

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Developed in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a set of universal goals that are aimed to meet environmental, political, and economic challenges facing the entire world. They were adopted by all United Nations members in 2015 as a call to action.

Goal 10 focuses on reduced inequalities within and among countries. The purpose of this specific SDG is to more equally distribute economic opportunities across all income levels throughout the world. In order to measure the progress towards this goal, the UN focuses on the growth of household income of the poorest 40% of a country's population.<sup>1</sup> If the household income of the poorest members of a country is increasing faster than the rate of the country as a whole, this signifies a reduced gap of inequality.

In 73 of the 90 countries that had sufficient data, the poorest households experienced real income growth between the years 2012 to 2017. In 49 of those countries, that rate of income growth was actually higher than the national average, signaling a reduction in economic inequality. The region that saw the largest household income growth was in Southeast Asia, while sub-Sahara Africa saw the least income growth in its poor population.<sup>2</sup>

There are still certain members of society that face multiple forms of discrimination in many countries, specifically women. Women are much more likely to be discriminated against than men on the basis of religion, ethnicity, and gender. In 40% of countries, women do not have the same access to financial services as men do.<sup>3</sup> This discrimination can make it very difficult to climb the economic ladder and provide for a family.

## How Are Sustainable Development Goals Achieved?

The country of Chad, located in north-central Africa, is one of the poorest nations on earth. Chad is a country with 14 million people, and only 2.2% of the population has access to electricity.<sup>4</sup> Without access to a basic need such as electricity, it is difficult for people to advance economically. The United Nations Development Program financed an initiative to supply 150 healthcare facilities in rural regions with solar energy. This allows the healthcare centers to provide quality services to a population that previously did not have access to adequate healthcare. Providing this basic need allows these citizens to live longer and healthier lives, consequently spurring economic growth in these regions.

Businesses throughout the world have an opportunity to help achieve these Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Global Compact was created to help align company strategies and operations with universal principles to help meet the 17 SDGs.<sup>5</sup> As of 2020, there are over 11,000 companies in 157 different countries that have joined this initiative.



1. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/goal-10/>

2. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/goal-10/>

3. Retrieved from <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-10-reduced-inequalities.html>

4. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/@UNDP/undp-powers-health-clinics-in-chad-111b24a59236>

5. Retrieved from <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc>

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