

International Labor Organization (ILO)

International Labor Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) (UN) dedicated to improving [labor](#) conditions and [living standards](#) throughout the world. Established in 1919 by the [Treaty of Versailles](#) as an [affiliated](#) agency of the [League of Nations](#), the ILO became the first affiliated specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) in 1946. In recognition of its activities, the ILO was awarded the [Nobel Prize](#) for Peace in 1969.

The functions of the ILO include the development and promotion of standards for national legislation to protect and improve working conditions and standards of living. The ILO also provides [technical assistance](#) in social policy and administration and in workforce training; fosters cooperative organizations and rural industries; compiles labor statistics and conducts research on the social problems of international competition, unemployment and underemployment, labor and [industrial relations](#), and technological change (including [automation](#)); and helps to protect the rights of international migrants and [organized labor](#).

In its first decade, the ILO was primarily concerned with legislative and research efforts, with defining and promoting proper minimum standards of labor legislation for adoption by member states, and with arranging for collaboration among workers, employers, government delegates, and ILO professional staff. During the worldwide economic depression of the 1930s the ILO sought ways to combat widespread unemployment. With the postwar breakup of the European colonial empires and the expansion of ILO membership to include poorer and less developed countries, the ILO addressed itself to new issues, including the social problems created by the liberalization of [international trade](#), the problem of [child labor](#), and the relationship between working conditions and the [environment](#).

Among intergovernmental organizations, the ILO is unique in that its approximately 175 member states are represented not only by delegates of their governments but also by delegates of those states' employers and workers, especially trade unions. National representatives meet annually at the International Labor Conference. The ILO's executive authority is vested in a 56-member Governing Body, which is elected by the Conference. The International Labor Office in [Geneva, Switzerland](#), composed of the permanent [Secretariat](#) and professional staff, handles day-to-day operations under the supervision of an appointed director general. The ILO has international civil servants and technical-

assistance experts working in countries throughout the world. Among the ILO's many publications are the *International Labor Review* and the *Year Book of Labor Statistics*.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO is the oldest permanent specialized agency of the [United Nations](#), established in October 1945 with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving [nutrition](#) and standards of living by increasing agricultural productivity.

The FAO coordinates the efforts of governments and technical agencies in programs for developing agriculture, [forestry](#), [fisheries](#), and land and [water resources](#). It also carries out research; provides [technical assistance](#) on projects in individual countries; operates educational programs through seminars and training centers; maintains information and support services, including keeping statistics on world production, trade, and [consumption](#) of agricultural commodities; and publishes a number of periodicals, yearbooks, and research bulletins.

Headquartered in [Rome, Italy](#), the FAO maintains offices throughout the world. The organization, which has more than 180 members, is governed by the biennial FAO conference, in which each member country, as well as the [European Union](#), is represented. The conference elects a 49-member Council, which serves as its executive organ. In the late 20th century the FAO gradually became more decentralized, with about half its personnel working in field offices.

During the 1960s the FAO concentrated on programs for the development of high-yield strains of [grain](#), the elimination of protein deficiencies, the provision of rural employment, and the promotion of agricultural exports. In 1969 the organization published *An Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development*, which analyzed the main problems in world agriculture and suggested strategies for solving them. The 1974 World Food Conference, held in Rome during a period of food shortages in the southern Sahara, prompted the FAO to promote programs relating to world food security, including helping small farmers [implement](#) low-cost projects to [enhance](#) productivity. In the 1980s and '90s, FAO programs for [sustainable agriculture](#) and rural development emphasized strategies that were economically [feasible](#), environmentally sound, and technologically appropriate to the skill level of the host country.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) (UN) that was outlined in a constitution signed November 16, 1945. The constitution, which entered into force in 1946, called for the promotion of international collaboration in [education](#), [science](#), and [culture](#). The agency's permanent headquarters are in [Paris, France](#).

UNESCO's initial [emphasis](#) was on rebuilding schools, libraries, and museums that had been destroyed in Europe during [World War II](#). Since then its activities have been mainly facilitative, aimed at assisting, supporting, and complementing the national efforts of member states to eliminate [illiteracy](#) and to extend free education. UNESCO also seeks to encourage the free exchange of ideas and knowledge by organizing conferences and providing clearinghouse and exchange services.

As many less-developed countries joined the UN beginning in the 1950s, UNESCO began to devote more resources to their problems, which included [poverty](#), high rates of illiteracy, and underdevelopment. During the 1980s UNESCO was criticized by the [United States](#) and other countries for its [alleged](#) anti-Western approach to cultural issues and for the sustained expansion of its budget. These issues prompted the United States to withdraw from the organization in 1984, and the United Kingdom and [Singapore](#) withdrew a year later. After the election victory of the [Labor Party](#) in 1997, the United Kingdom rejoined UNESCO, and the United States and Singapore followed suit in 2003 and 2007, respectively. In 2011, UNESCO approved full membership for Palestine. Following the vote, the United States announced that it would no longer pay dues to the organization, because of congressional legislation that prohibited the financing of any UN agency that admitted Palestine as a full member. Because of its unpaid dues, the United States lost its [voting rights](#) in UNESCO in 2013. In 2017 U.S. officials, citing "anti-Israel bias" and the size of U.S. arrears, announced that the United States would leave UNESCO again at the end of 2018. [Israel](#) withdrew from the organization at the same time.

Besides its support of educational and science programs, UNESCO is also involved in efforts to protect the natural [environment](#) and humanity's common cultural heritage. For example, in the 1960s UNESCO helped sponsor efforts to

save ancient Egyptian monuments from the waters of the [Aswan High Dam](#), and in 1972 it sponsored an [international agreement](#) to establish a [World Heritage List](#) of cultural sites and natural areas that would enjoy government protection. In the 1980s a controversial study by UNESCO's International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, headed by the Irish statesman and Nobel Peace laureate [Seán MacBride](#), proposed a New World Information and Communication Order that would treat [communication](#) and [freedom of information](#) as basic [human rights](#) and seek to eliminate the gap in communications capabilities between developing and developed countries.

Each member state has one vote in UNESCO's General Conference, which meets every two years to set the agency's budget, its program of activities, and the scale of contributions made by member states to the agency. The 58-member Executive Board, which is elected by the General Conference, generally meets twice each year to give advice and direction to the agency's work. The [Secretariat](#) is the agency's backbone and is headed by a director general appointed by the General Conference for a six-year term. About 200 national commissions, composed of local experts, serve as governmental advisory bodies in their respective states. Most work occurs in special commissions and committees [convened](#) with expert participation. Prominent examples include the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (1961–), the World Commission on [Culture](#) and Development (1992–99), and the World Commission on the [Ethics](#) of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (1998–). The findings of these commissions are regularly published by UNESCO.

World Health Organization WHO

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) (UN) established in 1948 to further international cooperation for improved [public health](#) conditions. Although it inherited specific tasks relating to [epidemic](#) control, [quarantine](#) measures, and [drug](#) standardization from the Health Organization of the [League of Nations](#) (set up in 1923) and the International Office of Public Health at Paris (established in 1907), WHO was given a broad [mandate](#) under its constitution to promote the attainment of “the highest possible level of health” by all peoples. WHO defines health positively as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of [disease](#) or infirmity.” Each year WHO celebrates its date of establishment, April 7, 1948, as World Health Day.

With administrative headquarters in [Geneva](#), governance of WHO operates through the World Health Assembly, which meets annually as the general policy-making body, and through an Executive Board of health specialists elected for three-year terms by the assembly. The WHO [Secretariat](#), which carries out routine operations and helps [implement](#) strategies, consists of experts, staff, and field workers who have appointments at the central headquarters or at one of the six regional WHO offices or other offices located in countries around the world. The agency is led by a director general nominated by the Executive Board and appointed by the World Health Assembly. The director general is supported by a deputy director general and multiple assistant directors general, each of whom specializes in a specific area within the WHO framework, such as family, women’s, and children’s health or health systems and [innovation](#). The agency is financed primarily from annual contributions made by member governments on the basis of relative ability to pay. In addition, after 1951 WHO was [allocated](#) substantial resources from the expanded technical-assistance program of the UN.

WHO officials periodically review and update the agency’s leadership priorities. Over the period 2014–19, WHO’s leadership priorities were aimed at:

- 1. Assisting countries that seek progress toward universal health coverage.
- 2. Helping countries establish their capacity to adhere to International Health Regulations.
- 3. Increasing access to essential and high-quality medical products.

- 4. Addressing the role of social, economic, and environmental factors in public health.
- 5. Coordinating responses to noncommunicable disease.
- 6. Promoting public health and well-being in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, set forth by the UN.

The work [encompassed](#) by those priorities is spread across a number of health-related areas. For example, WHO has established a codified set of international sanitary regulations designed to standardize quarantine measures without interfering unnecessarily with trade and [air travel](#) across national boundaries. WHO also keeps member countries informed of the latest developments in [cancer](#) research, drug development, disease prevention, control of drug addiction, [vaccine](#) use, and health hazards of chemicals and other substances.

WHO sponsors measures for the control of [epidemic](#) and [endemic disease](#) by promoting mass campaigns involving nationwide vaccination programs, instruction in the use of [antibiotics](#), the improvement of laboratory and clinical facilities for early [diagnosis](#) and prevention, assistance in providing pure-water supplies and sanitation systems, and health education for people living in rural [communities](#). These campaigns have had some success against [AIDS](#), [tuberculosis](#), [malaria](#), and a variety of other diseases. In May 1980 [smallpox](#) was globally [eradicated](#), a feat largely because of the efforts of WHO. In March 2020, WHO declared the global outbreak of [COVID-19](#), a severe respiratory illness caused by a novel [coronavirus](#) that first appeared in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, to be a [pandemic](#). The agency acted as a worldwide information center on the illness, providing regular situation reports and media briefings on its spread and mortality rates; dispensing technical guidance and practical advice for governments, public health authorities, health care workers, and the public; and issuing updates of ongoing scientific research. As pandemic-related infections and deaths continued to [mount](#) in the [United States](#), Pres. [Donald J. Trump](#) accused WHO of having conspired with China to conceal the spread of the novel coronavirus in that country in the early stages of the outbreak. In July 2020 the Trump administration formally notified the UN that the United States would withdraw from the agency in July 2021. The U.S. withdrawal was halted by Trump's successor, Pres. [Joe Biden](#), on the latter's first day in office in January 2021.

In its regular activities WHO encourages the strengthening and expansion of the [public health](#) administrations of member nations, provides technical advice to governments in the preparation of long-term national health plans, sends out international teams of experts to conduct field surveys and demonstration projects, helps set up local health centers, and offers aid in the development of national training institutions for medical and nursing personnel. Through various education support programs, WHO is able to provide fellowship awards for doctors, public-health administrators, nurses, sanitary inspectors, researchers, and laboratory technicians.

The first director general of WHO was Canadian physician Brock Chisholm, who served from 1948 to 1953. Later directors general of WHO included physician and former [prime minister](#) of [Norway](#) [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (1998–2003), South Korean epidemiologist and public health expert Lee Jong-Wook (2003–06), and Chinese civil servant [Margaret Chan](#) (2007–17). Ethiopian public health official [Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#) became director general of WHO in 2017.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF, is a special program of the [United Nations](#) (UN) devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the [health](#), nutrition, [education](#), and [general welfare](#) of children.

UNICEF was created in 1946 to provide relief to children in countries devastated by [World War II](#). After 1950 the fund directed its efforts toward general programs for the improvement of children's [welfare](#), particularly in less-developed countries and in various emergency situations. The organization's broader mission was reflected in the name it adopted in 1953, the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF was awarded the [Nobel Prize](#) for Peace in 1965. It is headquartered in [New York City](#).

UNICEF has concentrated much of its effort in areas in which relatively small expenditures can have a significant impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged children, such as the prevention and treatment of disease. In keeping with this strategy, UNICEF supports immunization programs for childhood diseases and programs to prevent the spread of HIV/[AIDS](#); it also provides funding for health services, educational facilities, and other welfare services. Since 1996 UNICEF programs have been guided by the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (1989), which affirms the right of all children to "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the [treatment](#) of illness and rehabilitation of health."

UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children – victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation, and those with disabilities.

UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care.

UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.

UNICEF aims, through its country programs, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

UNICEF works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. UNICEF works day in and day out, in some of the world's toughest places, to protect children's rights and safeguard their futures. On the ground in over 190 countries and territories, it reaches more children and young people than any other international organization. But it cannot do it alone.

UNICEF unites with the [public sector](#), [private sector](#) and [civil society](#) to improve children's health, nutrition, education and protection. its individual supporters help by donating, volunteering or being advocates for children and young people in their communities.

Entirely reliant on voluntary contributions, UNICEF bring more than 70 years of field-tested expertise, a network that spans the globe, a passion for innovation, and a commitment to making every dollar count.

Now UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories and in the world's toughest places to reach the children and young people in greatest need.

UNICEF's activities are financed by both government and private contributions.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities, and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change. It supports countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, or Global Goals, which will guide global development priorities through 2030.

UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:

- [Sustainable development](#)
- [Democratic governance and peacebuilding](#)
- [Climate and disaster resilience](#)

In all its activities, UNDP encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable.

Partnership is at the heart of everything UNDP does. It offers a nearly universal presence. Its substantial expertise cuts across diverse development issues. UNDP's partners include Governments, United Nations System, **International Financial Institutions** (the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank), **Private Sector, Foundations, Civil Society Organizations, Goodwill Ambassadors and Advocates.**

UNDP remains committed to working even more closely with partners across the UN system. The UNDP Administrator is the Vice-Chair of the UN Development Group (UNDG), which unites the 40 funds, programs, specialized agencies, departments and offices of the UN system that play a role in development, these entities contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level and which collectively constitute the UN development system (UNDS)

Created by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and endorsed by the General Assembly, the UNDG is the main UNDS internal coordination mechanism at the global level. It is instrumental in enabling action on the ground and ensuring that United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) have the support, guidance and impartial oversight required as they assist governments to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. As Vice-Chair, the UNDP Administrator is responsible for the coordination of UNDG operations, including its working groups, as well as day to day management.

At the country level, this interagency structure is embedded in the Resident Coordinator System (RCS), which encompasses all organizations of the United Nations system with operational activities for development. The RCS is managed by UNDP on behalf of the entire system. The Resident Coordinator function is carried by the UNDP Resident Representative. As the designated representative of the Secretary-General, the Resident Coordinator is the leader of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and plays a central role in coordinating the UN's development operations and ensuring alignment with national priorities. UNDP provides the lion's share of the resources needed to maintain the RC system in over 130 countries. The remainder of the RCS funding comes from a cost-sharing arrangement between all participating agencies.

UNDP also administers the UN Capital Development Fund, which helps developing countries grow their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital assistance by means of grants and loans; and UN Volunteers, which fields over 6,000 volunteers from 160 countries in support of peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme UNEP is the principal UN body in the field of the environment, assisting governments to address global, regional and national environmental challenges. UNEP is the leading global authority on the environment.

UNEP's mission is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. As a follow up to the Rio+20 Conference, UNEP has been actively engaged with stakeholders in numerous events and online discussions to discuss the development of new mechanisms to promote transparency and effective engagement of Civil Society including Indigenous Peoples.

Following the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN-PFII) recommendation to UNEP in 2006, UNEP has endorsed its Indigenous Peoples Policy Guidance in November 2012, which will support UNEP staff in its engagement and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and their issues in its Programme of Work in an effective manner.

For over 50 years, UNEP has worked with governments, civil society, the private sector and UN entities to address humanity's most pressing environmental challenges - from restoring the ozone layer to protecting the world's seas and promoting a green, inclusive economy.

UNEP is driving transformational change by drilling down on the root causes of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution.

UNEP's work is focused on helping countries transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies, strengthening environmental governance and law, safeguarding ecosystems, and providing evidence-based data to inform policy decisions.

UNEP supports its 193 Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and live in harmony with nature.

Funding and partnership

For five decades, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been a leading advocate for the environment, a steadfast partner and a trusted adviser with a mission to [inform](#), [enable](#) and [inspire](#) nations and peoples to improve their quality of life – without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP monitors the state and health of the planet, ensures that science remains at the center of decision-making processes, and that environmental rule of law continues to underpin global environmental governance.

Together with its partners, UNEP has made significant progress, yet there is no denying that today, environmental challenges have reached unprecedented levels. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production have led to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

The science is clear: human health, prosperity, equity and peace are all under threat. We must urgently transform our economies and societies – and our relationship with nature.

UNEP is here to lead this transformation with its 193 [Member States](#), and in partnership with other UN agencies and stakeholders. With its experience, expertise, dynamic programmes and forward-thinking strategy, and with its dedicated staff, UNEP is uniquely positioned to be the appropriate partner in addressing and reversing the triple planetary crisis.

As UNEP relies on voluntary contributions for 95 per cent of the funding, the work is made possible by partners who fund and champion its mission.

The United Nations Population Fund UNFPA

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency, created in 1968 to support the execution of projects and programmes in the area of population and sexual and reproductive health.

The mission of UNFPA is to promote the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. UNFPA seeks to improve the lives and expand the choices of individuals and couples. Over time, the reproductive choices they make, multiplied across communities and countries, alter population structures and trends.

Mission

UNFPA helps governments, at their request, to formulate policies and strategies to reduce poverty and support sustainable development. The Fund also assists countries to collect and analyze population data that can help them understand population trends. And it encourages governments to take into account the needs of future generations, as well as those alive today.

The close links between sustainable development and sexual and reproductive health and gender equality, the other main areas of UNFPA's work, were affirmed at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, where 179 countries agreed that meeting needs for education and health, including reproductive health, is a prerequisite for long-term sustainable development. They also agreed on a roadmap for progress with the following goals:

- Universal access to reproductive health services by 2015
- Universal primary education and closing the gender gap in education by 2015
- Reducing maternal mortality by 75 per cent by 2015
- Reducing infant mortality
- Increasing life expectancy
- Reducing HIV infection rates

UNFPA is guided in its work by the Programme of Action adopted at the ICPD. Reaching the goals of the Programme of Action is also essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, UNFPA brings its special expertise in reproductive health and population issues to the worldwide collaborative effort of meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

UNFPA promotes gender equality and empower women, girls and young people to take control of their bodies and their futures. UNFPA works with partners in more than 150 countries to provide access to a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services. UNFPA's goal is ending unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal death, and gender-based violence and harmful practices including child marriage by 2030.

At present, UNFPA has field offices in 140 countries, in addition to Headquarters in New York, 5 regional offices in Bangkok, Bratislava, Cairo, Johannesburg, and Panama, and several sub-regional offices.

UN-Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. UN-Habitat is the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system.

As such, it helps countries access reliable data and information on urban conditions and trends as well as efficiently monitor and report on global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat works with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. UN-Habitat promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty.

UN-Habitat develops tools and approaches such as the urban observatory model, the City Prosperity Initiative, and the national sample of cities approach. It also builds the capacities of national and local governments, establishes local, regional, and global urban monitoring mechanisms, and supports urban data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Mission

UN-Habitat works in over 90 countries to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action.

UN-Habitat's [strategic plan 2020-2023](#) adopts a more strategic and integrated approach to solving the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century cities and other human settlements. UN-Habitat's mission embodies the four main roles of the organization, which can be summarized as: think, do, share, and partner.

THINK: UN-Habitat's normative work, including groundbreaking research and capacity-building, sets standards, proposes norms and principles, shares good practice, monitors global progress and supports formulation of policies related to sustainable cities and human settlements.

DO: UN-Habitat's operational work takes various forms of technical assistance, drawing on its unique expertise in sustainable urbanization and crisis response. UN-Habitat implements projects to provide value-added and tailored support to countries.

SHARE: Through advocacy, communication and outreach, UN-Habitat mobilizes public, political and financial support and collaborative action to inspire qualitative change in national development plans, policy frameworks, development practice and investment choices for sustainable urban development at the local, national and global level.

PARTNER: UN-Habitat collaborates with governments, intergovernmental, UN agencies, civil society organizations, foundations, academic institutions and the private sector to achieve enduring results in addressing the challenges of urbanization.

UN-Habitat Assembly

UN-Habitat Assembly is a universal body composed of the 193 member states of the United Nations and convenes every four years.

The responsibilities of the UN-Habitat Assembly are:

- i) Identify key issues and areas of focus for policy work of UN-Habitat;
- ii) Review major trends related to human settlements and urbanization;
- iii) Examine global standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanization;
- iv) Adopt resolutions, declarations, recommendations, formal decisions, reports and other documents pertaining to strategic vision and political guidance in accordance with its mandate;
- v) Recommend strategies for implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System;
- vi) Examine and approve UN-Habitat's strategic plan, to be prepared by the Executive Board;

vii) Review the Secretary-General's quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

In addition, the Assembly should also ensure the active engagement of local authorities and other stakeholders in the Assembly, in its subsidiary bodies.

Funding

The primary goal of UN-Habitat's Resource Mobilisation Strategy is to ensure sufficient, predictable, flexible, and long-term funding to deliver the results in the organization's strategic plan. It aims to be result-focused, efficient, transparent and accountable to maximise grants and investments' return on value. The total financial target is to raise USD 1.1 billion for the implementation of UN-Habitat's current strategic plan.

Resource mobilization is carried out through joint efforts by various offices in UN-Habitat. While regional and country offices primarily raise funds for technical cooperation projects in the fields, Headquarters offices focus more on raising funds for global normative programmes. This work is coordinated and supported by the Donor Relations and Resource Strategic Partnerships Unit in the External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division.

Programmes

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 includes four domains of change that guide all activities of the organization:

1. Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum;
2. Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions;
3. Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and
4. Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

Five global flagship programmes catalyze the implementation of the Strategic Plan building on past and ongoing initiatives of UN-Habitat. They achieve coherence between initiatives, by facilitating the cross-fertilization of ideas, experiences and lessons. They enable the establishment of long-term partnerships with national and local governments and other stakeholders. They enhance the integration of sustainable urbanization issues and strengthen the localization of

the Sustainable Development Goals. They integrate the social inclusion dimensions identified in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023, notably human rights, gender, children, youth and older persons, and disability.

Challenge

By 2030, UN-Habitat estimates that 3 billion people, about 40 per cent of the world's population, will need access to adequate housing. This translates into a demand for 96,000 new affordable and accessible housing units every day. Additionally, an estimated 100 million people worldwide are homeless and one in four people live in harmful conditions that to their health, safety and prosperity.

Access to housing is a precondition for access to employment, education, health, and social services. In order to address the current housing challenges, all levels of government should put housing at the center of urban policies by placing people and human rights at the forefront of urban sustainable development.

World Food Programme WFP

In 1961 UN General Assembly resolution officially establishes WFP as a joint UN/FAO effort.

The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

In a world of plenty, where enough food is produced to feed everyone on the planet, hunger should be a thing of the past. However, conflict, climate change, disasters, inequality and – most recently – the COVID-19 pandemic mean one in ten people globally are still going to bed hungry and famine looms for millions.

Powered by the passion, dedication and professionalism of over 23,000 staff worldwide, the World Food Programme (WFP) has a presence in over 120 countries and territories to carry out its mission. It brings life-saving food to people displaced by conflict and made destitute by disasters, and help individuals and communities find life-changing solutions to the multiple challenges they face in building better futures.

WFP works to enhance nutrition in women and children, support smallholder farmers in improving productivity and reducing losses, help countries and communities prepare for and cope with climate-related shocks, and boost human capital through school feeding programmes.

In conflict situations, WFP brings relief to exhausted populations and use food assistance to build pathways to peace and stability – work for which WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

Since WFP has no independent source of funds, all donations either in cash or in-kind must be accompanied by the cash needed to move, manage and monitor WFP food assistance. WFP's funding comes from:

Governments

Governments are the principal source of funding for WFP; the organization receives no dues or portions of the UN assessed contributions. On average, over

60 governments underwrite the humanitarian and development projects of WFP. All government support is on an entirely voluntary basis.

Corporations

Through corporate-giving programmes, individual companies can make a vital contribution to fighting hunger. Corporate donations of cash, product or services can help free up scarce resources to help WFP feed more hungry people. In turn, corporations engage their employees, customers and other stakeholders in a vital, life-saving mission.

Recent donations from private and not-for-profit entities have included frontline support to several emergency operations; expertise to enhance WFP's logistics and fundraising capacities; and critical cash for school feeding.

Individuals

Individuals can make a difference in the lives of the hungry. A personal donation can provide:

- Emergency food rations during a crisis
- Special food for hungry children in schools.
- Food incentives to encourage poor families to send their girls to school.
- Food as payment for people to rebuild schools, roads and other infrastructure in the wake of conflicts and natural disasters.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization that promotes global [economic growth](#) and financial stability, encourages international trade, and reduces poverty.

Quotas of member countries are a key determinant of the voting power in IMF decisions. Votes comprise one vote per 100,000 [special drawing rights](#) (SDR) of quota plus basic votes. SDRs are an international type of [monetary reserve](#) currency created by the IMF as a supplement to the existing money reserves of member countries.

Therefore:

- The IMF's mission is to promote global economic growth and financial stability, encourage international trade, and reduce poverty around the world.
- The IMF was originally created in 1945 as part of the Bretton Woods agreement, which attempted to encourage international financial cooperation by introducing a system of convertible currencies at fixed exchange rates.
- The IMF collects massive amounts of data on national economies, international trade, and the global economy in aggregate and provides economic forecasts.
- One of the IMF's most important functions is to make loans to countries that are experiencing economic distress to prevent or mitigate financial crises.

Understanding the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is based in Washington, D.C. The organization is currently composed of 190 member countries, each of which has representation on the IMF's executive board in proportion to its financial importance. Quotas are a key determinant of the voting power in IMF decisions. Votes comprise one vote per SDR100,000 of quota plus basic votes (same for all members).

The IMF's mission is to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

History of the IMF

The IMF was originally created in 1945 as part of the [Bretton Woods Agreement](#), which attempted to encourage international financial cooperation by introducing a system of convertible currencies at [fixed exchange rates](#). The dollar was redeemable for gold at \$35 per ounce at the time.

The IMF also acted as a gatekeeper: Countries were not eligible for membership in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)—a [World Bank](#) forerunner that the Bretton Woods agreement created in order to fund the reconstruction of Europe after World War II—unless they were members of the IMF.

Since the Bretton Woods system collapsed in the 1970s, the IMF has promoted the system of [floating exchange rates](#), meaning that market forces determine the value of currencies relative to one another. This system remains in place today.

IMF activities

The IMF's primary methods for achieving these goals are monitoring capacity building and lending.

1. Surveillance

The IMF collects massive amounts of data on national economies, [international trade](#), and the global economy in aggregate. The organization also provides regularly updated economic forecasts at the national and international levels. These forecasts, published in the World Economic Outlook, are accompanied by lengthy discussions on the effect of fiscal, monetary, and trade policies on growth prospects and financial stability.

2. Capacity Building

The IMF provides technical assistance, training, and policy advice to member countries through its capacity-building programs. These programs include

training in data collection and analysis, which feed into the IMF's project of monitoring national and global economies.

3. Lending

The IMF makes loans to countries that are experiencing economic distress to prevent or mitigate financial crises. Members contribute the funds for this lending to a pool based on a quota system.

IMF funds are often conditional on recipients making reforms to increase their growth potential and financial stability. Structural adjustment programs, as these conditional loans are known, have attracted criticism for exacerbating poverty and reproducing colonialist structures.

Where does the IMF get its money?

The IMF gets its money through quotas and subscriptions from its member countries. These contributions are based on the size of the country's economy, making the U.S., with the world's largest economy, the largest contributor.

How much are the IMF grants?

IMF grants are given to charities in Washington, D.C., and member countries. The grants are meant to foster economic independence through education and economic development. The average grant size is \$15,000.

What Is the difference between the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank?

The International Monetary Fund is primarily focused on the stability of the global monetary system and monitoring the currencies of the world. The aim of the World Bank is to reduce poverty across the world and strengthen the low- to middle-class populations.

The IMF works to help reduce poverty, encourage trade, and promote financial stability and economic growth around the world. It accomplishes this by monitoring capacity building and providing loans. While the IMF is currently working on these goals with its 190 member nations, the organization has still faced criticism for the possible negative impacts of its structural adjustment programs.

The World Bank Group (1)

The World Bank Group is the world's most prominent development bank, with a stated mandate and mission to reduce world poverty. It has 189 member countries and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

As part of the Bretton Woods agreement, The World Bank Group was created on December 27, 1945. The World Bank Group provides advice and financial assistance in the form of discounted loans and grants to countries struggling with poverty, with a focus on areas such as wellness, education, and agriculture. The World Bank Group has 189 member states, with the U.S. as the bank's largest shareholder.

The World Bank Group [provides advice and financial assistance](#) in the form of discounted loans and grants to countries struggling with poverty, with a focus on areas such as wellness, education, and agriculture. It was created on December 27, 1945, as part of the [Bretton Woods](#) agreement and consists of five organizations:

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The International Development Association (IDA)
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

The first two institutions, the IBRD and the IDA, comprise the [World Bank](#), a subgroup within the World Bank Group.

The World Bank Group has 189 member states, with the U.S. as the bank's largest shareholder. The U.S. president nominates the bank's president, all of whom have so far been U.S. citizens. The bank's headquarters is in Washington, D.C.

According to the World Bank Group's website, it has two goals it aims to accomplish by 2030: to end extreme poverty, defined as reducing the share of the world population living on less than \$1.90 per day to 3%, and to increase the incomes of the lowest-earning 40% of every country.

In 2021, the World Bank Group has committed over \$125 billion in funds to over 100 countries "to fight the health, economic, and social impacts of the pandemic, the fastest and largest crisis response in our history."

The World Bank Group (2)

The World Bank is an international organization dedicated to providing financing, advice, and research to developing nations to aid their economic advancement. The bank predominantly acts as an organization that attempts to fight poverty by offering developmental assistance to middle- and low-income countries. So:

- The World Bank is an international organization that provides financing, advice, and research to developing nations to help advance their economies.
- The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)—founded simultaneously under the Bretton Woods Agreement—both seek to serve international governments.
- The World Bank has expanded to become known as the World Bank Group with five cooperative organizations, sometimes known as the World Banks.
- The World Bank Group offers a multitude of proprietary financial assistance, products, and solutions for international governments, as well as a range of research-based thought leadership for the global economy at large.
- The World Bank's Human Capital Project seeks to help nations invest in and develop their human capital to produce a better society and economy.

Understanding the World Bank

The World Bank is a provider of financial and technical assistance to individual countries around the globe. The bank considers itself a unique [financial institution](#) that sets up partnerships to reduce poverty and support [economic development](#).

The World Bank supplies qualifying governments with [low-interest loans, zero-interest credits, and grants](#), all to support the development of individual economies. Debt borrowings and cash infusions help with global education, healthcare, public administration, infrastructure, and private-sector development. The World Bank also shares information with various entities through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance. It offers advice and training for both the public and private sectors.

World Bank Structure

Through the years, the World Bank has expanded from a single institution to a group of five unique and cooperative institutional organizations, known as the World Banks or collectively as the World Bank Group. The first organization is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an institution that provides [debt financing](#) to governments that are considered [middle-income](#). The second organization within the World Bank Group is the International Development Association (IDA), a group that gives interest-free loans to the governments of poor countries.

The [International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#), the third organization, focuses on the private sector and provides developing countries with investment financing and financial advisory services. The fourth part of the World Bank Group is the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), an organization that promotes foreign direct investments in developing countries. The fifth organization is the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), an entity that provides arbitration on international investment disputes.

World Bank Financials

The World Bank is an organization, rather than a bank. Therefore, its financials are not comparable to traditional financial institutions.

Within the organization operates different sectors: the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

The IBRD, the original World Bank, loans money to creditworthy low-income or middle-income countries. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the IBRD recorded net interest revenues of \$3.21 billion and allocable income of \$1.31 billion.

The IDA issues credits, [or interest-free loans](#), to the poorest nations. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the World Bank recorded an adjusted net income of \$193 million.

IFC provides funds and guidance to the private sector for the purpose of helping developing nations stay on a growth trajectory. For the fiscal year ended June 30,

2023, the World Bank recorded net income gain of \$672 million and a total comprehensive income gain of \$1,386 million.

Lastly, MIGA insures investments to the poorest countries to help reduce poverty and improve the welfare of a nation's citizens. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, MIGA recorded net interest revenues of \$139 million.

For the fiscal year 2023, the World Bank has distributed \$38.57 billion in IBRD loans, \$26.6 billion in interest-free loans or credits, and \$7.28 billion in grants.

Who Owns the World Bank?

No person, organization, government, or nation owns the World Bank. It is an organization made up of member countries, represented by a Board of Governors. This Board governs the organization, creates policies, and appoints executive directors. The executive directors govern the Bank's business and budget, and grant loan approvals. The president and managers manage the day-to-day operations.

Where Does the World Bank Get Its Money?

The World Bank receives funding from wealthy nations and from the issuance of debt securities, such as bonds.

Examples of What the World Bank Does

The World Bank provides financing, advice, and other resources to developing countries in the areas of education, public safety, health, and other areas of need. Often, nations, organizations, and other institutions partner with the World Bank to sponsor development projects.

Human Capital Project

In 2017, the World Bank created the Human Capital Project, which seeks to help countries invest in and develop their people to be productive citizens and active contributors to their economy. World leaders are urged to prioritize investments in education, healthcare, and social protections, and, in return, they will realize a stronger economy full of healthy, thriving adults.

The Human Capital project outlines how governments should invest in providing quality, affordable childcare to support and improve child development, increase women's access to better employment opportunities, and increase economic growth, to name a few.

To build human capital globally, the World Bank has identified several areas of focus: the Human Capital Index (HCI), measurement and research, and country engagement.

Created in October 2018, the Human Capital Index summarizes a nation's investments in its human capital, specifically concerning health and education. The index is used to identify what is lost from the lack of investments in human capital; it also prompts leaders to think of how to remedy these deficiencies.

Beyond analyzing [human capital](#), the World Bank measures the effectiveness of a nation's educational and healthcare systems. Doing so helps them identify what should be continued and what should be changed. It can also give insight on where to allocate resources.

Country engagement requires a country to take a "whole government" approach to addressing factors that compromise human capital. The nation, its leaders, and influencers band together to champion reducing poverty and increasing shared prosperity.

National Immunization Support Project

In April 2016, the World Bank approved the National Immunization Support Project for Pakistan. This project, costing an estimated \$377.41 million, aims to increase the equitable distribution of vaccines to children ages 0 to 23 months.

The project consists of five components that are designed to enhance the country's vaccine distribution to the most vulnerable. The first component creates a governance structure and addresses logistics, monitoring, and evaluation systems. The second component involves performance planning and the alignment of skilled human resources.

The third component increases the awareness of and promotes the program among Pakistan's citizens, as well as addresses how their schools' curriculum aligns with this initiative. The fourth component makes it possible to obtain the

necessary equipment to widely distribute vaccines and increase the supply chain for vaccines. Lastly, the fifth component includes being able to expand the program's reach and enhance research and development in this field.

Learning for the Future

The Learning for the Future project was created to enhance children's readiness for school and the effectiveness of secondary instruction in specific Kyrgyz Republic communities. The project consists of two components: increasing the equitable access of early childhood education and improving the effectiveness of instruction in secondary education.

To meet these objectives, the program establishes 500 community-based kindergarten programs, which will allow for the enrollment of 20,000 children. To increase the effectiveness of instruction, the project finances a training program for 500 new teachers and provides digital resources to complement existing learning resources (e.g., textbooks). The project also assesses how well students learn, cognitively and non-cognitively.

World Bank Financials

The World Bank is an organization, rather than a bank. Therefore, its financials are not comparable to traditional financial institutions.

Within the organization operates different sectors: the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

The IBRD, the original World Bank, loans money to creditworthy low-income or middle-income countries.⁹ For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the IBRD recorded net interest revenues of \$3.21 billion and allocable income of \$1.31 billion. Its equity-to-loans ratio was 22.0%.

The IDA issues credits, [or interest-free loans](#), to the poorest nations.¹¹ For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the World Bank recorded an adjusted net income of \$193 million and a deployable strategic capital (DSC) ratio of 24.1%, which is the available capital divided by the capital needed to support the portfolio.¹²

IFC provides funds and guidance to the private sector for the purpose of helping developing nations stay on a growth trajectory.¹³ For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the World Bank recorded net income gain of \$672 million and a total comprehensive income gain of \$1,386 million. Its Capital Utilization Ratio (CUR) ratio was 61%.

Lastly, MIGA insures investments to the poorest countries to help reduce poverty and improve the welfare of a nation's citizens.¹⁵ For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, MIGA recorded net interest revenues of \$139 million.¹⁶

For the fiscal year 2023, the World Bank has distributed \$38.57 billion in IBRD loans, \$26.6 billion in interest-free loans or credits, and \$7.28 billion in grants.

History of the World Bank

The World Bank was created in 1944 out of the [Bretton Woods Agreement](#), which was secured under the auspices of the United Nations in the latter days of World War II. The Bretton Woods Agreement included several components: a collective international monetary system, the formation of the World Bank, and the creation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Since their founding, both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have worked toward many of the same goals. The original goals of both [the World Bank and IMF](#) were to support European and Asian countries needing financing to fund post-war reconstruction efforts.

Both the World Bank and IMF outlasted the collective international monetary system which was central to the Bretton Woods Agreement. President Nixon halted the Bretton Woods international monetary system in the 1970s.¹⁹ However, the World Bank and IMF remained open and continued to thrive on providing worldwide aid.

The World Bank and IMF are headquartered in Washington, D.C. The World Bank has staff in more than 170 offices worldwide.

Though titled as a bank, the World Bank, is not necessarily a bank in the traditional, chartered meanings of the word. The World Bank and its subsidiary groups operate within their own provisions and develop their own proprietary

financial assistance products, all with the same goal of serving countries' capital needs internationally.

The World Bank's counterpart, the IMF, is structured more like a credit fund.²¹ The differing in the structuring of the two entities and their product offerings allows them to provide different types of financial lending and financing support. Each entity also has several of its own distinct responsibilities for serving the global economy.

World Bank Structure

Through the years, the World Bank has expanded from a single institution to a group of five unique and cooperative institutional organizations, known as the World Banks or collectively as the World Bank Group. The first organization is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an institution that provides [debt financing](#) to governments that are considered [middle-income](#).⁹ The second organization within the World Bank Group is the International Development Association (IDA), a group that gives interest-free loans to the governments of poor countries.

The [International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#), the third organization, focuses on the private sector and provides developing countries with investment financing and financial advisory services.¹³ The fourth part of the World Bank Group is the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), an organization that promotes foreign direct investments in developing countries.¹⁵ The fifth organization is the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), an entity that provides arbitration on international investment disputes.

What Is the Purpose of the World Bank?

The World Bank is an organization that [provides funds, advice, and research](#) to developing nations to help advance their economy and combat poverty.²

Who Owns the World Bank?

No person, organization, government, or nation owns the World Bank. It is an organization made up of member countries, represented by a Board of Governors. This Board governs the organization, creates policies, and appoints executive directors. The executive directors govern the Bank's business and budget, and

grant loan approvals. The president and managers manage the day-to-day operations.²³

Where Does the World Bank Get Its Money?

The World Bank receives funding from wealthy nations and from the issuance of debt securities, such as bonds.

Which Country Is the World Bank In?

The World Bank is headquartered in Washington D.C.; however, it has locations in more than 170 countries, including Benin, Argentina, and China.