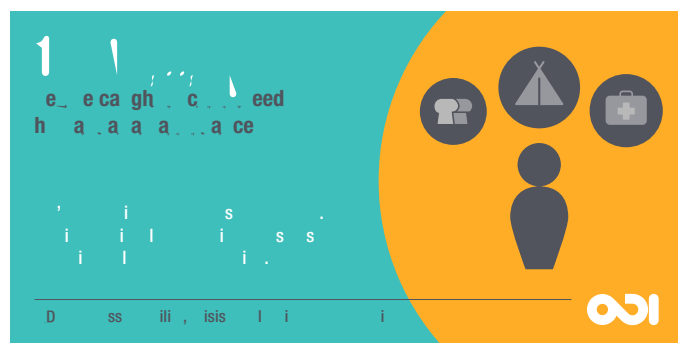


Sustainable Development Goals, in Crisis



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 2030¹. The report finds that the vast majority – up to four in five – of fragile and conflicted affected states are off-track to achieve select SDG targets by 2030². These states will be home to around 85 per cent of those remaining in extreme poverty – some 342 million people – in 2030³. 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 states⁴. At the same time, violent conflicts have more than doubled since 2000 and more people have been forced to flee their homes than at any time since World War II⁵. It is estimated that 152 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance and 12 of the top 15 refugee-hosting countries are themselves considered fragile⁶. All projections point to greater deprivation of people caught in crisis by 2030. We will see a growing gulf in terms of people's outcomes – their well-being and needs – between fragile countries and the rest of the world and people caught in crisis will be even more excluded than they are now.

Behind all of these numbers is the harsh reality of disrupted lives: families without hope or a home, children out of school, young people with no jobs and poor health, struggling to survive and living in conflict or in a new country that is often already grappling with its own poverty and lack of opportunities. Conflict and crisis can have a catastrophic impact on basic services and infrastructure, from the demolition of schools and health clinics to overwhelming numbers of people relying on already stretched social services. This, in turn, can have devastating consequences for people's lives in key areas of health and nutrition, education, freedom from violence and decent work.

¹OECD, States of Fragility 2018, <http://www.oecd.org/dac/states-of-fragility-2018-9789264302075-en.htm> (accessed 22 September 2018)

²Or 82% are either off track or lack the data for an assessment of progress. ODI & IRC (2018) 'SDG progress: Fragility, crisis and leaving no one behind', p 8

³Ibid, p 9

⁴Ibid, p 20

⁵Uppsala Conflict Data Program, quoted in ODI & IRC (2018), p.13

⁶ODI & IRC (2018), p 12; p 41

Above left: IRC mobile health team staff treat a severely malnourished child in Lahj, Yemen. *Kellie Ryan/IRC*

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.

Prioritise


Second, world leaders must collectively prioritise better to ensure that funding gets to those who need it most and that the right action is taken.

- Orient financing towards people in crisis: **Half of overseas development assistance should be spent in least developed countries**, which host the majority refugees. **Donors and UN agencies should increase multi-year funding** to support refugee responses. **Bilateral donors, international financial institutions and governments should pilot more 'beyond aid' solutions** to incentivise positive policy changes and drive economic growth in host countries.
- Align policies and programs with trends of displacement: Approaches to displacement crises need to chart a pathway from short-term emergency response to long-term resilience. **Governments should include refugees in their national development and sectoral plans**. They should harness the SDGs to promote policies that enable refugees to become self-reliant, such as through access to quality social services, access to the labour market, and freedom from violence and discrimination.
- Generate and publish timely and accurate data: **The World Bank and UNHCR Joint Data Center should serve as a data hub and provide technical assistance to support the generation of data on the socioeconomic wellbeing of refugees and other people in crisis**. Data collection should be driven by clearly defined outcomes, targets and indicators aimed at delivering the SDGs to people in crisis.
- Join up humanitarian and development efforts: **Humanitarian and development donors should coordinate on needs assessments and program planning** from the start of a crisis to reduce overlaps and gaps and ensure that immediate and longer term needs are met.

Innovate

Third, world leaders together with donors, the private sector and non-government organisations must commit 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, such as refugee compacts**. The refugee compact model piloted in Jordan and Ethiopia – which have included concessional or grant financing, **Businesses and governments should pilot innovative financing models, such as public-private partnerships and ensure that refugee compacts are good for all** (UNHCR, 2017).

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 malnutrition (stunting, wasting, overweight and obesity)	End all forms of malnutrition	Reduction in malnutrition rates	% of children under 5 years of age who are stunted, wasted, overweight and obese