance across these countries. Although all ten of the largest countries have made net progression on the SDGs, their positions relative to one another have changed, in some cases significantly, over time.

In 2015, there was a considerable degree of distance separating the SDG performance of three of the great powers: the United States ranked 40th, Russia 51st and China 63rd. Over the ensuing decade, the United States dropped to 45th place, Russia remained at 51st, and China rose rapidly to 49th. Owing to its faster pace of SDG progress over the period, China surpassed Russia in 2021, and based on current rates of progress it is on track to surpass the United States in the coming years. These rank changes illustrate how different trajectories in SDG progress have led to a realignment in terms of SDG outcomes today.

Besides China, which has risen 14 positions in the rankings since 2015, other countries that have progressed much faster than their peers include India (+18 positions), Indonesia (+15 positions), and Ethiopia (+15 positions). Brazil's rankings have followed a U-shaped trajectory: the country started out in a relatively high position in 2015 and dropped steadily over the next eight years, until a sharp uptick started in 2023. The United States and Nigeria have dropped the most in the rankings, each losing five positions relative to their 2015 starting points.

Box 2.1. A decade of the SDG Index and dashboards: global, regional, national and subnational editions

The global edition of the SDG Index and Dashboards aims to highlight global SDG trends and challenges, but more detailed regional and subnational SDG indices and analyses have also been prepared by the SDSN and its local networks. These editions make it possible to contextualize indicator sets and policy discussions, and to mobilize stakeholders at different levels.

For instance, the Europe edition released annually since 2019, is prepared in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which includes representatives from trade unions, business associations and NGOs. Its findings are presented to and discussed with European leaders and institutions (Lafortune and Fuller, 2026). The SDSN has also worked with numerous regional and local partners in the Arab region and in SIDS countries, as well as in Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Italy, Paraguay, Spain, the United States, Uruguay and Uzbekistan – to advance SDG monitoring and connect the statistical analyses with long-term budgeting and policy frameworks.

These editions all benefit from local expertise, often provided by local SDSN networks hosted in universities and research centers, as well as from large-scale consultations and discussions before and after the assessments are conducted. Increasingly, these also leverage GIS technologies to provide more granular analysis. They have been referenced multiple times in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). In Europe, the European Parliamentary Research Service listed the SDG Index and Dashboards as one of the most useful indices available for policymaking (EPRS, 2021).

Figure 2.6
Global, regional and subnational SDR editions, 2016–2026

Source: Authors. Accessible online here: https://sdgtransformationcenter.org/sdgindex

Box 2.2. Setting performance thresholds for the SDG Index

One of the hallmarks of the SDG Index methodology is that it measures the distance from absolute quantitative targets that are applicable to all countries. Whereas other SDG monitoring instruments often measure relative progress, the SDG index establishes quantitative performance criteria that make it possible to assess whether the pace of progress is sufficient to meet predefined targets (Lafortune et al., 2020).

As described in the methodology section, indicator thresholds are set via a decision tree and are derived from several sources, including, where possible, SDG targets (or targets available in other international treaties), statistical methods (such as the mean value of top performers), science-backed targets (from academic literature) and input from experts and practitioners. Table 2.2 below provides illustrative examples and explains the rationale behind selected thresholds used in the SDG Index, drawing on relevant policy and research contributions. Each year, the indicator selection and thresholds are submitted for global public consultations. The indicators, targets and thresholds are adjusted in regional and national editions of the SDR in collaboration with institutions and civil society taking into account context-specific policy objectives.

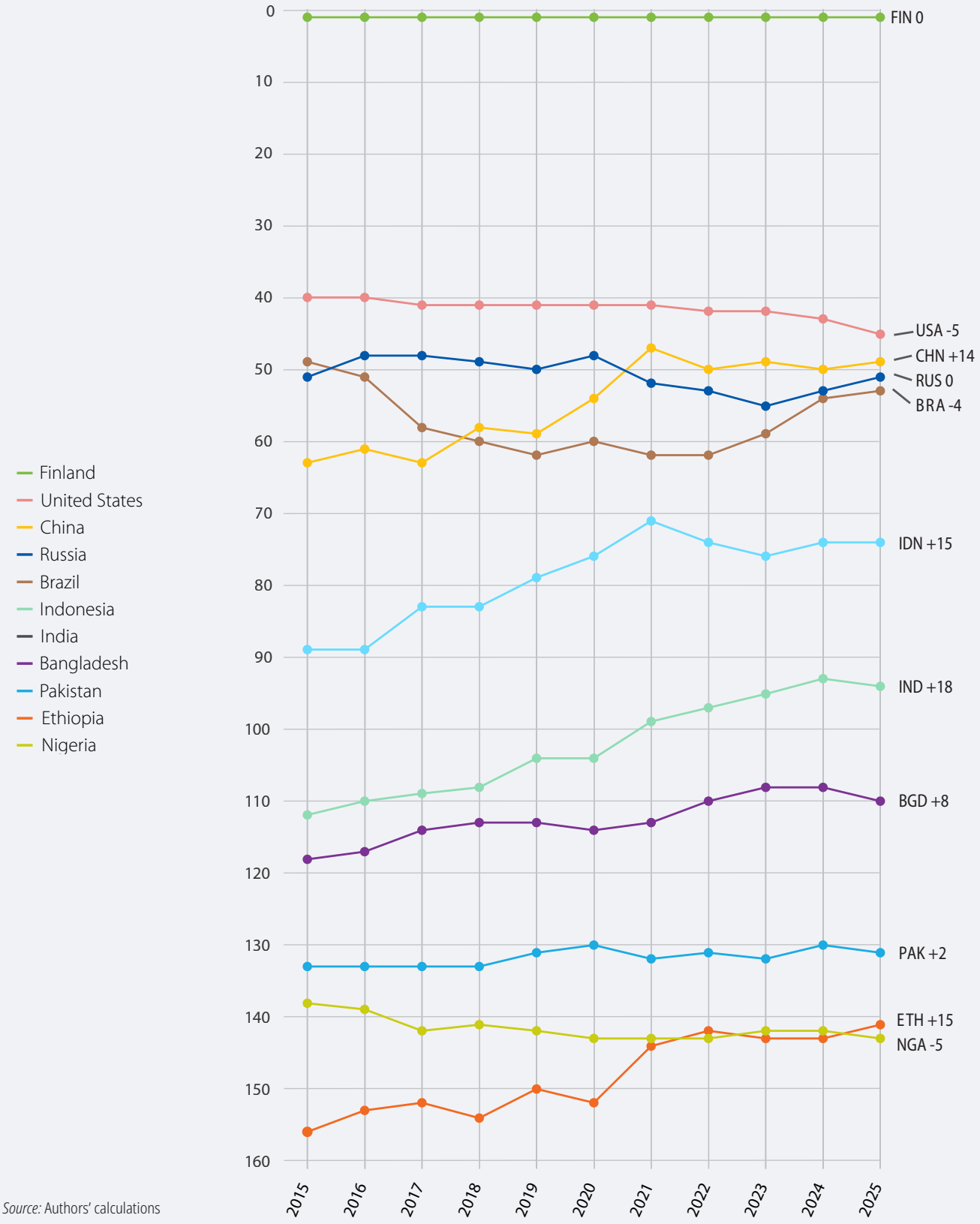
Table 2.2

Select SDG Index indicators and performance thresholds, policy and research basis

SDG	Indicator	2030 Performance Threshold used in SDR	Context	Reference
2	Yield gap closure (percentage of potential yield)	75	"With good, cost-effective crop management, reaching 70–80 percent of Yp (or Yw) is a reasonable target for farmers with good access to markets, inputs and extension services, which is usually referred to as 'attainable yield'."	Edreira, J. I. R., Andrade, J. F., Cassman, K. G., Van Ittersum, M. K., Van Loon, M. P., and Grassini, P. (2021). Spatial frameworks for robust estimation of yield gaps. Nature Food, 2(10), 773–9. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00365-y
6	Freshwater withdrawal (percentage of available freshwater resources)	25	"Following the experience of the initial five years of application of the indicator, and consistent with the approach taken during the MDG program, the threshold of 25 percent has been identified as the upper limit for a full and unconditional safety of water stress as assessed by indicator 6.4.2. That means … that values below 25 percent can be considered safe in any instance (no stress)"	FAO (2024). SDG indicator metadata. Indicator 6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources. UNSTATS. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-04-02.pdf
10	Palma Ratio	1	"A Palma ratio of 1 is an ideal reached in only a few countries. For example, countries in Scandinavia, with Palma ratios at 1 or less, do not seem to suffer from the liabilities associated with extreme inequalities."	Doyle, M. W., and Stiglitz, J. E. (2014). Eliminating extreme inequality: a sustainable development goal, 2015–2030. Ethics & International Affairs, 28(1), 5–13. https://doi.org/10.1017/s0892679414000021
13	Net effective carbon rate (EUR/tCO_2equiv)	60	"The carbon benchmark of EUR 60 is a low-end estimate of the carbon prices that would be needed by 2030 for consistency with net-zero emissions targets."	OECD (2023), Effective Carbon Rates 2023: Pricing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Taxes and Emissions Trading, OECD Series on Carbon Pricing and Energy Taxation. Paris: OECD Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1787/b84d5b36-en.

Source: Authors

Figure 2.7
Change in SDG Index rankings since 2015, 10 largest countries and the top performer (Finland)



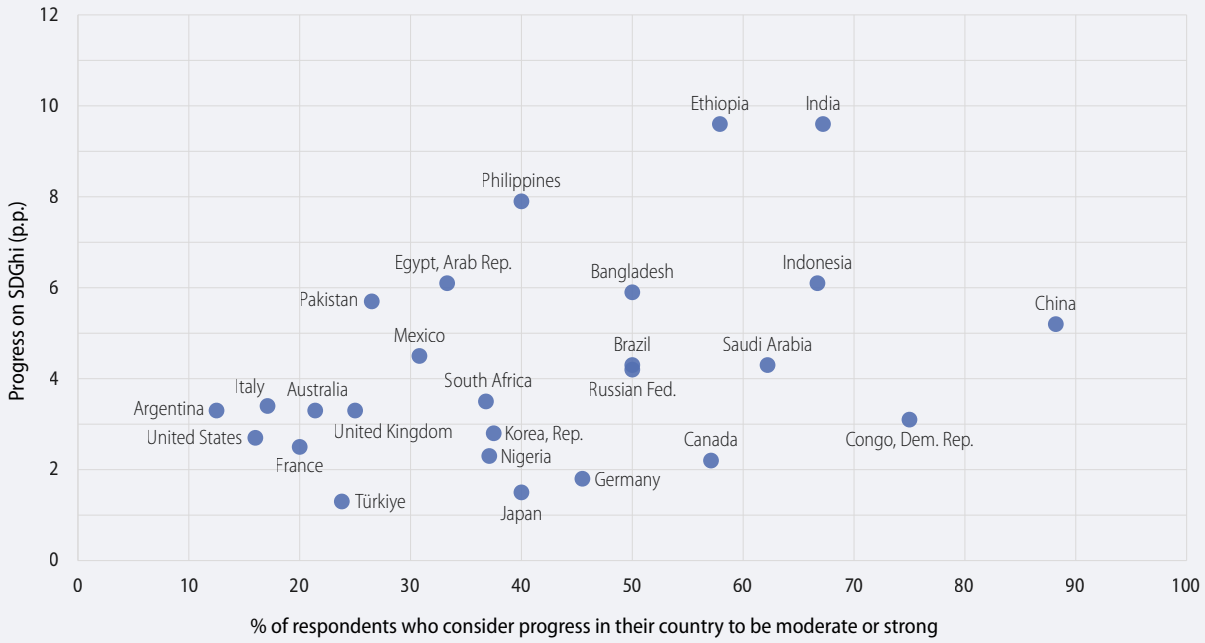
Source: Authors' calculations

Perceptions of progress

Using the data collected through the SDSN large-scale survey on SDG challenges and means for implementation (see Part 4), we measured the percentage of respondents who perceive that their country has seen moderate or strong progress in implementing sustainable development. Figure 2.8 plots this percentage against measured progress on the SDGhi over the period 2015–2025. Progress tends to be perceived as lower in countries that are close to achieving the SDGs than in countries that started with bigger SDG gaps. Yet among countries that were already relatively close to SDG achievement at the outset, perceptions differ widely: In Canada, a majority of respondents feel there is SDG progress, whereas in the United States, less than 20 percent do so. Among countries that had greater SDG gaps in 2015, perceptions vary considerably. Less than a quarter of respondents in Türkiye feel progress is being made, which appears to reflect the actual slow pace of progress in the country, while in China, almost 90 percent of respondents feel there is progress. In the DRC, where progress has been relatively slow, respondents recognized the devastating effects of the conflict in the country's eastern region, but also pointed to promising signs of SDG progress, led in part by civil society organizations and local communities. In Ethiopia and India, progress in outcome statistics, as measured by the SDG Index, is matched by strong perceived progress among local actors involved in SDG implementation.

The survey results should be interpreted with caution. They represent the views of actors involved in implementing sustainable development and climate action at the country level; they are not representative of the general population and may not capture territorial disparities.

Figure 2.8
Perception of SDG progress versus progress on the SDGhi (percentage points)



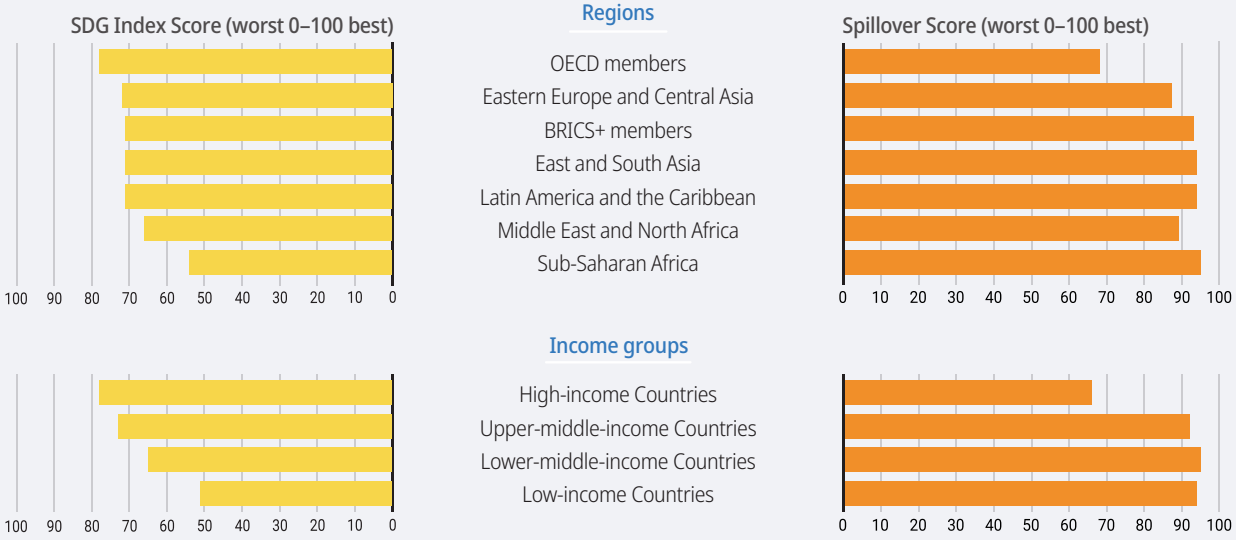
Note: Graph depicts G20 and large countries. Vietnam and Saudi Arabia were excluded due to too few responses (n<5).
Source: Authors' calculation. See Part 4. For details about 2026 SDSN large-Scale Survey.

International spillovers

The SDGs are a global responsibility. As such, the domestic implementation of the goals should not compromise other countries' ability to achieve them (Gómez-Paredes et al. 2025; Lafortune et al. 2021). Via unsustainable consumption, exports of plastics and toxic pesticides, profit shifting and, more generally, poor implementation of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), including support for UN-based multilateralism, countries can generate negative international spillovers. The spillover indicators in the SDG Index are used to create a standalone "Index of International Spillover Effects". Positive spillovers (or "handprints") are also considered, such as the provision of official development assistance (ODA). This year's edition includes 14 spillover indicators.

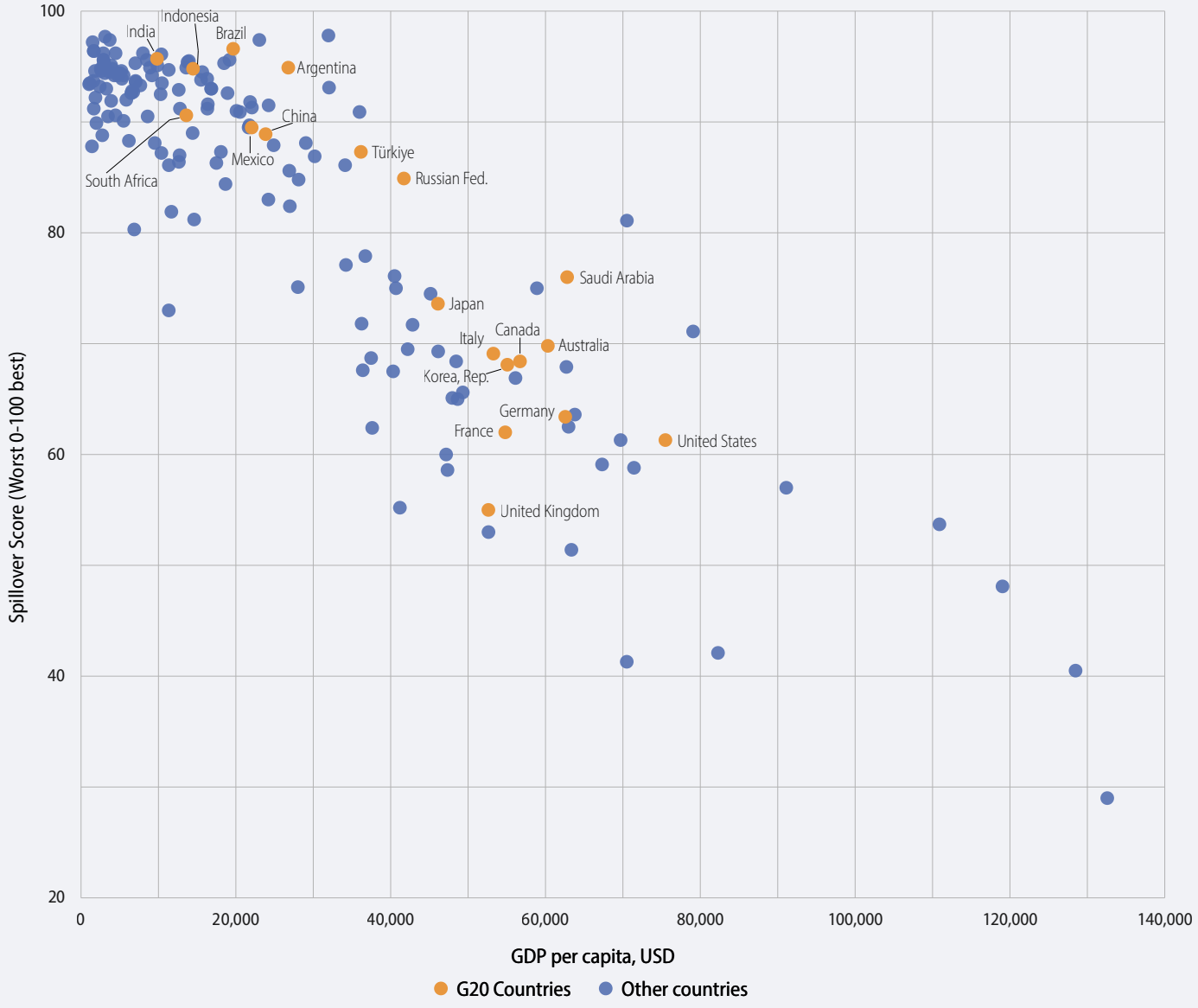
Overall, the lion's share of negative spillover effects - in particular trade-related and consumption-based spillovers - are generated by rich countries (Figures 2.9, 2.10). Although they outperform other country groups in overall SDG performance, high-income countries have outsourced many negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts abroad. Further details on our conceptual framework, policy analysis and data work on international spillovers have been presented in previous editions and are available on the SDG Transformation Center website (Malik et al. 2021, 2023, 2024; Fuller and Bermont-Diaz, 2024; Ishii et al. 2024).

Figure 2.9
Score on the SDG Index and the International Spillover Index by regions and income groups, 2026



Note: Details on the indicators used to compile the International Spillover Index are accessible in the methods' summary. Averages are population-weighted.
Source: Authors

Figure 2.10
International spillover scores versus GDP per capita



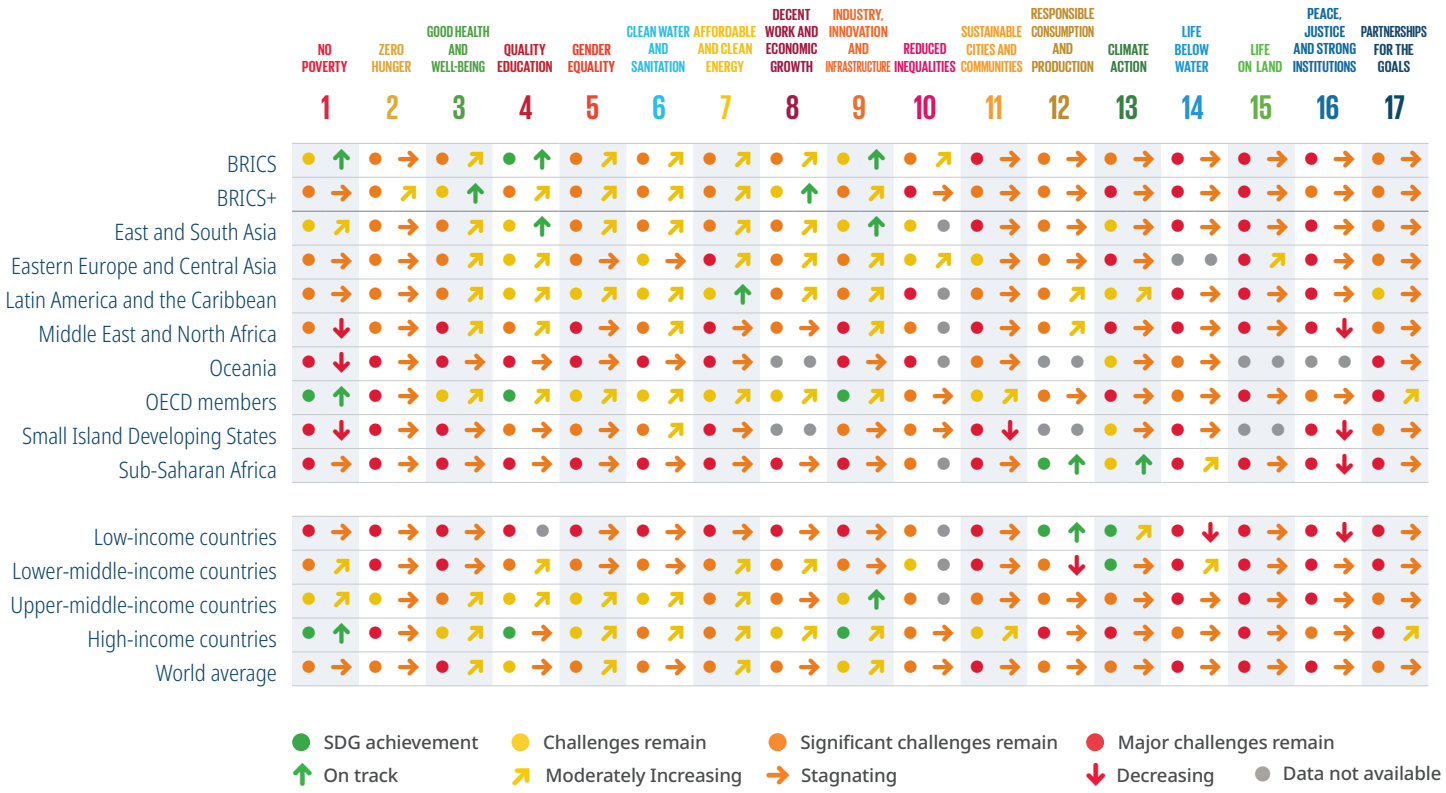
Source: Authors' calculations and World Bank.

Outlook

Since 2016, the SDG Index has provided systematic monitoring of countries' SDG performance, revealing significant disparities in progress across regions – with East and South Asia recording the fastest progress. Strengthening the monitoring and accountability framework that underpins the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs remains a priority through 2030 and beyond. In this context, the SDSN recently announced a partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to strengthen the SDG Indicator Framework for the post-2030 agenda, with the aim of fostering global, regional and thematic dialogues on lessons learned and priorities for the next era of global cooperation for sustainable development.

Annex: SDG Dashboards by regions

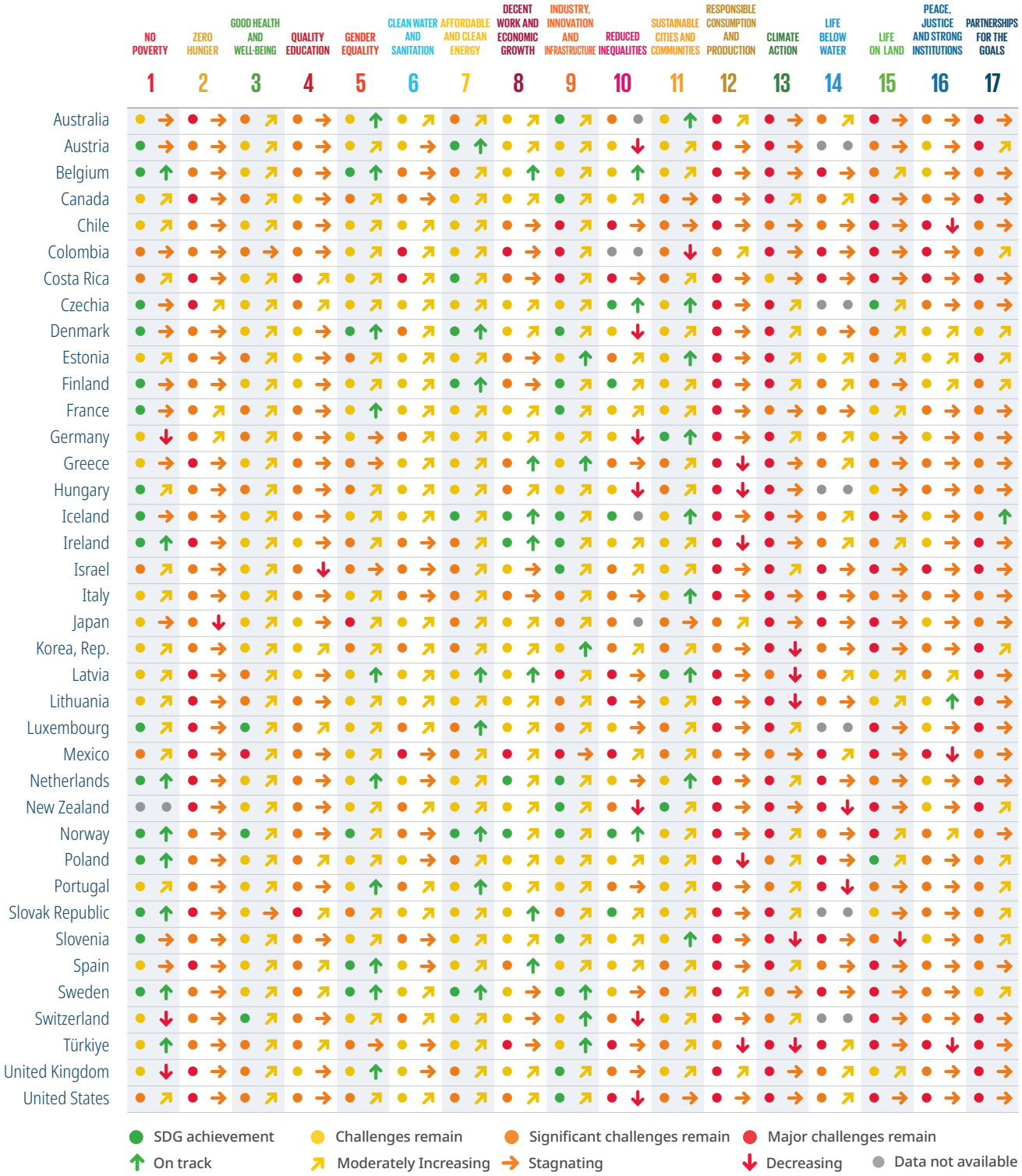
Figure 2.11
2026 SDG dashboard by region and income group (ratings and trends)



Note: Excludes OECD-specific indicators. Population-weighted averages.
Source: Authors

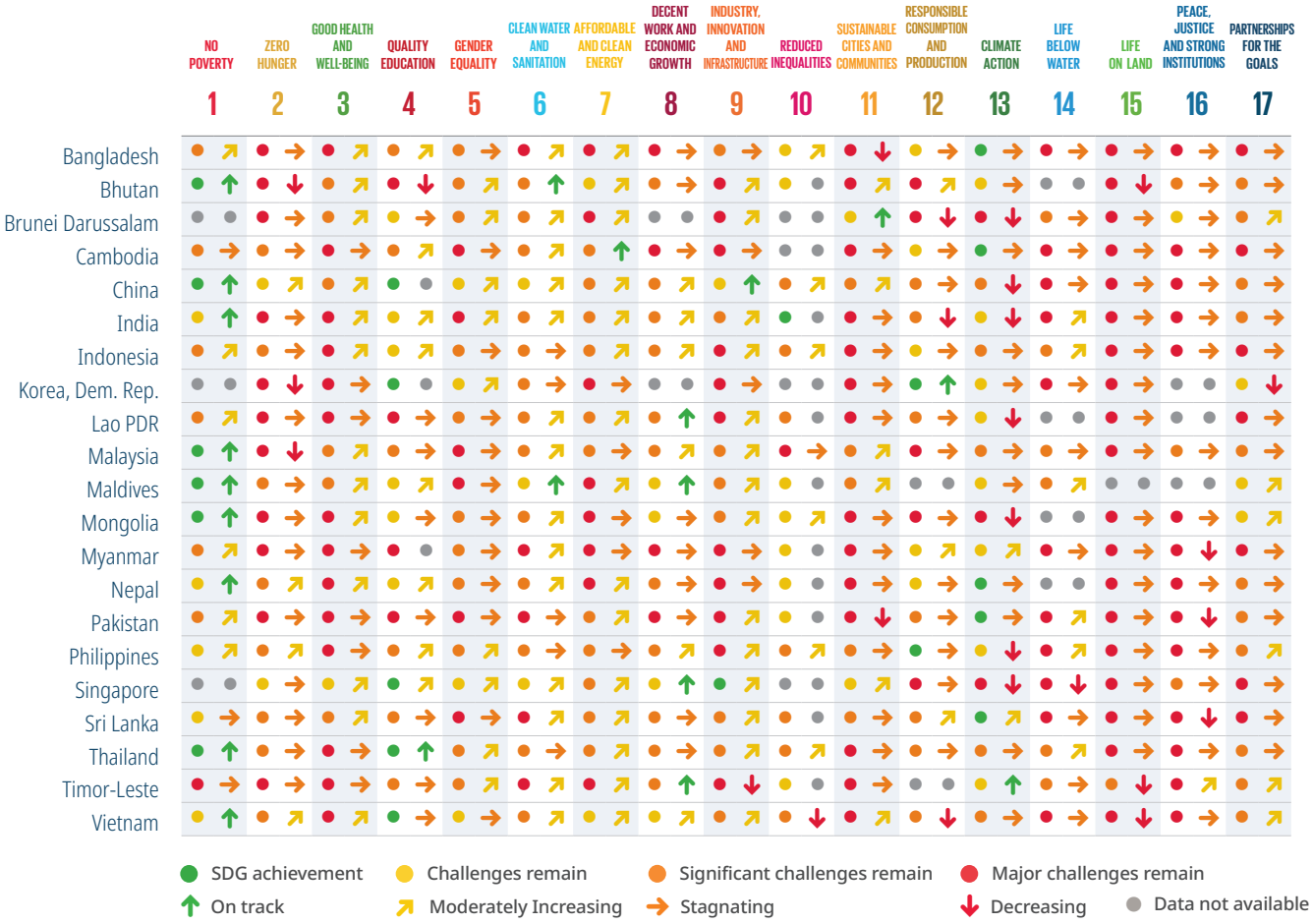
Figure 2.12

2026 SDG dashboard for OECD countries (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

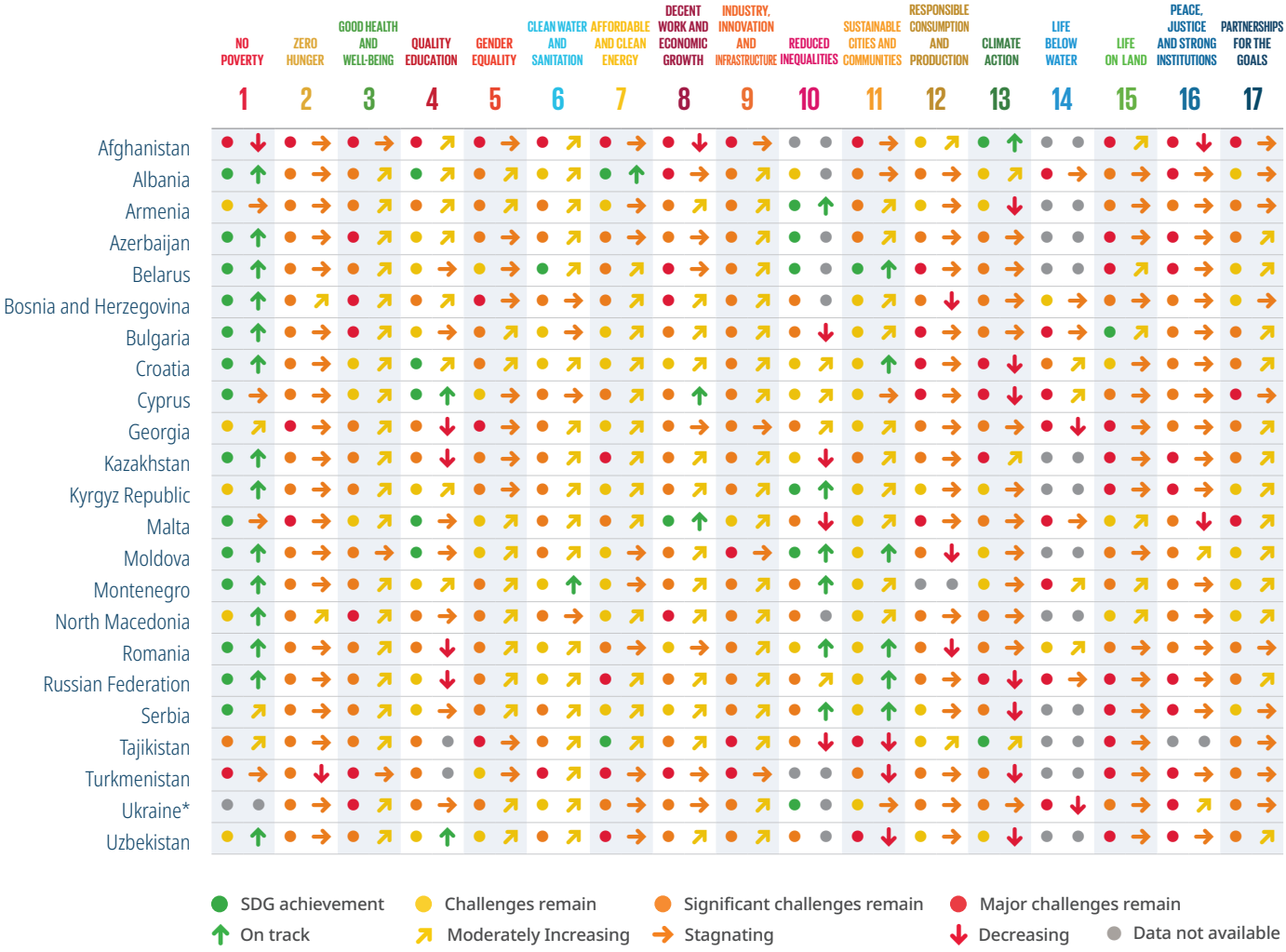
Figure 2.13
2026 SDG dashboard for East and South Asia (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

Figure 2.14

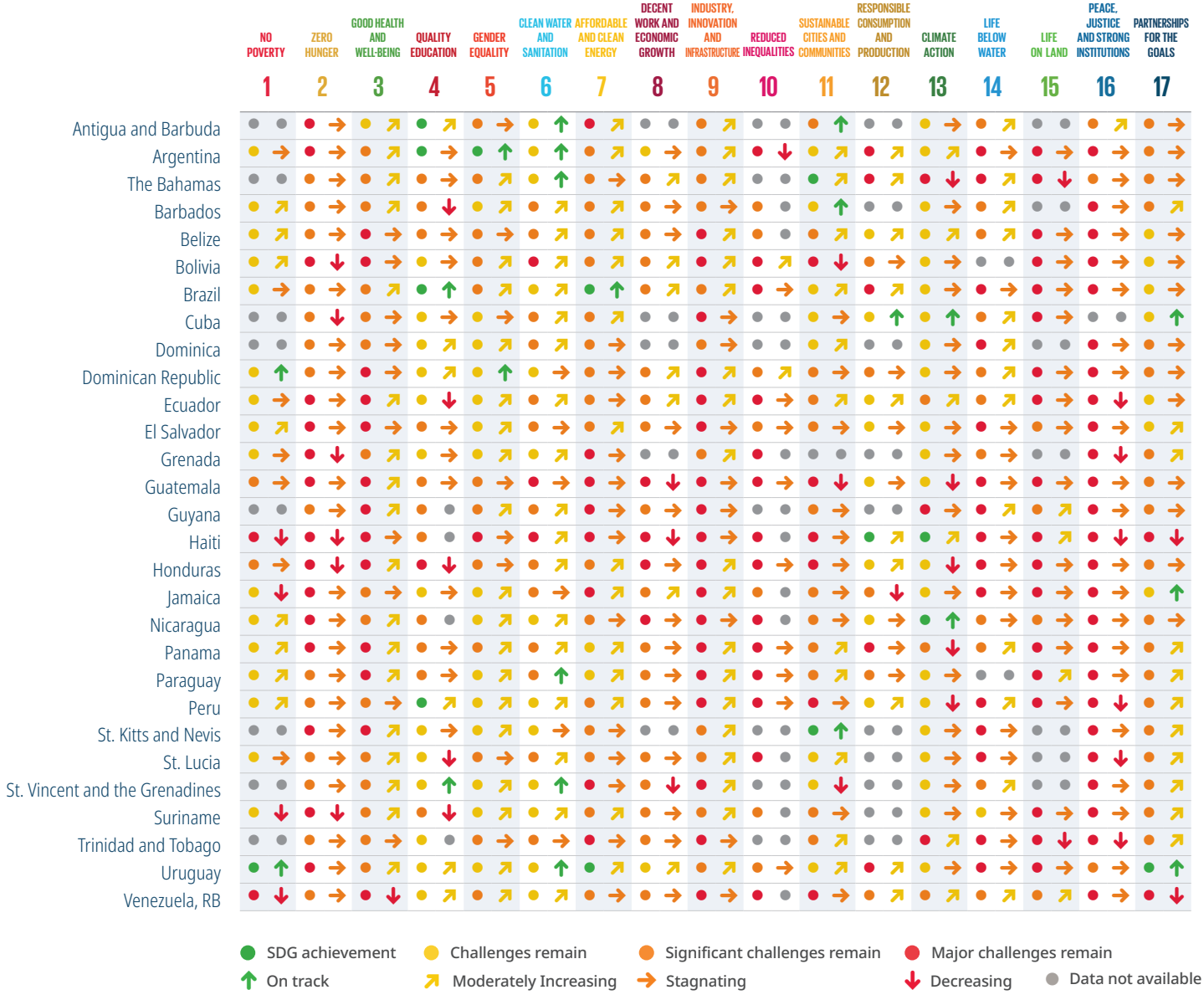
2026 SDG dashboard for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

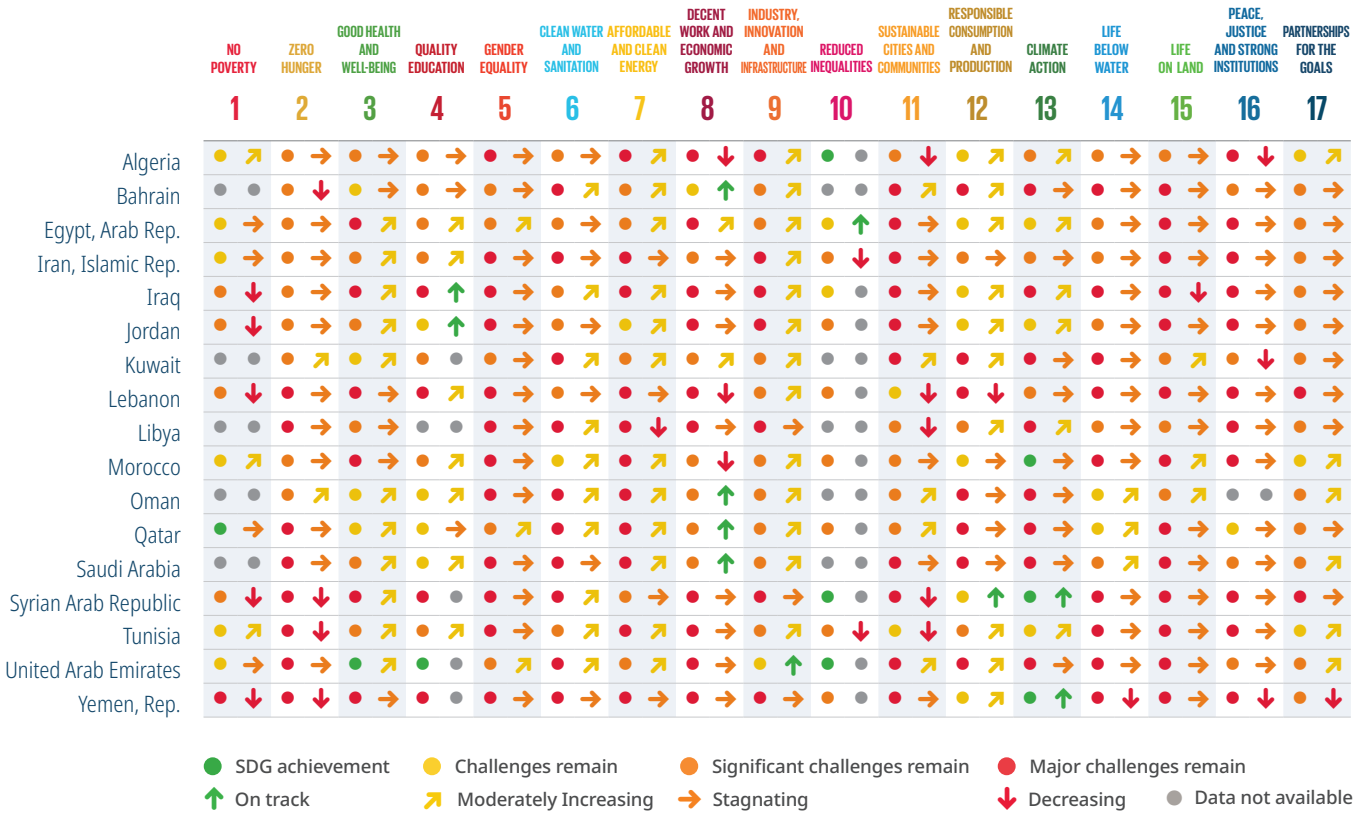
*The data for Ukraine, and other countries impacted by military conflicts, may be outdated.

Figure 2.15
2026 SDG dashboard for Latin America and the Caribbean (ratings and trends)



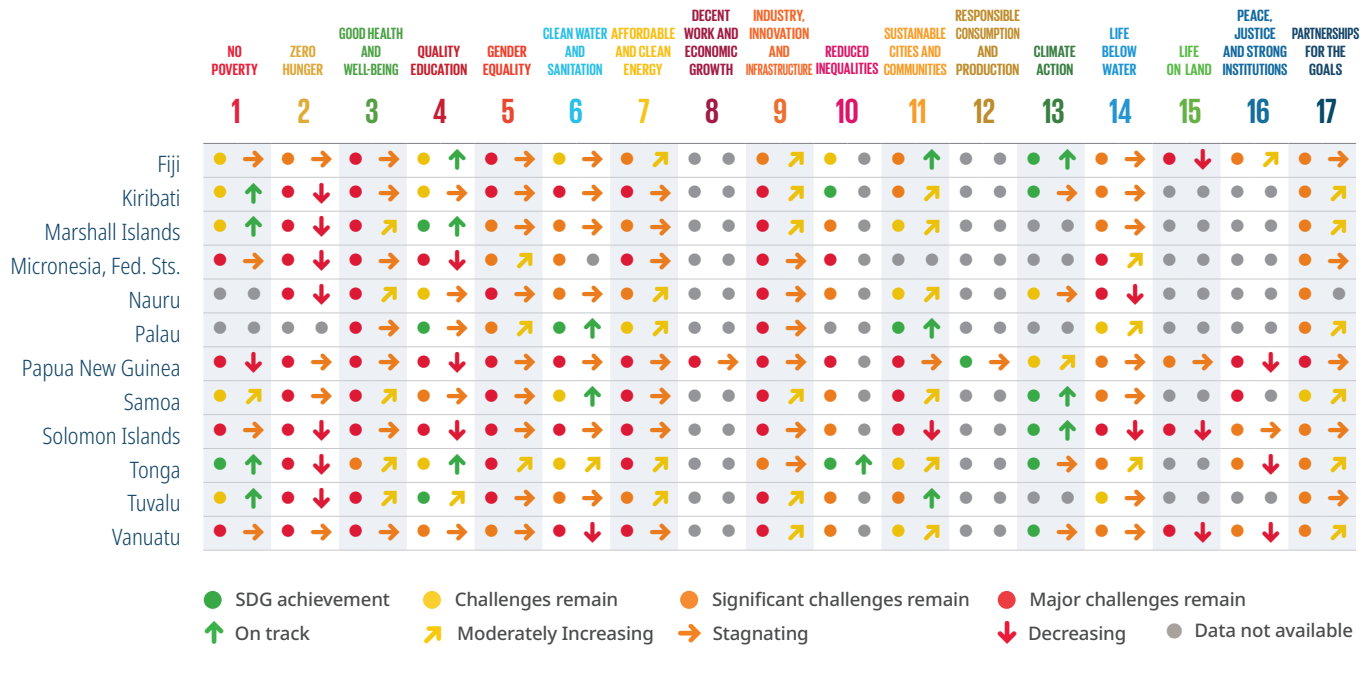
Source: Authors

Figure 2.16
2026 SDG dashboard for the Middle East and North Africa (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

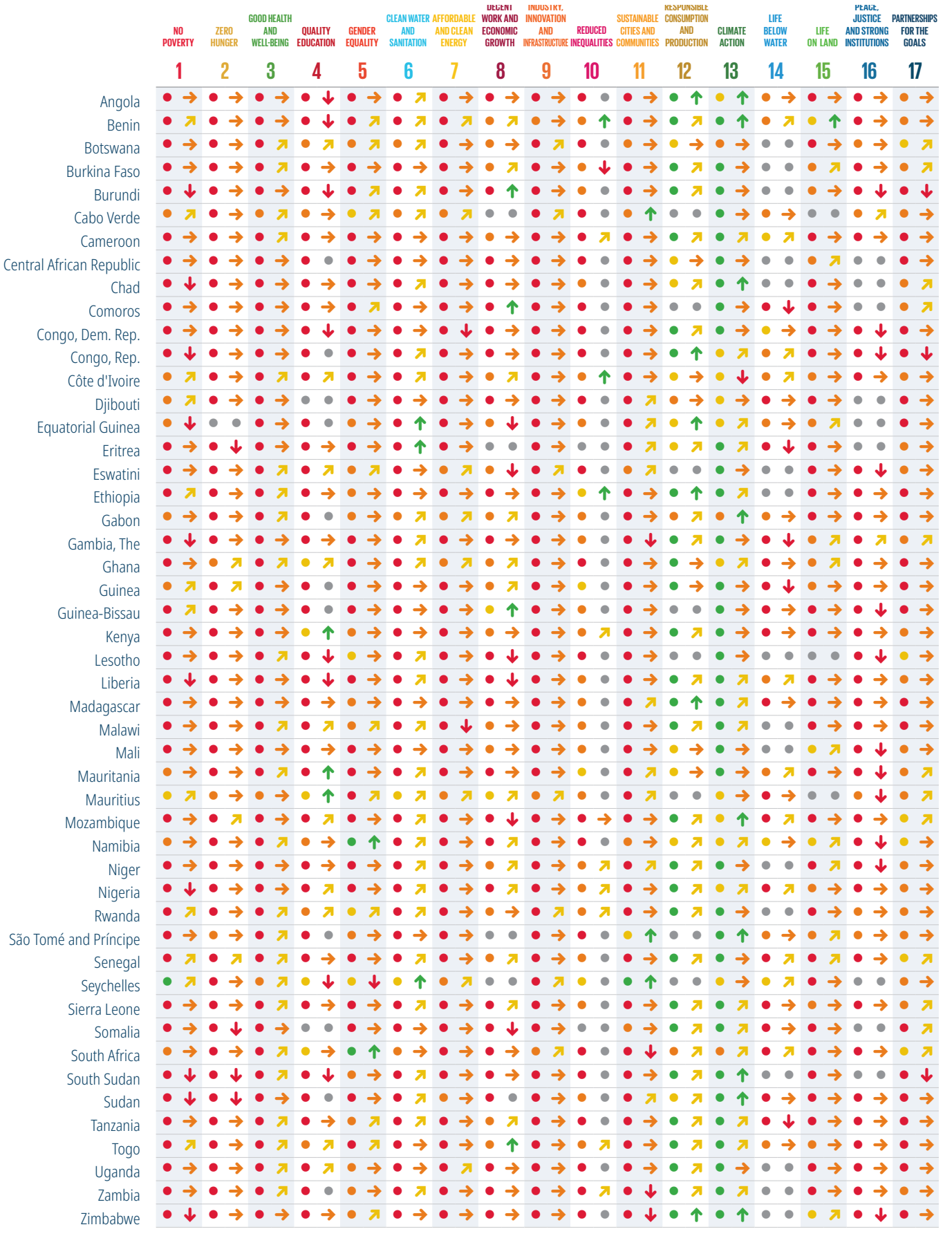
Figure 2.17
2026 SDG dashboard for Oceania (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

Figure 2.18

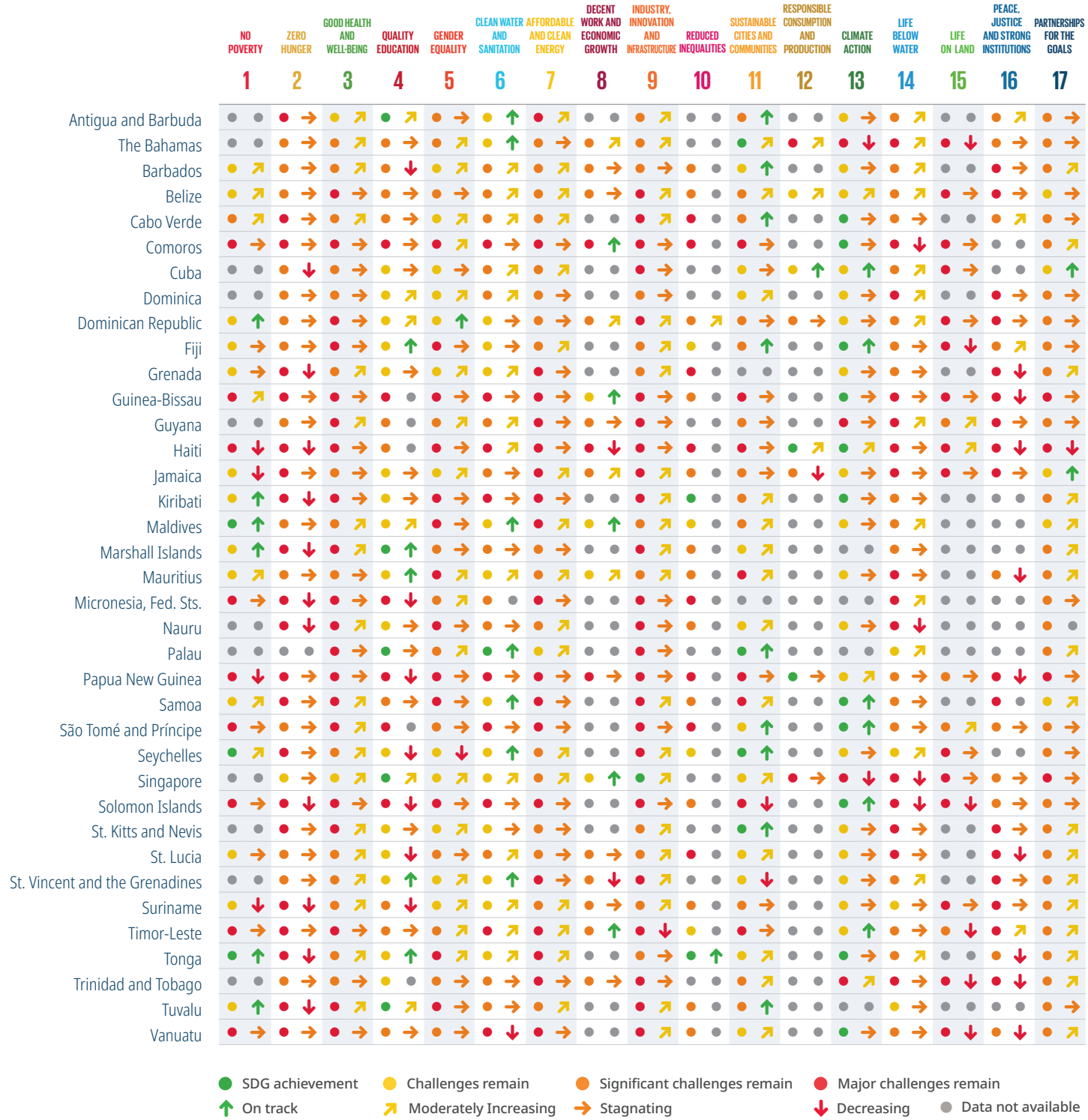
2026 SDG dashboard for sub-Saharan Africa (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

Figure 2.19

2026 SDG dashboard for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (ratings and trends)



Source: Authors

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