

# Global Youth Development Index

## Update Report 2023



The Commonwealth



# Global Youth Development Index Update Report

2023



The Commonwealth

Commonwealth Secretariat  
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# Acronyms

CYP	Commonwealth Youth Programme	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EU	European Union	PPP	purchasing power parity
GPI	Gender Parity Index	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GWP	Gallup World Poll	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
IHME GBD	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Global Burden of Disease Study	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IEP	Institute of Economics and Peace	YDI	Youth Development Index
ILO	International Labour Organization	YLL	years of life lost
ITU	International Telecommunication Union		
KNN	k-nearest neighbours		
MENA	Middle East and North Africa		
NEET	not in education, employment or training		





# Foreword

The Commonwealth Charter is unequivocal: the future success of the Commonwealth rests with our 1.5 billion young people.

For more than 50 years, the Commonwealth Youth Programme has worked to empower young people, provide them with the tools they need to reach their full potential and engage with them to be the change-makers of today as well as the leaders of tomorrow.

During the Commonwealth Year of Youth, which continues until the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024, we have witnessed astounding contributions from young people.

I have had the privilege of interacting with extraordinary young leaders, including the winners of the Commonwealth Youth Awards and the Commonwealth Innovation Awards. They represent a wider group of their peers - activists, advocates, entrepreneurs, researchers and other professionals, all committed to being architects of change.

We have also integrated youth leaders into our meetings with Commonwealth leaders and government ministers, not only to put them at the centre of decision-making but to foster greater inclusion in politics and governance.

In July 2023, at the Commonwealth Youth Work Conference, we brought professional youth workers, allied professionals and policy-makers together to share best practices, build their competencies and chart new strategic directions for more empowering investments in their success.

And through our partnerships with technology leaders, including Intel and Simplilearn, we are equipping tens of thousands of young people across the Commonwealth with the skills and confidence in AI and other digital technologies that can enable them to not only thrive in the future economy but shape it.

These initiatives are a testament to our mandate to deliver more for young people across the Commonwealth. We are therefore committed to monitoring, in a systematic way, the progress we are collectively making.



In collaboration with our partners, the Commonwealth Secretariat will continue to provide our countries with data to help measure that progress and elucidate where interventions may be necessary. *This Global Youth Development Index (YDI) Update Report 2023* provides a snapshot of the context in which young people are living.

The report examines the extent to which young people are learning, earning and living healthy, engaged and peaceful lives. It also shows whether they are living in societies that value their views, include their perspectives and recognise their contributions.

The scores, highlighted across the six domains of the index, reveal a trend of steady advancement in the conditions for positive youth development over the last 12 years. The progress we have made together is encouraging: the task now is to accelerate our collective action to achieve more significant impact.

For the first time, this data is also available in an interactive digital format, allowing you to interrogate the data for your regions and countries. The YDI methodology is also available for organisations and governments wishing to undertake additional regional and national assessments. I encourage you to use these insights in your planning and development efforts, as we are doing.

Together, we can co-create a more peaceful and sustainable future for our young people.

*The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC  
Secretary General of the Commonwealth  
April 2024*

# About this report

The Commonwealth is an association of 56 independent countries comprising large and small, developed and developing, landlocked and island economies. As the main intergovernmental body of the association, the Commonwealth Secretariat works with member governments to deliver on priorities agreed by Commonwealth Heads of Government and promotes international consensus building. It provides technical assistance and advisory services to members, helping governments achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development. The Secretariat's work programme encompasses initiatives in democracy, rule of law, human rights, governance, and social and economic development.

The Youth Development Index 2023 provides an interim update on the state of youth development up to 2022, reflecting the most up-to-date comparable data available. This means the report cannot account fully for changes since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic is still emerging and needs to be further

assessed at national and regional levels before it can be assessed comparatively across the globe.

However, this 2023 update report, published during the Commonwealth Year of Youth and for the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, will support policy-makers, governments and the public to reflect on progress made over more than a decade and to develop new strategies for strengthening the enabling environment for youth empowerment. The results in each of the domain areas provide insights into where to invest in co-creating with young people innovative and sustainable solutions for a common future.

The 2023 report updates the data for indicators previously selected and validated by a YDI Technical Group of Experts comprising representatives from governments, development organisations, youth networks, and research and academic institutions. The methodology, outlined in Annex 1, remains unchanged since the 2020 report, which means this update is comparable with previous iterations of the index.



# The Youth Development Index at a Glance



## Chapter 1

# The Youth Development Index at a Glance

### 1.1 What is the Youth Development Index?

The Youth Development Index (YDI) is a resource for researchers, policy-makers and civil society, including young people, to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) associated with youth development. This is a process that enhances the status of young people, empowering them to build on their competences and capabilities for life and enabling them to contribute to and benefit from a politically stable, economically viable and legally supportive environment, ensuring their full participation as active citizens in their countries.

The 2023 YDI measures progress in 183 countries, including 50 of the 56 Commonwealth countries. It covers six domains of youth development: Education, Employment and Opportunity, Equality and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, Peace and Security, and Political and Civic Participation. Changes in 27 indicators across the six domains are tracked over a 12-year period from 2010 to 2022. As is customary with global development indices, references to the 2023 YDI score reflect data up to the previous year. Where indicators are used that refer specifically to the situation of the youth population, the definition of youth is of persons 15–29 years old, though data is sometimes available only for those 15–24 years old.

The methodology and indicators used to compile the 2023 YDI are the same as those used in the 2020 report, making this the first update that can be directly compared with a previous report. Annex 1 presents full details of the indicators comprising the methodology, and Annex 2 lists the country rankings and scores against the index and its indicators (annex 2).

### 1.2 How should we interpret the YDI?

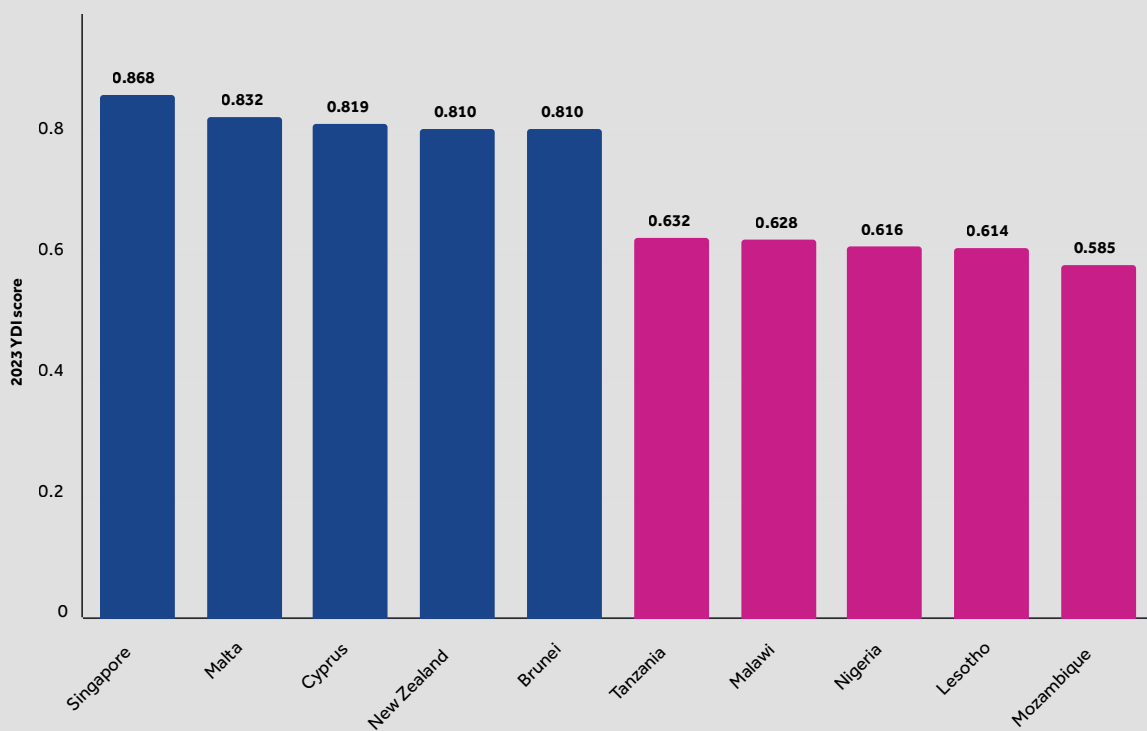
The YDI score is a number between 0 and 1, with 1 representing the highest possible level of youth development attainable across all indicators. A score of 0, therefore, reflects little to no youth development.

Chapter 2, which outlines the overall and domain scores countries have achieved, makes reference to four levels of youth development: 'very high', 'high', 'medium' and 'low'. A country's level of youth development is dependent on its position relative to other countries on a spectrum of 'relatively good' to 'relatively poor'. This relative approach acknowledges that a score of 1 is idealistic and practically impossible, and a score of 0 is also practically impossible.

As a global comparison tool, the YDI uses national-level data, which can sometimes mask variations in youth development at sub-national levels. It compares scores between countries and regions but does not provide insights into variations or inequalities in youth



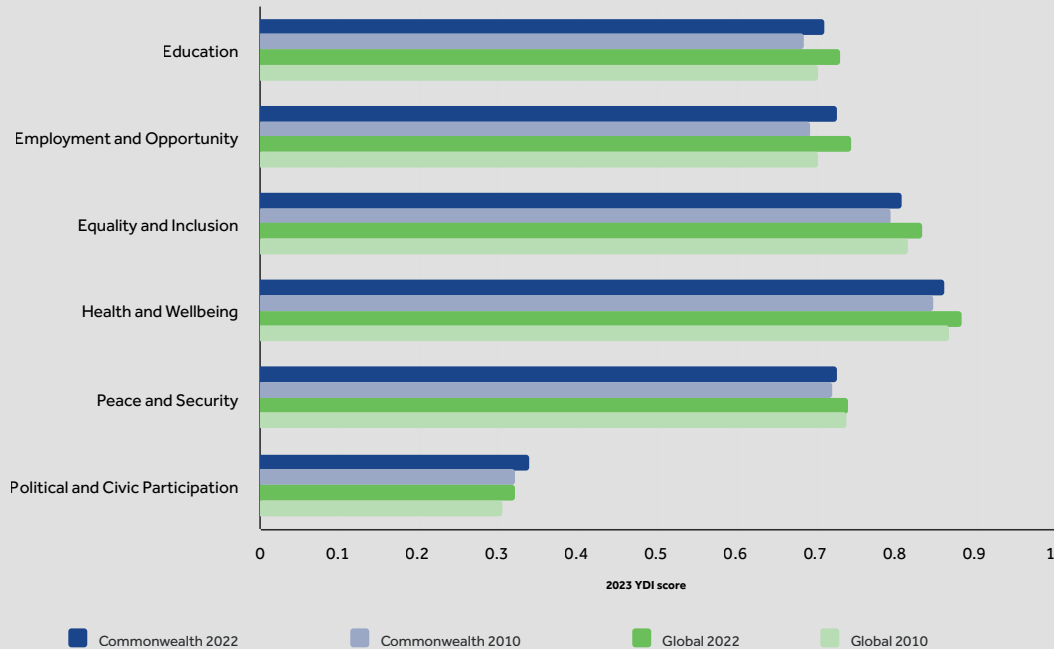
**Figure 1.1 Top and lowest ranked Commonwealth countries by 2023 YDI score**



development within a country. It also does not measure every aspect of youth development – focusing instead on a core set of indicators that expert literature has shown heavily influences development outcomes for young people. There is a strong relationship between the YDI and most of the SDGs – meaning that countries that perform well on youth development also tend to have made greater progress towards the SDGs.

In summary, the YDI allows us to take a temperature check on progress towards youth development in the world. Increasing or declining scores signal the need for further investigation and dialogue on the situation of young people and for prompt action to scale up good practice or undertake reforms. It is not a definitive diagnosis or situation analysis of each country's policies or programmes. However, it is an indication of collective progress or decline towards ensuring that young people are not left behind in the pursuit of the SDGs.

**Figure 1.2 Global and Commonwealth average scores by domain, 2010 and 2022**



## 1.3 What have we learned from the 2023 update?

### 1.3.1 Summary of global progress

Progress on youth development continues to be slow. Overall, over the past 12 years (2010–2022), the global average YDI score has improved by 2.8 per cent. There has been moderate but steady improvement every year.

Unexpectedly, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic did not interrupt this trend, with the global score rising by 0.54 per cent between 2019 and 2021, slightly higher than the average two-year rate of improvement over the decade. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is only beginning to be revealed, however, and the trends need to be studied in subsequent years to see if further changes become apparent. A long-view analysis is prominent in this update report, covering multiple years, as this is helpful in understanding broad trends, giving a better picture of progress than shorter timeframes, which unusual changes in a single year may influence. However, where possible, insights are shared on the changes since the last 2020 YDI report, which included data up to 2018.

In summary, the following are the highlights from the 2023 results across 183 countries.

- Singapore had the highest level of youth development in the 2023 YDI, followed by Denmark, Portugal, Iceland and Slovenia.
- Afghanistan had the lowest level, followed by Central African Republic, Niger, Chad and Somalia.
- Of the 183 countries included in the 2023 YDI, 166, or 90.7 per cent, recorded improvements over the 12-year period.
- The five countries recording the greatest improvements from 2010 to 2022 were Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, Myanmar, Indonesia and Burkina Faso.
- Niger, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Angola recorded the largest deteriorations.
- On average, the top five most improved countries saw their scores rise by 13.0 per cent, while the five largest fallers saw an average deterioration of 4.0 per cent.
- All six YDI domains – Education, Employment and Opportunity, Equality and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, Peace and Security, and Political and Civic Participation – saw their global average scores improve since 2010. However, the global average scores on Political and Civic Participation are still the lowest in absolute terms, reaching a peak of only 0.321 in 2021 and staying constant in 2022. This

suggests there is need to invest more in the enabling environment for youth engagement in governance, decision-making and civic action.

- The largest global improvement was recorded in the Employment and Opportunity domain, which improved by 6.1 per cent between 2010 and 2022.
- The Peace and Security domain recorded the smallest global improvement, with its global score improving by only 0.22 per cent.
- All of the nine global regional groupings used in this report recorded improvements in their average YDI scores from 2010 to 2022.
- Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the largest improvement in its average youth development levels, at 3.81 per cent. This region was followed by South America, South Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Russia and Eurasia region.

### 1.3.2 Summary of Commonwealth progress

Over the 12-year period from 2010 to 2022, Commonwealth countries recorded an average improvement in youth development of 2.6 per cent, lower than the 2.8 per cent improvement in the global average. Since 2020, the improvement has been by a marginal 0.24 per cent, reinforcing the finding that, though positive, the pace of progress continues to be very slow.

Of the 50 Commonwealth countries included in the 2023 YDI, 47, or 94.0 per cent, saw their scores improve. The highlights of the Commonwealth results follow.

Singapore remains the top-ranked Commonwealth country, followed by Malta, Cyprus, New Zealand and Brunei.

Mozambique remains the lowest-ranked Commonwealth country, followed by Lesotho, Nigeria, Malawi and Tanzania, as shown in Figure 1.1.

Progress in the thematic areas is promising when viewed over the 12 years, as is shown in Figure 1.2. On average, the Commonwealth has made progress in all six YDI domains, with the largest improvement seen in the Political and Civic Participation and the Employment and Opportunity domains. Commonwealth countries, which have benefited from over 50 years of investment in youth policy development through the Commonwealth Youth

Programme (CYP), are performing better than the global average.

However, average scores on Political and Civic Participation, both globally and in the Commonwealth, are still the lowest on the index in absolute terms. The highest average score achieved on Political and Civic Participation in the Commonwealth was 0.339, first achieved in 2016, after which the score declined for two years before gradually increasing and returning to its peak level of 0.339 in 2021, where it remained constant to 2022. Scores have improved since 2010 but this domain continues to perform poorly relative to other domains.

Peace and Security registered the smallest improvement of all domains among Commonwealth countries, recording an average improvement of 0.75 per cent over 12 years – still above the global average. At the same time, average scores declined slightly since 2019, suggesting a weaker environment for peace and security.

More than two-thirds of Commonwealth countries (62.0 per cent) remain in the low and medium categories of youth development. Continued tracking of progress on the YDI is critical to enable us to develop strategies to improve the performance of these countries, and to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and a changing global environment on prospects for positive change.

## 1.4 What new data has become available?

This update provides new data points for 22 of the 27 indicators covered by the index. In other words, the latest year of data availability has been updated beyond 2018 for these indicators. Since the last report, nine indicators have globally comparable data up to 2019, one indicator is updated to 2020, nine indicators have data up to 2021 and three indicators have been updated to 2022. The details of these are outlined in Table A.1 in Annex 1.

These variations reflect the fact that youth-disaggregated data is still limited in some areas. Data on youth-specific digital engagement, the inclusion of young people with disabilities, and experiences of crime, violence, peace and security are still inadequate, and cannot yet be compared across countries with up-to-date evidence. This, despite the fact that the aforementioned development issues were highlighted,



during the COVID-19 pandemic, as priorities for monitoring equity in development outcomes between the most disadvantaged and the most privileged groups of people. Furthermore, data is still limited for the smallest states, including six Commonwealth states that could not be included in the index: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Nauru, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tuvalu. The small overseas territories of the United Kingdom are also excluded.

A renewed focus on data collection and disaggregation for youth, as well as continued and more frequent updating of the YDI through strengthened partnerships, is imperative if we are to effectively monitor progress towards the 2030 deadline for the SDGs. A few indicators that can be reviewed in subsequent years – for example per capita analysis of underemployment rates – are among the priorities for future updates.

## 1.5 What are the implications for the Year of Youth and beyond?

During this Commonwealth Year of Youth, the Secretariat has been supporting member countries and other stakeholders to engage with all our multilateral and regional partners to:

- energise stakeholders to recommit to the inclusive participation of young people
- empower young people to co-lead and co-create solutions to the challenges of development, democracy, diversity and peace
- envision a renewed Commonwealth agenda for youth development
- engage partners to increase investment in creating an enabling environment for youth empowerment.

The findings of this report call for a recommitment to youth development through these four objectives, given that progress remains slow. The results also call for the building of legacy initiatives that will revitalise the CYP, youth-led networks and initiatives, as vehicles to support member countries to reap improved scores in the weakest and waning domains of the index, including on Political and Civic Participation and on Peace and Security.



# The Global Picture

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## Chapter 2

# The Global Picture

In 2022, the world population reached 8 billion people, with 15-to-29-year-olds numbering 1.8 billion, or around 23.0 per cent of the total (World Bank, 2022). Almost half of the global population, and 60.0 per cent of the Commonwealth population, are under 30 years old.

However, the share of young people in the world is declining and that of older people is steadily increasing. Where societies are not prepared to manage the demographic transition, there may be undesirable consequences, such as workforce shortages, slowdowns in economic growth, overstretching of pension and healthcare systems, and the dissipation of demographic dividends (Bloom, 2016).

A critical element of preparedness is the creation of an enabling environment that will equip young people to 'age well' by maintaining their health, wellbeing and productivity now in order to reap the benefits in the future. The 2023 YDI summarises the state of youth development in 183 countries, including 50 of the 56 Commonwealth countries. This chapter reports on the trends in youth development from 2010 to 2022 and highlights the relative progress countries have made in improving the prospects and outcomes for their young citizens.

### 2.1 Overview

Figure 2.1 shows the worldwide results of the 2023 YDI. The countries in dark blue – mostly in Europe – have very high levels of youth development relative to the rest of the world. Countries in the lightest blue – mostly in Africa, Central America and South Asia –

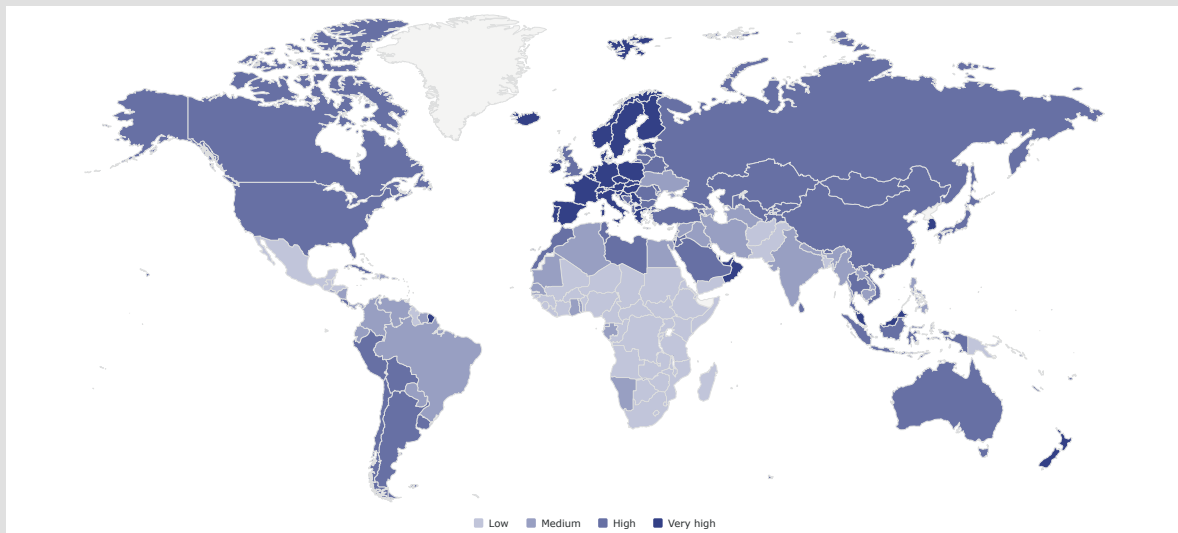
have the most room for improvement. Box 2.1 in the following section explains the criteria for grouping countries by low, medium, high and very high levels of youth development.

Surprisingly, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic did not alter the long-term trend of moderate but steady improvement in youth development of the past decade. The global score rose by 0.54 per cent between 2019 and 2021. This is slightly higher than the average rate of two-year improvement over the full 12 years, which stands at 0.48 per cent. The impact of the pandemic is only beginning to emerge, however, which reinforces the importance of continuing to study these trends in subsequent years to see what other changes will be revealed.

The improvements registered during these two years occurred across five out of six domains, though the largest improvements were in the Political and Civic Participation domain, in which the score rose by 4.9 per cent, and in the Employment and Opportunity domain, in which the score rose by 0.72 per cent. The improvement in the Political and Civic Participation domain over that short period was driven by increases of slightly more than 15 per cent in both the voiced opinion to an official indicator and the volunteered time indicator, while the improvement in Employment and Opportunity was driven by a 7.4 per cent increase in the account indicator (which measures access to bank accounts and the financial system). The only domain to register a deterioration in the two-year period (2019-2021), Peace and Security, saw a fall of 0.12 per cent.



Figure 2.1 YDI world map, 2023



Note: scores denote YDI 2023 score ranges: low <0.675; medium 0.675–0.738; high 0.738–0.798; very high >0.798. Commonwealth YDI 2023 data illustrated using map artwork © Natural Earth

Figure 2.2 Trend in youth development, global average, 2010-2022

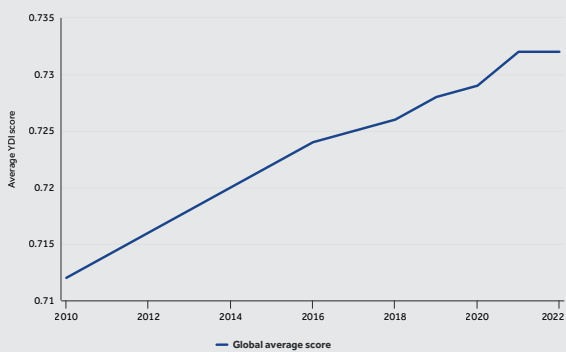
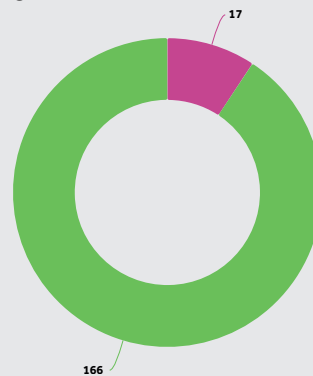


Figure 2.3 Country improvements and deteriorations in YDI score, 2010-2022



On a global level, youth development has been improving but not all young people around the world have benefited equally. Of the 183 countries included in the 2023 YDI, 166, or 90.7 per cent, recorded improvements in their YDI score over the 12-year period, with the largest gains seen in Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire and Myanmar. Seventeen countries saw a decline in their YDI scores during the same period, with the greatest deteriorations recorded in Niger, South Sudan and Syria.

Progress was made in all six YDI domains, with the largest global improvement recorded in Employment and Opportunity, of 6.1 per cent between 2010 and 2022. Political and Civic Participation saw the second-largest average improvement, at 5.4 per cent, followed by Education, Equality and Inclusion, and Health and Wellbeing. Given the decline up to 2018, as reported in the 2020 YDI report, it is encouraging to see longer-term, albeit marginal, improvement in the Political and Civic Participation domain.

Peace and Security recorded the smallest improvement over 12 years, at 0.22 per cent. Figure 2.4 shows the

percentage change in the global YDI score and each of the six YDI domains between 2010 and 2022.

Figure 2.5 shows the 2010–2022 changes across the 27 indicators of the YDI. The account indicator experienced the largest improvement, rising by 52.1 per cent, while the internal peace indicator experienced the largest deterioration, falling by over 2.0 per cent.

All nine regional groupings used in this report recorded improvements in their average YDI scores from 2010 to 2022. Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the largest improvement in average youth development levels, at 3.8 per cent, followed by South America, South Asia, Asia-Pacific, and the Russia and Eurasia region. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region recorded the smallest improvement from 2010 to 2022, of only 1.38 per cent. Figure 2.6 shows the percentage change in regional YDI scores between 2010 and 2022.

Despite having made significant progress since 2010, sub-Saharan Africa remained the region with the lowest average level of youth development in the world in 2022, with a score of 0.653. Furthermore, nine of the 10 lowest-ranked countries in the 2023 YDI are in

**Figure 2.4 Change in the global average YDI score and domain scores, 2010-2022**

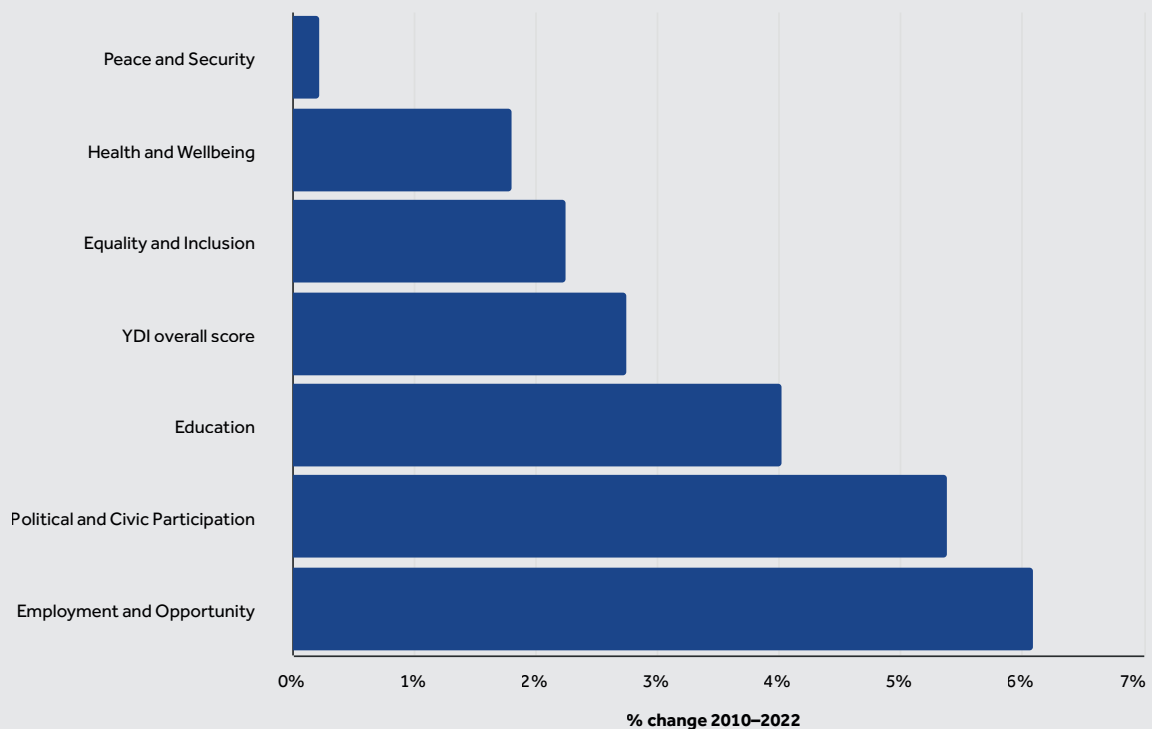
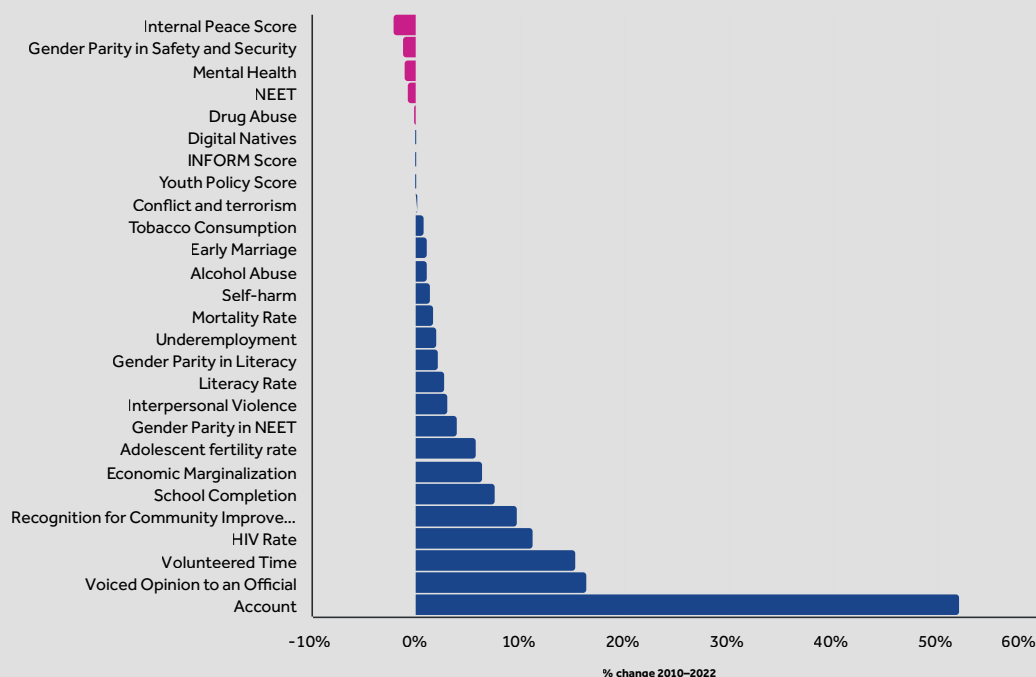


Figure 2.5 Change in global average indicator scores, 2010–2022



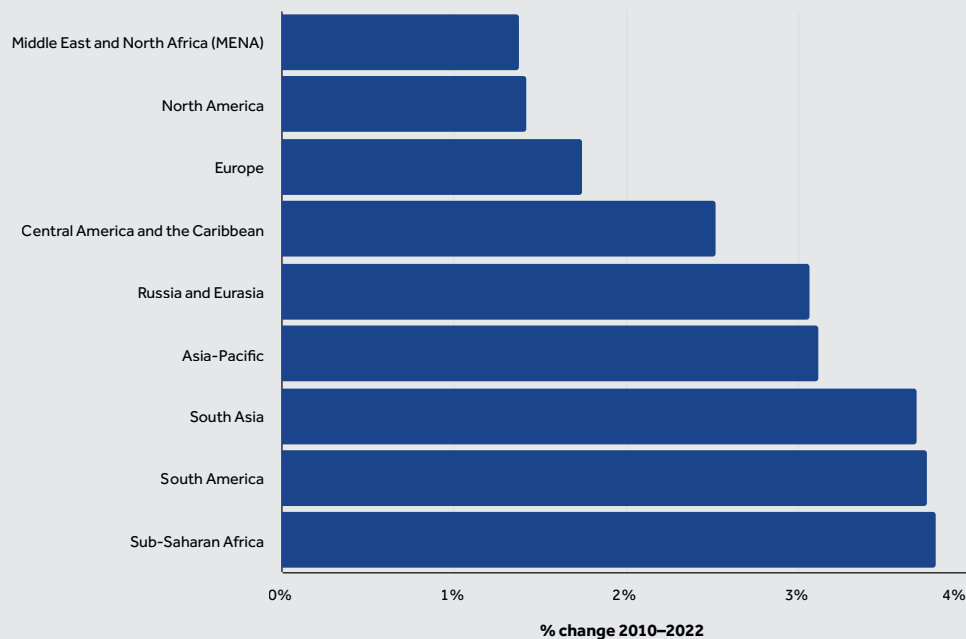
sub-Saharan Africa (see Table 2.2). Afghanistan, part of the South Asia region, ranked as the lowest-scoring country in the 2023 YDI. Europe had the highest average level of youth development, with an average score of 0.816, followed by North America and the Asia-Pacific region. With the exception of Singapore, which is the highest-scoring country in the 2023 YDI, all of top 10 best-ranking countries in the 2023 YDI are in Europe (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Ten highest-ranking countries, 2023

YDI rank	Country	Region	YDI score
1	Singapore	Asia-Pacific	0.868
2	Denmark	Europe	0.862
3	Portugal	Europe	0.848
4	Iceland	Europe	0.847
5	Slovenia	Europe	0.845
6	Norway	Europe	0.842
7	Ireland	Europe	0.838
8	Spain	Europe	0.832
8	Malta	Europe	0.832
10	Switzerland	Europe	0.830

Table 2.2 Ten lowest-ranking countries, 2020 YDI

YDI rank	Country	Region	YDI score
183	Afghanistan	South Asia	0.515
182	Central African Republic	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.536
181	Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.543
180	Chad	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.554
178	Somalia	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.582
178	South Sudan	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.582
177	Mozambique	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.585
176	Mali	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.590
175	Guinea	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.612
174	Democratic Republic of Congo	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.613

**Figure 2.6 Change in average regional YDI score, 2010-2022**

Countries with the largest improvement in YDI scores between 2010 and 2022 are referred to as the largest risers. During the period, the top five risers were Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, Myanmar, Indonesia and Burkina Faso. Haiti improved its YDI score by 21.1 per cent and Côte d'Ivoire by 14.4 per cent, while Myanmar, Indonesia and Burkina Faso recorded improvements of around 10 per cent each. These countries were also those to experience among the biggest changes in global ranking over the 12 years, with Indonesia, Thailand, Armenia and Myanmar undergoing the largest rank increases overall, each rising by between 32 and 38 places.

However, it should be noted that the rank increases and improved scores in Myanmar, Burkina Faso and Haiti will likely be affected once more up-to-date data is released for the past several years. Recent major events in each of these countries – namely, the Haitian political crisis that began in 2018, the 2021 coup d'état in Myanmar and two coups d'état in Burkina Faso in 2022 – will no doubt have significant impacts on their young people in the years ahead.

Niger, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Angola are the largest fallers in the 2023 YDI, with Niger recording a deterioration in youth development of 4.7 per cent. These countries were also those to experience among the largest declines in global ranking over the 12 years, with Syria, Libya, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Yemen undergoing the largest rank decreases overall, each

falling by between 26 and 40 places. On average, the top five most improved countries saw their scores rise by 13.0 per cent between 2010 and 2022 while the five largest fallers saw an average deterioration of 4.0 per cent.

## 2.2 Inequality in youth development

While the global average level of youth development between 2010 and 2022 improved, progress has been uneven. There are significant disparities in youth development between and within countries and regions.

Figure 2.9 compares average domain scores for countries with low, medium, high and very high YDI scores. The largest discrepancies between countries at low YDI levels and countries at very high YDI levels are recorded in the Education and the Employment and Opportunity domains. In the Education domain, the difference between the lowest and the highest YDI-level countries' average score is 0.419 on the YDI scale of 0 to 1. In the Employment and Opportunity domain, the difference in average scores amounts to 0.068.

All countries, regardless of their level of youth development, received relatively low scores in the Political and Civic Participation domain. This can be explained in part by the relatively low levels of political and civic participation recorded globally on a number of indicators that make up this domain – specifically

Figure 2.7 Average global regional YDI score, 2023

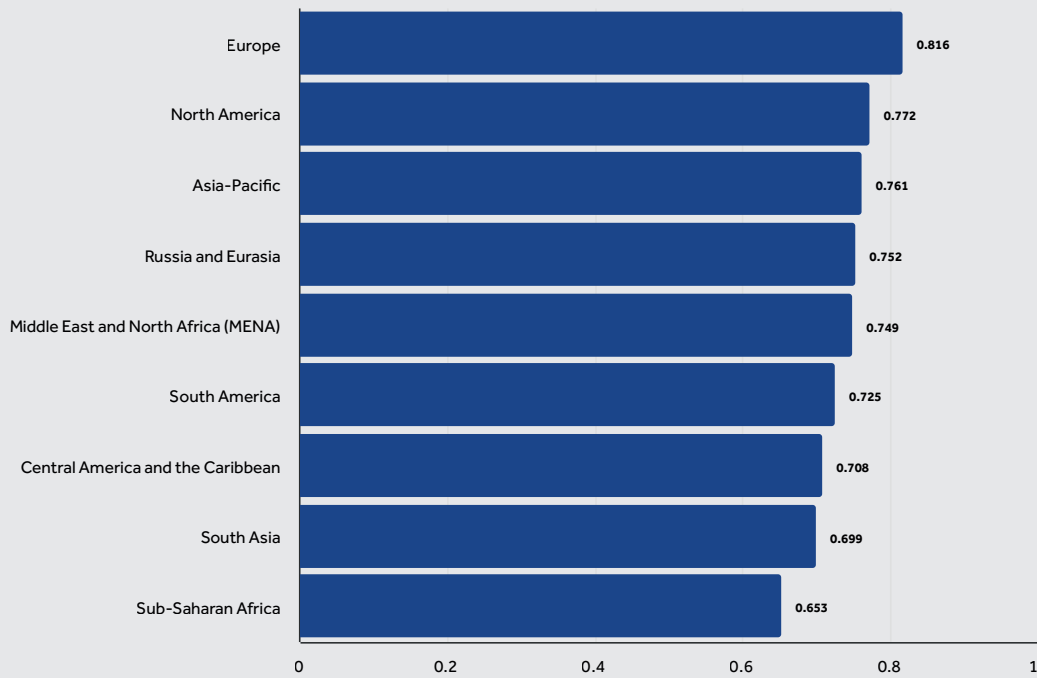
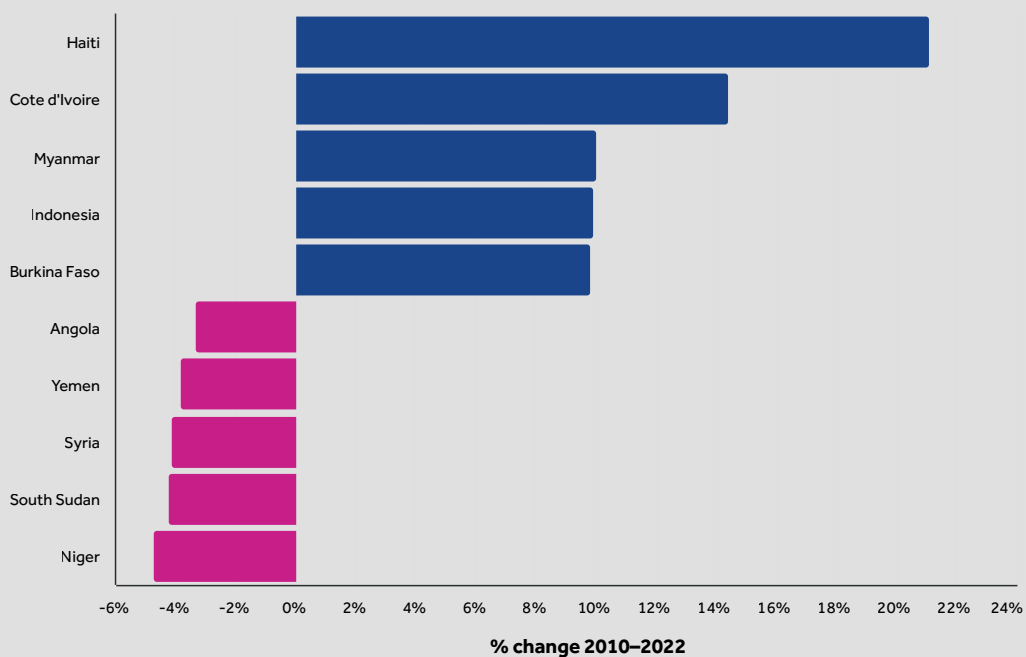


Figure 2.8 Largest improvements and deteriorations in YDI score by country, 2010–2022





### Box 2.1 Definition of YDI categories

The YDI score is a number between 0 and 1, with a score of 1 representing the highest level of youth development.

By calculating the quartiles, countries have been grouped into very high, high, medium and low levels of youth development categories in the 2023 YDI. This categorisation reflects the position of a country on a spectrum ranging from 'relatively good' to 'relatively poor.' The scoring system is the same as the one that

underpins the Human Development Index. The 2023 YDI categories by score are as follows.

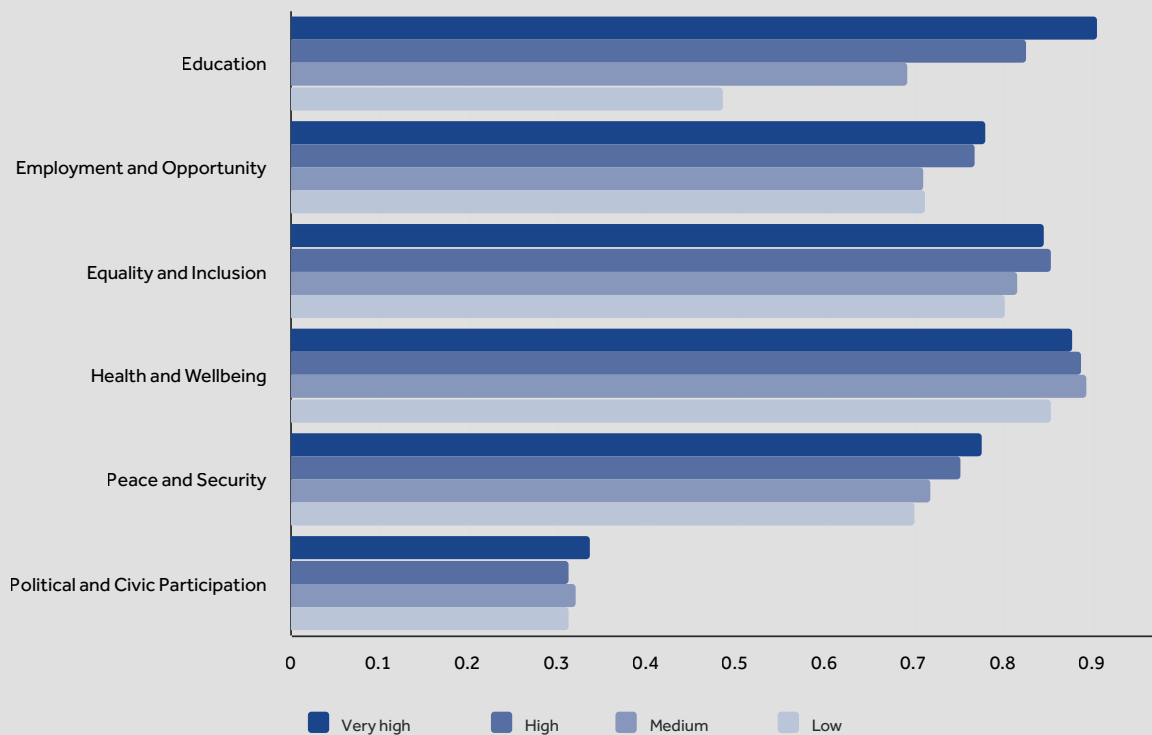
Youth development level category	Score range
Low	0.000–0.675
Medium	0.675–0.738
High	0.738–0.798
Very high	0.798–1.000

the volunteered time, voiced opinion to an official and recognition for community improvement indicators. On average, 23.2 per cent of youth globally reported volunteering their time in a 2021 survey, a 2.2 percentage point increase over 2020 and the highest rate since at least 2010. Similarly, 19.4 per cent stated that they had voiced their opinion to an official in the previous 30 days, a 1.6 per cent increase over 2020 and also the highest rate since at least 2010. However, only around 10.0 per cent recorded having received

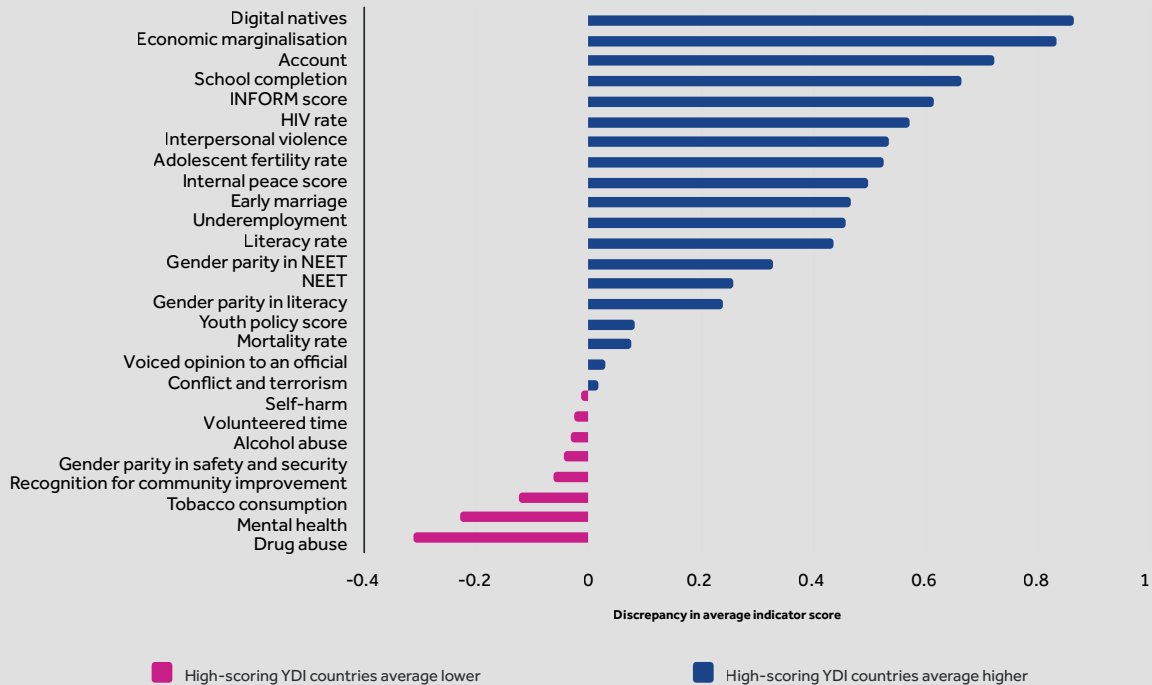
recognition for helping improve the city or area where they lived.

Conversely, all countries, regardless of youth development level, scored relatively well in the Health and Wellbeing domain. On average, very high YDI countries scored 0.876 in this domain. Overall, the difference in average scores between YDI levels in this domain is marginal, with the highest average score only 2.7 per cent higher than the lowest. The relatively small gap between low and very high YDI countries in the

Figure 2.9 Average domain scores of countries grouped by level of overall youth development, 2023



**Figure 2.10 YDI indicators by discrepancy in average indicator score between the 10 countries with the highest and lowest YDI scores, 2023**



Health and Wellbeing domain is also in part a reflection of the fact that many low YDI countries scored comparatively well on certain behavioural and mental health indicators on which many high and very high YDI countries scored poorly. As detailed below, such indicators include those related to rates of addiction.

Figure 2.10 compares the average indicator scores for the 10 best- and 10 worst-performing countries in the 2023 YDI. The difference between the 10 highest-ranked and the 10 lowest-ranked countries worldwide was substantial for digital natives and economic marginalisation, with differences of over 0.866 and 0.833 respectively on the 0 to 1 YDI scale. It is important to note that more up-to-date data is required on this indicator to fully understand experiences across the world.

Figure 2.10 also highlights indicators on which the 10 highest-ranked countries score worse than the 10 lowest-ranked countries. These indicators are predominantly behavioural health indicators (drug abuse, tobacco consumption and alcohol abuse) as well as mental health and self-harm indicators. Thus, the 2023 YDI highlights how countries with high levels of youth development overall continue to be challenged in the area of health and wellbeing, particularly in ensuring

their youth's long-term physical and mental health. Data on mental and behavioural health may suffer from reliability issues as substance abuse and mental illnesses remain stigmatised, especially in lower- and middle-income countries, and therefore may go underreported (Mascayano et al., 2015).





The Commonwealth  
Picture

2015

## Chapter 3

# The Commonwealth Picture

The disparate distribution of youth development was also present across the 50 Commonwealth countries in the 2023 YDI, with around three-fifths (62.0 per cent) of the Commonwealth countries falling within the medium and low categories (16 and 15 countries respectively). Thirteen Commonwealth countries recorded a high level of youth development and six recorded very high levels of youth development.

Of the Commonwealth's population of over 2.5 billion, more than 60.0 per cent are under the age of 30 (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2021), underscoring the importance of fostering youth development in Commonwealth countries. However, the YDI shows that Commonwealth countries have achieved less progress in youth development in the past decade than the world at large. From 2010 to 2022, the

**Figure 3.1** Number of Commonwealth countries at different YDI levels, 2023

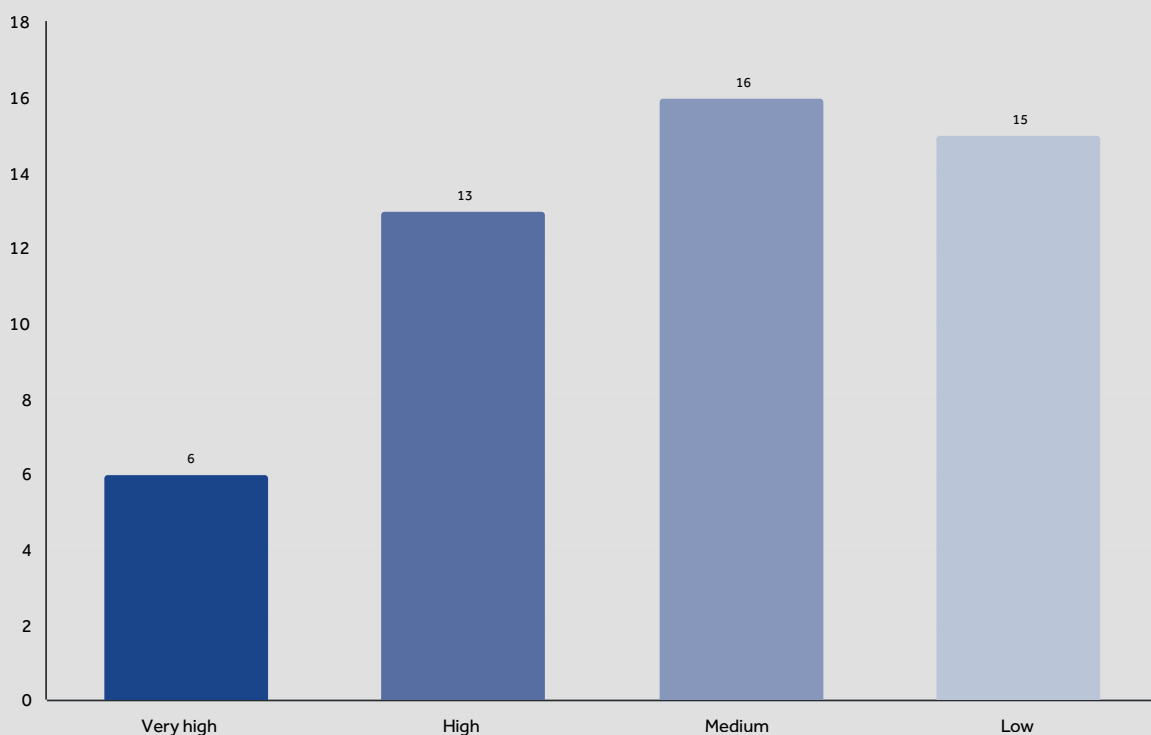
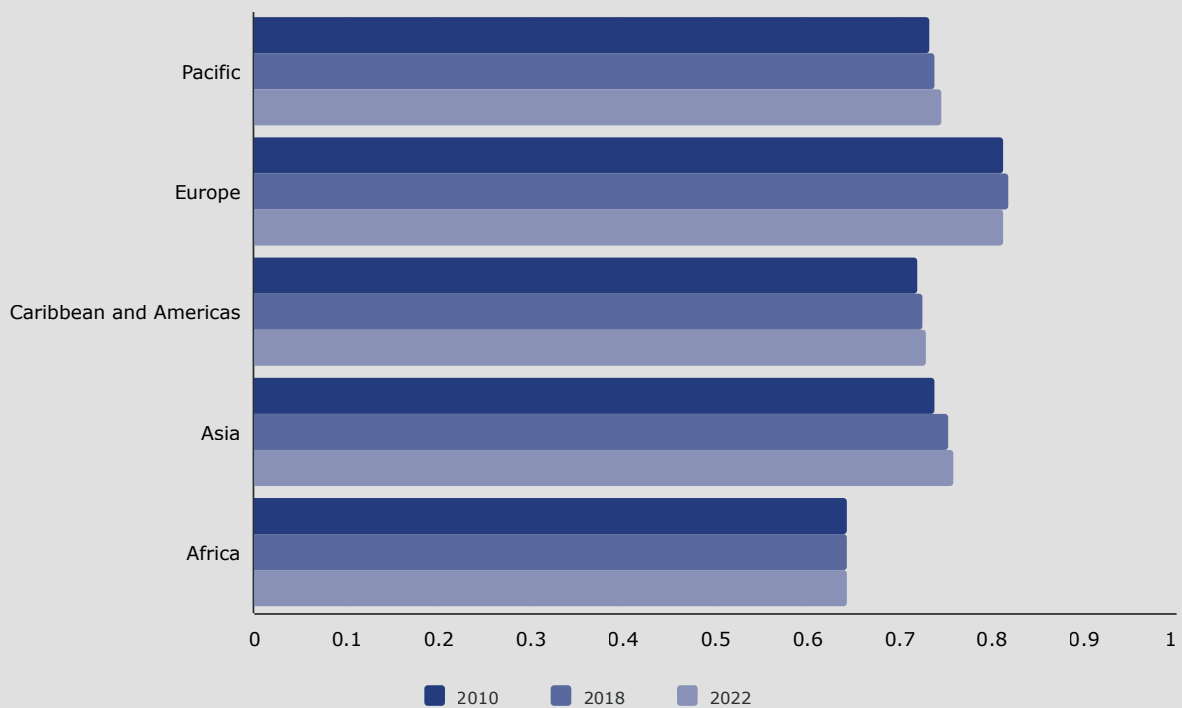




Figure 3.2 Average YDI Scores in Commonwealth Regions, 2010-2022



Commonwealth countries recorded an average improvement in youth development of 2.6 per cent, compared with a global average improvement of almost 2.8 per cent. Of the 50 Commonwealth countries included in the 2023 YDI, 47, or 94.0 per cent, improved their YDI score. Scores deteriorated in three countries – Belize, Cyprus and Canada. Unfortunately, six small states in the Commonwealth did not meet the threshold of data availability over the 12-year period required in order to be included in the report.

All five Commonwealth regions – Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Americas, Europe and the Pacific – are represented on the index. On average, all Commonwealth regions improved their score over the 12-year period, with Africa and Asia recording the highest increases, at around 4.00 per cent and 2.59 per cent, respectively. Europe recorded, on average, a very small decline over the four-year period between 2018 and 2022 (looking at the period since the data used in the last YDI report). Figure 3.2 illustrates this very modest decline.

**Table 3.1 Commonwealth countries with the highest YDI scores, 2023**

YDI rank 2023	Commonwealth rank 2023	Change in Commonwealth rank since 2020 report	Country	Region	YDI score
1	1	↔	Singapore	Asia	0.868
8	2	↔	Malta	Europe	0.832
21	3	↔	Cyprus	Europe	0.819
27	4	↔	New Zealand	Pacific	0.810
27	4	↑6	Brunei Darussalam	Asia	0.810
35	6	↑5	Malaysia	Asia	0.802
45	7	↑6	Fiji	Pacific	0.794
49	8	↔	United Kingdom	Europe	0.790
50	9	↑9	Tonga	Pacific	0.789
51	10	↑4	Sri Lanka	Asia	0.787

As Table 3.1 shows, the 10 highest-ranking Commonwealth countries in the 2023 YDI are all in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. With the exception of Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, all of the 10 lowest-ranking countries in the Commonwealth are in Africa, as is shown in Table 3.2.

Over the 12-year period, the highest riser was India (improving by around 8.0 per cent), followed closely by Zambia, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Togo, each of which improved their scores by between 6.0 and 7.0 per cent.

It is interesting to note that Ghana, Tonga, The Gambia, Fiji and Brunei Darussalam are among the countries that have moved the most places up the ranks relative to other Commonwealth countries since the 2020 report. However, it is important to remember that ranks are relative to the performance of other countries. Countries may improve their overall score and performance but not increase their relative ranking on the index. For example, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea have improved their YDI scores since 2010 but remain among the lowest-ranked countries – and indeed have fallen four and six ranks respectively relative to other Commonwealth countries. Mozambique remains the lowest-ranked country, despite having improved its YDI score by 2.4 per cent since 2010.

Those Commonwealth countries whose scores have deteriorated slightly are Belize, Cyprus and Canada (each deteriorating by less than 1.0 per cent). Although Singapore has recorded an increase of only 0.38 per cent over 12 years, it retains its top spot on the global index.

The thematic trends in the Commonwealth are promising. On average, the Commonwealth has made progress in all six YDI domains over the past 12 years, with the largest improvement seen in the Political and Civic Participation, Employment and Opportunity, and Education domains, as Figure 3.3 shows. Political and Civic Participation improved by 5.8 per cent from 2010 to 2022, while the Employment and Opportunity and the Education domains improved by 5.0 and 3.8 per cent, respectively. As with the global averages, the domain to experience the smallest improvement in the Commonwealth was Peace and Security, which improved by 0.7 per cent.

The average literacy rate in the Commonwealth has improved over the past 12 years, and young men and young women have become more equal, on average, with respect to literacy. The Commonwealth average score for school completion has improved by over 6.0 per cent, and fewer girls in the Commonwealth are getting married before age 18.

Long-term thematic gains like these are encouraging, particularly as fewer young people in the Commonwealth are dying from interpersonal violence, conflict and terrorism. However, it is important to note a more recent minimal decrease of 0.27 per cent in the Peace and Security domain over the four years between 2018 and 2022. This has been affected by a slight deterioration in the average internal peace score, for which 2022 data is available, suggesting that young people are living in more violent environments, which will affect opportunities for them to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

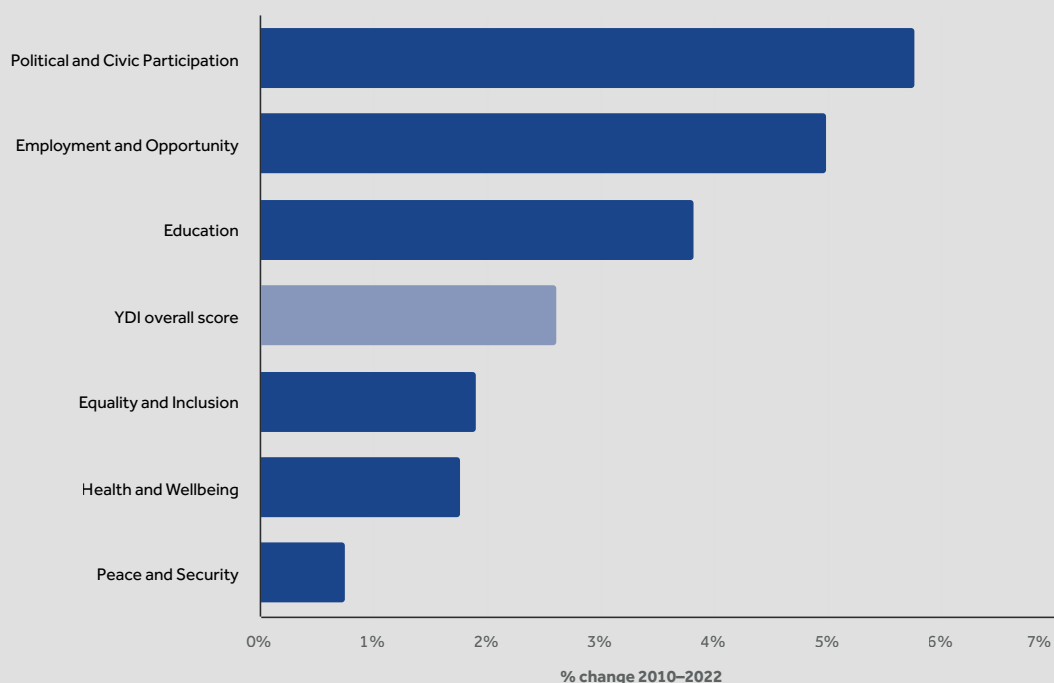
Table 3.2 Commonwealth countries with the lowest YDI scores, 2023

YDI rank 2023	Commonwealth rank 2023	Change in Commonwealth rank since 2020 report	Country	Region	YDI score
177	50	↓2	Mozambique	Africa	0.585
173	49	↓3	Lesotho	Africa	0.614
172	48	↓4	Nigeria	Africa	0.616
168	47	↔	Malawi	Africa	0.628
167	46	↓7	Tanzania	Africa	0.632
162	45	↔	Pakistan	Asia	0.643
159	44	↓6	Papua New Guinea	Pacific	0.649
156	43	↓3	Eswatini	Africa	0.655
154	42	↓1	Cameroon	Africa	0.657
153	41	↓1	Uganda	Africa	0.659

The improvement in the Political and Civic Participation domain since the 2020 report is also encouraging. This could potentially be reflective of increased civic engagement by young people as a part of COVID-19 response initiatives. However, overall the scores are

low. The 2018 data used in the 2020 YDI report showed a fall in the number of young people voicing an opinion to officials and volunteering their time compared with in 2010. However, by 2022 these indicators had rebounded and surpassed the 2010 scores. The

Figure 3.3 Change in Commonwealth's average YDI score and domain scores, 2010–2022





average Commonwealth scores for voicing opinions to an official and volunteering time have increased by 21.1 per cent and 10.6 per cent, respectively, since 2010.

This means, therefore, that the overall decline in the Political and Civic Participation domain among Commonwealth countries owes to poorer performance or stagnation on the other indicators. For a lack of recent data, the youth policy score has remained stagnant on the index since 2016. This reinforces the need for the Commonwealth Secretariat to take bold actions to engage global partners in strengthening the measurement of youth political and civic participation, taking into account youth participation frameworks that have been developed in past years.

A hand is shown adjusting a control knob on a piece of electronic equipment. The background is a blurred image of the equipment's control panel, featuring various knobs and buttons. A large, white, outlined number '04' is overlaid on the bottom right of the image. The entire scene is set against a pink background with a diagonal white line.

# Global Results by Domain

04

## Chapter 4

# Global Results by Domain

### 4.1 Education

The Education domain recorded the third-largest average improvement globally from 2010 to 2022, at 4.0 per cent. This was driven by a 7.6 per cent improvement in school completion, indicating that more young people around the world are completing a basic education (UNESCO, n.d.). The global average score for the literacy rate indicator also improved, by 2.7 per cent. Figure 4.1 shows the 2010 and 2022

scores in the Education domain, as well as on each of its component indicators.

There was no recorded change in the digital natives indicator, which scored just under 0.400, because updated time series data is unfortunately not available to measure global progress in young people’s skills and engagement online. In 2014 the International Telecommunication Union estimated that roughly 38.0 per cent of youth worldwide could be considered

Figure 4.1 Global trend in Education, 2010–2022

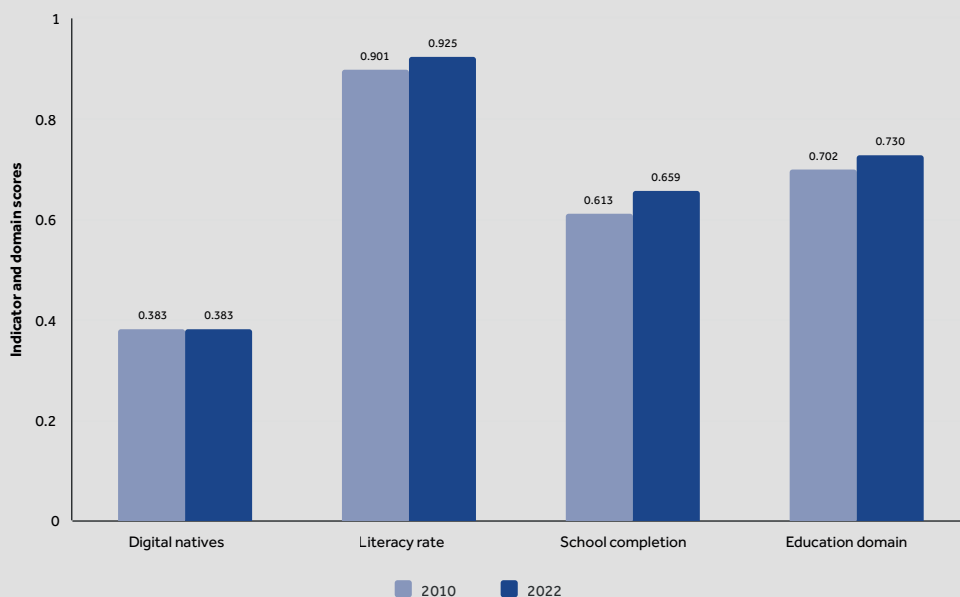
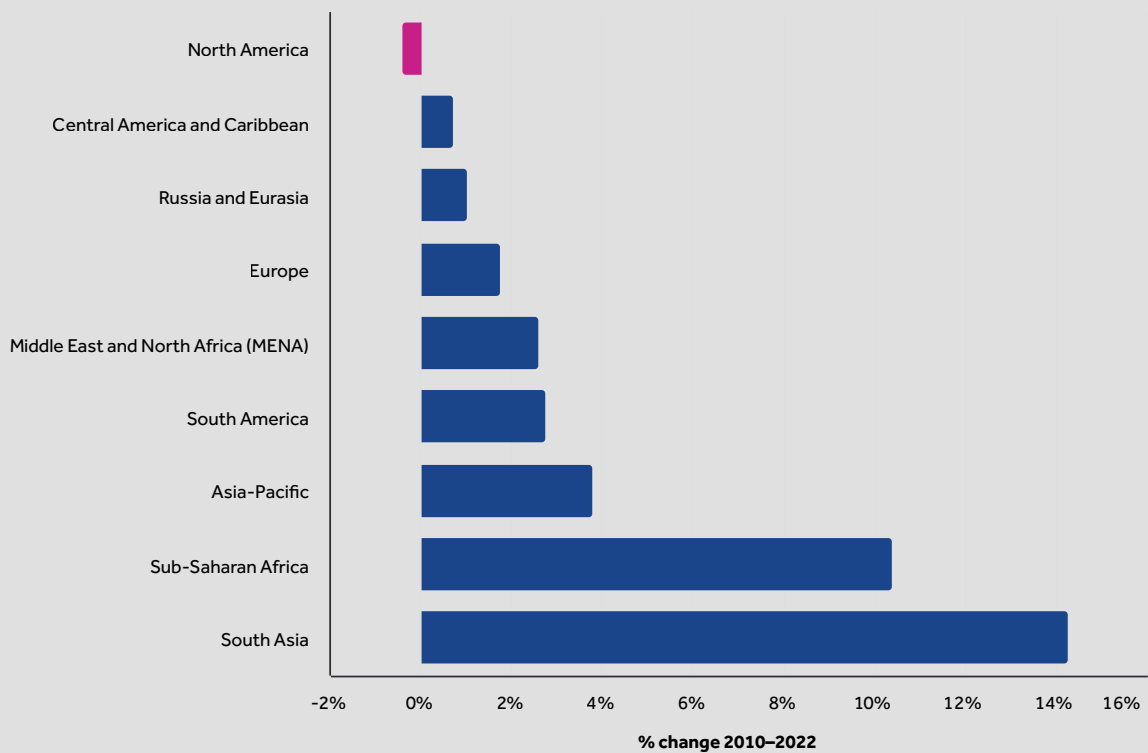




Figure 4.2 Change in Education by region, 2010–2022



'digital natives', on the basis of five or more years of internet use.

More than two-thirds of countries worldwide showed an improvement in the Education domain, led by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Laos. The 53 countries that have deteriorated in Education since 2010 are spread around the world, with Liberia recording the largest deterioration, followed by Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Ukraine and Qatar.

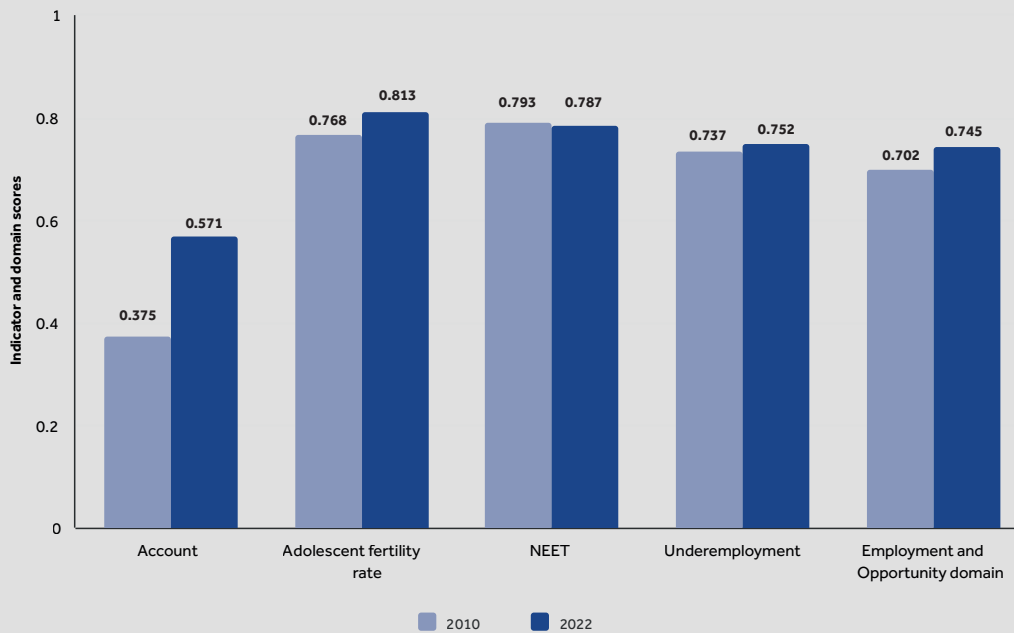
All of the nine world regions improved in the Education domain, on average, except for North America, which deteriorated by 0.37 per cent. Figure 4.2 shows the

change in each region's average score from 2010 to 2022.

South Asia was the global region to record the largest improvement, with a 14.26 per cent increase in the regional average, and educational gains recorded in all eight South Asian countries included in the YDI. Bangladesh had the largest improvement in the region, followed by Nepal, Bhutan and Afghanistan.

Sub-Saharan Africa recorded the second-largest improvement, as the regional average score increased by 10.41 per cent, with three-fourths of its countries experiencing improvements. Improvements were even

**Figure 4.3 Global trend in Employment and Opportunity, 2010–2022**



seen in regions where educational attainment was already high, such as Europe.

## 4.2 Employment and Opportunity

The Employment and Opportunity domain recorded the largest average improvement from 2010 to 2022, rising by 6.1 per cent. Worldwide, 155 countries improved and 28 deteriorated. Myanmar had the largest improvement, followed by Armenia, Vietnam, the Marshall Islands and Russia. Niger had the largest deterioration, followed by Afghanistan, Angola, Laos and Rwanda.

Progress in this domain was driven largely by a 52.1 per cent improvement on the account indicator score, which measures access to bank accounts and the financial system, including mobile money. Figure 4.3 shows the average 2010 and 2022 scores in Employment and Opportunity, as well as on each of its component indicators.

The second most improved indicator in this domain was adolescent fertility, which improved by 5.9 per cent between 2010 and 2022, indicating that fewer young women are getting pregnant before age 20. Early pregnancies can limit young women's opportunities to achieve financial independence and pursue a career. Progress on this indicator is a positive sign for economic progress and greater gender equality.

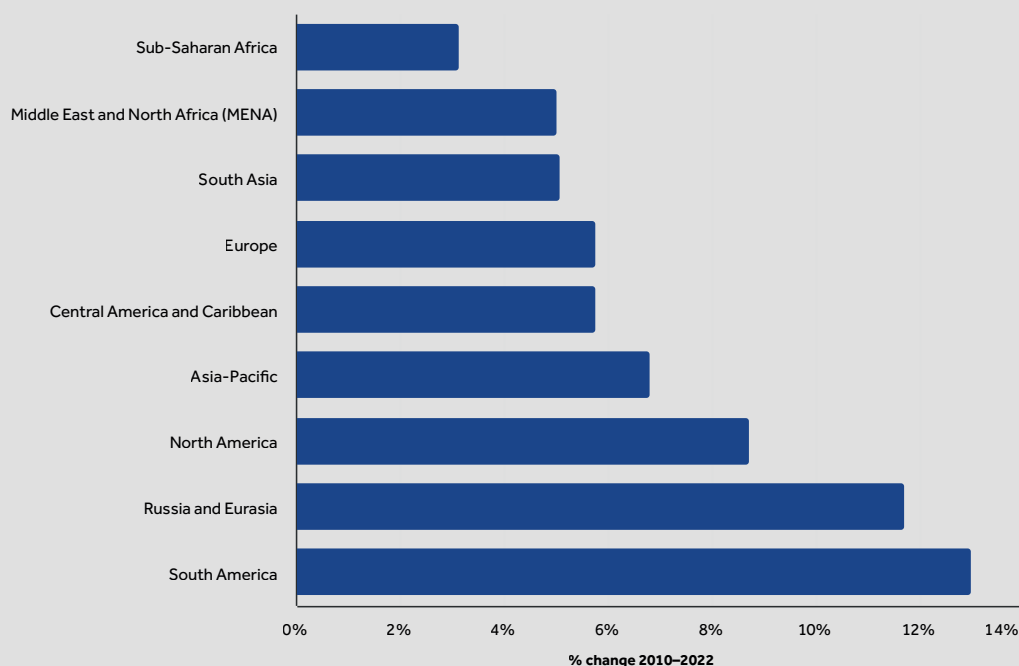
The underemployment indicator showed moderate change, with the global average improving by just shy of 2.0 per cent. The share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) was the one Employment and Opportunity indicator to register a deterioration since 2010, with the score declining by a little over 0.8 per cent. On the whole, the domain results suggest that more young people around the world are poised for economic independence, but rates of formal and full economic engagement tend to move slowly.

Employment and Opportunity improved in all nine world regions, as Figure 4.4 shows. South America registered the largest improvement, followed by Russia and Eurasia, and North America, with all three recording improvements of more than 8.0 per cent in average domain score. The rest of the world saw more modest improvements, ranging from 6.82 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region to 3.14 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

## 4.3 Equality and Inclusion

The Equality and Inclusion domain recorded an improvement of 2.2 per cent from 2010 to 2022, driven by a 6.4 per cent improvement in the average score on the economic marginalisation indicator. Improvements on economic marginalisation mean that, on average, more youth are being pulled out of extreme poverty

**Figure 4.4 Change in Employment and Opportunity by region, 2010–2022**



and thus have improved opportunities for economic security and inclusion.

Two of the Equality and Inclusion indicators that measure gender parity have improved since 2010; one has deteriorated. Gender parity in NEET improved by 3.9 per cent and gender parity in literacy by 2.1 per cent, whereas gender parity in safety and security deteriorated by 1.3 per cent. The change in gender parity in safety and security was marginal over the decade, with young men around the world reporting significantly higher feelings of safety in their community than was the case for young women. The gender gap in feelings of safety is widest in the world's most peaceful countries (IEP, 2018). Figure 4.5 shows the 2010 and 2022 scores in Equality and Inclusion, as well as on each of its component indicators.

Worldwide, 142 countries improved in Equality and Inclusion, and 41 deteriorated, resulting in all world regions recording an overall improvement. Guinea had the largest improvement globally, followed by Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia and Cambodia. Yemen had the largest deterioration, followed by Syria, Algeria, Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Figure 4.6 shows the change in each region's average Equality and Inclusion score from 2010 to 2022. South Asia had the largest improvement, with its score rising by 5.26 per cent, as all of its countries experienced

improvements. It was followed by Sub-Saharan Africa and South America.

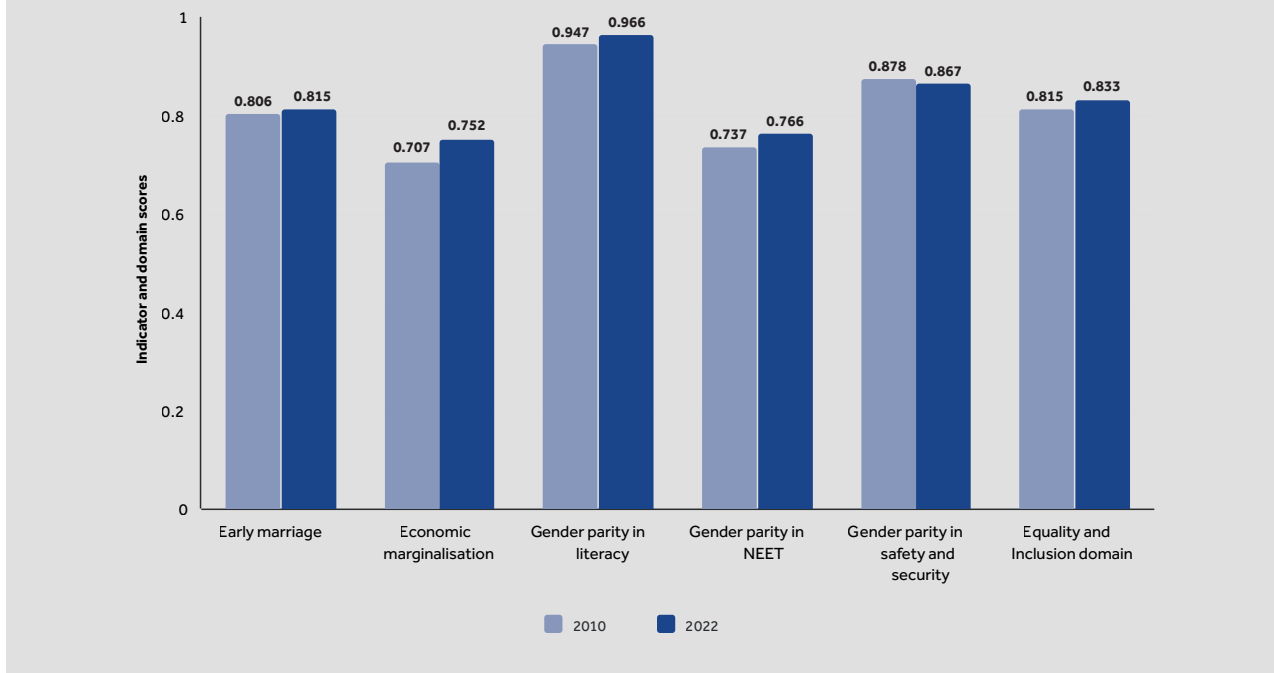
North America and Europe experienced the smallest improvements, with both regions recording increases of less than 1.00 per cent. Both countries of North America registered modest improvements, but more than a third of the countries of Europe registered a deterioration in Equality and Inclusion. The most substantial deteriorations in Europe were recorded in Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, both of whose scores fell by more than 5.0 per cent.

## 4.4 Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing domain recorded a 1.8 per cent improvement from 2010 to 2022, driven by improvements on five out of seven indicators. The largest change was an 11.2 per cent improvement on the world's average HIV rate score. The mortality rate, self-harm, alcohol abuse and tobacco consumption scores also improved, though each by less than 2.0 per cent. In contrast, the global average scores for drug abuse and mental health deteriorated, but by no more than 1.0 per cent each. Figure 4.7 shows the 2010 and 2022 scores in Health and Wellbeing, as well as on each of its component indicators.

Worldwide, 140 countries improved in Health and Wellbeing and 43 deteriorated. Haiti had the largest

**Figure 4.5 Global trend in Equality and Inclusion, 2010–2022**



improvement, with its domain score jumping from 0.419 in 2010 to 0.826 in 2022. Most of the progress in the country was made in 2011, when the country's Health and Wellbeing score nearly doubled as the country recovered from the devastating earthquake of 2010. Eswatini had the second-largest improvement, at 12.4 per cent, followed by similar gains in Côte d'Ivoire, Russia and Burundi. The Philippines had the largest deterioration globally, at 5.1 per cent, followed by Canada, Sweden, Luxembourg and Lithuania.

Figure 4.8 gives the change in each region's average score from 2010 to 2022. Results in Central America and the Caribbean led the improving trend in the domain, as 13 out of 18 countries in the region improved. Haiti had the largest improvement in the region, followed by The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Honduras. North America was the only region to deteriorate in this domain, driven by a 3.37 per cent decline in Canada.

## 4.5 Peace and Security

The Peace and Security domain recorded a modest improvement between 2010 and 2022, with the average domain score increasing by 0.2 per cent, driven by a 2.9 per cent improvement in the average interpersonal violence score and a less than 0.1 per cent improvement of the average conflict and terrorism score. This indicates that fewer young people

are dying from armed conflict, terrorism and homicide around the world.

However, the internal peace indicator deteriorated by almost 2.1 per cent on average, suggesting that youth are experiencing more violent environments. This contrast is an important area for exploration for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda adopted in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 and reinforced by Resolutions 2419 and 2535. Historically, youth have been those most affected by direct violence. However, a decline in years of life lost despite ever more violent contexts is consistent with the overall trend of changes in the nature of armed conflict over the past decade.

The INFORM score indicator, which measures country-level risk of armed conflict and climate change-induced natural disasters, recorded an unchanged score of 0.620 from 2010 to 2022. This is because time series data is unfortunately not available for this indicator. Figure 4.9 shows the 2010 and 2022 scores in Peace and Security, as well as on each of its component indicators.

There are 104 countries that improved in this domain, whereas 79 deteriorated. Ecuador had the largest improvement globally, followed by Somalia, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Russia. South Sudan had the largest deterioration, followed by Mali, Burkina Faso, Yemen and Ukraine.

**Figure 4.6 Change in Equality and Inclusion by region, 2010–2022**

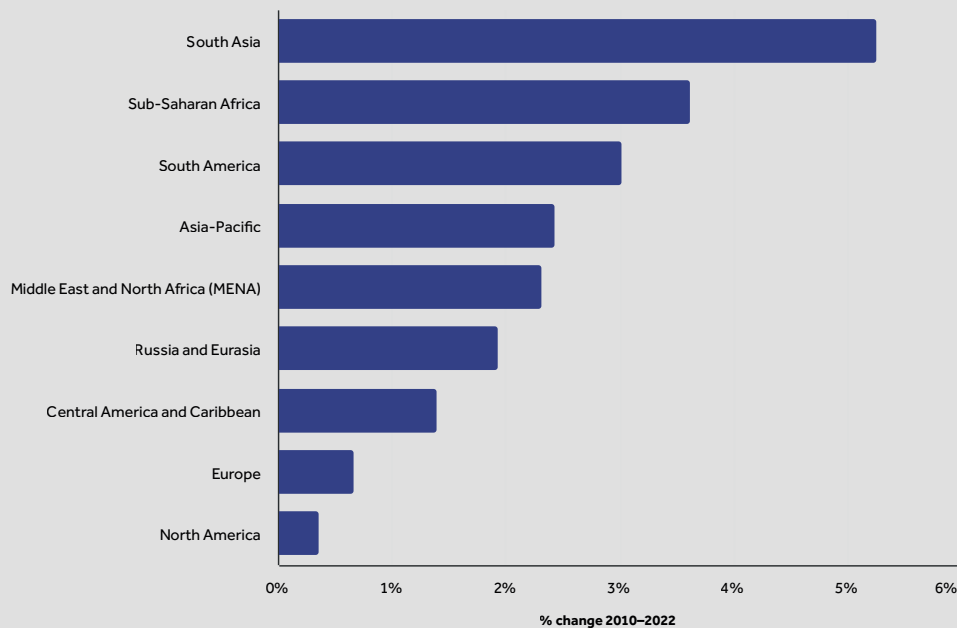
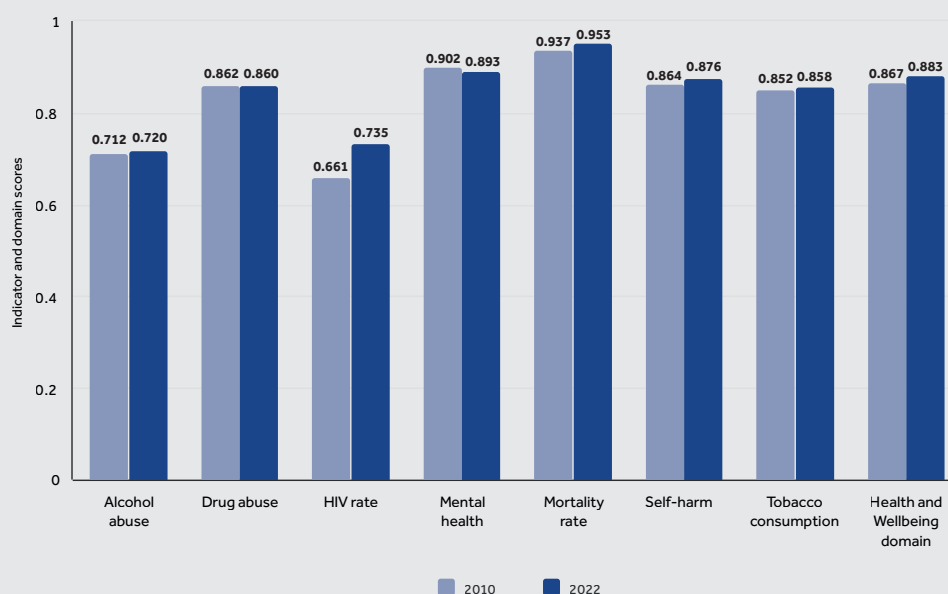


Figure 4.10 gives the change in each region's average score from 2010 to 2022. Results in South Asia drove the improving trend, with a 3.94 per cent increase in the region's average score and gains in seven out of eight countries. Sri Lanka recorded the region's largest improvement, at 12.9 per cent, followed by Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives.

MENA, sub-Saharan Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, and North America deteriorated modestly,

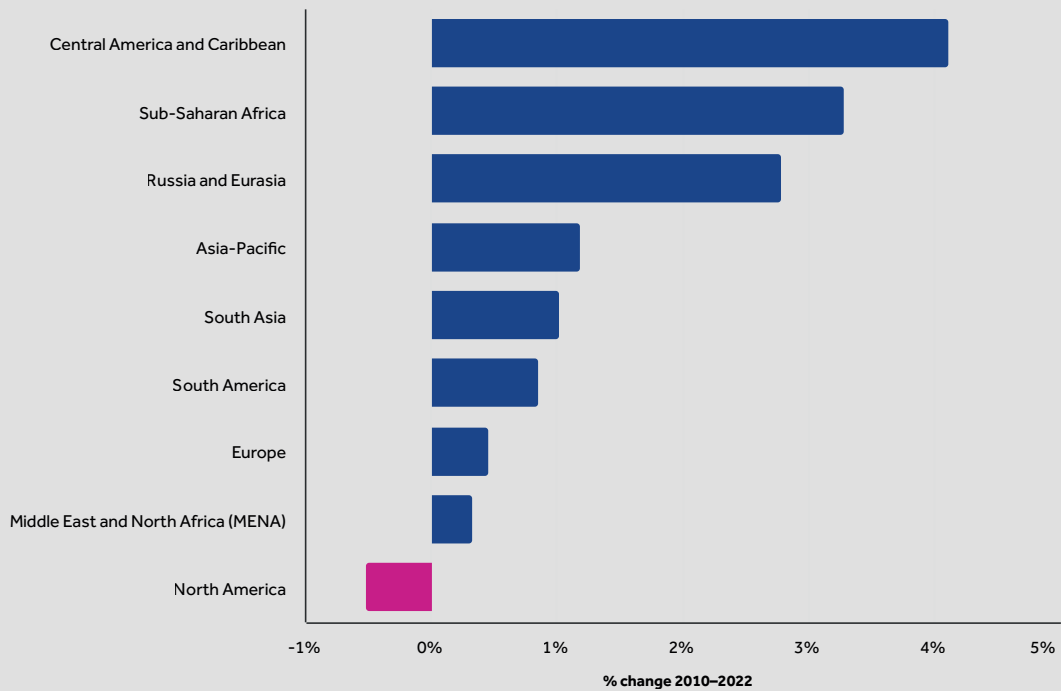
with declines ranging from 0.13 per cent (North America) to 1.19 per cent (MENA). MENA has generally been the region most affected by armed conflict over the past decade and has thus experienced the largest deterioration of all regions.

**Figure 4.7 Global trend in Health and Wellbeing, 2010–2022**





**Figure 4.8 Change in Health and Wellbeing by region, 2010–2022**

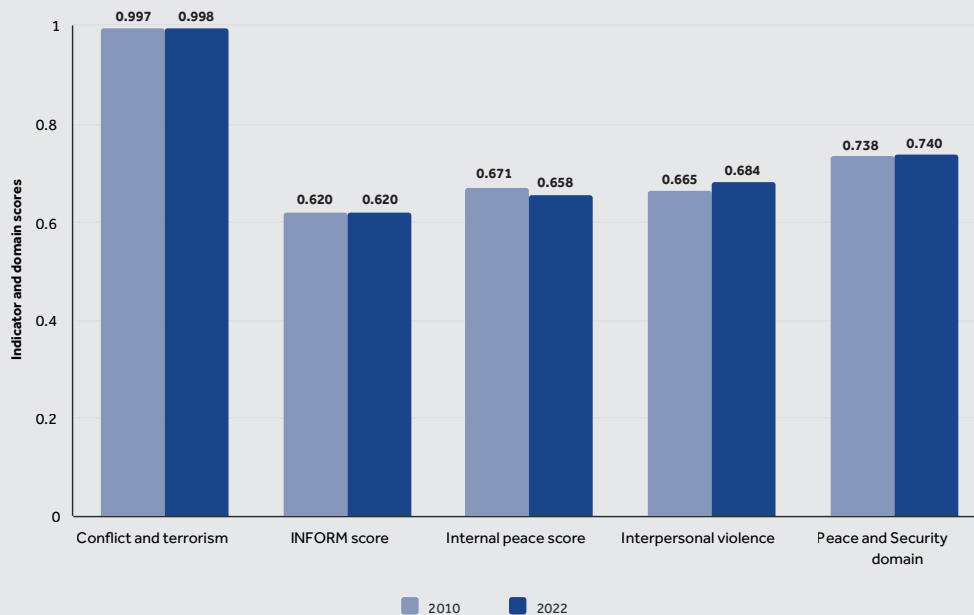


### 4.6 Political and Civic Participation

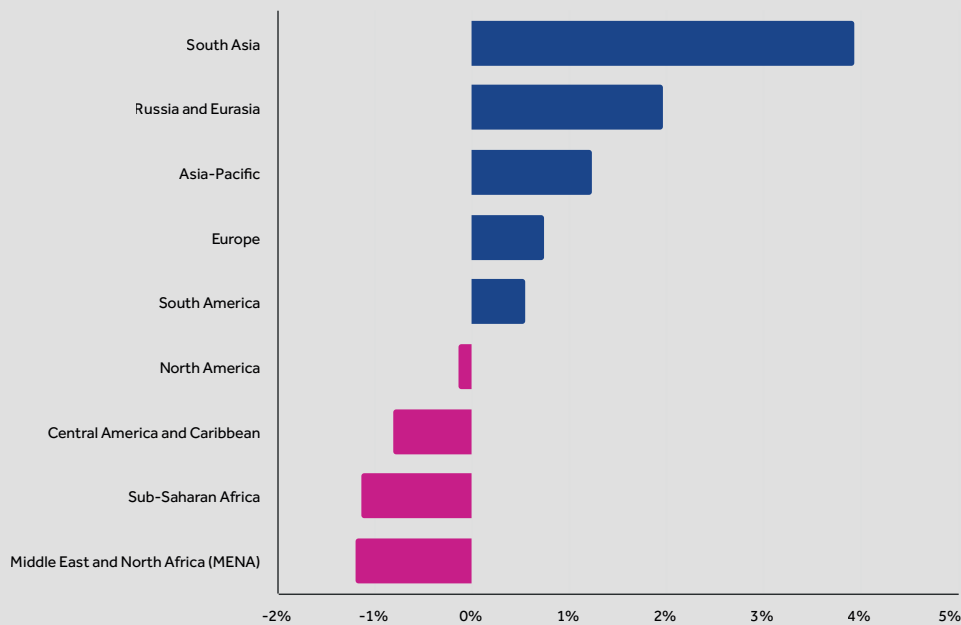
Political and Civic Participation recorded a 5.4 per cent improvement from 2010 to 2022, driven by improvements on three out of four indicators. The largest improvements were seen on the voiced opinion to an official and the volunteered time indicators, which

both improved by over 15.0 per cent. Both the voiced opinion to an official indicator and the volunteered time indicator experienced by far their largest improvements between 2020 and 2021, with the rate at which youth voiced their opinions rising by 9.3 per cent (equivalent to 1.6 percentage points) and the rate at which they

**Figure 4.9 Global trend in Peace and Security, 2010–2022**



### Figure 4.10 Change in Peace and Security by region, 2010–2022

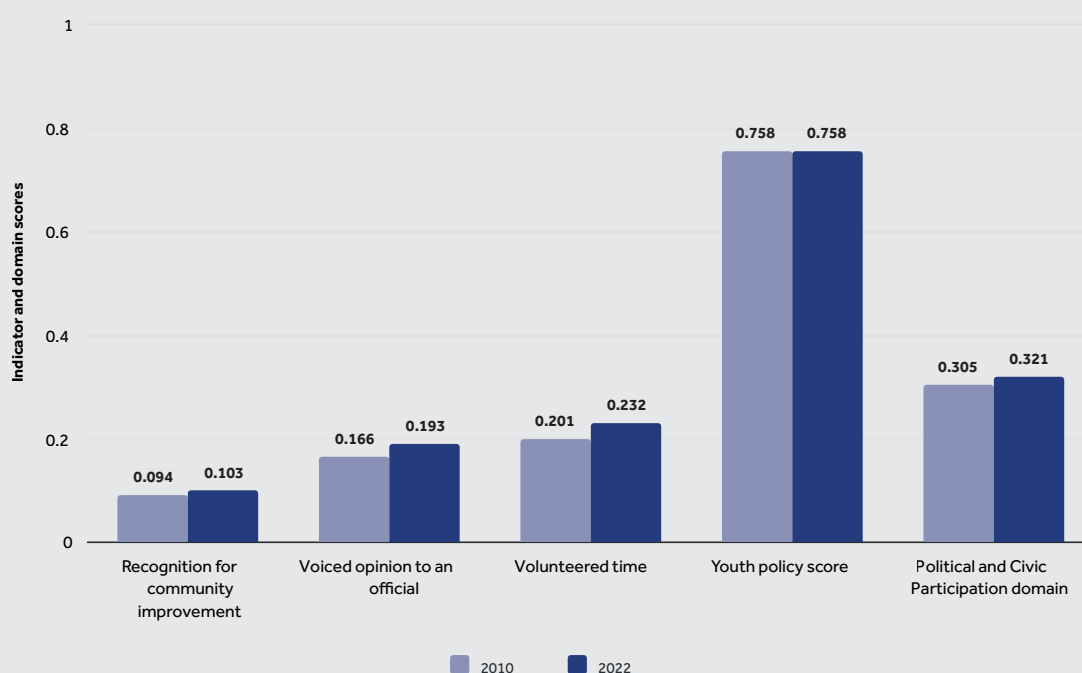


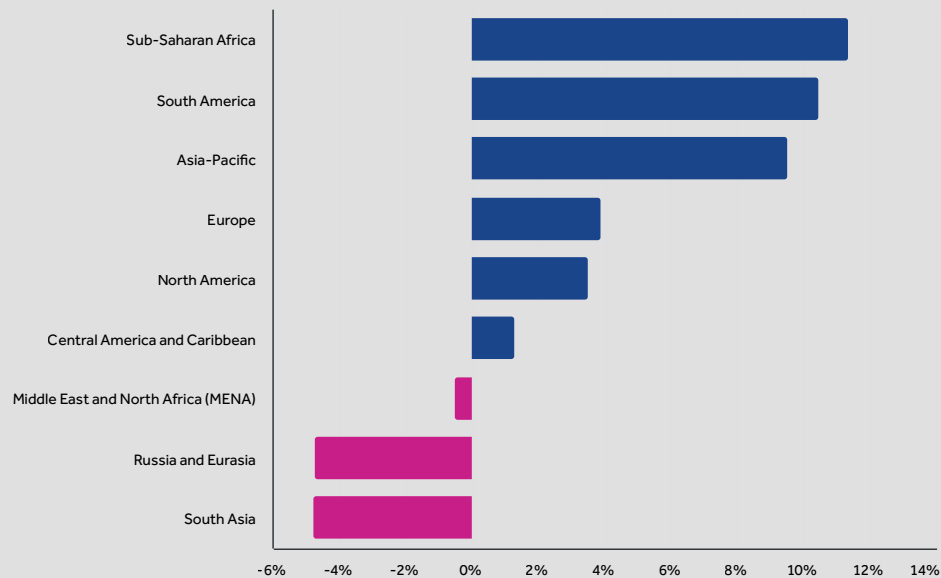
volunteered time by 10.5 per cent (equivalent to 2.2 percentage points).

The youth policy indicator was unchanged, with the global average score standing at 0.758 between 2010 and 2022. This is because time series data is not available for this indicator.

The recognition for community improvement indicator improved by 10.3 per cent, suggesting that an increasing share of young people around the world are receiving recognition for their investments in improving their communities. However, the scores remain well below those on the other indicators in the

### Figure 4.11 Global trend in Political and Civic Participation, 2010–2022



**Figure 4.12 Change in Political and Civic Participation by region, 2010–2022**

domain. This indicator is included in the YDI on the premise that being recognised, or seeing one's peers recognised, encourages community engagement. Figure 4.11 shows the 2010 and 2022 scores in Political and Civic Participation, as well as on each of its component indicators.

There were 127 countries that experienced improvements in the Political and Civic Participation domain and 56 that experienced deteriorations. Sub-Saharan Africa and South America recorded the largest overall improvements in the domain, with their average scores increasing by 11.35 per cent and 10.48 per cent, respectively. The largest country-level improvement occurred in Indonesia, which improved by 69.5 per cent. South Asia, and the Russia and Eurasia region had the largest deteriorations, declining by 4.75 per cent and 4.73 per cent, respectively. Pakistan had the largest deterioration, declining by 34.3 per cent. Figure 4.12 gives the change in each region's average Political and Civic Participation score from 2010 to 2022.

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# Annexes



## Annex 1

# Methodology

The primary goal of the YDI is to provide an evidence base on the condition of youth around the world, focusing on opportunities for their development. The theoretical framework for the development of the YDI is derived from the work of Sen (1985) and Nussbaum (2000, 2003) on capabilities.

The 2023 iteration of the YDI has three main aims.

1. Assess the data context for updating the global YDI in 2023, including acknowledging the admission of Gabon and Togo into the Commonwealth.
2. Update the global YDI database of 27 indicators across six domains with more recent data, where available and taking into account additional countries for which data is now available.
3. Provide an analysis of the situation.

The calculation and indicators remain the same as in the YDI 2020 report (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2021). The YDI is designed to measure youth development based on six domains:

- Education
- Employment and Opportunity
- Equality and Inclusion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Peace and Security
- Political and Civic Participation

These domains, and the indicators within each domain, were decided upon through consultation with the YDI Expert Panel. To capture youth development within each country across all domains, 27 indicators were sourced. Table A1.1 presents the indicators selected to capture these domains and includes information on their sources and the year of their most recent update.

## Imputations

The 2023 YDI's methodology has been designed to be in line with other prominent global development indices, and substantial effort has been made to populate the index with the best available country data. However, consistent and comprehensive datasets covering youth development continue to remain scarce.

Effort has been made in the design of the methodology to include as many Commonwealth countries as possible, the required threshold for inclusion being 50 per cent availability of the needed data. Even with the high imputation threshold, for certain smaller-island countries there is simply not enough data available to justify their inclusion. Table A1.2 details data availability for these countries, indicating for which countries data coverage is above the threshold and for which additional data is needed.

Data availability has been a particular challenge for the Equality and Inclusion and the Political and Civic Participation domains. Constructing the YDI has therefore highlighted gaps in youth development data and the need for further improvement in data collection.

A major challenge to developing a harmonised composite index lies in attempting to overcome the significant variation in data across very diverse countries around the world, not just in terms of demographic and geographic characteristics but also in

Table A1.1 YDI 2023 indicators

Domain	Indicator	Definition	Source	No. countries covered	Latest year of data
Health and Wellbeing	Alcohol abuse	YLL from alcohol use disorders, ages 15–29	IHME GBD	204	2019
	Drug abuse	YLL from drug use disorders, ages 15–29	IHME GBD	204	2019
	HIV rate	HIV rate, ages 15–29	UNAIDS estimates	131	2021
	Mental health	YLL from mental disorders, ages 15–29	IHME GBD	204	2019
	Mortality rate	Deaths from all causes, ages 15–29	IHME GBD	204	2019
	Tobacco consumption	Tobacco smokers, % of ages 15–29	IHME GBD	201	2015
	Self-harm	YLL from self-harm, ages 15–29	IHME GBD	204	2019
Education	Digital natives	Five or more years' experience using the internet, % of ages 15–29	ITU	181	2013
	Literacy rate	Literacy rate, youth total, % of ages 15–24	UNESCO Institute for Statistics	216	2021
	School completion	Lower secondary completion rate, total, % of country-specific age group	UNESCO Institute for Statistics	216	2021
Employment and Opportunity	Account	Respondents who report having an account (by themselves or together with someone else) at a bank or other financial institution or report using mobile money in the past 12 months, % ages 15–24	World Bank Global Findex Database	158	2021
	Adolescent fertility rate	Adolescent fertility rate, births per 1,000 women ages 15–19	United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects	205	2020
	NEET	NEET youth, % of ages 15–24	ILO	163	2022
	Underemployment*	Time-related underemployment, ages 15–24	ILO modelled estimates	187	2019

(Continued)

Domain	Indicator	Definition	Source	No. countries covered	Latest year of data
Equality and Inclusion	<b>Economic marginalisation</b>	Population percentage classified as extremely poor (<US\$1.90 PPP) or moderately poor ( $\geq$ US\$1.90 and <US\$ 3.20 PPP), ages 15–24	ILO modelled estimates	191	2019
	<b>Gender parity in literacy</b>	Literacy rate, youth, ages 15–24 GPI <sup>†</sup>	UNESCO Institute for Statistics	162	2021
	<b>Gender parity in NEET</b>	Distance from parity between percentages of NEET young women and NEET young men, ages 15–24	UNDESA Global SDG Indicators Database, IEP calculations	78	2018
	<b>Gender parity in safety and security</b>	Distance from parity between percentages of young women and young men who report feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night	GWP, IEP calculations	167	2021
	<b>Early marriage</b>	Women first married by age 18, % of women ages 20–24	Country surveys collected by World Bank and OECD	137	2021
Political and Civic Participation	<b>Recognition for community improvement</b>	Responding 'agree' or 'strongly agree' with the statement 'In the past 12 months, you have received recognition for helping to improve the city or area where you live', % ages 15–29	GWP	153	2016
	<b>Voiced opinion to an official</b>	Responding that they have voiced their opinion to an official in the past 30 days, % ages 15–29	GWP	167	2021
	<b>Volunteered time</b>	Responding that they have volunteered time in the past 30 days, % ages 15–29	GWP	168	2021
	<b>Youth policy score</b>	Scores on youth policy and legislation, public institutions, youth representation, and public budget and spending	Youth Policy Labs, IEP calculation	196	2016

(Continued)

Domain	Indicator	Definition	Source	No. countries covered	Latest year of data
Peace and Security	<b>Conflict and terrorism</b>	YLL from armed conflict and terrorism	IHME GBD	204	2019
	<b>INFORM score</b>	Risk of humanitarian crisis and disaster, including climate change related risks	EU INFORM	192	2022
	<b>Internal peace score</b>	Composite score for domestic peace and safety and security	IEP Global Peace Index	163	2022
	<b>Interpersonal violence</b>	YLL from interpersonal violence, ages 15–29	IHME GBD	204	2019

- \* This indicator is based on the absolute stocks of underemployed youth within a country's borders, rather than a rate-based or per capita measure. The rationale behind this approach is that the indicator penalises countries with the largest proportions of youth who are struggling with underemployment. Underemployment exists when the hours of work of an employed person are below a threshold and are insufficient in relation to an alternative employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage.
- † The Gender Parity Index (GPI) calculates a value based on the number of females divided by the number of males. A value of 1 reflects equality or parity between females and males. A value below 1 usually favours males while a value over 1 usually favours females. The original values for the gender parity in literacy indicator are converted into an YDI indicator score where a lower score reflects greater inequality between men and women in favour of men and a higher score suggests greater equality in favour of women.

Table A1.2 Data availability for small-island Commonwealth countries

Country	Percentage of data available
Antigua and Barbuda	40.74%
The Bahamas	59.26%
Barbados	77.78%
Brunei Darussalam	66.67%
Dominica	40.74%
Fiji	66.67%
Gabon	92.59%
Grenada	55.56%
Kiribati	51.85%
Maldives	70.37%
Nauru	44.44%
St Kitts and Nevis	40.74%
Saint Lucia	66.67%
St Vincent and the Grenadines	44.44%
Samoa	70.37%
Seychelles	59.26%
Solomon Islands	62.96%
Togo	92.59%
Tonga	74.07%
Tuvalu	48.15%
Vanuatu	66.67%



Table A1.3 Data imputation methods applied in the YDI

Imputation method	Description	Application in the YDI
Time series imputation	Replace missing values using linear interpolation	The YDI uses this method when at least two data points exist in a time series for an indicator-country pair, to estimate data for unreported years. Similarly, when only one year of data is available for all countries, the values for that year are used for all years in the index.
Cold deck imputation	Replace the missing value with a value from another source	The YDI uses this method when alternative country statistics from a different source are available to fill in gaps.
Hot deck imputation	Replace the missing value with a KNN (k-nearest neighbours) imputation. KNN is an algorithm that is useful for matching a point with its closest k neighbours in a multi-dimensional space. It can be used for data that are continuous, discrete, ordinal and categorical, which makes it particularly useful for dealing with missing data. The algorithm fills in data gaps using similar countries to impute a value.	The YDI uses this method for data that is not available for all countries and when time series and cold deck imputations fail. A value is assigned based on the average of the five most similar countries in the same year. These may be five countries selected, in order of preference, from among countries: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in the same region;</li> <li>2. in the same income bracket as the country as defined by the World Bank; or</li> <li>3. with the same government type as defined by the Economist Intelligence Unit.</li> </ol> Only the most preferable of the three hot deck imputation techniques listed is used for any single missing data instance.

terms of socio-economic characteristics, which often times can affect data collection and quality.

The issue of data gaps is a common challenge to creating an index. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) et al. (2008) recommend several statistical techniques for dealing with data imputation to fill in data gaps. Table A1.3 lists the approaches used in the YDI. Using a combination of these techniques, the YDI represents the use of the best possible data without an overly complex methodology.

### The banding process

In order to aggregate the incommensurable indicators, all indicators have been banded (normalised). This means each indicator is scaled to a score ranging between 0 and 1, relative to the initial global range. Appropriate minimum and maximum values are, therefore, chosen for each indicator so that any values below the minimum are assigned 0 and values above the maximum are assigned 1. All other values are

scaled between 0 and 1, equivalent to their position in the original minimum-maximum range. Depending on the nature of the data, the banding process can take slightly different forms.

For example, for the literacy rate indicator, a higher score reflects a more desirable situation. Therefore, in this case, the banding process has assigned the largest data point a value of 1. Conversely, the lowest data point in the indicator has been assigned a value of 0, while all other data is scaled relative to these two points. This process is referred to as forward banding. On the other hand, a lower score on the mortality indicator reflects a more desirable situation. In this case, the data is reverse banded, so the lowest value is assigned 1 while the highest is assigned 0.

Therefore, for year  $y$ , Equation 1 calculates a forward banded score for indicator  $i$ . A reverse banded score is calculated using Equation 2.

Table A1.4 Banding limits for the YDI

Domain	Indicator	Min	Max	Mean	Standard deviation	Lower band	Upper band
Education	Digital natives	0.00	.996	.4011	.3082	0	1
	Literacy rate	13.1	100.00	84.09	15.56	0	100
	School completion	9.81	176.92	78.57	24.48	10.5	113.82
Employment and Opportunity	Account	0.00	100.00	50.19	27.51	0	1
	Adolescent fertility rate	1.45	185.124	48.028	40.19	0	250
	NEET	1	5	2.58	0.82	0	100
	Underemployment	0.08	7,526.1	180.60	492.16	0.08	433.21
Equality and Inclusion	Economic marginalisation	00	0.95	0.24	NA	0	0.91
	Gender parity in literacy	0.00	1.230157	0.09	0.11	0	1
	Gender parity in NEET	0.00	30.66	6.93	6.19	0	32.56
	Gender parity in safety and security	0.00	0.42	0.13	0.06	0	1
	Early marriage	0.00	83.50	26.94	17.91	0	100
Health and Wellbeing	Alcohol abuse	5.95	965.10	94.71	142.46	2.49	66.29
	Mortality rate	70.4	2,177.31	374.62	259.36	0	2,500
	Drug abuse	12.5	3,575.95	205.55	320.69	0	500
	HIV rate	0.10	22.03	0.70	1.99	0.1	0.725
	Mental health	0.02	19.65	1.29	2.64	0	4
	Tobacco consumption	0.04	1.55	0.44	0.27	0	1
	Self-harm	395.	15,393.2	2,058	1,635.1	0	5,000
Peace and Security	Conflict and terrorism	0.00	30,411.1	355	1,948.94	0	32,615
	INFORM score	0.50	8.7	3.91	1.71	0	10
	Internal peace score	1.17	4.271	3.70	0.57	1	5
	Interpersonal violence	55.3	36,790.69	2,218.34	3,191.15	20.91	1,601.5
Political and Civic Participation	Recognition for community improvement	0.02	0.78	0.26	0.10	0	1
	Voiced opinion to an official	0.01	0.51	0.17	0.07	0	1
	Volunteered time	0.03	0.66	0.22	0.09	0	1
	Youth policy score	0.00	4.00	2.72	0.80	0	4

## Equation 1: Banding equation

$$\text{Banded} = \frac{\text{Country indicator value in year } y_i - \text{Minimum cutoff}_i}{\text{Maximum cutoff}_i - \text{Minimum cutoff}_i}$$

## Equation 2: Reverse banding equation

$$\text{Reverse Banded} = 1 - \frac{\text{Country indicator value in year } y_i - \text{Minimum cutoff}_i}{\text{Maximum cutoff}_i - \text{Minimum cutoff}_i}$$

An integral part of the banding process is to set appropriate minimum and maximum cutoff values for the banded scores. Some data has a normal distribution and therefore outliers can be easily defined as those greater than three standard deviations from the mean. However, other datasets do not follow the bell-curved distribution trend. A number of considerations are therefore essential in choosing the appropriate technique: the nature of the data, the distribution, the purpose of the index, the information to be conveyed and so on. When investigating global datasets for the YDI, very few can be classified as

Table A1.5 Weights used in the YDI

Domain	Domain weight	Indicator	Indicator weight
Education	22%	Literacy rate	10%
		School completion	8%
		Digital natives	4%
Employment and Opportunity	22%	NEET	10%
		Underemployment	4%
		Adolescent fertility rate	4%
		Account	4%
Equality and Inclusion	14%	Gender parity in NEET	2.80%
		Gender parity in safety and security	2.80%
		Gender parity in literacy	2.80%
		Early marriage	2.80%
		Economic marginalisation	2.80%
Health and Wellbeing	22%	Mortality rate	10%
		HIV rate	2%
		Self-harm	2%
		Mental health	2%
		Drug abuse	2%
		Alcohol abuse	2%
		Tobacco consumption	2%
Peace and Security	10%	Internal peace score	2.50%
		Interpersonal violence	2.50%
		Conflict and terrorism	2.50%
		INFORM score	2.50%
Political and Civic Participation	10%	Youth policy score	2.50%
		Voiced opinion to an official	2.50%
		Volunteered time	2.50%
		Recognition for community improvement	2.50%

having a normal distribution. The presence of outliers defines the variance, skewing both the minimum and the maximum values. To account for this, IEP has set artificial minimum and maximum values to ensure that results are not too heavily influenced by outliers. Table A1.4 outlines the data distribution and bands for each indicator. The upper and lower bands are indicated when they are not based on the distribution of the data but rather have been input manually by IEP.

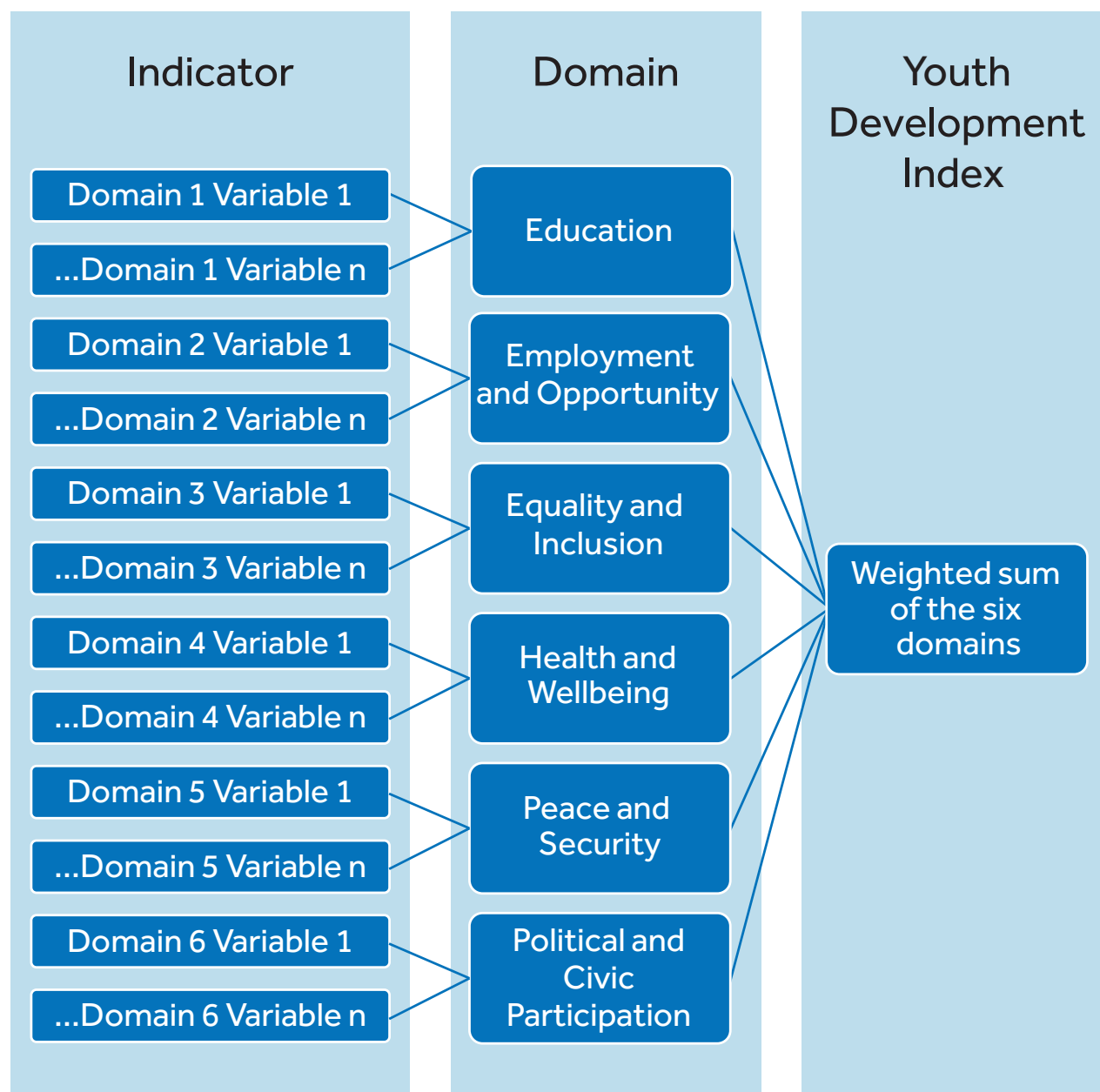
### Weighting indicators and domains

Table A1.5 shows the indicators and respective weights applied in the YDI. The YDI assigns a higher weighting to three domains: Health and Wellbeing, Education, and Employment and Opportunity receive 22 per cent each, as these domains are considered key to youth development and data quality and availability are higher

here. Equality and Inclusion is weighted at 14 per cent, while the Peace and Security domain and the Political and Civic Participation domain are weighted at 10 per cent each.

Within each domain, indicators are weighted by their importance relative to the other indicators in the respective domain. In some instances, they are weighted equally, indicating that they together comprise the core features of the respective domain and are equally essential. Across the three core domains, which comprise 66 per cent of the overall index, three indicators are considered primary: mortality rate, literacy rate and NEET. These primary indicators are weighted slightly higher than others in the index and therefore have a big impact on domain scores. In some cases, they grant countries a more pronounced domain score regardless of their overall rank in the YDI.

Figure A1.1 Composition of indicators into domains and the final YDI scores



### Aggregation and calculation

Once the data has been banded and weights have been assigned, the final stage is to multiply each banded indicator with its corresponding weight and add each country's performance to arrive at an overall YDI score. Final scores are calculated by combining scores for the six individual domains into the overall YDI score, as demonstrated in Figure A1.1.

## Annex 2

# 2023 Youth Development Index Rank Tables

Global rank	Commonwealth rank	Country	2023 YDI score	Educa-tion rank	Educa-tion score	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity rank	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity score	Equality & Inclusion rank
1	1	Singapore	0.868	18	0.930	5	0.958	4
2		Denmark	0.862	2	0.957	7	0.954	5
3		Portugal	0.848	21	0.923	98	0.735	141
4		Iceland	0.847	6	0.951	151	0.613	100
5		Slovenia	0.845	23	0.916	148	0.621	165
6		Norway	0.842	14	0.938	145	0.631	134
7		Ireland	0.838	28	0.911	1	0.977	13
8		Spain	0.832	30	0.907	62	0.812	104
8	2	Malta	0.832	17	0.932	51	0.850	57
10		Switzerland	0.830	20	0.928	118	0.689	144
11		Sweden	0.829	3	0.955	147	0.622	123
12		Czechia	0.828	33	0.891	107	0.707	151
12		Germany	0.828	18	0.930	128	0.674	142
14		Belgium	0.826	26	0.914	33	0.891	42
14		Netherlands	0.826	15	0.937	66	0.807	113
16		South Korea	0.824	23	0.916	166	0.565	153
17		Luxembourg	0.822	1	0.977	42	0.861	110
18		Hungary	0.821	32	0.903	20	0.924	68
19		Croatia	0.820	29	0.908	27	0.905	46
20		Austria	0.819	27	0.913	16	0.937	19
20	3	Cyprus	0.819	69	0.819	23	0.914	17
22		Italy	0.818	35	0.888	47	0.856	6
23		North Macedonia	0.813	66	0.826	179	0.462	171
24		Israel	0.812	30	0.907	41	0.865	25
24		Slovakia	0.812	53	0.855	37	0.875	136
26		United Arab Emirates	0.811	51	0.860	58	0.827	82
27	4	New Zealand	0.810	42	0.875	158	0.593	178
27	4	Brunei Darussalam	0.810	10	0.941	96	0.739	82
29		Greece	0.809	38	0.879	138	0.651	130

Equality & Inclusion score	Health & Wellbeing rank	Health & Wellbeing score	Peace & Security rank	Peace & Security score	Political & Civic Participation rank	Political & Civic Participation score
0.973	1	0.972	1	0.960	100	0.324
0.971	74	0.904	2	0.949	11	0.399
0.747	154	0.828	144	0.609	46	0.349
0.854	65	0.911	68	0.807	2	0.452
0.653	133	0.849	73	0.796	7	0.416
0.767	117	0.859	123	0.680	54	0.346
0.955	103	0.874	3	0.948	41	0.355
0.849	153	0.829	121	0.682	169	0.236
0.907	178	0.759	61	0.813	123	0.303
0.738	13	0.955	139	0.629	158	0.259
0.821	126	0.853	77	0.786	72	0.338
0.700	43	0.933	131	0.657	133	0.293
0.745	112	0.866	53	0.833	56	0.345
0.925	74	0.904	48	0.858	174	0.223
0.837	163	0.805	40	0.866	30	0.369
0.697	117	0.859	180	0.458	35	0.364
0.843	53	0.926	80	0.782	8	0.408
0.895	61	0.913	18	0.912	113	0.312
0.918	35	0.936	41	0.865	37	0.360
0.951	167	0.802	12	0.921	13	0.397
0.952	152	0.831	20	0.910	4	0.422
0.969	51	0.928	35	0.881	140	0.287
0.633	66	0.910	147	0.597	60	0.343
0.943	10	0.958	60	0.815	151	0.269
0.764	174	0.771	102	0.734	17	0.390
0.878	67	0.909	88	0.772	163	0.252
0.581	134	0.847	85	0.775	30	0.369
0.878	61	0.913	133	0.655	79	0.337
0.787	138	0.844	82	0.781	72	0.338

(Continued)

Global rank	Commonwealth rank	Country	2023 YDI score	Educa-tion rank	Educa-tion score	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity rank	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity score	Equality & Inclusion rank
29		Finland	0.809	4	0.953	91	0.744	98
31		Poland	0.808	8	0.943	156	0.598	90
32		Bahrain	0.804	61	0.839	11	0.946	11
33		Qatar	0.803	83	0.788	76	0.784	118
33		Oman	0.803	52	0.859	15	0.942	20
35	6	Malaysia	0.802	58	0.845	8	0.952	8
36		Serbia	0.801	47	0.869	52	0.849	65
37		France	0.800	16	0.933	84	0.767	1
37		Estonia	0.800	7	0.947	169	0.560	155
39		Lithuania	0.798	10	0.941	88	0.751	113
40		Kuwait	0.797	68	0.821	79	0.782	121
40		Japan	0.797	36	0.883	113	0.700	87
42		Montenegro	0.796	62	0.835	20	0.924	28
43		Bulgaria	0.795	40	0.876	44	0.859	55
44		Romania	0.794	64	0.830	25	0.913	11
44	7	Fiji	0.794	77	0.809	60	0.822	8
46		Saudi Arabia	0.792	43	0.874	29	0.902	41
46		Latvia	0.792	13	0.939	61	0.820	69
48		Albania	0.791	75	0.811	175	0.515	153
49	8	United Kingdom	0.790	22	0.921	50	0.851	13
50	9	Tonga	0.789	117	0.718	54	0.844	95
51	10	Sri Lanka	0.787	88	0.783	18	0.926	44
52	11	Canada	0.786	8	0.943	14	0.944	34
52	11	Australia	0.786	54	0.853	67	0.805	77
52		Georgia	0.786	85	0.787	160	0.585	174
55		Thailand	0.785	34	0.890	85	0.755	55
55		Vietnam	0.785	63	0.834	174	0.534	161
57		Turkey	0.784	25	0.915	64	0.810	54
58	13	Maldives	0.783	46	0.871	11	0.946	26
58		Taiwan	0.783	80	0.801	100	0.721	147
60		Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.780	57	0.849	103	0.713	128
61		Mongolia	0.770	96	0.770	173	0.544	179
62		Uruguay	0.769	49	0.865	133	0.661	82
63		Bhutan	0.768	112	0.730	56	0.836	37

Equality & Inclusion score	Health & Wellbeing rank	Health & Wellbeing score	Peace & Security rank	Peace & Security score	Political & Civic Participation rank	Political & Civic Participation score
0.859	137	0.846	85	0.775	133	0.293
0.873	107	0.871	154	0.581	1	0.481
0.957	113	0.864	23	0.900	72	0.338
0.829	95	0.885	161	0.559	96	0.326
0.950	119	0.858	9	0.924	104	0.320
0.965	163	0.805	14	0.920	84	0.330
0.898	27	0.944	65	0.811	161	0.254
0.977	151	0.832	21	0.908	135	0.292
0.683	20	0.948	149	0.591	121	0.305
0.837	109	0.870	153	0.583	87	0.329
0.824	37	0.935	90	0.769	116	0.308
0.877	2	0.970	76	0.790	180	0.201
0.940	97	0.884	25	0.898	29	0.371
0.908	102	0.877	34	0.882	46	0.349
0.957	24	0.947	18	0.912	45	0.351
0.965	128	0.852	30	0.889	131	0.294
0.927	179	0.757	133	0.655	40	0.359
0.894	27	0.944	27	0.896	145	0.281
0.697	140	0.843	98	0.741	154	0.266
0.955	177	0.761	100	0.736	143	0.283
0.862	98	0.883	152	0.586	56	0.345
0.922	85	0.896	29	0.890	118	0.306
0.934	147	0.834	6	0.941	15	0.394
0.885	143	0.838	32	0.885	9	0.405
0.616	134	0.847	132	0.656	33	0.366
0.908	157	0.823	73	0.796	176	0.218
0.658	48	0.930	165	0.543	173	0.225
0.910	58	0.916	45	0.862	148	0.271
0.942	172	0.787	41	0.865	146	0.274
0.712	90	0.890	110	0.714	58	0.344
0.811	140	0.843	165	0.543	127	0.299
0.580	39	0.934	175	0.489	24	0.377
0.878	80	0.902	176	0.482	63	0.342
0.929	27	0.944	57	0.825	182	0.152

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Global rank	Commonwealth rank	Country	2023 YDI score	Educa-tion rank	Educa-tion score	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity rank	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity score	Equality & Inclusion rank
63		Tunisia	0.768	88	0.783	71	0.798	53
65	14	Samoa	0.766	74	0.812	69	0.803	46
66		Chile	0.765	36	0.883	142	0.637	132
66		Belarus	0.765	58	0.845	172	0.547	163
68		Kyrgyzstan	0.762	69	0.819	155	0.602	122
69	15	Mauritius	0.761	54	0.853	163	0.579	116
69		China	0.761	64	0.830	179	0.462	173
69		Armenia	0.761	103	0.752	75	0.785	17
72		Tajikistan	0.760	85	0.787	34	0.888	71
72	16	Barbados	0.760	12	0.940	152	0.608	169
72		Bolivia	0.760	93	0.773	40	0.867	30
75		Costa Rica	0.759	44	0.873	53	0.845	89
76		United States	0.757	4	0.953	104	0.712	111
77		Indonesia	0.756	99	0.758	9	0.951	7
78	17	Grenada	0.755	40	0.876	25	0.913	31
79		Uzbekistan	0.754	82	0.793	72	0.794	76
80		Moldova	0.753	39	0.878	43	0.860	27
81		Kazakhstan	0.752	80	0.801	35	0.887	46
82		Morocco	0.750	98	0.760	89	0.750	100
83		Russia	0.749	45	0.872	91	0.744	82
84		Peru	0.747	50	0.861	87	0.752	113
85		Jordan	0.746	112	0.730	44	0.859	50
86		Argentina	0.745	60	0.842	125	0.677	82
86		Libya	0.745	119	0.712	76	0.784	79
88	18	Trinidad and Tobago	0.742	72	0.816	110	0.704	38
89		Cuba	0.741	101	0.754	4	0.959	35
89		Palestinian Territories	0.741	78	0.806	153	0.606	159
91		Lebanon	0.740	85	0.787	139	0.648	137
92	19	Jamaica	0.738	92	0.774	70	0.799	92
92		Cape Verde	0.738	106	0.751	48	0.854	80
92		Timor-Leste	0.738	127	0.673	79	0.782	139
95		Cambodia	0.737	141	0.604	167	0.563	182

Equality & Inclusion score	Health & Wellbeing rank	Health & Wellbeing score	Peace & Security rank	Peace & Security score	Political & Civic Participation rank	Political & Civic Participation score
0.911	18	0.951	109	0.718	138	0.289
0.918	4	0.967	12	0.921	156	0.265
0.773	138	0.844	138	0.641	63	0.342
0.654	11	0.956	99	0.738	154	0.266
0.822	162	0.812	71	0.802	17	0.390
0.834	109	0.870	179	0.470	101	0.323
0.628	56	0.920	159	0.562	136	0.291
0.952	89	0.894	87	0.773	158	0.259
0.892	94	0.886	114	0.709	28	0.372
0.643	37	0.935	157	0.566	36	0.361
0.936	159	0.816	67	0.808	162	0.253
0.874	74	0.904	129	0.664	142	0.284
0.841	58	0.916	59	0.816	106	0.316
0.966	126	0.853	11	0.922	10	0.400
0.935	100	0.881	39	0.867	113	0.312
0.886	55	0.922	51	0.841	110	0.315
0.941	30	0.943	44	0.863	105	0.317
0.918	170	0.800	90	0.769	148	0.271
0.854	103	0.874	126	0.671	13	0.397
0.878	123	0.855	128	0.665	113	0.312
0.837	93	0.887	156	0.570	110	0.315
0.916	134	0.847	8	0.930	129	0.298
0.878	68	0.908	106	0.729	117	0.307
0.883	45	0.932	130	0.660	106	0.316
0.928	16	0.952	54	0.830	172	0.233
0.932	101	0.878	14	0.920	60	0.343
0.673	39	0.934	79	0.784	4	0.422
0.760	81	0.899	104	0.731	43	0.352
0.871	98	0.883	133	0.655	106	0.316
0.882	106	0.872	93	0.759	157	0.264
0.751	45	0.932	83	0.778	46	0.349
0.534	167	0.802	172	0.503	60	0.343

(Continued)

Global rank	Commonwealth rank	Country	2023 YDI score	Educa-tion rank	Educa-tion score	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity rank	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity score	Equality & Inclusion rank
95		Iran	0.737	93	0.773	110	0.704	62
97		Ecuador	0.735	71	0.818	91	0.744	97
98		Azerbaijan	0.734	54	0.853	107	0.707	38
99		São Tomé and Príncipe	0.733	115	0.727	57	0.828	57
99		Egypt	0.733	101	0.754	136	0.652	88
101		Turkmenistan	0.729	93	0.773	164	0.575	157
102		Algeria	0.728	132	0.631	83	0.771	35
102	20	Seychelles	0.728	48	0.866	170	0.559	124
104		Myanmar (Burma)	0.724	135	0.626	31	0.896	60
105	21	Ghana	0.721	125	0.680	107	0.707	170
105		Ukraine	0.721	83	0.788	30	0.899	43
107	22	The Bahamas	0.718	67	0.825	116	0.694	158
108		Nepal	0.717	110	0.739	160	0.585	131
108		Philippines	0.717	103	0.752	140	0.646	78
108		Paraguay	0.717	122	0.696	159	0.590	137
111	23	Saint Lucia	0.716	79	0.805	2	0.969	22
112	24	Gabon	0.714	140	0.607	78	0.783	74
112	24	Kiribati	0.714	97	0.769	81	0.778	73
114		Puerto Rico	0.712	110	0.739	18	0.926	31
115	26	Solomon Islands	0.711	129	0.658	112	0.702	106
115	26	Vanuatu	0.711	139	0.612	122	0.686	120
117		Panama	0.710	109	0.742	22	0.921	63
117		Marshall Islands	0.710	72	0.816	165	0.567	167
119		Comoros	0.703	158	0.497	162	0.580	74
120		Dominican Republic	0.702	114	0.728	100	0.721	126
121		Venezuela	0.700	100	0.756	74	0.789	65
121	28	India	0.700	121	0.699	146	0.623	145
123		Laos	0.699	138	0.615	39	0.873	31
124		Suriname	0.698	134	0.627	125	0.677	126
125	29	The Gambia	0.697	151	0.541	141	0.638	102
126	30	Namibia	0.696	103	0.752	177	0.505	175

Equality & Inclusion score	Health & Wellbeing rank	Health & Wellbeing score	Peace & Security rank	Peace & Security score	Political & Civic Participation rank	Political & Civic Participation score
0.903	60	0.914	112	0.711	164	0.251
0.860	91	0.889	136	0.646	96	0.326
0.928	114	0.863	117	0.704	171	0.234
0.907	61	0.913	37	0.878	125	0.301
0.875	8	0.962	89	0.770	181	0.185
0.677	123	0.855	127	0.667	131	0.294
0.932	47	0.931	55	0.828	71	0.339
0.816	26	0.945	137	0.642	152	0.267
0.904	156	0.824	80	0.782	27	0.373
0.640	144	0.837	124	0.673	72	0.338
0.923	181	0.743	142	0.621	126	0.300
0.674	35	0.936	113	0.710	138	0.289
0.785	9	0.960	115	0.707	37	0.360
0.884	32	0.937	102	0.734	148	0.271
0.760	88	0.895	141	0.626	168	0.238
0.948	95	0.885	7	0.931	21	0.386
0.888	78	0.903	72	0.800	3	0.443
0.890	121	0.857	73	0.796	69	0.340
0.935	158	0.822	31	0.886	87	0.329
0.846	128	0.852	168	0.536	26	0.375
0.825	147	0.834	66	0.810	46	0.349
0.899	105	0.873	16	0.919	102	0.322
0.648	64	0.912	100	0.736	53	0.347
0.888	68	0.908	177	0.479	58	0.344
0.813	20	0.948	70	0.803	165	0.244
0.898	109	0.870	84	0.776	46	0.349
0.718	85	0.896	107	0.726	20	0.388
0.935	53	0.926	17	0.917	127	0.299
0.813	171	0.793	155	0.574	152	0.267
0.853	122	0.856	62	0.812	54	0.346
0.612	165	0.804	151	0.588	24	0.377

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Global rank	Commonwealth rank	Country	2023 YDI score	Educa-tion rank	Educa-tion score	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity rank	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity score	Equality & Inclusion rank
127		Colombia	0.694	91	0.776	124	0.680	151
127		Senegal	0.694	162	0.490	170	0.559	148
129		El Salvador	0.693	124	0.688	118	0.689	163
130		Mauritania	0.692	166	0.479	94	0.743	103
130		Brazil	0.692	90	0.777	135	0.656	109
132	31	Togo	0.690	145	0.574	49	0.853	51
133		Syria	0.689	131	0.637	178	0.500	176
134		Iraq	0.685	123	0.690	156	0.598	106
135		Equatorial Guinea	0.682	156	0.501	36	0.885	1
136		Nicaragua	0.680	132	0.631	37	0.875	91
137	32	Belize	0.679	118	0.717	62	0.812	67
138	33	Bangladesh	0.678	120	0.711	176	0.506	160
139	34	Guyana	0.677	107	0.745	143	0.636	165
140		Djibouti	0.676	152	0.527	123	0.681	118
141	35	South Africa	0.675	115	0.727	46	0.857	38
142	36	Botswana	0.674	108	0.744	58	0.827	94
143		Mexico	0.673	75	0.811	154	0.604	93
143		Burundi	0.673	161	0.493	114	0.698	139
143	37	Kenya	0.673	126	0.679	136	0.652	146
146		Republic of Congo (Congo–Brazzaville)	0.671	146	0.573	121	0.687	142
147		Sudan	0.670	155	0.510	6	0.955	21
148	38	Sierra Leone	0.667	162	0.490	127	0.676	162
148	38	Rwanda	0.667	153	0.526	117	0.692	72
150		Haiti	0.665	130	0.656	32	0.895	10
150		Eritrea	0.665	148	0.568	10	0.948	28
152	40	Zambia	0.660	144	0.601	150	0.615	149
153	41	Uganda	0.659	165	0.485	86	0.753	156
154	42	Cameroon	0.657	160	0.494	23	0.914	16
155		Côte d'Ivoire	0.655	149	0.559	90	0.745	112
155	43	Eswatini	0.655	128	0.662	11	0.946	22
157		Madagascar	0.652	167	0.457	132	0.665	150
157		Liberia	0.652	177	0.373	143	0.636	168

Equality & Inclusion score	Health & Wellbeing rank	Health & Wellbeing score	Peace & Security rank	Peace & Security score	Political & Civic Participation rank	Political & Civic Participation score
0.700	140	0.843	115	0.707	34	0.365
0.707	83	0.898	96	0.752	68	0.341
0.654	48	0.930	150	0.589	72	0.338
0.851	7	0.963	62	0.812	87	0.329
0.845	115	0.860	174	0.494	23	0.378
0.915	78	0.903	58	0.823	17	0.390
0.600	72	0.907	163	0.553	179	0.204
0.846	24	0.947	170	0.514	144	0.282
0.977	43	0.933	28	0.891	123	0.303
0.872	39	0.934	49	0.855	93	0.327
0.896	5	0.964	41	0.865	112	0.314
0.662	32	0.937	111	0.713	81	0.333
0.653	52	0.927	171	0.509	63	0.342
0.829	72	0.907	164	0.552	80	0.336
0.928	39	0.934	50	0.849	160	0.257
0.863	74	0.904	104	0.731	92	0.328
0.864	159	0.816	108	0.719	46	0.349
0.751	161	0.814	146	0.601	84	0.330
0.713	125	0.854	145	0.603	16	0.392
0.745	14	0.953	118	0.686	11	0.399
0.949	128	0.852	9	0.924	103	0.321
0.656	16	0.952	69	0.804	46	0.349
0.891	3	0.968	118	0.686	177	0.212
0.959	83	0.898	26	0.897	140	0.287
0.940	179	0.757	23	0.900	69	0.340
0.705	146	0.835	120	0.684	37	0.360
0.679	131	0.851	143	0.610	22	0.380
0.954	173	0.785	32	0.885	169	0.236
0.838	91	0.889	92	0.761	87	0.329
0.948	175	0.769	4	0.943	93	0.327
0.704	182	0.739	160	0.560	82	0.331
0.647	119	0.858	95	0.755	6	0.419


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Global rank	Commonwealth rank	Country	2023 YDI score	Educa-tion rank	Educa-tion score	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity rank	Employ-ment & Oppor-tunity score	Equality & Inclusion rank
159	44	Papua New Guinea	0.649	170	0.411	64	0.810	52
159		Honduras	0.649	141	0.604	105	0.710	125
161		Guatemala	0.645	137	0.622	97	0.738	117
162	45	Pakistan	0.643	159	0.495	3	0.960	1
163		Benin	0.639	174	0.397	81	0.778	105
164		Guinea-Bissau	0.636	170	0.411	128	0.674	99
165		Burkina Faso	0.633	175	0.396	67	0.805	129
166		Ethiopia	0.632	173	0.400	55	0.840	59
166	46	Tanzania	0.632	154	0.511	95	0.741	63
168	47	Malawi	0.628	176	0.395	17	0.930	13
169		Zimbabwe	0.627	136	0.625	183	0.000	183
170		Yemen	0.623	143	0.603	134	0.659	69
171		Angola	0.620	169	0.427	28	0.904	45
172	48	Nigeria	0.616	157	0.499	182	0.261	181
173	49	Lesotho	0.614	150	0.553	106	0.708	49
174		Democratic Republic of Congo	0.613	146	0.573	102	0.720	96
175		Guinea	0.612	178	0.358	149	0.619	133
176		Mali	0.590	179	0.282	130	0.673	81
177	50	Mozambique	0.585	170	0.411	73	0.793	22
178		South Sudan	0.582	181	0.224	114	0.698	135
178		Somalia	0.582	164	0.486	167	0.563	171
180		Chad	0.554	182	0.195	131	0.667	177
181		Niger	0.543	180	0.237	99	0.727	106
182		Central African Republic	0.536	183	0.183	118	0.689	60
183		Afghanistan	0.515	168	0.431	181	0.305	180

Equality & Inclusion score	Health & Wellbeing rank	Health & Wellbeing score	Peace & Security rank	Peace & Security score	Political & Civic Participation rank	Political & Civic Participation score
0.914	5	0.964	45	0.862	147	0.272
0.815	155	0.826	178	0.471	43	0.352
0.833	81	0.899	93	0.759	87	0.329
0.977	115	0.860	4	0.943	42	0.353
0.847	131	0.851	148	0.596	118	0.306
0.856	169	0.801	161	0.559	121	0.305
0.806	20	0.948	38	0.876	136	0.291
0.905	31	0.939	62	0.812	93	0.327
0.899	107	0.871	77	0.786	32	0.368
0.955	176	0.763	35	0.881	63	0.342
0.000	183	0.000	183	0.000	183	0.000
0.894	165	0.804	173	0.502	98	0.325
0.919	85	0.896	22	0.902	118	0.306
0.544	18	0.951	165	0.543	63	0.342
0.917	48	0.930	121	0.682	167	0.242
0.861	20	0.948	140	0.627	72	0.338
0.772	145	0.836	169	0.515	98	0.325
0.880	11	0.956	56	0.827	175	0.221
0.948	32	0.937	52	0.834	130	0.296
0.765	14	0.953	97	0.744	72	0.338
0.633	149	0.833	181	0.422	84	0.330
0.594	57	0.918	124	0.673	106	0.316
0.846	149	0.833	158	0.563	82	0.331
0.904	68	0.908	45	0.862	165	0.244
0.562	68	0.908	182	0.348	178	0.209







*"Young people are indispensable to delivering a future that is more just, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. By measuring their contributions and needs with hard data, our advocacy for their development becomes more powerful."*

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

The *Global Youth Development Index Update Report 2023* provides fresh analysis on the state of youth development up to 2022, reflecting the most up-to-date comparable data available and giving some indications of the emerging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tracking 27 indicators across six domains of youth development between 2010 and 2012, the report aims to support policy-makers and the public to reflect on progress made over recent years, to develop new strategies for strengthening the enabling environment for youth empowerment, and to work with young people to co-create innovative and sustainable solutions for a common future.

It uses the same methodology as, and so is comparable with, the full *Global Youth Development Index (2020)*, and provides updates on the data for indicators previously selected and validated by a technical group of experts comprising representatives from governments, development organisations, youth networks, and research and academic institutions.

