

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation

In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations members adopted these goals in 2015 to provide a framework to collectively meet environmental, political, and economic challenges facing the world.

Goal 9 focuses on building sustainable and resilient infrastructures. The purpose is to encourage the global economy to invest in infrastructure and innovation, thereby generating better employment opportunities and higher incomes. Many citizens in developing countries live in rural areas that lack roads, bridges, electricity, and water. According to the Global Mobility Report of 2017, 450 million people on the African continent don't have access to modern roadways.¹

According to the UN, only half of the global population has access to the internet. In developing countries, only one in five people can access the internet.² The internet has been a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity in western nations over the past three decades. Bringing the internet to the rest of the world will help other countries achieve a higher standard of living. If workers worldwide can earn larger salaries, this will contribute to creating better living conditions globally. It is essential that economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment, so SDG 9 also focuses on sustainability.

How Are Sustainable Development Goals Achieved?

Giving everyone the ability to access the internet affordably remains a primary target of SDG 9. Network coverage doubled between 2015 and 2020. By 2020, a 4G network covered 85% of the global population.³ Infrastructure spending in developing countries was over \$63 billion in 2019, up nearly 40% since 2010.⁴

Technological capabilities of developing countries can grow by encouraging innovation through increasing the number of research and development workers in both public and private research and enlarging the expenditure towards research as a proportion of GDP.⁵

Businesses throughout the world have joined together to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Global Compact helps align corporate strategies and operations with universally shared values to help meet the 17 SDGs. As of August 2021, there are over 14,000 companies in 162 different countries that have joined this initiative.⁶



1. Global Mobility Report 2017 Tracking Sector Performance. (2017). https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2643Global_Mobility_Report_2017.pdf. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/goal-10/>
2. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Why It Matters. (2020) https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/9_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/@UNDP/undp-powers-health-clinics-in-chad-111b24a59236>
3. Progress and Info. (2021). <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>
4. Ibid.
5. Targets and Indicators. (2021). <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>
6. United Nations Global Impact. (2021). <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

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