



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 aims to reduce inequality within and among countries.

UNODC's work addresses different targets of SDG 10, including Targets 10.2, 10.3, 10.7 and 10.b. From empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of youth, women, prisoners, migrants and victims of trafficking in persons to contributing to effective national, regional and international responses against migrant smuggling and reducing illicit financial flows, UNODC initiatives are instrumental in tackling inequality within and among countries.

In line with Target 10.2, the Office has been empowering children and youth through the implementation of its corporate [Strategy 2021–2025](#). This work is guided by the [Youth Empowerment Accelerator \(YEA!\) Framework](#), which promotes best practices on meaningful youth engagement, brings together UNODC's ongoing youth-focused initiatives and provides concrete youth mainstreaming actions to ensure that young people – both within the Office and external partners – have the opportunity to engage in the Office's mandate areas.

UNODC works with youth to build more resilient societies and find solutions to problems related to drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. An example of this is the [“UNCAC belongs to YOUTH”](#) workshop under the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment ([GRACE](#)) initiative. Over 30 young changemakers from Africa, Asia and Europe came together in October 2023 to dialogue on the challenges linked to corruption on each continent and develop recommendations to enhance the role of non-governmental actors in

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Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard



the fight against corruption. Merged with the recommendations from academia and civil society organizations, the Road Map was presented at the 10th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which also saw for the first time a youth representative addressing its plenary.

Building on the experiences of engaging young people during the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNCAC CoSP, in May 2024, the Office launched Generation Justice (GenJust), an initiative aimed to engage youth from across the globe in shaping the international agenda on crime prevention and criminal justice. In particular, GenJust seeks to make the 15th United Nations Crime Congress (2026) and the process leading up to it the most youth-inclusive one ever by creating space for young people to participate and contribute and amplifying their voices. In the next two years, a network of over 40 young people from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia will be enhancing their negotiation, policy-making, communication and leadership skills and bringing the voices of their peers to crime prevention and criminal justice intergovernmental spaces.

The Office also made strides in developing more youth-focused knowledge products, including two Youth Factsheets, one on Trafficking in Persons and one on Homicide, drawing on the insights and findings of UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and the Global Study on Homicide 2023. A brochure entitled YOUTH: At the heart of UNODC's work towards the sustainable development goals, available in all six official languages, offers more information on UNODC's work for and with youth.

Furthermore, the second UNOV/UNODC Action Plan on Disability Inclusion was launched in 2023. UNODC, in line with its mandate, promotes equality of treatment and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the justice system by facilitating access to justice, providing legal aid and other services, and carrying out research and awareness-raising campaigns. Persons with disabilities are consulted in the development and implementation of UNODC Country/Regional Programmes conforming to the principle "nothing for us without us."

In line with Target 10.3, the Office continues to address related human rights and gender considerations, especially among vulnerable populations. For instance, in Myanmar, UNODC has been providing HIV and viral hepatitis services to people who use drugs and their spouses, as well as distributing dignity kits for women and equipment for people with disabilities in detentions and prisons. The Office has also been conducting training to equip

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Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Target 10.b: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

prison health staff with the necessary skills to adhere to standard operating procedures. These initiatives have led to notable improvements in the health and well-being of the incarcerated population and other vulnerable groups.

UNODC also supports SDG Target 10.7 concerning migration and mobility. The Office continues to strengthen the capacities of Member States to collaborate with a view to improve the detection, identification as well as the referral of and assistance to victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In 2023, capacity-building activities contributed, inter alia, to the identification of and assistance to 264 human trafficking victims. In addition, the policy brief “[Accessing Justice: Challenges faced by trafficked persons and smuggled migrants](#)” aims to provide an insight into the obstacles faced by smuggled migrants and trafficked persons in their attempt to access justice and recommendations to Member States on how to best ensure unhindered access to justice for the victims.

In line with the [UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025](#), UNODC advances its efforts to promote impact at the local level and to engage the more distant and vulnerable communities, including Indigenous populations. For instance, in [Mexico](#), home to 68 indigenous native groups, UNODC has been collaborating with local indigenous leaders and organizations to address the risks of human trafficking through culturally and linguistically sensitive strategies. This has led to the development of a comprehensive prevention and awareness programme, tailored to the cultural needs of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

Lastly, UNODC’s work to reduce illicit financial flows (IFFs) also contributes to further progress on Target 10.b, which encourages official development assistance and financial flows to States where the need is greatest. Reducing IFFs can help least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries to mobilize the necessary capital to finance the achievement of the SDGs and other national priorities. For instance, in the [Republic of Seychelles](#), UNODC, together with Canada, carried out an advanced training program on IFFs, aiming at strengthening the recently established Seychelles National Anti-Money Laundering/ Countering the Financing of Terrorism Taskforce’s ability to combat the rising threat of money laundering, illicit financial flows, and terrorism financing. With cutting-edge insights and strategies, the training empowered law enforcement officers to fight against financial crimes and build a safer,



more secure, sustainable global economy. More information on the topic can be found under SDG 16.

By empowering women, children, young people, persons with disabilities, victims of human trafficking, and other vulnerable groups and reducing illicit financial flows, UNODC contributes significantly to reducing inequality within and among countries, advancing SDG 10, and creating a more just and inclusive society.

