

5 June 2026
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2015-2025

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN PORTUGAL 2015–2025

Statistics Portugal releases today the eighth edition of the national publication monitoring the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda, entitled “Sustainable Development Goals: Indicators for Portugal | 2030 Agenda”. The publication describes the performance of 189 SDG indicators from the UN global list for Portugal, covering the period from 2015 to the most recent year with available data. It presents a concise analysis of the progress and performance of the 17 SDGs in the national context.



Statistics Portugal (INE) thus presents the eighth edition of the national publication dedicated to the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of national progress in relation to the SDGs, placing emphasis on visual, infographic and quantitative communication approaches. It includes 189 SDG¹ indicators from the United Nations (UN) global list, applied to Portugal.

The analysis of each goal is complemented by an assessment of trends and indicator performance against the established targets or, where these are not available, against the direction of change considered desirable, from 2015 (the starting year of the 2030 Agenda) to the most recent year with available data. This assessment follows the monitoring methodology developed, tested and applied by Eurostat at European Union level.

To enable a broader time-based analysis, statistical information with series dating back to 2010 is also provided in the accompanying dataset.

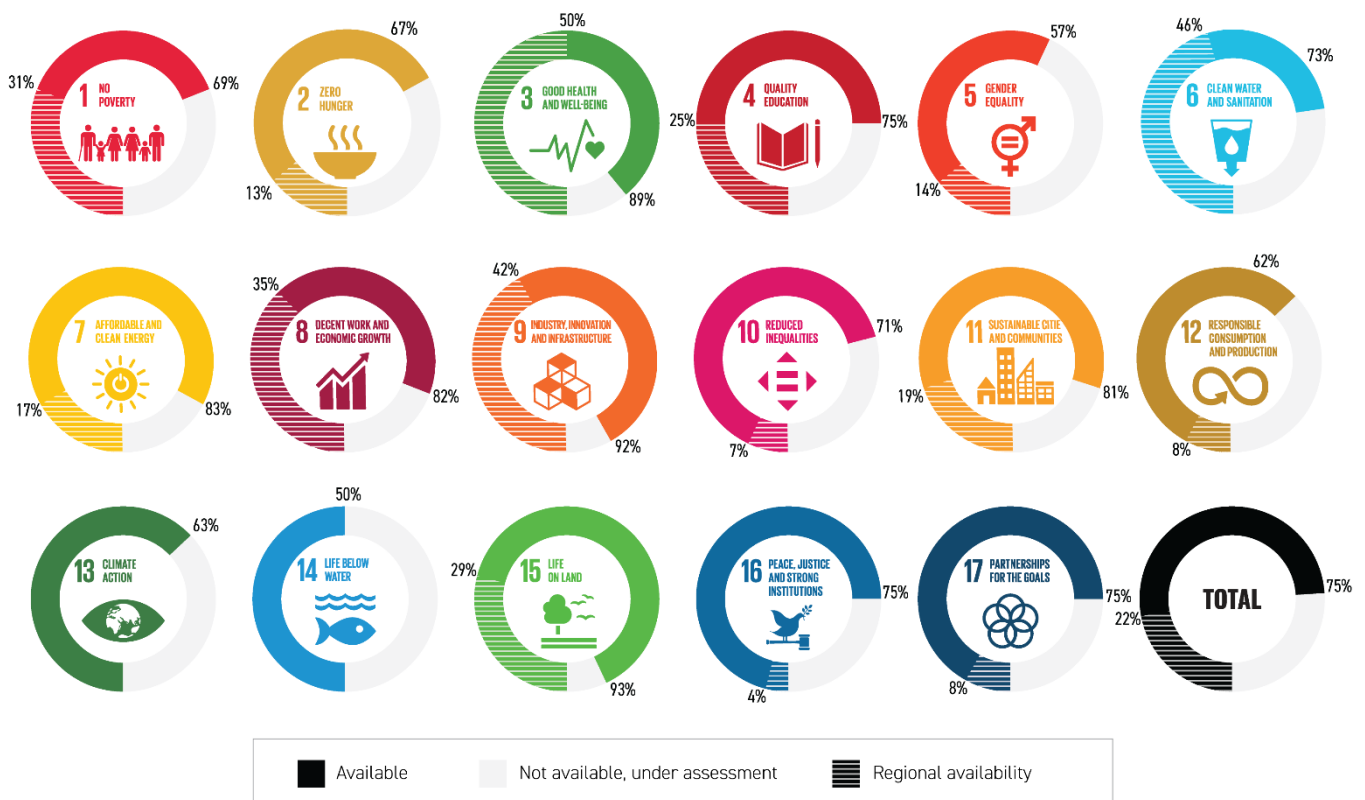
¹ 62 indicators from the UN global list are not included in this list for Portugal, mainly for three reasons: (i) they are not applicable in the national context; (ii) they do not yet have a sufficiently well-established and clear methodology for their calculation; or (iii) no data are available.

The 189 indicators with data available at national level corresponds to 75% of the total 251 SDG indicators in the UN global list. This represents a slight increase compared with the 74% recorded in the previous edition. Nevertheless, information gaps persist in some goals, with coverage levels remaining below 60% for SDG 5 “Gender Equality” (57%) and SDG 14 “Life Below Water” (50%). By contrast, SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-Being”, SDG 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy”, SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth”, SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”, SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” and SDG 15 “Life on Land” show coverage levels above 80%.

In the selection of indicators, priority was given to the inclusion of information disaggregated at NUTS II level (NUTS 2024 version), whenever available and relevant, reaching a coverage of 22%. In some cases, disaggregation according to the NUTS 2013 classification is also presented.

Compared with the previous edition, SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-Being”, SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation”, SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” and SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” continued to show greater availability of indicators with regional disaggregation, achieving coverage rates of 50%, 46%, 35% and 42%, respectively.

Figure 1. Availability of SDG indicators for Portugal, 2015–2025



Source: Statistics Portugal

The analysis of global SDG indicators performance at national level was based on the methodology adopted by Eurostat to present SDG performance in the European Union. The application of this methodology made it possible to assess the performance of the 189 global SDG indicators and, consequently, to position the 17 SDGs according to their evolution over the period 2015–2025.

Comparing the most recent year with the first year available since 2015, it is possible to conclude that:

- 105 of the 189 global indicators analysed registered a positive evolution;
- 🎯 23 of the 105 indicators showing positive progress have reached the target;
- 38 showed an unfavourable evolution;
- 10 remained unchanged;
- 36 are not subject to evaluation (irregular or short data series, inconclusive).

The evolution of SDG indicators in Portugal between 2015 and 2025 was overall positive, although with significant differences across goals.

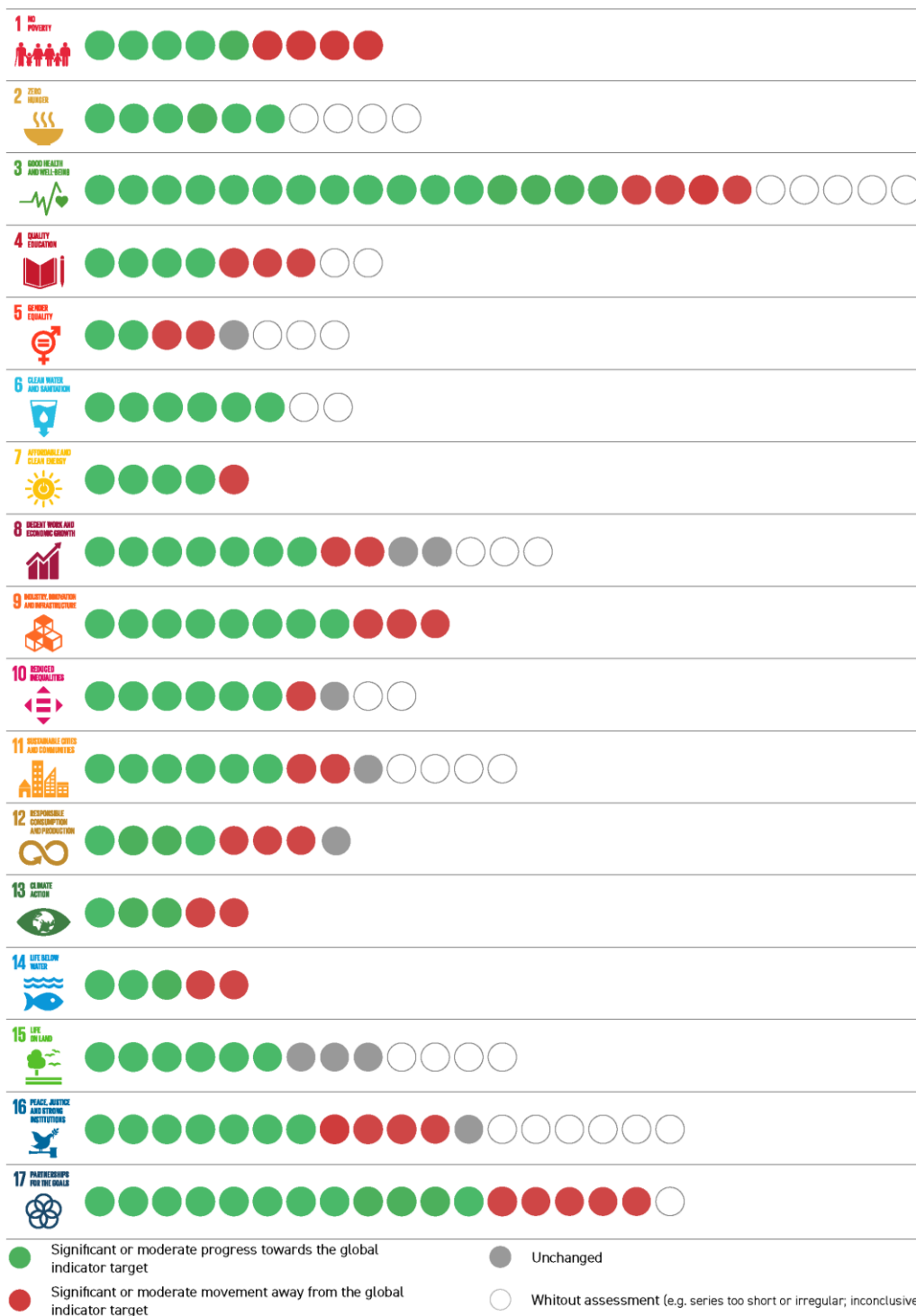
Overall, the majority of indicators showed favourable progress, reflecting significant or moderate advances towards the established targets. SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation”, SDG 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy” and SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” stand out, with more than 70% of their respective global indicators recording favourable trends (75.0%, 80.0% and 72.7%, respectively). These results demonstrate consistent alignment with the aims of the 2030 Agenda across various social, economic and environmental domains.

On the other hand, a notable proportion of indicators showed unfavourable trends, indicating setbacks or developments contrary to the defined targets. This is the case for SDG 4 “Quality Education”, SDG 5 “Gender Equality”, SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, SDG 15 “Life on Land” and SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, which recorded less than 50% of their indicators with positive progress (Figure 2).

It is also worth highlighting the share of indicators without assessment, mainly associated with data limitations and the absence of sufficiently long statistical series to calculate robust trends. This situation underlines the importance of continuing to strengthen statistical monitoring systems in order to ensure a more comprehensive and consistent assessment of the progress achieved.



Figure 2. Evolution of SDG global indicators in Portugal, 2015-2025²



² From the first year available from 2015 to the last year available. Each circle represents a global indicator. The evolution over the period is attributed through the average annual growth rate between the most recent year available and the first year available since 2015 (with at least three interpolated observations) and in line with the favourable direction of the indicator.

Source: Statistics Portugal

Based on global indicators scoring by SDG and the application of Eurostat's methodology, it was possible to assess the performance of the 17 SDGs and to establish their overall positioning in accordance with the trends observed over the 2015–2025 period (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Positioning of the SDGs in Portugal according to their progress over the period 2015–2025



Source: Statistics Portugal

From the analysis of the indicator's behaviour for each SDG, a summary of the performance of the main indicators for Portugal over the period 2015–2025 is also presented, together with an overall assessment of each goal derived from the methodology applied.



Portugal shows an overall positive performance in SDG 1 “No Poverty”, with 55.6% of indicators recording favourable progress, reflecting relevant advances in combating poverty and improving living conditions. Nevertheless, important challenges remain, namely accelerating the pace of poverty reduction, strengthening social protection, and mitigating the impacts associated with disasters.

Significant improvements are highlighted, particularly in poverty reduction: the at-risk-of-poverty rate fell from 19.0% in 2015 to 15.4% in 2024. However, the pace of progress remains insufficient to meet the 2030 target, requiring a more marked acceleration. There have also been very positive advances in housing conditions, reflected in a sharp reduction in the population without access to basic facilities, both overall and among the most vulnerable groups.

In the area of social protection, although the number of pensioners has increased slightly, some indicators — such as old-age and disability pensions or unemployment benefit coverage — show signs of weakness or stagnation.

On the other hand, trends related to disasters represent one of the main negative aspects, with significant increases in the number of victims, injured persons and missing individuals. Even so, progress has been observed in preparedness and institutional response, notably through strengthening disaster risk reduction strategies and aligning municipalities with national and international guidelines.



The performance of SDG 2 “Zero Hunger” shows an overall positive trajectory, with 60.0% of indicators displaying favourable progress. However, there are significant monitoring limitations, reflected in the high proportion of indicators without available data (33.3%) and indicators that, despite having data, do not allow for a robust assessment due to short or inconsistent statistical series (40.0%). Nevertheless, Portugal shows relevant progress in food security, agricultural sustainability and sector financing.

Among the main advances is the improvement in food security: the prevalence of moderate and/or severe food insecurity fell from 4.7% in 2019 to 3.5% in 2025, signalling progress in access to adequate food. At the same time, there has been very significant growth in organic farming, whose area more than tripled between 2016 and 2023, bringing Portugal closer to the European 2030 target and demonstrating positive evolution in the agricultural

model. Preservation of agricultural biodiversity also shows encouraging signs, with a consistent increase in conserved animal genetic resources, contributing to the protection of native breeds.



Portugal's performance in SDG 3 "Good Health and Well-being" shows overall positive development, with 64.0% of indicators demonstrating favourable progress, reflecting consistent advances in promoting health and well-being.

Key results include significant improvements in maternal and child health, reflected in marked reductions in maternal, neonatal and child mortality, as well as high coverage of births attended by skilled professionals. These outcomes reinforce the quality and coverage of healthcare in this area.

In tackling diseases, the picture is broadly positive, with significant reductions in HIV incidence, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. Hepatitis B is an exception, showing an unfavourable trend requiring greater attention. Regarding non-communicable diseases, moderate improvements were seen in reducing premature mortality, while the suicide rate declined more sharply, signalling important progress in mental health. Road traffic mortality also continues to decrease. On the downside, increases in deaths linked to inadequate environmental conditions and accidental poisoning stand out as the main negative aspects.

At health system level, there has been a strengthening of capacity, reflected in an increase in healthcare professionals and improved coverage of primary care, although challenges remain in ensuring universal access.




Portugal shows an overall unfavourable performance in SDG 4 "Quality Education", with only 44.4% of indicators recording positive progress, while 33.3% show negative trends and 22.2% remain unevaluated, revealing a heterogeneous picture marked by information gaps.

Progress is mainly concentrated in access and completion: improvements in transition rates in primary and secondary education and the consolidation of universal pre-school education highlight advances in access. In the 2023/2024 school year, completion rates reached 96.1% in primary education and 90.4% in secondary education, approaching European targets, while pre-school education has been universal since 2020. Digital skills have also improved, with the proportion of individuals aged 16–74 with at least basic digital skills rising from 47.7% in 2015 to 59.2% in 2025.

However, these gains contrast with setbacks in learning quality. According to PISA results, the proportion of students with minimum proficiency in reading fell from 82.8% in 2015 to 76.8% in 2022, while in mathematics it


declined from 76.2% to 70.2%, revealing a deterioration in performance. Weaknesses also persist in technological infrastructure in schools, particularly regarding internet access and computers for educational purposes.

 SDG 5 “Gender Equality” shows an overall unfavourable performance in Portugal, reflecting persistent structural inequalities and insufficient progress towards parity by 2030. Only 57.1% of global indicators have data allowing assessment, and of these, only 25% show favourable progress. There is also a high proportion of indicators without evaluation due to short or irregular time series (37.5%).

Despite fully developed legal frameworks, challenges remain in effective implementation. Gender-based violence remains one of the most serious issues, with 22.5% of women aged 18–74 reporting experiences of intimate partner violence in 2022.

In political participation, progress is limited: in 2025, women represented 33.5% of Members of Parliament, an increase of just 0.5 percentage points since 2015. At local government level, female representation rose from 10.4% (2017) to 15.6% (2025), still far from parity.

In the labour market, some advances are evident, particularly in public administration, where women accounted for 56% of managerial positions in 2025, exceeding the parity threshold.

 SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation” shows an overall mixed performance, although 75% of the global indicators recorded a favourable evolution towards the objectives. The picture combines clear progress in access and water quality with persistent challenges related to the ecological quality of water resources.

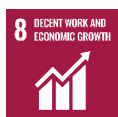
Progress is particularly evident in universal access to essential services. Drinking water quality remained at excellent levels, with 98.9% safe water in 2024, while the proportion of the population without basic sanitation conditions decreased from 0.9% in 2015 to 0.2% in 2025. Conversely, the quality of water bodies shows contradictory signals. Despite improvements in the chemical component — with the proportion of water classified as “good” increasing from 32.3% to 69.6% — the percentage classified as “poor” also increased (from 2.8% to 20.2%), as well as setbacks in overall ecological status.

At the international level, Portugal maintains a robust performance, with 100% of transboundary river basins covered by cooperation agreements. There was also a strengthening of external commitment in the sector, reflected in increased funding allocated to water and sanitation, from €0.4 million to €4.0 million in 2025.



Portugal shows an overall positive performance in SDG 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy”, this being the SDG with the highest proportion of global indicators showing favourable progress during the period under analysis (80.0%). Clear progress is observed in universal access to energy, in the integration of renewable energy sources, and in energy efficiency, although still insufficient to meet the 2030 targets.

The country has already achieved universal access to electricity and to clean fuels and technologies, fully meeting this objective. The share of renewable energy in final consumption increased to 36.5% in 2024, but remains below the 51% target set for 2030, as the observed average annual growth (2.0%) remains below the required rate (3.5%). In electricity generation, renewable sources accounted for 65.8% in 2024, showing a positive trajectory. However, this value is still far from the 93% target for 2030, with the annual growth rate (2.5%) also below the required level (3.9%). In terms of energy efficiency, there has been consistent improvement, reflected in a reduction of energy intensity to below 90 toe per million euros of GDP in 2024, indicating more efficient energy use.



The evolution of SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” indicators in Portugal was favourable in 50.0% of the global indicators during the period under analysis, reflecting employment recovery, improved job quality, and economic resilience, albeit with recent signs of slowdown in some areas.

In the labour market, progress is clear: the unemployment rate fell to 6.0% in 2025 (6.4% in 2024), maintaining a significant downward trend since 2015 (around -7.5% per annum). There was also a reduction in young people not in employment, education or training (-4.5% per year) and in occupational accidents, both non-fatal (-2.7%) and fatal (-3.4%). Despite these advances, significant inequalities persist, particularly youth unemployment, which remains high (19.5%).

At the economic level, there is an improvement in material efficiency, with reductions in resource use indicators per unit of GDP, although per capita values remained relatively stable. The tourism sector strengthened its weight in the economy between 2016 and 2023, although a slowdown in the growth of value added associated with this activity was observed. In financial services, increasing digitalisation stands out, as evidenced by the rise in home banking, contrasting with the reduction of the physical banking network, namely the decrease in the number of branches and ATMs.

Finally, Portugal meets the target associated with the national strategy for youth employment and recorded growth in international “Aid for Trade”.



Portugal's performance in SDG 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure" is overall positive, with 72.7% of global indicators with available information showing favourable progress towards the goal, highlighting relevant advances in innovation, research and environmental efficiency, although structural weaknesses persist in the industrial base and in the transport sector.

The main advances are focused on research and innovation, with a consistent increase in the number of researchers per inhabitant and higher expenditure on R&D. However, this progress remains insufficient to reach the target of 3% of GDP (annual growth of 3.8% compared to the 6.1% required). Improvements in environmental efficiency are also observed, with emissions intensity decreasing from 0.3 to 0.2 kg CO₂/€ between 2015 and 2023.

In the industrial sector, developments are heterogeneous. Value added per capita increased, but its share in GDP decreased, while industrial employment fell by around -1.0% per year. Micro and small industrial enterprises lost relevance, with reductions in value added (-1.1% annually) and indebtedness (-2.9% annually), revealing weaknesses in the business fabric. By contrast, moderate progress was recorded in medium-high technology industry (from 22.9% to 23.3%).

In transport, negative signals are observed, with declines in rail freight transport (-2.1% per year) and heavy vehicle activity (-3.3% per year).



SDG 10 "Reduced Inequalities" shows overall positive progress between 2015 and 2023, with 60.0% of global indicators with available information improving. Income levels increased substantially, with average income rising from €10,562 in 2015 to €14,951 in 2024.

Notably, the bottom 40% of the population experienced higher annual growth (4.7%) than the overall population (3.9%), contributing to achieving the European target for 2030. Monetary poverty also declined, with the proportion of people below 50% of median equivalent income falling from 13.0% to 9.7%.

There was also a moderate improvement in labour's share of GDP (+0.93% per year) and positive developments in financial soundness indicators. However, challenges remain: the redistributive impact of fiscal and social policies weakened slightly, reflected in a 1.5 percentage point reduction in the Gini coefficient gap.



The trajectory of Portugal in SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" shows moderate progress, with 46.2% of global indicators assessed as favourable and 30.8% not assessed due to lack of data,

highlighting relevant advances in urban governance and environmental sustainability, but also significant challenges in structural areas such as housing, waste management and mobility.

Among the positive aspects, improvements in civic participation stand out, now fully ensured, as well as progress in air quality, land use efficiency and the strengthening of disaster risk reduction strategies. There has also been a recovery in cultural activity following previous declines, with increased private expenditure on cultural services, including libraries, archives and museums, between 2015 and 2023.

However, important weaknesses persist. Severe housing deprivation has worsened, highlighting difficulties in access to adequate housing. In the environmental domain, municipal waste continues to increase (+1.3% per year), while the recycling rate has declined (-0.4% per year), distancing the country from the 60% target by 2030. Urban mobility also remains a challenge, with 67.8% of the population reporting that they never or almost never use public transport, reflecting strong dependence on private transport.

Regarding the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework, there has been an increase in the proportion of municipalities adopting and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies (2.3% in 2015 and 19.2% in 2023).



SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” shows uneven performance, with relevant progress in resource efficiency but persistent difficulties in waste management and reducing material consumption. The assessment of global indicators indicates that 50% showed positive progress towards the SDG, while 37.5% showed negative evolution and 12.5% showed no alteration.

Among the most significant advances is the improvement in material efficiency, with material consumption per unit of GDP already meeting the national target. The material footprint decreased from 0.8 to 0.7 kg/€ between 2015 and 2023, reflecting more efficient resource use. There has also been a significant reduction in the share of hazardous waste, which fell from 10.3% to 5.5% of the total.

Important challenges remain: material consumption per capita remains high, and hazardous waste has increased in absolute terms (from 88.6 to 91.4 kg per person). Recycling and reuse are also progressing too slowly (+0.3% per year compared with the 3.5% required to reach the 60% target by 2030).



SDG 13 “Climate Action” is characterised by an overall favourable evolution, with 60% of its five global indicators showing positive progress in the period under analysis, and no indicators lacking assessment.

Overall performance is supported by the consistent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the strengthening of disaster risk reduction strategies and progressive alignment with international carbon neutrality targets, although significant challenges remain.

Between 2015 and 2023, the index of adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies, in line with the Sendai Framework, increased from 0.4 to 0.9. At the same time, the proportion of local governments with strategies aligned with national ones rose from 2.3% to 19.2%, reflecting a significant strengthening of institutional coordination.

In terms of emissions, there was a favourable trend between 2015 and 2024, with average annual reductions of around 3%, reflecting a consistent decarbonisation path. In contrast, national contributions to international climate finance declined slightly, from €6.2 million in 2015 to €5.9 million in 2024.

The main setback concerns the impact of disasters on the population, with the number of deaths and missing persons increasing at an average annual rate of 39.5% between 2015 and 2024. Even more markedly, the number of people directly affected grew at an average annual rate of 43.0%, highlighting the need to strengthen response capacity, prevention and resilience to climate risks.



The assessment of SDG 14 “Life Below Water” shows an overall unfavourable trend in the period under review, with 60% of global indicators recording negative progress between 2015 and 2025. Although there are positive signs in specific areas, the overall pace of progress remains insufficient to ensure the full conservation of marine ecosystems and fishery resources in Portugal.

Progress has been achieved in the sustainable management of assessed fishery resources, notably with the proportion of stocks (ICES Category 1) exploited at Maximum Sustainable Yield reaching 100% in 2025 in mainland Portugal. The target relating to the legal protection of small-scale fisheries was also achieved and maintained in 2022 and 2024.

However, significant challenges remain. The proportion of stocks managed under a precautionary approach (ICES Category 3) and exploited at a proxy Maximum Sustainable Yield declined from 66.6% in 2015 to 50.0% in 2025, indicating an unfavourable trend, albeit with recent signs of recovery. The extent of marine protected areas shows insufficient progress, remaining stagnant at 7% between 2017 and 2024, far below the 30% target for 2030. In addition, investment in research and development in marine technology declined from 2.1% in 2016 to 1.7% in

2022, running counter to efforts to strengthen the scientific and technological base supporting sustainable ocean management.



SDG 15 “Life on Land” shows an overall mixed performance, with no global indicators showing unfavourable evolution during the period under analysis. Nevertheless, 23.1% of indicators remain unchanged, largely due to their structural nature, and 30.8% cannot be assessed due to insufficient time series for consistent analysis.

Despite these limitations, relevant progress is recorded in 40.6% of indicators, particularly in the adoption of legal and institutional frameworks for biodiversity protection, strengthened management of invasive species, and enhanced international cooperation on genetic resources. Among the targets already achieved are the implementation of international instruments such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Nagoya Protocol, as well as the existence of legislation and resources dedicated to controlling invasive alien species and the integration of biodiversity targets into national strategies and systems, including the System of Environmental Economic Accounts.

International funding for biodiversity increased significantly, with official development assistance rising from €0.4 million in 2015 to €4.3 million in 2025. Conversely, since 2022 there has been a halt in ODA financing for forestry (DAC code 312). Significant challenges remain in ecosystem protection, sustainable forest management, soil degradation, and combating illegal wildlife trafficking.



SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” shows a mixed overall trend in Portugal, with 38.9% of global indicators showing favourable progress compared to 22.2% showing deterioration. Progress has been recorded in areas such as the reduction of violent crime, institutional strengthening and access to information, contrasting with less favourable trends in human trafficking, the proportion of pre-trial detainees and certain forms of violence and discrimination. Challenges also persist in perceptions of safety and trust in institutions.

There has been a sustained reduction in intentional homicide rates, with an average annual decrease of -3.6% since 2015. However, perceptions of safety have slightly worsened, with the proportion of the population feeling safe decreasing from 85.7% in 2016 to 82.9% in 2023. Levels of interpersonal violence remain high, with 17.6% of individuals aged 18 to 74 reporting having experienced various forms of violence during their lifetime in 2022. Human trafficking has worsened, with the number of recorded offences increasing from 53 in 2015 to 77 in 2025.

Conversely, the number of seized or identified firearms in illicit contexts increased at an average annual rate of 2.7% between 2015 and 2025. In the prison system, the proportion of pre-trial detainees rose from 16.2% in 2015 to 22.0% in 2024, highlighting pressure on the judicial system.

At the institutional level, Portugal recorded considerable progress, achieving in 2023 the target related to public access to information and maintaining, since 2015, nationally recognised human rights institutions. However, perceptions of corruption worsened, with the index declining from 64 in 2015 to 56 in 2025, reflecting challenges in institutional trust.



SDG 17 “Partnerships for the Goals” shows moderate overall progress in Portugal during the period under analysis, with 66.7% of global indicators showing favourable trends. Progress is evident in areas such as taxation, digitalisation and some economic indicators, although significant challenges remain, particularly in international cooperation.

Social contributions as a percentage of GDP grew at an average annual rate of 1.8% between 2015 and 2025, while the share of the State Budget financed by domestic taxes increased from 61.3% in 2015 to 68.5% in 2026, reflecting stronger domestic fiscal capacity.

Official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of GNI grew at an average annual rate of 1.2% between 2015 and 2025 but remains far below the growth rate of 10.3% required to meet the target. ODA directed to Least Developed Countries declined from 0.05% in 2015 to 0.04% in 2023 and flows of ODA and other resources for technical assistance decreased by an average of -1.5% per year over the same period.

The value of net remittances also showed an unfavourable trend, declining from 1.6% of GDP in 2015 to 1.1% in 2025.

By contrast, significant progress was achieved in digitalisation, with broadband internet access growing at an average annual rate of 4.3% between 2015 and 2024 and internet use increasing from 68.6% of the population in 2015 to 89.5% in 2025.

At the macroeconomic level, 12 of the 17 variables evolved favourably, reflecting growth in GDP, consumption and investment, despite less positive trends in areas such as inflation, exports, capital formation and banking soundness.

Overall, the results indicate relevant progress, although still insufficient for the full achievement of international targets, particularly in the field of development cooperation.



DIIISTAQUE

PRESS RELEASE



This publication complements other dissemination outlets, such as the [SDG thematic file](#) and the excel file attached to the publication. It presents the latest information available as of May 8, 2026.