State of Israel
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report Snapshot for 2021

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SDG Israel

1) Every year in July, the UN holds a high-level political forum (HLPF). The event deals with the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs. These are 17 goals that the UN adopted in 2015 with the aim to advance humanity in three main areas: social, economic and environmental, by 2030. The focus of the HLPF this year was SDG implementation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2) The event serves as an opportunity to present a report on SDG implementation worldwide. This report represents a global and up-to-date snapshot of our current situation and is therefore one of the most important international reports. The report is created by independent experts adding analysis and evaluations.

3) COVID-19 continues to hurt the implementation of the SDGs worldwide, and in fact there is a decline in their implementation for the first time since they were adopted in 2015. Most of the decline in SDG performance is related to rising levels of poverty, unemployment and health; however, it should be mentioned the decline in performance was recorded across all three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

4) The priority of every government should be the treatment of COVID-19 as there can be no sustainable development and economic recovery as long as the pandemic is raging.

5) Continued damage to natural ecosystems may lead to the outbreak of other zoonotic diseases (transmitted from animals to humans) and pathogens with a much higher mortality rate in the next outbreak of the plague.

6) Climate change is already causing a sharp rise in natural disasters such as droughts, storms, sea level rise and heat waves. The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continues to rise.

7) The report highlights what we have known for a long time; developed countries are able to recover economically and faster from COVID-19 and implement the SDGs. This is in comparison to the least developed countries, which have difficulty raising funding and capital to deal with the pandemic and its consequences.

8) A strong multilateral system is key to tackling global challenges such as the climate crisis, the pandemic, biodiversity loss, the vulnerability of global supply systems to cyber attacks (that are becoming increasingly digital) and more.

9) No country is able to deal with these challenges alone and therefore a strong international system is needed that will help prevent disasters, prepare for them and know how to deal with them when they occur.

10) The pandemic stressed the need for universal health coverage for all, the need for access to vaccines and digital infrastructure (that proved essential during the pandemic). Preparations such as these proved invaluable to continued economic activity, the education system, health and more.

11) COVID-19 has also shown that countries equipped with good social systems and good health coverage are the ones that function better even during a pandemic.

12) In his introduction to the official UN report, the UN Secretary General writes that despite all the implications of the pandemic there is room for optimism and conveys the message that international mobilization in the face of the great challenges of the hour can change the trend and lift humanity on a path of recovery and prosperity.

Israel and the implementation of the SDGs

13) Most discussions in the HLPF took place virtually. Israel was represented by the Minister of Environmental Protection, Tamar Zandberg. Minister Zandberg noted climate change and biodiversity loss as two of the world's most existential challenges and called for increased multilateral cooperation. Minister Zandberg mentioned, Israel's commitment to technologies to prevent climate change and its effects and a community meant to deal with these issues, "Desertech". Minister Zandberg also expressed solidarity with those that were harmed by the pandemic and offered Israel's willingness to share knowledge and experience in the world.

14) Israel has many technologies and extensive experience that can help implement the SDGs around the world. Key issues include cyber protection issues on digital infrastructures that have been found to be critical during the pandemic, water, agriculture, renewable energies, nature-based solutions, production of animal protein substitutes, technologies in medicine and sanitation such as COVID detection in sewage and more.

15) The independent expert report, published every year, monitors the performance of each and every country. It is interesting to see that Israel is improving its function in the implementation of the SDGs for the second year in a row:

- The improvement is expressed in relative terms: Israel's position in 2019 was 59th in the world, in 2020 40th, and in 2021, 38th in the world.
- In absolute terms: The SDG implementation rate in 2019 was 71.5%, in 2020, 74.6%, and in 2021 it improved to 75%.

16) It should be noted that according to a government decision from 2019, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environmental Protection are responsible for implementing the SDGs in government work.

Annex – Graphs from the Sustainable Development Progress Report

ISRAEL

OECD Countries

▼ OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING

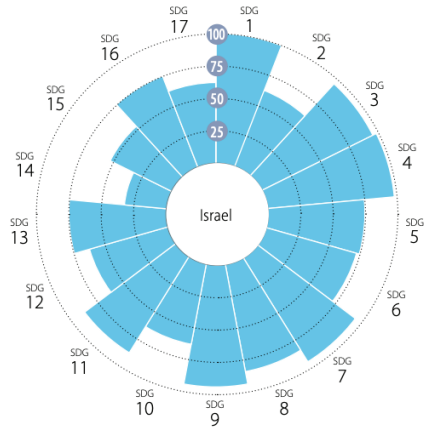**Israel**

38 /165

COUNTRY SCORE

75.0

REGIONAL AVERAGE: 77.2

STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

0 (WORST) TO 100 (BEST)

0   78.1   100

▼ AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

Israel

SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 16, SDG 17

▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

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 ↗

■ Major challenges   ■ Significant challenges   ■ Challenges remain   ■ SDG achieved   ■ Information unavailable

↓ Decreasing   → Stagnating   ↗ Moderately improving   ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement   ● Information unavailable

Notes: The full title of Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" is "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".
The full title of each SDG is available here: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals

Figure E.1 | Progress on the SDG Index

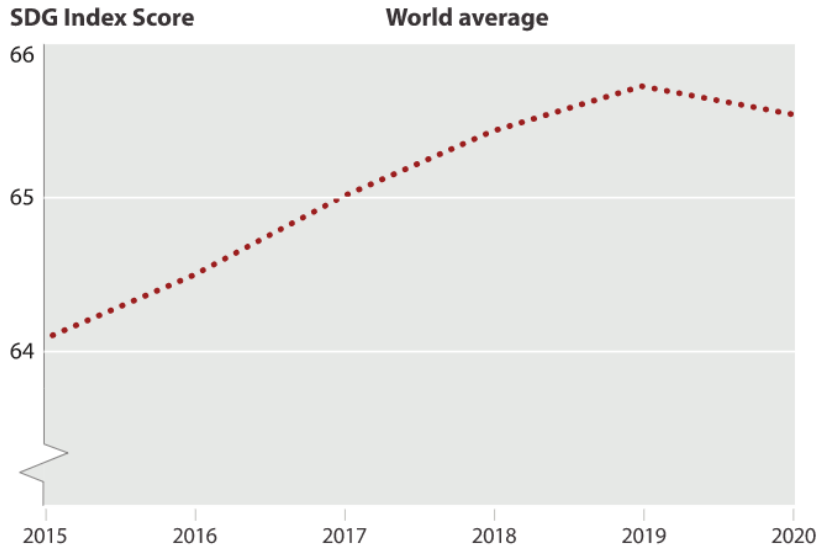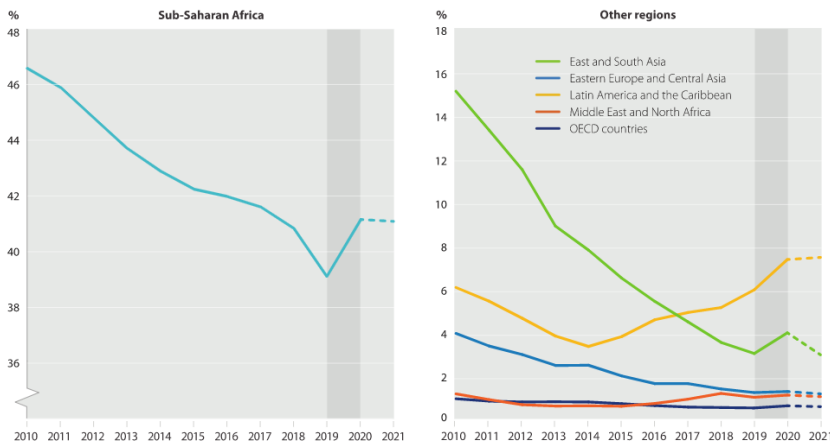**SDG Index Score**   **World average**

Figure 2.8 | Percentage of people living in extreme poverty (less than $1.90 a day)

The Above Graph shows the rise in percent of people living in extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sources:

UN Report on Sustainable Development, 2021:

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/The-Sustainable Development-Goals-Report-2021.pdf

SDG Index Dashboard:

https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/executive-summary