

Sustainable Development Goals Tracker

YEMEN 2024

Voluntary National Review





REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

YEMEN VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2024



Yemen VNR 2024
Report



DOI: 10.47556/R.UN-VNRS2026.22

Yemen 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR)

VNRs Submitted: 1 (25%)



SDGs Achieved: 0 (0%)

SDGs On-Track: 0 (0%)

SDGs Off-Track: 16 (94%)

SDGs No Progress: 1 (6%)



Introduction

Yemen's 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) provides a comprehensive overview of the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) status amid a protracted conflict that has reversed decades of development gains. Despite the immense challenges, the VNR reflects Yemen's commitment to the **2030 Agenda** by establishing a baseline for SDG progress, identifying key obstacles, and outlining priorities for recovery. The review was conducted through a participatory process involving government ministries, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, and international partners, ensuring diverse perspectives were considered. Faced with severe data gaps, the VNR employed forecasting and scenario analysis using the International Futures model, providing evidence-based insights to guide decision-making. Overall, the 2024 VNR demonstrates Yemen's determination to pursue immediate humanitarian relief while laying the foundations for long-term sustainable development, signalling that even in crisis, the SDGs remain a critical framework for recovery and future planning (**United Nations, 2024a; United Nations, 2024b**).



VNR Framework Approach to assess Yemen's Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda

A VNR is a self-assessment process through which the United Nations (UN) Member States review and report on their progress in implementing the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and its **17 SDGs**. These reviews are voluntary, country-led, and inclusive, allowing each nation to share experiences, identify challenges, and highlight best practices.

VNRs are essential because they promote accountability and transparency in the implementation of the SDGs, allowing countries to demonstrate their commitment and progress openly. They help governments track progress, identify gaps, and strengthen policies, ensuring that national development strategies remain aligned with the **2030 Agenda**. Moreover, VNRs facilitate knowledge sharing among nations by enabling the exchange of experiences, innovations, and lessons learned. They also encourage multi-stakeholder participation, bringing together government institutions, civil society, the private sector, and academia in a collaborative effort to advance sustainable development. Finally, the VNRs serve as the foundation for the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) reviews, providing evidence-based insights that guide global discussions on accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Objectives of VNRs

- Assess a country's progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- Identify key challenges and barriers to implementation.
- Share lessons learned and innovative approaches.
- Mobilise support, partnerships, and policy coherence for sustainable development.

Methodology to Measure VNRs Progress

VNRs assess development performance using quantitative and qualitative data, aligning national priorities with SDGs targets. Countries use available indicators and national statistics to evaluate whether they are:

- Achieved, on-track, moderately off-track, seriously off-track or no progress.
- Facing data gaps or methodological challenges.

Due to incomplete or inconsistent data, some assessments rely on proxy indicators or qualitative descriptions of progress. Each SDG is rated on a 0–5 scale to measure Yemen's progress towards the **2030 Agenda**.

- 0 – No Progress:** No measurable progress or data available.
- 1 – Severely Off-Track:** Very little advancement; major gaps persist.
- 2 – Off-Track:** Limited progress with minimal improvement.
- 3 – Moderately Off-Track:** Some progress achieved, but key challenges remain.
- 4 – On-Track:** Noticeable progress made; close to achieving the target.
- 5 – Achieved:** Goal fully met with sustained performance and monitoring in place.

This scale helps to quantify Yemen's SDGs performance, showing where strong progress exists and where further policy actions are needed. VNRs are vital tools for evaluating and accelerating progress towards the **2030 Agenda**. They enable countries to reflect on achievements, recognise shortcomings, and strengthen collective action for a more sustainable and equitable world.

Explanation of Analysis (Applied to Yemen SDG Report)

This analysis applies the *VNR framework* to Yemen’s SDG Report. Initially, the report was processed using an AI tool to extract, summarise, and categorise data related to the **17 SDGs**. The AI provided preliminary insights into Yemen’s progress, challenges, and measurable indicators. Following the AI review, the information was cross-verified by two independent human experts to ensure factual accuracy, contextual relevance, and alignment with the official UN SDG indicators. This validation step strengthened the reliability of the data interpretation.

Finally, a team of SDG experts conducted an in-depth qualitative and quantitative analysis to identify key challenges, potential solutions, and policy-level recommendations. The comprehensive approach, integrating AI-driven insights with expert validation, provides a balanced, evidence-based assessment of Yemen’s progress towards achieving economic growth, highlighting strategic areas for improvement, innovation, and sustainability.

Overall Progress

Table 1 presents Yemen’s progress across the **17 SDGs**, with ratings assigned to each goal based on the report’s findings. The ratings reflect the extent of progress made, highlight areas where challenges have been addressed, and identify those that remain unresolved.

Table 1. SDG Progress Scoring

Score: 1		
Justification	- Poverty reduction in Yemen is an urgent national and humanitarian priority aligned with SDG 1, which aims to “<i>end poverty in all its forms everywhere.</i>” - The justification for focused action stems from the country’s severe economic collapse and humanitarian crisis, which have reversed decades of progress. - Poverty is multidimensional and interlinked with hunger, health, and education, making it essential for Yemen’s overall recovery and sustainable development. - Given that over 80% of the population now lives in multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2024), targeted strategies are critical to restore livelihoods, strengthen resilience, and ensure basic service delivery to displaced and vulnerable communities.	
Challenges	- Yemen faces immense challenges in tackling poverty amid continuous conflict and economic decline. - The economy has contracted by more than half, with 45% of Yemenis losing their main source of income by 2015. Inflation, loss of jobs, and currency depreciation have sharply reduced purchasing power, while external crises such as COVID-19 and the Russia–Ukraine war have worsened food and energy insecurity. - Limited fiscal capacity and disrupted public institutions continue to impede effective poverty interventions.	

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Despite the protracted conflict, Yemen continues to implement poverty-alleviation initiatives through the Social Fund for Development (SFD), Public Works Project (PWP), and Social Welfare Fund. - These programmes provide cash assistance and temporary employment, benefiting 1.5 million people, while donor-funded livelihood projects support small farmers and rural households. - The Development Push scenario projects that, with sustained economic growth and inequality reduction, Yemen could lower poverty by over 20 percentage points by 2050, lifting more than 15 million people out of extreme poverty compared to the Current Path. - Key long-term solutions include national poverty reduction strategies, SME development, expansion of the agriculture and fisheries sectors, and revival of Zakat as a tool for social protection and inclusive growth.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Extreme poverty remains widespread, with 73% of Yemen's population living below the international poverty line in 2023, compared to 20% in 2014, an increase of nearly 20 million people. - Even under optimistic scenarios, over 32 million Yemenis are expected to live on less than USD 2.15 per day by 2050. - Persistent conflict, dependence on humanitarian aid, and weak institutional coordination hinder long-term poverty eradication. - Without stability, structural reforms, and sustained donor engagement, Yemen will remain far from achieving SDG 1 by mid-century.



Score : 1

<i>Justification</i>	- Yemen's hunger and malnutrition crisis demands urgent action under SDG 2, which aims to end hunger and ensure access to nutritious food for all. - The justification lies in the alarming rise in food insecurity, with 41% of children under five (around 2 million) malnourished as of 2023, and 17.4 million people suffering from food insecurity, including 5.6 million at emergency levels. - Conflict since 2015 has destroyed agricultural production, disrupted imports, and pushed millions towards famine, making food security central to Yemen's recovery and human survival.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Yemen's agriculture and fisheries sectors face major structural and environmental challenges, including scarcity of land and water, desertification, overgrazing, and inefficient farming practices. - Crop productivity remains low due to limited genetic improvement, weak pest control, and small landholdings that restrict modern technology use. - The fisheries sector suffers from inadequate finance, poor infrastructure, and damaged export systems. - Persistent war has further degraded land, institutions, and infrastructure critical for food production and distribution.

Progress/ Solutions	- Efforts to address hunger include the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Strategic Plan (2023–2027), which seeks to increase grain and wheat output, rehabilitate irrigation systems, expand cash crop cultivation, and improve the livelihoods of farmers and fishermen. - Immediate measures involve facilitating food imports, resuming government salary payments, and strengthening cash transfer programmes through the Social Welfare Fund. - The Development Push scenario suggests that with enhanced agricultural productivity, equitable food access, and better resource management, undernutrition could fall to under 6% (3 million people) by 2050, lifting 9.4 million out of hunger and reducing child malnutrition to below 14%.
Unsolved Challenges	- Despite efforts, hunger remains widespread and far from elimination. Yemen relies heavily on food imports, making it highly vulnerable to global crises, such as the Russia–Ukraine war, which inflated food and fuel prices. - The conflict-induced loss of jobs, displacement of 4.3 million people, and six-year suspension of government salaries have eroded purchasing power and access to food. - Even under the Current Path, 1 in 5 Yemenis (12.3 million) will remain undernourished by 2050, and 24% of children will still suffer malnutrition. - Without sustained peace, improved agricultural systems, and long-term income growth, SDG 2 will remain far beyond reach.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Score: 1

Justification	- Yemen's deteriorating health situation makes the pursuit of SDG 3, <i>"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"</i>, an urgent national and humanitarian priority. - The health system, already fragile before the conflict, has been devastated, with maternal mortality increasing from 164 in 2015 to 183 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020, and under-five mortality stagnating at around 62 per 1,000 live births in 2021. - The conflict has destroyed infrastructure, limited access to healthcare, and deepened the vulnerability of women and children to preventable diseases and malnutrition.
Challenges	- The Yemeni healthcare system faces severe structural and operational challenges. A 2016 assessment showed that it operated at only 45% capacity, with 17% of facilities non-functional and 38% partially functional. - There is a critical shortage of medicines, medical supplies, and health personnel, compounded by irregular wage payments, lack of fuel, and damaged infrastructure. - Over 19 million people lack access to safe water and sanitation, heightening vulnerability to diseases such as cholera, COVID-19, and measles, while rural populations face particularly limited access to healthcare.

Progress/ Solutions	- Some progress is being made through rehabilitation efforts and targeted initiatives to restore healthcare services. - The Development Push scenario projects that with sustained investment, the maternal mortality ratio could decline to 93 by 2030, achieving the SDG target of below 70 by 2038–2041, while under-five mortality could reduce to 26 per 1,000 and neonatal mortality to below 10 by 2050. - Rehabilitating health facilities, prioritising rural health access, and increasing the availability of essential medicines and skilled healthcare workers are key to recovery. - Strengthening water, sanitation, and nutrition systems, along with conducting a national maternal mortality survey, will further guide evidence-based interventions and improve outcomes.
Unsolved Challenges	- Despite projections of gradual improvement, Yemen remains far from achieving SDG 3 targets. Under-five mortality is projected to remain high at 59 per 1,000 by 2030, well above the target of 25, and maternal mortality, though improving, will still be among the highest in the region. - Conflict, underfunding, unequal resource distribution, and degraded infrastructure continue to undermine health service delivery. Without sustained peace, large-scale investment, and systemic reform, millions of Yemenis—particularly women and children will remain deprived of basic healthcare and protection from preventable deaths.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Score: 1

Justification	- Education in Yemen has been severely disrupted by ongoing conflict, making SDG 4, “<i>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</i>” critically off-track. - Before 2015, Yemen made steady progress in expanding access to education, with primary gross enrolment rising from 73% in 1999 to over 100% in 2013, and female enrolment increasing from 52% to 92% during the same period. However, the escalation of war in 2015 reversed much of this progress. - The 2022 VNR reports that around 2.3 million children are currently out of school, while 18% of 1,842 surveyed schools were completely destroyed and 77% partially damaged. - Access to quality education, particularly for girls and rural children, has dramatically declined, justifying urgent intervention to restore education as a national and humanitarian priority.
Challenges	- Yemen’s education system faces severe structural, financial, and institutional challenges. The war has led to thousands of schools being destroyed, closed, or converted into internally displaced persons (IDP) shelters or military use, disrupting millions of students’ education. - Access is hindered by child labour, early marriage, recruitment, and displacement, particularly affecting girls. The gross primary completion rate stood at 62.3% in 2013, and lower secondary completion was just 44% in 2016. Along the Current Path scenario, it is projected to reach 66% by 2030 and 75% by 2050, still far from universal access. - A lack of reliable national data, limited participation in international testing, and weak monitoring systems further constrain policy effectiveness and quality improvement.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Despite immense challenges, Yemen has initiated several programmes aimed at rebuilding its education system. The School Development Program enhances school capacity, governance, and community participation, enabling schools to manage planning, implementation, and self-evaluation autonomously. - The Rural Female Teachers Program, launched in 2014, trained 2,100 female teachers through a six-month certified course to improve access to education in rural areas, though conflict disrupted teacher deployment. - Additionally, the Community Education Department, established in 2018 with UNESCO support, offers accelerated learning for children affected by war, helping them complete a full year's curriculum in one semester and reintegrate into formal education. - The 2024–2030 Education Sector Plan also includes a comprehensive education survey to guide reconstruction and policymaking, signalling Yemen's intent to gradually realign with SDG 4 targets.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Even with interventions, Yemen remains far from achieving universal education. - Projections suggest that by 2050, gross enrolment in upper secondary education will reach only 53%, and 92% in primary, well below SDG targets. - The prolonged conflict continues to impede progress, as many trained teachers remain unpaid or unappointed, and infrastructure reconstruction is slow. - Persistent data scarcity, security concerns, and limited international engagement prevent accurate evaluation and reform implementation. - Without peace, consistent funding, and large-scale educational rehabilitation, Yemen will continue to face generational learning loss and remain among the most off-track nations for achieving SDG 4.

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Score: 2

<i>Justification</i>	- Yemen remains one of the most gender-unequal countries globally, ranking last in international gender indices even before 2015, and the situation has deteriorated due to ongoing conflict. - The escalation of war has worsened risks for women and girls, leading to a surge in gender-based violence, early marriage, and reduced participation in public life. - As of 2022, nearly 29.6% of young women were married before the age of 18, and women's parliamentary representation dropped to 0% in 2023, down from 0.3% in 2015. - With 80% of displaced persons being women and children, and one-fifth of IDP households headed by girls under 18, the social and economic marginalisation of women has deepened. - Therefore, achieving SDG 5 is critical to restoring equality, protecting women's rights, and ensuring inclusive development in Yemen.
-----------------------------	--

<i>Challenges</i>	- Persistent insecurity, poverty, and restrictive social norms remain the biggest obstacles to achieving gender equality in Yemen. - The Gender Inequality Index, which had shown modest improvement until 2011, deteriorated sharply thereafter, falling by over one-third in seven years and continuing to worsen through 2021–2022. - Women’s economic participation and mobility are severely constrained by discriminatory laws and cultural barriers. A lack of access to basic services, limited representation in public institutions, and weak legal enforcement exacerbate gender disparities. - Moreover, reliable data on gender-based violence and women’s socio-economic conditions are scarce due to stigma, underreporting, and weak institutional capacity, hindering effective policymaking.
<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Despite severe setbacks, Yemen has taken some steps towards gender empowerment and institutional reform. - The National Women, Peace and Security Plan, launched in March 2023, aims to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325, promoting women’s inclusion in peacebuilding and governance. - Efforts include the establishment of special schools for girls, compulsory education laws, and measures to improve monitoring of violence against women in both rural and urban areas. - Initiatives to revise discriminatory legislation and to expand women’s enrolment in technical, vocational, and university education are underway. - According to projections, the average age of first marriage among women has risen from 18 years in 1990 to 22.8 years in 2019, and could reach 24 years by 2050, signalling gradual social change.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Yemen remains far behind in achieving SDG 5, with slow progress projected even under optimistic scenarios. - The Gender Development Index (GDI) is expected to recover to pre-2010 levels only after 2040, indicating a long-term gap in female education, health, and income outcomes compared to men. - Women’s representation in leadership, political, and economic sectors remains negligible, and 7.1 million women and girls continue to lack access to protection or services against violence. Without peace, structural reform, and sustained international support, gender equality will remain out of reach. - Comprehensive efforts such as legal reform, gender-sensitive policymaking, income-generating projects for rural women, and awareness campaigns—are essential for Yemen to progress meaningfully towards SDG.



Score: 1

Justification	- Yemen faces one of the world's most severe water crises, leaving SDG 6 significantly off-track. - Years of conflict, rapid population growth, and deteriorating infrastructure have constrained progress. - As of 2023, only 57% of the population had access to at least basic drinking water services, and just 23% to safely manage water. - Sanitation coverage remains even lower, with only 22% of people having access to safely managed sanitation. - Rural and conflict-affected areas are most deprived, with millions depending on unsafe water sources. - The government has outlined plans for desalination projects to raise urban water coverage from 62% to 70%, and rainwater harvesting initiatives for rural communities, reflecting an intent to address the crisis. However, these efforts are at early stages, and humanitarian needs remain overwhelming.
Challenges	- Yemen's water infrastructure and governance systems remain critically weak. - The World Bank (2020) reported that 38% of water and sanitation assets were damaged by conflict, and only 70% of water facilities in cities were even partially functional. - Rural areas, with dispersed populations and rugged terrain, face high service delivery costs and limited financing, while urban areas struggle with rapid population growth that outpaces new connections. - Groundwater depletion continues at alarming rates, worsened by inefficient irrigation in agriculture, which consumes the majority of Yemen's water. - Weak governance, inadequate institutional capacity, and the absence of a coherent national water strategy further restrict the country's ability to manage and allocate water resources sustainably.
Progress/ Solutions	- The Yemeni government, in partnership with international organisations, has identified a set of strategic interventions to improve water access and sanitation. - These include the rehabilitation of damaged networks and wastewater treatment plants to pre-crisis levels (targeting 100% restoration), the enhancement of water fields with seawater desalination to bridge the urban service gap from 62% to 70%, and the design of rainwater harvesting systems for rural households. - Additionally, policy reforms are being developed to encourage reduced cultivation of water-intensive crops like Qat, improve surface water utilisation, and complete a national strategy for water and sanitation services. - Under the projected Development Push scenario, access to safely managed water is expected to expand by 15% (around 5.7 million people) by 2050, and basic access could reach 77% of the population, signalling cautious optimism for gradual recovery.

Unsolved Challenges	- Despite proposed interventions, Yemen's water and sanitation challenges remain largely unresolved. - Access improvements are expected to remain stagnant for years due to financing constraints, conflict-related damage, and rapid population growth. - Basic sanitation access is projected to decline before any recovery, while safely managed sanitation will stay below 40% by 2050. The lack of effective governance, institutional coordination, and investment in infrastructure continues to undermine sustainable solutions. - Moreover, worsening climate change impacts, including droughts and floods, threaten fragile water basins already suffering from over-extraction and inefficient recharge. - Without large-scale investment, institutional reform, and long-term peace, Yemen will remain far from achieving SDG 6 targets for clean water and sanitation.
----------------------------	---

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Score : 1	
Justification	- Yemen's pursuit of SDG 7 is critically off-track due to prolonged conflict, infrastructure destruction, and chronic fuel shortages. - Electricity access has fallen from 46% in 2015 to 43% in 2021, with only 44% of the population estimated to have access in 2023. - Public power grids have collapsed in several areas, and in some cities, they are completely non-functional. The conflict has halted investments in generation capacity and disrupted transmission and distribution lines. - Despite Yemen's abundant solar and wind potential, renewable adoption remains limited. The government recognises the urgent need to transition to cleaner energy sources and optimise oil and gas use to restore access and reliability.
Challenges	- The energy sector faces widespread infrastructure damage and operational failure. - According to the World Bank's 2020 Dynamic Needs Assessment, 71% of power generation stations were partially damaged, 10% of distributed generation units were completely destroyed, and 45% suffered partial damage. - The ongoing conflict has delayed maintenance, halted construction, and weakened ageing diesel-powered plants. Transmission and distribution losses remain high due to outdated systems. - Public electricity is available to only 10% of the population through the national grid (2016), while most rely on private diesel generators or solar panels, making energy access unequal and unreliable.
Progress/Solutions	- The Yemeni government aims to increase renewable energy integration to 35–50% of the total energy mix by 2050 through long-term projects in solar, wind, geothermal, and waste-to-energy. - Small-scale solar solutions, including home systems and solar-powered irrigation, have expanded informally since 2016, helping rural populations cope with grid collapse. - Forecasts from the VNR 2022 suggest electricity access could rise from 44% in 2023 to 65% by 2050 under current trends, and up to 80% in a Development Push scenario representing two million more electricity connections. These efforts reflect a growing national commitment to diversify the energy mix and enhance resilience through sustainable sources.

Unsolved Challenges	- Despite gradual renewable uptake, Yemen remains far from achieving universal and reliable energy access. - Forecasts indicate that even under optimistic scenarios, only 80% of the population will have electricity by 2050, leaving millions still disconnected. - Persistent conflict, limited investment, and weak institutional capacity continue to impede restoration and expansion. - The country's energy infrastructure, largely dependent on fossil fuels and outdated systems, requires massive rehabilitation. - Without stable governance, international support, and accelerated renewable deployment, Yemen's energy sector will struggle to meet future demand and SDG 7 targets for affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.
----------------------------	---



Score : 1	
Justification	- Yemen's economy has been severely damaged by conflict, leaving SDG 8 far off-track. GDP per capita fell from just under USD 4,000 in 2010 to just over USD 1,500 in 2023, averaging a decline of around –5% per year. - The war caused massive economic contraction, with oil and gas exports dropping 90% after 2015 and government revenues collapsing. - Unemployment has risen sharply, especially among youth, and informal employment dominates. By 2023, the labour force participation rate is just 32%, with unemployment at 17.5%, while women's participation remains extremely low (5%) compared with men (60%). - Without peace and major interventions, Yemen remains far from achieving sustainable, inclusive growth or decent work for all.
Challenges	- Economic activity remains severely constrained by conflict-related destruction, weak governance, and fragile infrastructure. Critical industries, especially oil and gas, saw production collapse (85–90% decline post-2015), and donor support and foreign investment were suspended. - Labour force participation is uneven, with stark gender disparities (men 60%, women 5%), and unemployment remains high (17.5% in 2023). - Inflation, currency instability, and informal employment further weaken livelihoods, while lack of access to basic services hampers productivity.
Progress/Solutions	- Yemen has begun implementing initiatives to restore the economy and employment opportunities. - Strategic interventions include technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to improve employability, private sector capacity building, and emergency employment support through UNDP programs. - The Development Push scenario projects accelerated GDP per capita growth of over 3%, potentially exceeding USD 3,500 by 2050, recovering pre-war levels. - Short-term measures include economic recovery packages, SME support, labour-intensive public works, salary restoration for civil servants, and rebuilding critical infrastructure. - Medium- and long-term strategies involve diversifying revenues beyond oil, strengthening education and health sectors, and developing key industries like fisheries, mining, tourism, and oil and gas to stimulate sustainable economic growth.

Unsolved Challenges	- Yemen's long-term recovery is challenged by structural economic weaknesses, including over-reliance on oil revenues (24% of GDP in 2014) and underdeveloped non-oil sectors. - Public sector salary delays, low human capital investment, and destroyed productive assets impede economic revival. - Without comprehensive reforms, investment in infrastructure, diversification of economic sectors, and effective public-private partnerships, GDP per capita and employment opportunities are unlikely to recover fully before 2050, leaving Yemen far from SDG 8 targets.
----------------------------	--

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Score: 1	
Justification	- Yemen's infrastructure and industrial base have been devastated by conflict, leaving SDG 9 severely off-track. - Physical infrastructure including roads, bridges, power plants, water systems, telecommunications, and factories has suffered extensive damage or neglect. - Industrial output has fallen dramatically, with manufacturing and technology innovation minimal. - Prior to 2015, industry accounted for nearly 40% of GDP, falling to 25% by 2019, while reconstruction of critical infrastructure was estimated to require USD 11–13 billion in 2020. - Telecommunications coverage is limited, with mobile subscriptions dropping from 62 per 100 populations in 2013 to 46 in 2021, and fewer than 5 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 populations in 2021. - The combination of damaged infrastructure, low industrial capacity, and minimal innovation has left Yemen far from achieving resilient infrastructure and industrial diversification.
Challenges	- Yemen faces persistent challenges in achieving SDG 9 due to ongoing conflict, weak infrastructure, and a fragile industrial base. - Roads, bridges, and key facilities remain damaged, with about one-third of paved roads destroyed and many others in disrepair. - Access to finance is extremely limited, as only 3% of SMEs had credit access in 2013, further constrained by the war. - Industrial and technological contributions to GDP are minimal, and security and political risks create an unattractive investment environment. - Telecommunications usage is also low, with mobile subscriptions dropping from 62 per 100 populations in 2013 to 46 in 2021, and fewer than 5 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 populations in 2021. - These factors collectively hinder the development of resilient infrastructure, industrial diversification, and innovation capacity.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Efforts to improve SDG 9 in Yemen focus on rebuilding infrastructure, restoring industrial capacity, and promoting innovation. - Initiatives include rehabilitating roads, bridges, ports, and airports, as well as developing a manufacturing strategy that leverages Yemen's mineral resources. - Programs aim to create productive, sustainable jobs, boost industrial contributions to GDP, and enhance digital and technological capacity. - Expanding mobile network coverage, currently at 92%, supports innovation and digital services. - Supporting local industries and SMEs through modern technologies and capacity-building, alongside infrastructure repair, are key strategies to strengthen resilient infrastructure, foster industrial diversification, and drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Long-term recovery of Yemen's infrastructure and industry is constrained by insufficient funding, ongoing insecurity, and limited local capacity. - Industrial growth remains hampered by destroyed production facilities, disrupted supply chains, and low innovation levels in universities and industries. - Despite existing plans to develop manufacturing and leverage mineral resources, operational and investment constraints persist. - Without substantial reconstruction, investment in modern technologies, and support for SMEs, Yemen is unlikely to achieve resilient infrastructure, industrial growth, or innovation-driven economic diversification in the foreseeable future.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Score: 1	
<i>Justification</i>	- Yemen experiences severe inequality, both within the country and relative to other nations, leaving SDG 10 far off-track. - Income disparities have worsened over decades, with the wealthiest 20% receiving 71.8% of income in 2014, while over 80% of the population lives in poverty. - Inequalities are also evident geographically and socially: secondary school enrollment in urban areas is 50.7%, nearly double the 27% in rural areas, and urban girls are 125% more likely to attend school than rural girls. - Women, children, the disabled, and minority groups are disproportionately affected, reflecting compounded vulnerabilities.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Yemen's inequality is deeply entrenched and exacerbated by ongoing conflict. - Post-2015, income inequality has likely worsened, with wealth and opportunities concentrated in a small elite while the majority of Yemenis remain impoverished. - Geographic disparities are stark, with rural populations and girls particularly disadvantaged (urban boys 48.1% vs rural 30.1%; urban girls 53.6% vs rural 23.8%). - High unemployment, limited access to education and healthcare, and destroyed infrastructure amplify these inequalities, making it difficult for policies to reach the most vulnerable.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- To address these inequalities, the government and partners have implemented measures such as expanding cash transfer programmes, social protection schemes, and inclusive access to services including education, healthcare, and water and sanitation. - Yemen received nearly USD 3.8 billion in external assistance in 2021, which could be increasingly directed towards reducing structural inequalities. Efforts are also being made to reduce the cost of remittances (currently 5.16%) and support income-generating activities, particularly in agriculture and fisheries. - These interventions aim to provide equitable opportunities, promote fairer economic participation, and reduce disparities across gender, geographic, and social lines.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Structural inequality remains largely unaddressed due to the focus of aid on immediate humanitarian needs rather than development, coupled with weak governance and ongoing conflict. - Persistent social and economic barriers limit women's empowerment, rural access to services, and equitable economic participation. - Without substantial peace, sustained development, and policy interventions targeting vulnerable populations, Yemen is unlikely to achieve significant reductions in income, social, or gender disparities by 2030.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Score: 1

<i>Justification</i>	- Yemen's urban areas have become less sustainable and safe due to prolonged conflict, leaving SDG11 severely off-track. - Urbanization has increased, with the urban population reaching approximately 40% by 2022, yet living conditions in cities have deteriorated sharply. - In 2018, about 44% of city dwellers lived in slums or inadequate housing, only slightly lower than 45.5% in 2014, predating the most severe war impacts. - Cities such as Sana'a, Taiz, and Aden face destroyed housing, damaged roads, disrupted water and sanitation services, power outages, uncollected waste, and strained health and education facilities, reflecting a severe decline in urban sustainability and resilience.
<i>Challenges</i>	- The ongoing war presents significant obstacles to achieving sustainable cities in Yemen. - Approximately 4.5 million IDPs reside in overcrowded camps or informal settlements lacking basic services. - Housing stock in many urban neighbourhoods has been destroyed by airstrikes and shelling, while essential urban infrastructure has been heavily disrupted. - Environmental concerns, such as pollution and unplanned urban sprawl, have worsened, and the limited availability of data hampers the monitoring of urban living conditions, making targeted interventions difficult.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Some initiatives have been introduced to support urban recovery, including community-led rebuilding of schools and roads through cash-for-work programmes. - The VNR identifies the reconstruction of housing and infrastructure as a critical step towards achieving SDG11. - Post-conflict recovery plans emphasise rehabilitating water, sanitation, electricity, and transport networks, while providing safe housing for displaced populations. - While these measures are in their early stages, they signal a commitment to restoring sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban centres once conflict subsides.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Long-term urban recovery remains uncertain without a comprehensive peace process. - Yemen's cities continue to face major gaps in housing, infrastructure, and basic services for both long-term residents and IDPs. - Slum reduction has been slow, with progress from over 60% in 2000 to roughly 44% in 2018 insufficient to meet sustainable housing goals. - Large-scale, coordinated reconstruction programmes are required, alongside strategies to improve environmental management, public transport, and urban planning, yet these remain largely unimplemented due to ongoing conflict and resource constraints.



Score: 0

<i>Justification</i>	- Sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) are crucial for managing natural resources efficiently, reducing environmental degradation, and ensuring long-term economic and social resilience. - In Yemen, current consumption and production patterns are unsustainable, depleting natural capital and undermining ecosystem services. - The ongoing conflict has diverted attention from sustainability, with the population prioritising survival and emergency needs over environmental considerations. - As one of the least developed countries in the region, Yemen's limited resources, technical capacity, and war-related destruction exacerbate vulnerability, making financial and technical support essential for transitioning towards sustainable production and consumption practices.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Yemen faces a range of economic and structural challenges that impede progress on SDG 12. - The suspension and reduction of oil and gas exports have significantly reduced government revenues, while the depreciation of the Yemeni Riyal has increased energy, transportation, and commodity prices. - Investment programmes have been largely frozen, causing lost employment opportunities and rising youth unemployment, alongside growing internal and external public debt. - In addition, the lack of recent measurements for SDG 12 indicators, including food waste, chemicals, and recycling, has constrained policy formulation and planning, leaving the country unable to track or implement sustainable production and consumption measures effectively.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Virtually no notable progress has been made on SDG 12 in Yemen, and improvements observed are incidental rather than policy-driven. - Fossil fuel consumption has declined mainly due to scarcity and high prices rather than efficiency gains, while the 2020 VNR reports a negligible fossil fuel subsidy of 0.002 units of GDP. - Waste management systems have largely broken down, with solid waste often dumped in coastal cities, and no major initiatives in recycling, sustainable agriculture, or corporate sustainability have been implemented. - Recommended interventions include developing financial resources through value-added tax and improved revenue collection, resuming oil and gas exports, enhancing institutional and human capacities for data collection and transparency, leveraging expertise from international organisations, and fostering government-private sector partnerships to scale investments in infrastructure and alternative energy.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- The fundamental issues obstructing SDG 12 in Yemen remain unresolved. - Any decrease in resource consumption is a by-product of economic contraction rather than deliberate sustainability measures. - There are no comprehensive policies promoting sustainable production, recycling, or green technologies, and the ongoing conflict continues to erode institutional capacity. - Waste management and environmental monitoring systems have collapsed, while corporate and agricultural practices remain unsustainable. - Achieving meaningful progress will require substantial financial, technical, and institutional support, along with coordinated action between the government, private sector, and international partners to build capacity, restore infrastructure, and introduce environmentally responsible policies.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Score: 1

<i>Justification</i>	- Yemen is highly vulnerable to climate change, making SDG 13 critically important. - The country faces rising temperatures, severe droughts, flash floods, coastal storms, and shifting rainfall patterns, which exacerbate an already fragile humanitarian and economic situation. - Climate change threatens water resources, agriculture, biodiversity, and infrastructure, while extreme weather events have already caused significant loss of life, destruction of housing, and disruption to livelihoods. - Projections indicate that by 2050, sea levels in Yemen could rise between 18 and 24 cm, above the global average, amplifying the country's susceptibility to flooding and coastal erosion. Given these risks, urgent climate action is essential to safeguard Yemen's development and resilience.
-----------------------------	--

Challenges	- Yemen faces multiple obstacles to climate action. The ongoing conflict, economic collapse, and weak institutional capacity severely constrain the country's ability to implement mitigation and adaptation measures. - Data availability is poor, making it difficult to assess disaster losses accurately or monitor climate resilience indicators. - Yemen also lacks robust early warning systems and has limited technical expertise to manage and respond to climate hazards. - The country's mitigation potential is constrained by its minimal contribution to global emissions and dependence on external support, while adaptation is hindered by the breakdown of infrastructure and service provision. - Climate-related disasters have already caused substantial economic and social damage, with cumulative GDP losses projected at USD 93 billion under likely climate scenarios, pushing over 8 million people into extreme poverty and 3.8 million into malnutrition.
Progress/ Solutions	- Progress on SDG 13 in Yemen remains extremely limited, with most climate action still in the planning phase. - While the country has prepared Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and strategies, implementation has lagged due to conflict and limited capacity. Small-scale interventions exist, such as community rainwater harvesting, terracing to reduce erosion, and household solar energy adoption, but these are fragmented and not nationally coordinated. - Yemen has undertaken greenhouse gas inventories: in 2010, emissions were estimated at 34,136 gigagrams of CO₂ equivalent, with net emissions of 32,249 gigagrams after accounting for carbon sequestration. - Recommended interventions include developing drought-resistant crops, adopting ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, transferring clean technologies, enhancing early warning systems, establishing national climate databases, and strengthening institutional capacity to monitor climate risks and losses.
Unsolved Challenges	- Despite some planning and pilot projects, Yemen remains largely unprepared for the accelerating impacts of climate change. - National strategies exist primarily on paper, and climate action is not yet mainstreamed across sectors. - Key gaps include a lack of coordinated renewable energy expansion, insufficient adaptation measures at scale, weak disaster management capacity, and inadequate monitoring of climate-related data. - Long-term challenges also include preserving biodiversity, enhancing agricultural and fisheries resilience, and mobilising financial and technical resources to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. - Meaningful progress will require sustained international support, peacebuilding, and the establishment of robust institutional frameworks to enable Yemen to cope with climate risks effectively.

Score: 3	
Justification	- Yemen's marine environment is rich in biodiversity, hosting 416 identified fish species, marine mammals such as whales, dolphins, and dugongs, marine turtles, and a variety of migratory species of national and international significance. These resources are critical for food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and income, particularly for coastal populations. - The country's 2,500 km coastline, spanning the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Arabian Sea, faces threats from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution from untreated sewage and oil spills, and the impacts of climate change such as coral bleaching and cyclones. - Protecting marine ecosystems is essential not only for biodiversity conservation but also for sustaining fisheries and supporting economic development, making SDG 14 a priority for Yemen.
Challenges	- Marine data and monitoring remain extremely limited, with the last comprehensive fish stock assessment conducted in 1987. Overfishing, habitat degradation, pollution, and climate impacts persist, while enforcement of regulations is constrained by ongoing conflict and limited resources. - Coastal areas near cities like Aden, Hodeidah, and Al-Mukalla suffer from untreated sewage, oil spills, and habitat encroachment, further threatening biodiversity. - Fisheries infrastructure remains weak, and climate change, including cyclones and coral reef destruction, exacerbates these vulnerabilities. - Insufficient funding, limited human resource capacity, and poor monitoring systems hinder effective marine management and long-term conservation efforts.
Progress/Solutions	- Despite challenges, Yemen has made notable progress in marine conservation. As of 2022, 30.6% of the country's coastal and marine areas are under protection, surpassing the 2020 target of 10%. - Institutions such as the General Authority for Environmental Protection, the Coast Guard, and the General Authority for Maritime Affairs have been established to safeguard marine ecosystems. - Key fisheries infrastructure has been rehabilitated, including the main fish landing port in Aden and several fish landing centres with cold storage facilities. - Nature reserves, including Socotra's marine areas, Kamaran Island Forest, and the Aden Wetlands Reserve, have been designated, and plans are in place to curb overfishing and illegal fishing.
Unsolved Challenges	- Despite partial progress, key issues remain unresolved in Yemen's marine sector. - Comprehensive data on biodiversity and coastal ecosystems are lacking, and national monitoring systems for marine and coastal indicators are underdeveloped. - Expansion of marine protected areas, effective management of commercial fisheries, and mitigation of pollution from land-based activities remain critical gaps. - The capacity of coastal communities, particularly women, to participate in sustainable management is limited, and financial resources for research and enforcement are insufficient. - Achieving SDG 14 will require strengthening institutional capabilities, enhancing monitoring and enforcement, expanding protected areas, and mobilising domestic and international support to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of Yemen's marine resources.



Score: 2

Justification	- Yemen's terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity are under severe threat, making SDG 15 a critical priority. - Approximately 90% of Yemen's land was affected by desertification as of 2014, with climate change, rising temperatures, drought, and soil erosion further accelerating land degradation. - Forests cover only around 1% of the country and have been depleted during the war for fuel, while unique habitats, such as Socotra's endemic-rich ecosystems, face pressures from unregulated development, invasive species, and conflict-related disturbances. - Land degradation has reduced agricultural productivity and water availability, threatening food security, livelihoods, and ecological balance. - Protecting Yemen's biodiversity is essential for environmental resilience and sustainable development.
Challenges	- Yemen faces major challenges in achieving SDG 15 due to ongoing conflict, resource scarcity, and institutional weaknesses. - Implementation of conservation and restoration projects is extremely limited, with few active reforestation or land rehabilitation initiatives. - Socotra Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has come under direct threat during the conflict, with military deployments exacerbating risks from invasive species, unregulated development, and climate change. - Monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations are constrained by inadequate human capacity and funding, while land degradation continues across deserts, coastal areas, mountains, and agricultural zones. - Limited data availability and weak infrastructure further impede effective ecosystem management.
Progress/ Solutions	- Despite extremely adverse conditions, Yemen has made some progress in conservation and policy. The country has expanded terrestrial protected areas, including the Socotra Archipelago (over 360,000 ha), Kamaran Island mangroves, and the Aden wetlands. - Policies and priority actions have been developed to combat land degradation, including establishing a national environmental monitoring system, promoting public awareness of biodiversity, and engaging with global frameworks such as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. - Reforestation, preservation of terraces, and protection of forests are planned, while Yemen continues reporting land degradation data internationally. These measures provide a foundation for future biodiversity and ecosystem restoration efforts.
Unsolved Challenges	- Key issues remain unresolved in Yemen's terrestrial and biodiversity sector. Land degradation and desertification persist, and the loss of forests, endemic species, and productive land continues. - Comprehensive environmental monitoring systems are not fully operational, and awareness programmes remain underdeveloped. The expansion of protected areas, national afforestation campaigns, and regulation of groundwater extraction and tree cutting are still insufficient to reverse environmental decline. Achieving SDG 15 will require sustained international support, capacity building, enforcement of laws, and long-term strategic investments in restoration, conservation, and sustainable land management.

Score: 1	
Justification	- Since 2014, the country has experienced political instability, violence, and the fragmentation of government authorities, resulting in the collapse of public services and widespread human rights abuses. - Millions of Yemenis have been affected by conflict-related deaths and insecurity, while the rule of law remains weak, and corruption is rampant, with 64.3% of businesses reporting bribery in dealings with officials as of 2013. - Child protection is particularly concerning, with instances of child recruitment during the conflict and nearly 80% of children experiencing violent discipline at home prior to the war. - Achieving SDG 16 is crucial to establishing a safe, stable society with accountable institutions that ensure justice, human rights, and equitable access to services.
Challenges	- The greatest obstacle to achieving SDG 16 remains the ongoing conflict and the failure to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement. - Violence, insecurity, and weak governance continue to impede the functioning of public institutions, access to justice, and the protection of human rights. Displacement of millions, particularly women and children, heightens vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. - Institutional capacity is constrained by limited resources, while political fragmentation prevents uniform enforcement of laws. - Additionally, regional tensions in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden exacerbate security risks, complicating peacebuilding efforts and the restoration of effective governance across the country.
Progress/ Solutions	- Despite these severe challenges, Yemen has undertaken measures to strengthen institutions and protect vulnerable populations. - The internationally recognised government is engaged in peace negotiations, welcoming UN Special Envoy efforts and participating in multilateral talks in Kuwait, Geneva, and Stockholm. - Institutional reforms have included updating the national policy on internal displacement in 2023, establishing human rights committees in ministries, and creating a juvenile justice system in 2022. - Efforts to safeguard the environment and prevent disasters, such as the FSO Safer salvage operation, demonstrate effective collaboration with international partners. Further interventions include restructuring public service committees, building the capacities of local authorities, enhancing human rights frameworks, and expanding child protection mechanisms across government institutions.
Unsolved Challenges	- Key issues remain unresolved, keeping Yemen far from SDG 16 targets. Establishing lasting peace, restoring political stability, and fully activating the rule of law are critical prerequisites. - Human rights frameworks require stronger enforcement, including reactivating monitoring mechanisms, expanding ministerial human rights departments, and protecting children from recruitment and exploitation. - Institutional capacity-building is needed for local authorities, civil defence, and disaster response mechanisms. Continued support from the international community, alongside comprehensive institutional reforms and inclusive peace negotiations, is essential to enable sustainable governance, justice, and the protection of Yemenis' rights and security.



Score: 2

Justification	- Yemen's ability to advance SDG 17 is severely limited by ongoing conflict, economic collapse, and weakened institutions. - With the oil and gas sector—once responsible for around 65% of public revenue largely halted, the country faces acute financial shortages, declining public services, and rising debt, all of which restrict its capacity to build effective partnerships. - As one of the least developed countries, Yemen relies heavily on international and regional cooperation for both humanitarian assistance and long-term reconstruction. - Strengthening partnerships is therefore essential to mobilise the financial, technical, and knowledge resources required to support recovery, rebuild infrastructure, and drive sustainable development.
Challenges	- Yemen's partnerships are constrained by fragmented governance, unstable security conditions, and limited domestic capacity. While international aid has been substantial, its coordination is difficult due to divided authorities, and private investment remains largely on hold until political stability improves. - Humanitarian assistance has decreased in recent years, falling from USD 4.1 billion in 2018 to USD 1.4 billion in 2023, despite increasing needs. Weak digital connectivity limits access to formal and informal collaboration platforms, with fixed broadband subscriptions below 2 per 100 populations, hampering knowledge and business partnerships. - Economic contraction, COVID-19 impacts, and multiple global crises have further reduced resources and international attention for Yemen's development priorities.
Progress/ Solutions	- Despite severe challenges, Yemen has made limited but notable progress in mobilising partnerships, mainly through international support. - In 2021, the country received almost USD 3.8 billion in external aid, demonstrating strong humanitarian engagement, alongside efforts to secure debt relief and investment from Gulf states and global donors. - Domestically, Yemen has encouraged private sector participation by promoting public-private partnerships for reconstruction and renewable energy, aimed at creating jobs and rebuilding essential infrastructure.
Unsolved Challenges	- Significant gaps remain in translating partnerships into sustainable development gains. Development financing remains insufficient, and debt burdens constrain fiscal flexibility. - Private sector engagement is underutilised, and long-term investments in reconstruction, infrastructure, and alternative energy are limited. Digital access requires substantial expansion to facilitate communication and collaboration. - Strengthening partnerships will require sustained mobilization of regional and international financing, negotiation of debt relief, activation of the private sector in economic recovery, and integration of development projects with national priorities. Without these measures, Yemen risks remaining heavily reliant on humanitarian aid rather than achieving transformative progress towards SDG.

Source: (United Nations, 2024a; United Nations, 2024b).

Major Challenges

- **Ongoing Conflict and Instability:** Yemen's continued war and lack of a sustainable peace agreement remain the foremost barrier to development. Active conflict disrupts governance, displaces communities, and diverts resources from development. Ending the conflict is the single most crucial step for advancing the SDGs.
- **Humanitarian Crisis and Extreme Poverty:** Over 80% of Yemenis live in poverty, with two-thirds requiring aid. Widespread hunger, malnutrition, disease, and displacement (4.5 million IDPs) undermine long-term planning and make survival the immediate priority.
- **Destroyed Infrastructure and Basic Services:** War has devastated electricity, water, roads, hospitals, and schools. Essential services have collapsed, and rebuilding infrastructure amidst insecurity and limited funding is a major challenge. Progress on many SDGs depends on restoring these services.
- **Weak Institutions and Governance Gaps:** Yemen's institutions are fractured, government agencies are divided, and public administration is weakened. Corruption and limited accountability impede policy implementation, aid management, and stability. Restoring governance is essential for SDG progress.
- **Financial Constraints and Economic Collapse:** Yemen's economy has largely collapsed, with shrinking GDP and revenues. The government struggles to fund salaries, subsidies, or development projects. Debt relief and international financing are urgently needed for reconstruction and social programmes.
- **Social Inequalities and Vulnerable Groups:** Conflict has worsened inequalities between rural and urban areas, genders, generations, and regions. Vulnerable groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities, face heightened risks. Inclusive interventions are critical to ensure no one is left behind.
- **Data Scarcity and Monitoring Capacity:** Reliable data is limited due to disrupted surveys and weakened statistical systems. This hinders evidence-based policymaking and SDG monitoring, forcing reliance on international estimates and modelling. Rebuilding statistical capacity is a priority.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:** Yemen faces worsening droughts, floods, desertification (affecting 90% of land), and water depletion. Environmental shocks exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and displacement, and the country's capacity to adapt or mitigate these impacts is extremely limited during conflict.

Key Lessons Learned

- **Maintaining an SDG Focus Amid Crisis:** Yemen's first VNR during active conflict shows that long-term development goals remain relevant and can guide recovery, even in extreme crises.
- **Innovative Data Solutions:** With severe data gaps since 2015, Yemen used forecasting and scenario modelling (International Futures system) to estimate SDG indicators and explore future paths, offering a model for other data-scarce countries.
- **Whole-of-Society Participation:** The VNR process involved local authorities, NGOs, women, youth, and the private sector, ensuring inclusive input and shared ownership of the SDG agenda.

- **Linking Humanitarian and Development Planning:** Yemen integrated short-term relief (services, infrastructure) with medium-term development (state-building, social protection), demonstrating the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- **Investing in Human Capital and Social Resilience:** Efforts to maintain social safety nets, education, and health initiatives during conflict highlight the importance of protecting human capital for future recovery.
- **Global and Regional Partnerships:** Yemen's coordination with the UN, donors, NGOs, and regional partners underlines the critical role of partnerships in delivering aid and supporting reconstruction.

Notable Contribution

- **2012:** Yemen endorsed the Paris Commitments (Council of Ministers Decision No. 212) to end the recruitment of child soldiers, demonstrating early engagement with international norms on child protection.
- **January 4, 2023:** The government approved the National Policy for Addressing Internal Displacement, establishing a framework to protect and assist IDPs.
- **March 7, 2023:** Yemen launched the National Women, Peace and Security Plan to promote women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes.
- **December 2023:** A Supreme Supervisory Committee was formed (Cabinet Resolution 25 of 2023) to oversee the preparation of Yemen's 2024 VNR.
- **Late 2023 – Early 2024:** Stakeholder consultations were conducted across governorates, involving local authorities, NGOs, women and youth groups, and the private sector to ensure an inclusive VNR process.
- **July 2024:** Yemen presented its 2024 VNR at the UN High-Level Political Forum, signalling continued commitment to the SDGs despite ongoing conflict.
- **By 2022:** Yemen exceeded the SDG target for marine conservation, protecting 30.6% of its coastal and marine areas through the declaration of Socotra Archipelago and other reserves.
- **2019:** Yemen reported that 17.5% of its land was classified as degraded land, marking progress in monitoring land degradation and setting the stage for restoration initiatives.

Recommendations

- **Strengthen Governance and the Rule of Law:** Build transparent, accountable, and inclusive institutions that uphold justice and protect rights. Strong governance improves service delivery, resource management, and public trust.
- **Promote Peace and Security:** Prioritise conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and the protection of vulnerable groups. A secure environment enables communities to recover, rebuild, and engage in sustainable development.
- **Invest in Human Capital:** Expand access to quality education, skills training, and healthcare. Developing human capital increases employability, supports innovation, and strengthens national resilience.

- **Encourage Sustainable Economic Growth:** Diversify the economy, support entrepreneurship, and create decent jobs while protecting the environment. Sustainable growth reduces poverty and ensures long-term stability.
- **Promote Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness:** Implement mitigation and adaptation measures, including early warning systems and climate-resilient infrastructure. Preparedness protects lives, livelihoods, and essential assets.
- **Strengthen Partnerships and International Cooperation:** Work with global partners, donors, and civil society to mobilise resources and expertise. Effective collaboration ensures interventions support national priorities.
- **Improve Data Collection and Monitoring:** Invest in reliable statistics and monitoring systems to measure progress and guide policy decisions. Strong data systems support accountability and targeted action.
- **Foster Social Inclusion and Equity:** Develop policies that reduce inequalities and ensure vulnerable groups are not left behind. Inclusive development strengthens social cohesion and broadens economic participation.
- **Encourage Innovation and Technology Transfer:** Promote the use of modern technologies and support innovation across key sectors. Technology transfer enhances productivity, efficiency, and sustainable development outcomes.

Conclusion

Yemen's 2024 VNR presents a candid yet hopeful overview of a country striving to advance the SDGs amid severe challenges. While years of conflict have reversed development gains and left millions in poverty and without essential services, the VNR demonstrates Yemen's enduring commitment to the **2030 Agenda**. By establishing a baseline and clearly identifying priorities for recovery, the country is laying the groundwork for phased interventions from immediate humanitarian relief to medium-term institutional rebuilding and long-term sustainable development. Achieving the SDGs will depend on peace, strengthened governance, and robust international support, but the VNR shows that with perseverance, partnerships, and targeted action, Yemen can gradually move from crisis towards recovery and resilience.

Reference

United Nations (2024a): Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2024. Available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024>

United Nations (2024b): *Yemen Voluntary National Reviews 2024*. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/yemen/voluntary-national-reviews-2024>

Report Team

- Professor Allam Ahmed (**Leader**)
- Professor Arshi Naim (**Senior Researcher**)
- Nada Yousry (**Graphic Design**)
- Kumar Kaurav (**Web Master**)

The SDG Tracker (SDGT) is a global research initiative, developed under the auspices of the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD), designed to systematically analyse and score the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by United Nations member states. The SDGT aims to enhance global accountability, promote transparency, provide evidence-based insights for policymakers, and facilitate cross-country comparison and benchmarking, with all its comprehensive findings made publicly available on the dedicated SDGs Tracker Platform. For more information about this report and/or any other activities of the initiative, please visit: www.sdgstracker.org and contact us: director@sdgstracker.org.



WASD COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

WASD is delighted to be working very closely with various United Nations Agencies, most specifically with the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Both JIU and WASD are inspired by the conviction that the UN **Agenda 2030** for Sustainable Development (SD) and the **17** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the momentum for renewed UN engagement with the public and private sectors.

In **2018**, WASD collaborated with JIU on the UN project **Strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, aimed at reviewing the policy research uptake in service of the **2030 Agenda** for SD. For the first time in its **52** year history, the UN (aided by WASD) officially consulted academics and researchers from all over the world on the policy research uptake in the UN.

In **2019**, WASD also worked very closely with the UN JIU to undertake a UN system-wide review of policies, programmes, and platforms to support learning and enhancing the adequacy of training policies in the UN. The report **Policies and platforms in support of learning: towards more coherence, coordination, and convergence** was launched officially on **28** October 2020 at the opening of WASD's Online Learning Conference.

These various initiatives and events with the UN JIU have encouraged WASD to launch its **Sustainable Development Goals Tracker (SDGT)**.



Sustainability Tracker

ISSN: 2978-2384 (Print) - 2978-2392 (Online)



WASD
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



@WASD_news



WASD youtube



worldassociationSD



wasd-org-uk



www.wasd.org.uk



www.wasdtv.org

United Nations Voluntary National Review (VNR) *Reports*



<https://wasdlibrary.org/publications/books/un-vnrs-reports/>