



# Engaging and supporting conflict-zone practitioners: An APCDA action research project

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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**5** GENDER EQUALITY




**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE




**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION




**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



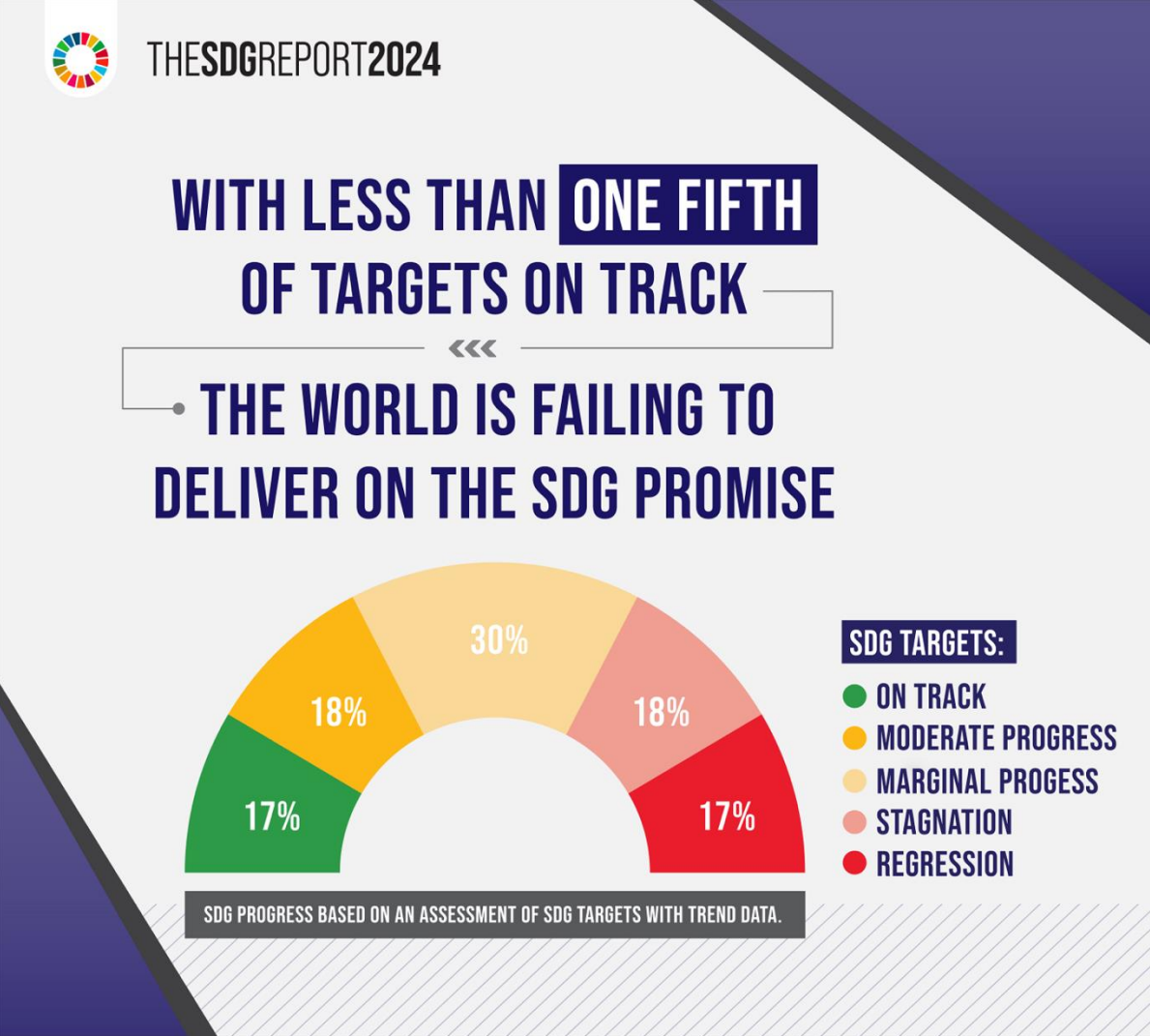
**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# 2024 SDG Report: Global Progress Alarming Insufficient



*“The takeaway is simple – our failure to secure peace, to confront climate change and to boost international finance is undermining development. We must accelerate action for the Sustainable Development Goals, and we don’t have a moment to lose”*

[António Guterres, UN Secretary-General](#)

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2024/SG-SDG-Progress-Report-2024-advanced-unedited-version.pdf>



United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

FOR FULL REPORT  
UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2024

## Country and Regional Issues

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### Africa

Burundi  
Central African Republic  
Chad/CAR  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Ethiopia/Eritrea  
G5 Sahel Joint Force  
Gambia  
Great Lakes Region  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau

### Americas

Colombia  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Venezuela

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### Asia

Afghanistan  
DPRK (North Korea)  
Fiji  
Jammu and Kashmir  
Myanmar  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka

### Europe

Armenia/Azerbaijan  
Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Belarus  
Cyprus  
Georgia  
Kosovo  
Ukraine

### Middle East

Egypt  
Golan (Israel/Syria)  
Iran  
Iraq  
Lebanon  
Middle East, including the  
Palestinian Question  
Syria  
Yemen

# Ukraine and the SDGs: How the War Has Influenced Global Development

6 March 2024

This has become the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the conclusion of World War II, ranking as the world's deadliest conflict in the first half of 2023.

Although active conflict has been happening only in one country, this war has had global implications, taking a toll on all of the SDGs and affecting the everyday lives of people around the globe.



# Gaza War: Expected Socio-Economic Impacts on the State of Palestine

October 22, 2024

## **New UN report: Impacts of war have set back development in Gaza by as much as 69 years**

- One year into the Gaza war, the humanitarian crisis has reached a catastrophic level, with unprecedented casualties, widespread destruction and severe food insecurity. Mass displacement and a scarcity of safe spaces, coupled with Israeli restrictions on aid delivery, have further compounded the crisis.
- Without lifting economic restrictions, enabling recovery, and investing in development, the Palestinian economy may not be able to restore pre-war levels and advance forward by relying on humanitarian aid alone.
- Projections in this new assessment confirm that amidst the immediate suffering and horrific loss of life, a serious development crisis is also unfolding – one that jeopardizes the future of Palestinians for generations to come



# Lebanon: UN agencies call for ceasefire as war worsens dire conditions

2 November 2024

Here are some highlights from that report:

- Among the 2,867 people killed and 13,047 injured since 8 October 2023, 178 children were killed and 1,173 injured
- A total of 842,648 people are internally displaced of whom 52 per cent female and 48 per cent male, according to the UN migration agency, IOM.
- The UN health agency, WHO, reported 36 attacks on healthcare facilities, with 85 health workers killed and 51 injured while on duty, between 17 September and 31 October 2024



# Yemen: Recent progress marred by Gaza war fallout, UN envoy reports

14 February 2024

The protracted conflict in Yemen has led to urgent, widespread humanitarian and development crises and resulted in significant damage to the economy, physical infrastructure, service provision, health, and education systems, as well as social fabric.

It has also caused hundreds of thousands of deaths.

While many of these are the result of war's direct violence, others are due to the war's indirect effects, including a lack of food and degraded living conditions



# APCDA responds to regional crises



- Why APCDA initiated this project?

- promoting career development as a tool for peace, as well as strengthening mental health and wellbeing of both career professionals and their clients in conflict areas/war zones,
- creating positive conditions to build back and sustain the communities affected by ongoing hostilities, conflicts or war through career development-oriented activities,
- fostering dialogue and understanding among career professionals around issues of insecurity, precarious conditions and inequalities emerging due to ongoing hostilities, conflicts or war.

- Whom is intended for?

- Career counselors, advisors or educators, leaders and mentors in the field of career development who are currently residing in war/conflict areas.

Our 11 scholars' profile:

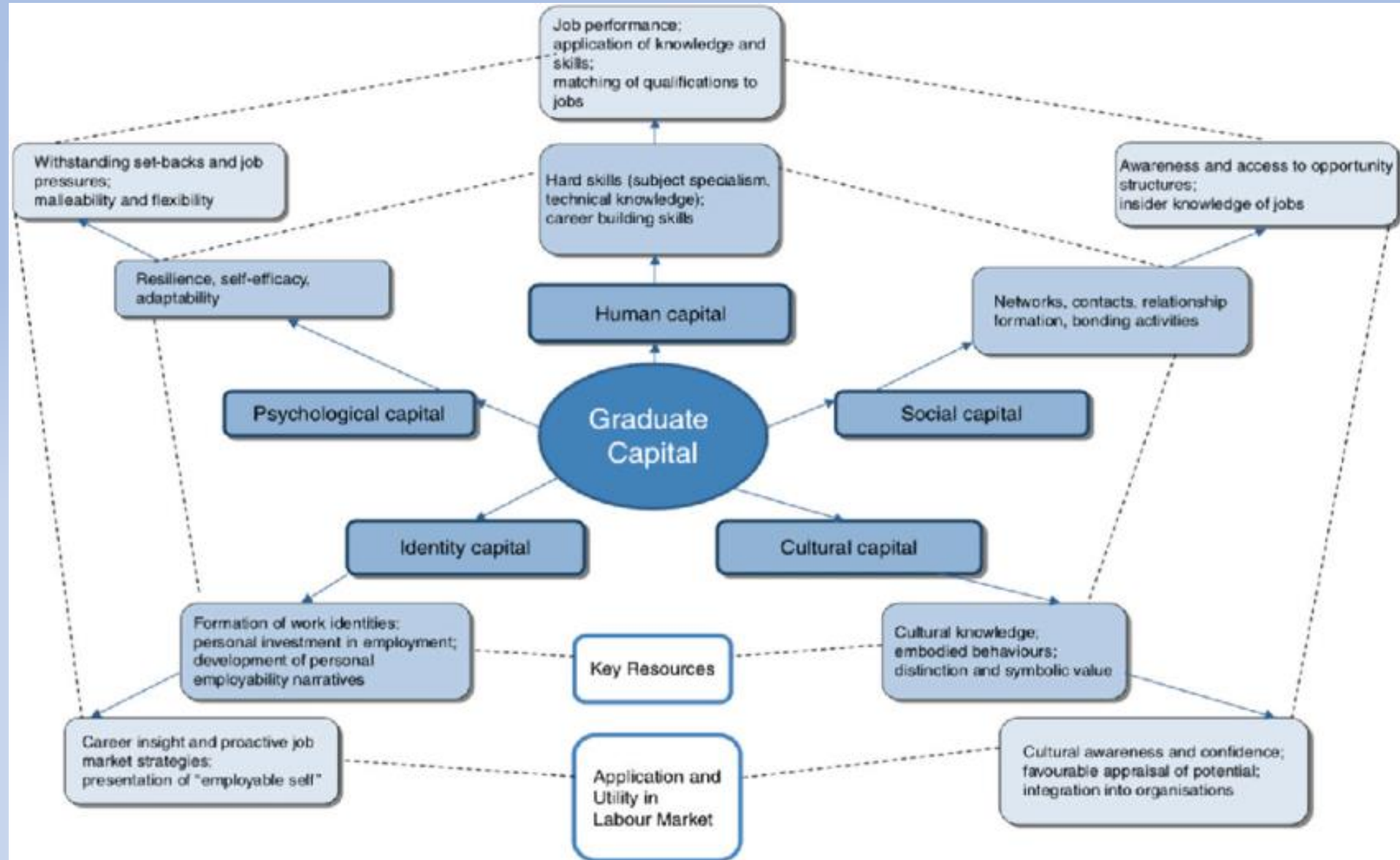
- 6 from Ukraine
- 3 from Palestine
- 1 from Lebanon
- 1 from Yemen

# APCDA responds to regional crises



- What we have achieved in these 10 months?
  - Hosted two panel discussions with scholars to raise awareness (available on APCDA platforms)
  - Provided unlimited access to APCDA resources (Library, Journal, Webinars, Podcasts)
  - Organized qualitative 11 interviews with individuals and five Focus groups to capture the lived experiences of career development practitioners and educators in conflict areas (consider limitations on available communication channels, emergencies etc.)
  - Ongoing analysis of the data
- What's next?
  - Publish articles in international journals
  - Work with scholars in task groups to develop contextualized PD content, translate resources from English to their native language, support the development/redevelopment of local career guidance ecosystem, organize psychosocial support groups for scholars
  - Strengthen advocacy, increase international cooperation and synergies, recruit more practitioners from conflict-afflicted zones

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## Key Themes:

- **Human Capital:** skills learnt through formal education, the ability to articulate one's capabilities.
- **Social Capital:** building connections and understanding opportunities, interaction with employers (job fairs , LinkedIn), practical experiences (eg. Internships)
- **Cultural Capital:** cultural knowledge and behaviours within organisations, developing self-awareness and adaptability, mitigating challenges associated with socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Identity Capital:** present actions - future aspirations, enhancing career narratives, facilitating negotiation and access to opportunities, self-reflection, self-image.
- **Psychological Capital:** resilience and adaptability, proactive decision-making, maintaining locus of control to manage complexities

## Preliminary Overarching Findings:


- **Disruptions in education, limited or no access to educational opportunities, lack of opportunities to maintain or advance skills**
- **Loss of family and social connections, hindered ability to access employment/internships, lack of resources and communication capacity**
- **Loss of cultural capital, increased challenges due to socio-economic circumstances, physical, mental and cognitive fatigue impacting self-awareness, resilience and adaptability**
- **Dramatic decline of future aspirations, various biases hindering access to opportunities, limited opportunities for self-reflection and integration of self-efficacy**
- **Inability to rebound due to perpetual systemic setbacks, sense of powerlessness and loss of control**


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## Impact of war on Ukrainian science since February 2022


 **1,443**  
buildings belonging to 177 research institutes and universities damaged or destroyed

 **643**  
pieces of research equipment damaged beyond repair

 **US\$ 1.26 billion**  
needed to restore public research infrastructure, including US\$ 980.5 million for universities, responsible for 52% of public research


 **12%**  
of Ukrainian scientists and university teachers forced to emigrate (6.3%) or internally displaced (5.5%)

 **30%**  
of Ukrainian scientists forced to work remotely

 **1,518**  
scientists have volunteered for combat duty

 **53**  
countries are hosting displaced scientists from the National Academy of Sciences

 **48%**  
drop in budget of National Academy of Sciences since 2021: from US\$ 238.6 million to US\$ 124.8 million

 **39%**  
drop since 2021 in average monthly salary at National Academy of Sciences, responsible for 48% of public research: from US\$ 454.20 to US\$ 274.90


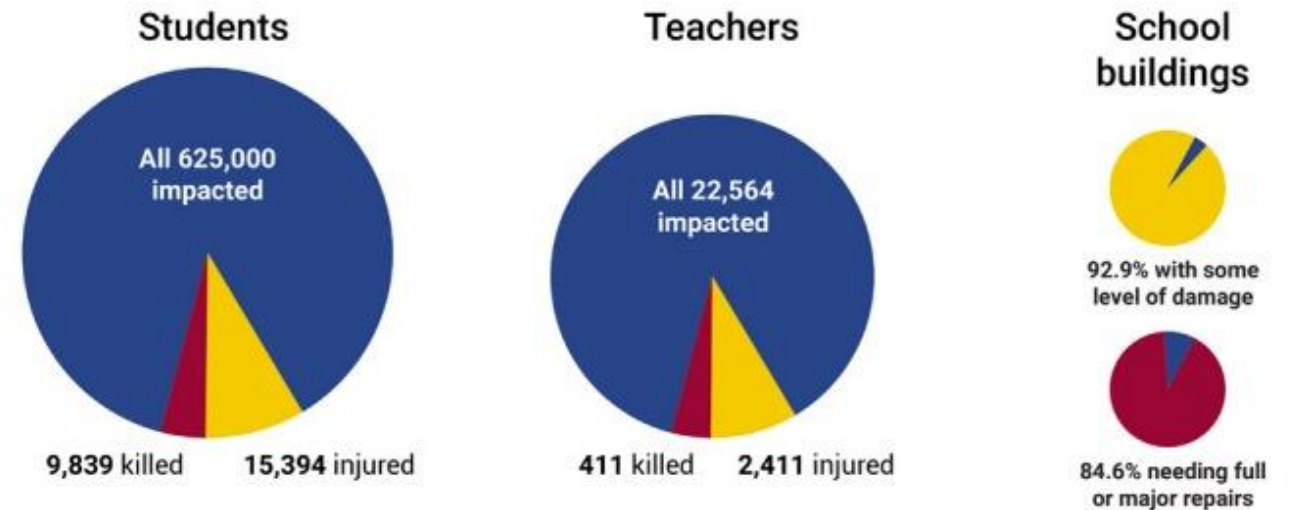
 **7%**  
fewer research articles published by National Academy of Sciences in international journals in 2023 than in 2021

Figure 1: Overview of impact on students, teachers and infrastructure



Source: OCHA, 2024b and Occupied Palestinian Territory Education Cluster, 2024b.

# Become an Ally



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- **Mr. Allan Gatenby, APCDA President,**

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*And as a single leaf turns not yellow but with  
the silent knowledge of the whole tree,  
So the wrongdoer cannot do wrong without  
the hidden will of you all*

**Khalil Gibran – “The Prophet”**

**Lebanese-American writer and poet**

# References

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