



# **Situational Analysis 2024**

Global trends, with an eye on  
humanitarian and development funding

Desk research by SPRM, last updated on July 24, 2024

# Disinformation and misinformation: biggest global risks in the next 2 years

Disinformation is an information disorder. The deliberate spreading of false information is typically done for political purposes, and often as part of a propaganda campaign tied to global issues like climate change, immigration, or public health emergencies. False content is already thriving in the social media ecosystem, where artificial intelligence tools threaten to make dissemination even faster and more chaotic due to a lack of professional filters and clarity on the reliability of sources. Disinformation exacerbates many of the most pressing issues of the modern era, not least the health of democracy, political polarization, and unchecked hate speech.

In a year (2024) when half the world is holding elections and new technology is making it easier than ever to make and spread disinformation, the need for governments, companies and individuals around the world to grapple with the problem has never been more urgent. **Security experts** are raising the alarm too—more than 1,400 of them recently **told the World Economic Forum that disinformation and misinformation** (incorrect information that is shared unwittingly) **were the biggest global risks in the next two years**, even more dangerous than war, extreme weather or inflation.

Source: World Economic Forum and The Economist

## Risk categories

- Economic
- Environmental
- Geopolitical
- Societal
- Technological

## Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

*\*Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period.\**

### 2 years



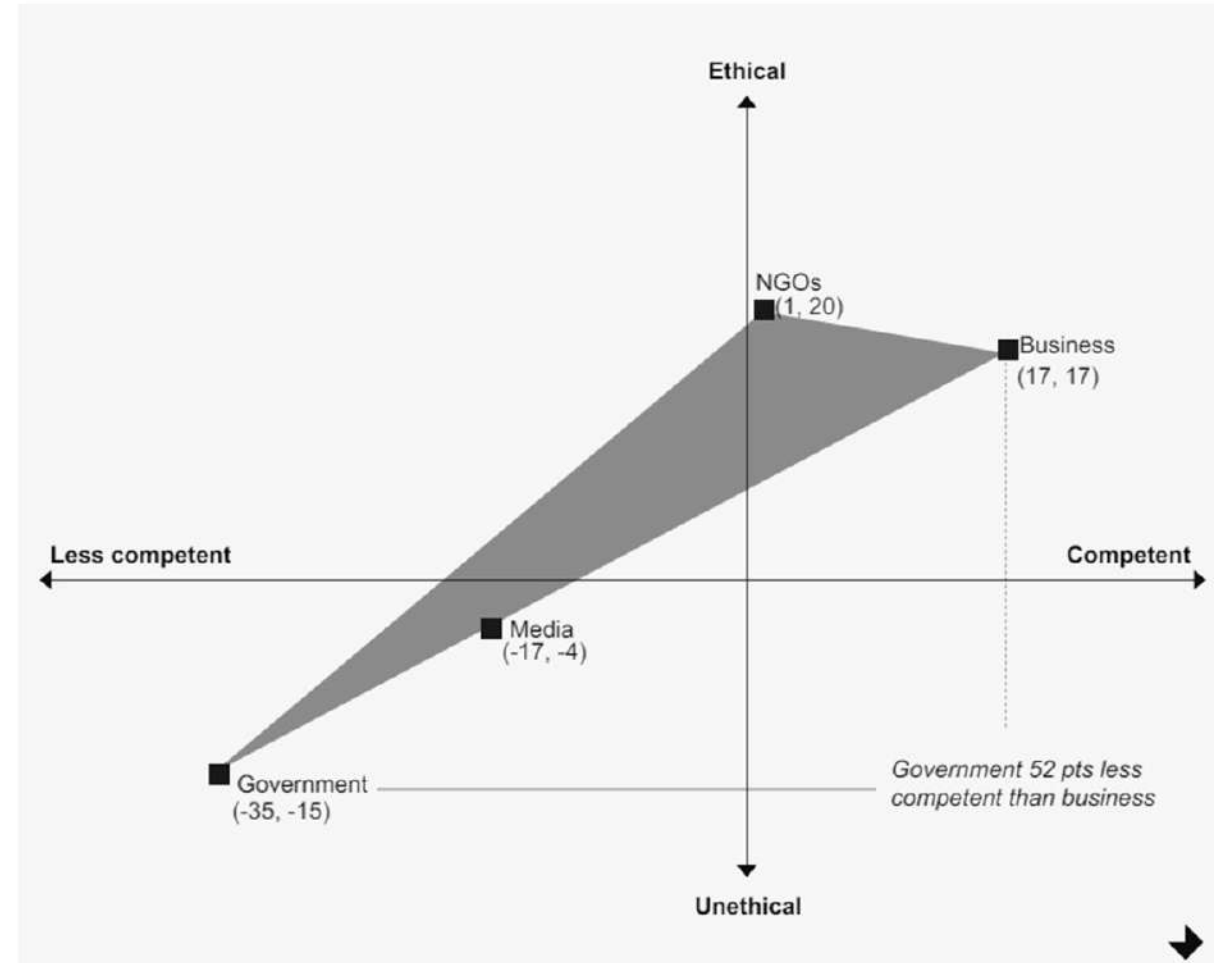
### 10 years



# Trust barometer: a collision of trust, innovation, and politics

The 2024 Edelman Trust Barometer reveals a new paradox at the heart of society. **Rapid innovation offers the promise of a new era of prosperity, but instead risks exacerbating trust issues, leading to further societal instability and political polarization.**

In a year (2024) where half the global population can vote in new leaders, the acceptance of innovation is essential to the success of our society. While people agree that scientists are essential to the acceptance of innovation, many are concerned that politics has too much influence on science. This perception is contributing to the **decline of trust in the institutions responsible for steering us through change and towards a more prosperous future.**





# Artificial Intelligence and developing economies

Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands at the forefront of the technological revolution of the 21st century, reshaping industries, societies, and the very fabric of human existence. From the tantalizing prospects of self-driving cars to the intricacies of natural language processing, from unmanned aerial vehicles to cyberwarfare, AI permeates our lives in ways both conspicuous and subtle.

Technology and automation might not always work to the benefit of developing economies.

Despite the benefits, the AI wave also brings a tide of challenges. **AI productivity gains are mainly captured by wealthy nations and major tech firms, creating a few global superstar companies. This risks widening the income gap** as leading countries reap most of the benefits, leaving developing nations behind. Furthermore, AI could erode the competitive edge of many developing economies reliant on cheap labor.

As AI-fueled automation advances, it may reduce economic incentives for trade and investment, undermining traditional economic bases and potentially halting progress towards narrowing the income gap. And today, many developing countries need to create enough quality jobs for growing young populations.

**AI is expected to automate many occupations, upending traditional growth models and development strategies, disrupting the link between wage growth and productivity, and increasing unemployment and inequality.**



# In 2023, the highest number of state-based conflict recorded since 1946

In 2023, **59 state-based conflicts were recorded in 34 countries**, the **highest number of conflicts registered since 1946**. The wars in Ukraine and Gaza were the primary contributors to the **more than 122,000 battle-related deaths in 2023**, despite a substantial decrease from the previous year, 2023 is third most violent year since the end of the Cold War. Non-state conflicts decreased compared to previous years. In 2023, 75 non-state conflicts were recorded resulting in approximately 21,000 battle-related deaths.

The Americas is the region with the highest number of **non-state conflicts**, and Mexico remains one of the most violent countries in terms of non-state conflicts, with almost 14,000 battle-related deaths.

**One-sided violence** against civilians was recorded in 35 countries in 2023. Non-state actors remain the drivers behind fatalities resulting from one-sided violence, however, thirteen governments were responsible for one-sided violence against civilians in 2023.

While battle related deaths decreased in 2023, we see an increase by non-state actors in several countries, thus making **the conflict landscape more complex and difficult to navigate**.

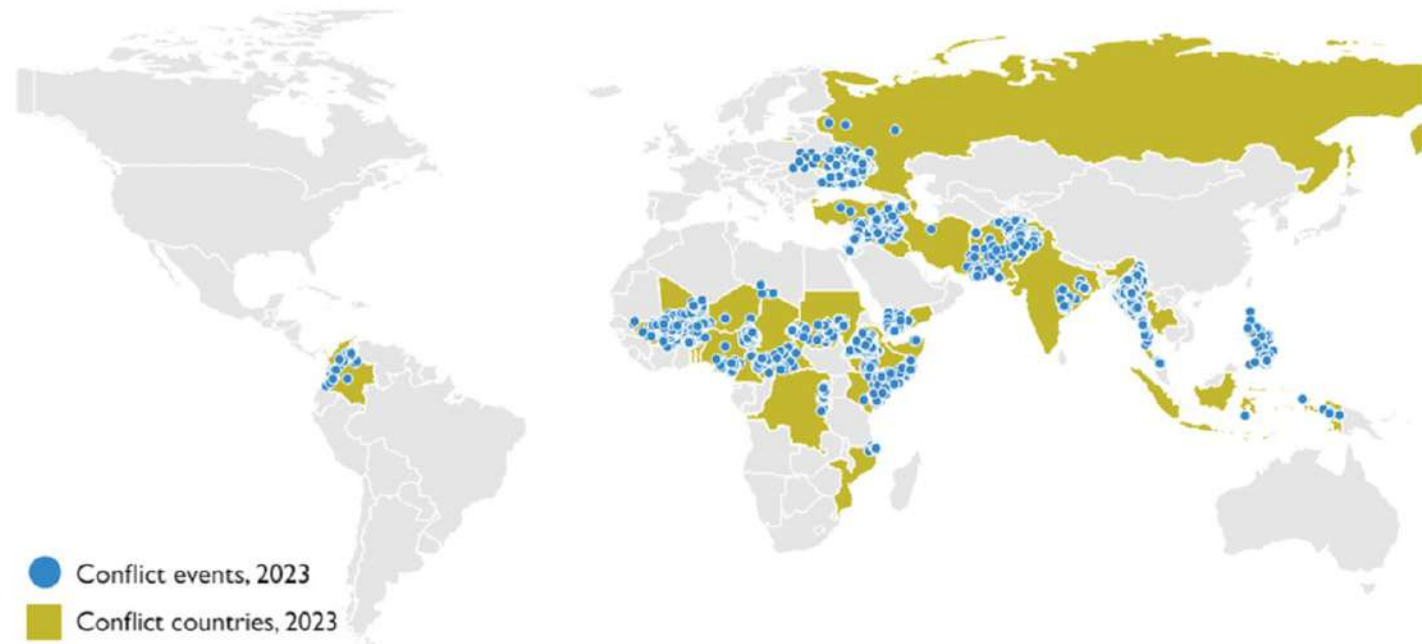


Figure 8: State-based conflict events and conflict-affected countries, 2023. Source: UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).



# Global gender gap report 2024: 5 generations away

The Global Gender Gap Index annually benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

The global gender gap score of 2024 for all 146 countries included stands at 68.5%, 0.1% more than in 2023.

The lack of meaningful, widespread change since the last edition effectively slows down the rate of progress to attain parity. Based on current data, **it will take 134 years to reach full parity – roughly five generations beyond the 2030 SDG target.**

The 2024 index shows that while no country has achieved full gender parity, **97% of the economies included in this edition have closed more than 60% of their gap, compared to 85% in 2006.**

Among the 146 economies covered in the 2024 index, the Health and Survival gender gap has closed by 96%, the Educational Attainment gap by 94.9%, the Economic Participation and Opportunity gap by 60.5%, and the **Political Empowerment gap by 22.5%.**



# Needs are mostly driven by conflict, climate and economy

## Conflict

The world is experiencing more conflicts, which are more entrenched, with devastating consequences for civilians. In 2023 alone, the eruption of widespread conflict in Sudan and hostilities between Israel and Gaza caused a dramatic spike in civilian deaths. In seven weeks alone, the number of civilians killed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was equivalent to almost 90 per cent of the total global number of civilians killed in 2022, which was itself already the deadliest year since the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

## Global climate emergency

The climate crisis is spiraling, leaving a trail of destruction in its path. Internal displacement caused by climate change surged by 45 per cent in a single year, between 2021 and 2022.

## Economic factors

Economic dynamics are overlapping with conflict, climate disasters, infectious disease outbreaks and others, as a significant driver of humanitarian need, and are either a primary driver, or strong contributor, to rising needs in several crises, including Afghanistan, Syria and Venezuela.

More **people are displaced** now than at any other time since the start of the century. Globally, more than 1 in 73 people are forcibly displaced.

Acute **food insecurity** is a reality for 258 million people in 58 countries. Wasting threatens the lives of 45 million children under 5, and of these 13.6 million are already suffering from severe wasting.

**Disease outbreaks** are causing significant loss of life, growing deadlier due to overstretched health systems, shortages of vaccine, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and the presence of multiple, parallel disease outbreaks.



# “Business as usual” would mean SGDs out of reach even in 2050

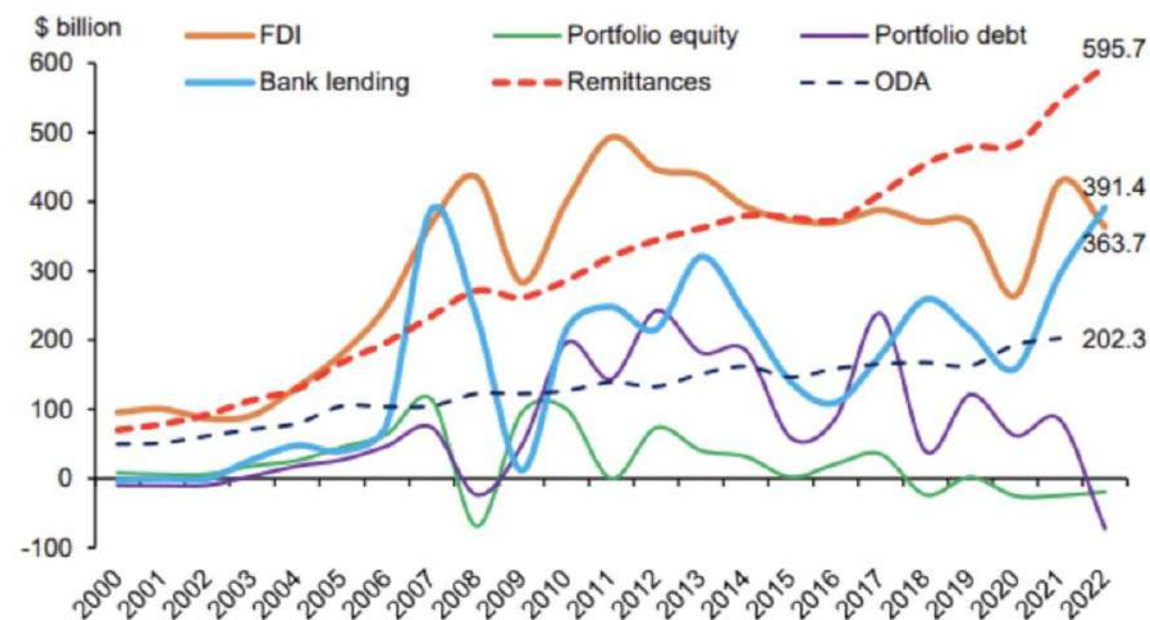
The world is severely off track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. At the midpoint towards 2030, around half of the 140 SDG targets for which sufficient data is available deviate from the required path. This includes central commitments such as the eradication of extreme poverty: current projections estimate almost 600 million people will continue to live in extreme poverty in 2030, more than half of them women.

On a “business-as-usual” pathway, where social, economic and technological trends do not shift markedly from historical patterns, the SDGs as a whole would remain out of reach even in 2050.

Progress is woefully insufficient on SDG 13, climate action. The year 2023 was the hottest year on record by a significant margin. Rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions would be needed this decade (a decline of 43 per cent compared to 2019 emissions) to keep temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius; instead, emissions from fossil use are expected to have reached a record high in 2023.

Tighter global financial conditions in a world awash with debt reduce fiscal space for many sovereigns, create high costs of capital for private investors, and contribute to a sluggish recovery of the global economy, with subpar growth and investment prospects .

**Breakdown of External Resource Flows to Developing Countries (Excluding China), 2000-22**



Source: IMF's Balance of Payment and Authors' calculations



# Multilateral system struggling to get funded

## UNICEF's 2024 appeal cut 16% from last year due to underfunding woes: Deputy executive director

UN group tries to focus on how it can be 'most effective' in responding to needs with new appeal of \$9.3B, says Ted Chaiban

Beyza Binnur Donmez | 15.12.2023 - Update : 16.12.2023

Amid an unprecedented global hunger crisis fuelled by climate change and conflict, the World Food Programme's bleak funding outlook has forced it to make deep cuts to the assistance it provides to many people experiencing acute hunger around the world.

"Today, WFP is facing a 60% funding shortfall," a WFP spokesperson told The New Humanitarian via email on 13 December. "Nearly half of 86 WFP country operations have already implemented, or plan to shortly implement, significant reductions in the size and scope of life-saving food, cash and nutrition assistance programmes."

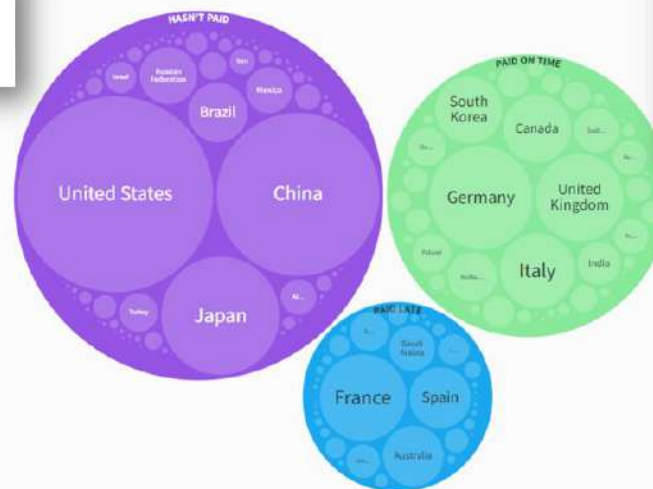
GLOBAL NEWS ANALYSE

Published on April 08, 2024 05:55. / Updated on April 19, 2024 09:50.

## Behind the UN liquidity crunch, a multilateral system in crisis?

By [Michelle Langrand](#)

### Status of state payments for the UN 2024 regular budget of \$3.59 billion



Source: [UN official documents](#) • Graphic: Geneva Solutions  
\*Click on the big bubbles to zoom in.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has become the latest international organisation that has fallen victim to budget cuts.

December 14, 2023 - 09:34

🕒 1 minute

Keystone-SDA

🌐 Other language: 1 (EN original)

The organisation announced on Wednesday that it is eliminating 900 positions out of around 20,000.

**1** Cross announced major job cuts in March. **What's behind decision?**

"It's almost 5%" of the total number of employees, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi told the press, without giving further details on the distribution of the cuts. Previously, he had clarified in front of the thousands of participants at the Global Refugee Forum that the UN agency faced a financial hole of \$400 million by the end of the year.

# Emerging donors: combined aid budget USD 20 to 30bn/y

Emerging donors include: Brazil, China, India, Kuwait, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Of these, only Poland is currently a member of the DAC.

Based on data from OECD, Kuwait, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the UAE spent \$19.7 billion of aid in 2022.

India, which does not report to OECD, recorded a total of \$860 million in technical and economic cooperation, or TEC, in 2022.

Brazil, which mostly provides assistance through global south-south cooperation, spent nearly \$1.4 billion, while China's official development assistance-like commitments — which also included commitments through its Export-Import Bank — amounted to \$4.4 billion.





# RCRC Movement - largest player in 2023 (Peer Review 2024)



Peer Review data in USD, all peers, all markets available as of June 2024 (30 National Societies). UN agencies all countries reported.

