

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and its pledge to 'leave no one behind' is a global commitment to improve the lives of the most vulnerable among us. However, a new report from International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) – *SDG progress: Fragility, crisis and leaving no one behind* – shows that millions of 'people caught in crisis' – people living in conflict, and/or who are displaced within their own countries or across borders – are in fact being left behind. Failure to take action now means that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be met, undermining the credibility of the international community and leaving millions to die unnecessarily.

2019 is a pivotal year for the SDGs. Heads of State will for the first time since 2015 attend the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs. This is the moment to review progress and revise our strategy before it is too late.



Fragility, people caught in crisis and the SDGs

Fragile and conflict affected states are where the greatest needs and challenges to achieving the SDGs exist – and where 2.3 billion people will live by 2030. The report finds that the vast majority – up to four in five – of fragile and conflict affected states are off-track to achieve select SDG targets by 2030. These states will be home to around 85 per cent of those remaining in extreme poverty – some 342 million people – in 2030. Current trends in these countries indicate that undernourishment is on the rise; lack of sanitation is expanding; the number of people living in slums will grow and early child-hood death remains endemic. By 2030, 70 per cent of under-five deaths – 2.4 million child deaths – will occur in fragile and conflict affected states. At the same time, violent conflicts have more than doubled since 2000 and more people have been forced to leave their homes than at any time since World War II

How far behind are people caught in crisis?

⁷United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees quoted in ODI & IRC (2018), p 43

⁸Flowers cited in ODI & IRC (2018), p 32

⁹IRC cited in ODI & IRC (2018), p 37

People caught in crisis are being left out and left behind

Three years into Agenda 2030 and it is clear that people caught in crisis are already being left behind.

Collective outcomes—the results of our joint action that can be observed in the daily lives of people, and measured by meaningful indicators and targets—are the central premise of Agenda 2030. The SDGs provide a good framework for defining measurable outcomes for reducing the causes and consequences of poverty but are yet to be translated to address the specific challenges faced by people caught in crisis.

All of the SDGs are relevant to people in crisis but this group is not explicitly recognised in the language of goals and targets and only a handful of indicators call for disaggregation by status. At the country level, refugees are not commonly included in national development or sector plans. For example, Kenya's national development plan, Vision 2030, makes no reference to refugees or displacement.

These groups are largely left out of governments' plans to reach the SDGs. Our report finds that of the 43 countries that presented their progress towards the SDGs to the UN in 2017, just 25 mentioned refugees or migrants as a left-behind group. And among the 25 that did mention this group, data was inconsistently reported. An analysis of progress reports (Voluntary National Reviews, or VNRs) for major refugee-hosting countries – Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, and Lebanon – shows that

Innovate

Third, world leaders together with donors, the private sector and non-government organisations must commit to innovating to find new and better ways to meet the needs of people in crisis.

- Pursue innovative funding models: Donors and their partners should implement innovative funding models. The Refugee Compact model – inclusive of grants, concessional financing and trade concessions – piloted in Jordan and Ethiopia – should be replicated and needed to explicitly support policy changes and programmes that improve the lives of people in crisis.
- Form partnerships: Partnerships between business, international organisations and governments should be encouraged where they drive job creation, fuel growth and improve conditions for refugees. Such partnerships can generate returns for both business and refugees. Business, in partnership with international organisations, should develop innovative goods and services that respond to refugees' needs and promote job opportunities that tap into their diverse skills.
- Innovate to ensure we have and are using the right data: A targeted effort by the international community is needed to ensure

Proposed SDG targets and indicators for people caught in crisis



Sustainable Development Goal	SDG target (by 2030)	SDG indicator(s)	Proposed outcome for people in crisis	Proposed target for people in crisis	Proposed indicator(s) for people in crisis
	Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	People in displacement contexts generate sufficient income to meet basic needs	Reduction in poverty rates	% of households with income below national poverty lines; % of households receiving livelihoods support within 2 weeks of a crisis
	End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age	Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age; Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type	Children in displacement contexts have optimal age-appropriate dietary intake	Reduced malnutrition rates	% of children under 5 years of age with moderate and severe acute malnutrition Increase in availability, speed of services for survivors of GBV
	Achieve full, productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, persons with disabilities; Unemployment rate, by sex, age, persons with disabilities	Women, men and youth in displacement contexts can access local labor markets and obtain safe and decent work (equal pay for work of equal value)	Increase in available jobs; Increase in employment, including self-employment	% of people with legal right to work, able to realise it; Unemployment rate by sex, age, status, disability; Avg. hourly earnings by job, sex, age, status, disability