



## REDUCING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

UNICEF/MARK NAFTALIN

### ... to give meaning to the commitment to leave no one behind

As the world faces compounding crises – from a cost-of-living crunch to rising inequalities and escalating debt burdens – UN DESA remains steadfast in its commitment to leave no one behind. In 2023–2024, the Department continued to showcase its diverse work in reducing poverty and inequality while catalysing transformative changes across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### UN DESA...

Galvanized collective efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and find innovative solutions to food insecurity.  
Supported the creation of decent work opportunities, including in micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises.

Advocated for cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy.  
Advanced disability inclusion and supported Indigenous Peoples' rights.  
Addressed global challenges and supported countries facing structural vulnerabilities and crisis.

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## REDUCING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

UN DESA's initiatives to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities, and address the structural weaknesses of countries in crisis highlight its dedication to creating a fairer and more equitable world for everyone. By empowering small and medium-sized businesses, promoting innovative solutions, supporting cooperatives, advocating for Indigenous Peoples' rights, and advancing disability

### Galvanizing action to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities

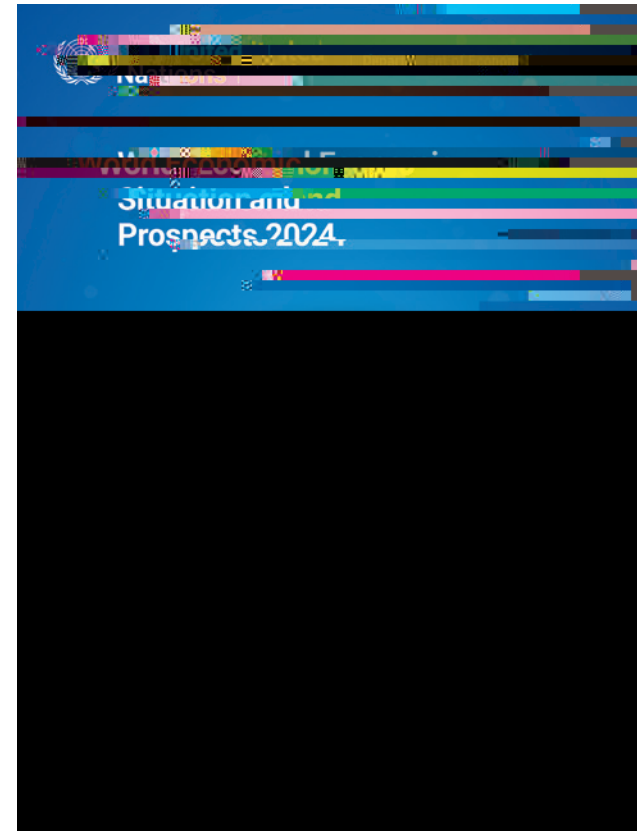
UN DESA supported the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development in February 2024, which emphasized the need for context-specific policies, strengthened national statistical capacities, and robust social protection systems to accelerate poverty eradication. Meanwhile, UN DESA's tireless support to Member States in preparing an ambitious Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025, demonstrates its commitment to addressing persistent gaps and mobilizing greater investments for the social pillar of sustainable development.

On 17 October 2023, UN DESA promoted the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by highlighting the theme of decent work and social protection, emphasizing the need for dignified working conditions and income security for all. The Department drew on first-hand testimonials and joined those living in poverty and other stakeholders in calling for political leaders across the world to prioritize human dignity in decision-making, emphasizing the importance of global partnerships to achieve a poverty-free world.

### Calling for collective action to address structural vulnerabilities of countries

UN DESA's normative and analytical work has shed light on critical global challenges to eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. Produced in partnership with United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations Regional Commissions, the flagship *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024* report raised concerns about soaring debt costs hindering investment in education, health, and social protection systems in countries in vulnerable and special situations, including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Against this backdrop, the report called for stronger and more effective global cooperation to reinvigorate the multilateral trading system, reform development finance, address debt challenges, and scale up climate financing.

UN DESA also supported the independent experts of the Committee for Development Policy to undertake



Participants at the Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated on 17 October 2023. | UN DESA



Meshell Whyte, ATD 4th World Activist at the 2023 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. | UN DESA

The Department worked with UN Member States to proclaim 2025 the International Year of Cooperatives by preparing reports, supporting negotiations for the underlying resolution, and establishing mechanisms for its observance. UN DESA plays a key role in coordinating UN activities on cooperatives, conducting capacity-development, and collaborating with diverse partners in the social and solidarity economy.

### **Supporting Indigenous Peoples' rights**

UN DESA's commitment to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples is exemplified by its assistance to the Government of Paraguay from August to November

Peoples. Through capacity-building workshops and comprehensive analysis of existing efforts and gaps, UN DESA facilitated collaboration between government officials, Indigenous representatives, and other stakeholders. The workshops focused on practical actions to improve the well-being and rights of Paraguay's Indigenous Peoples, who face poverty, discrimination, and limited access to essential services. UN DESA's collaboration with the Government of Paraguay and the UN Country Team is helping prioritize the needs of Indigenous Peoples and address their disadvantages.

### Advancing and promoting disability inclusion across all fronts

UN DESA is a long-standing champion for disability inclusion. In June 2024, the Department played

a pivotal role in ensuring meaningful participation of disability experts from traditionally marginalized groups in the 17th Conference of States Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP17). By consulting with representatives from organizations of Indigenous women with disabilities, deaf persons, and those with deaf blindness on key decisions, UN DESA fostered an inclusive and diverse Conference. This led to record social media engagement, raising awareness and fostering dialogue on disability rights. The Department's major *UN Disability and Development Report 2024*, produced through collaboration with more than 200 experts including representative organizations of persons with disabilities, also provides a robust and up-to-date analytical basis for disability-inclusive implementation of the SDGs globally.

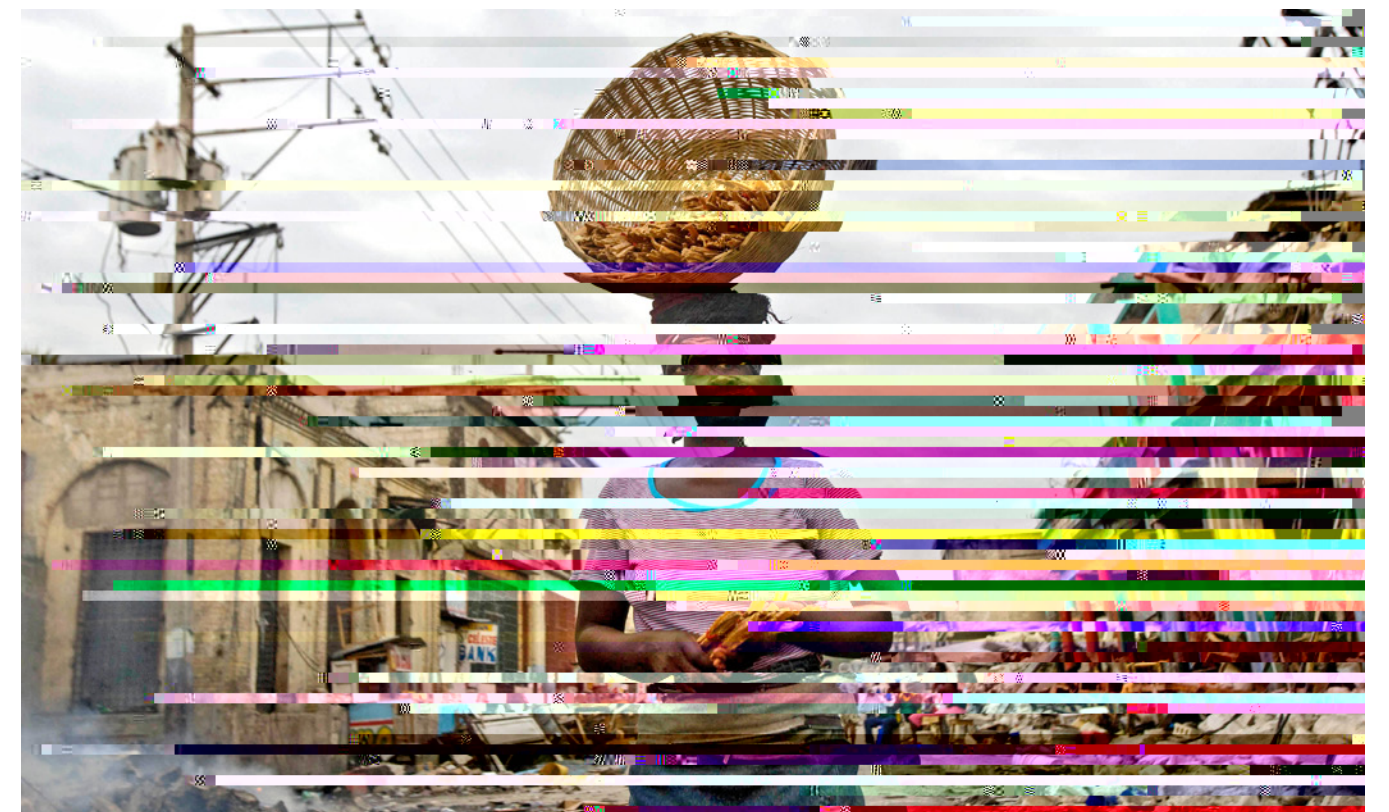


Delegates at COSP17. | UN DESA



### Spotlighting the crisis in Haiti and need for scaled-up international support

UN DESA's commitment to addressing complex crises and supporting the people whose lives and livelihoods they threaten is evident in its support to the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (AHAGH). This group has been actively monitoring the situation, engaging stakeholders, and advocating for a holistic approach to address the multifaceted crisis in Haiti. In June 2024, the Department supported the AHAGH meeting in its efforts to address the latest developments concerning the implementation of the UN Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development for Haiti (2023–2027). The meeting underscored the urgency to deploy the Multinational Security Support Mission to assist the Haitian National Police in securing the country and boosting economic activity, as well as a need for funding for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts. UN DESA will continue to contribute to efforts to stabilize Haiti and promote sustainable development in the country.



A woman walks by a fire in the rubble-filled streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. | UN PHOTO/MARCO DORMINO