

**ETHIOPIAN TEXTILE & APPAREL INDUSTRY IN THE SYSTEM OF ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS-2030) FROM GLOBAL PROGRESS PERSPECTIVE: A REVIEW**

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# **Ethiopian textile & apparel industry in the system of achieving sustainable development goals (sdgs-2030) from global progress perspective: A review**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This review examines Ethiopia's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, considering the global context and the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Drawing on a comprehensive analysis of published and unpublished research, as well as data from various sources, the review highlights the critical importance of social progress in achieving the SDGs. While Africa as a whole has made some progress towards the SDGs, with an average score of 53.82 in 2020, the continent remains significantly behind schedule. Ethiopia, with a score of 53.2, is in line with the sub-regional average, but this score signifies a considerable gap in achieving the SDGs by 2030. The review emphasizes the need to move beyond solely focusing on GDP growth and prioritize social progress. The Social Progress Index (SPI) is highlighted as a valuable tool for measuring non-economic dimensions of social performance, providing a more comprehensive understanding of well-being. Ethiopia's progress towards the SDGs is further challenged by its low-income status and the presence of fragile states within the region. While the country has made strides in adopting the SDGs, significant improvements are needed to achieve the goals. The review identifies several complex local and global challenges hindering progress and emphasizes the need for an integrated approach, separate plans and strategies, and dedicated budget allocation to ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs-2030. The review concludes by highlighting the potential of the T&A industry to drive economic development and create employment opportunities in Ethiopia. However, it stresses the importance of balancing economic growth with social progress and ensuring that sustainability is at the forefront of development efforts.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goals, GDP, Textile & Apparel, Industry, Social Progress Index, Sustainability, Ethiopia

## **Introduction**

The concept of sustainable development, first introduced in 1987, has become a cornerstone of global and national governance frameworks (Drolet, 2016; Jong and Vijge, 2021). While its meaning and implementation vary across contexts, the business community recognizes the paramount importance of adhering to its principles (Rogers et al., 2012). The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, launched in 2015, aims to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development through 17 interconnected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets (Hák et al., 2016).

The SDGs necessitate a fundamental shift in development strategies, requiring collaboration between governments, civil society, science, and businesses. However, a shared understanding of how to operationalize the 17 SDGs remains a challenge (SDG, U., 2019). The 2030 Agenda presents new challenges for firms and manufacturers, demanding adjustments to their operations and strategies, while consumers must adapt to the requirements of the SDGs (Sachs et al., 2019).

This review article examines the role of the Ethiopian textile and apparel (T&A) industry in achieving the SDGs, particularly those related to sustainable economic growth, employment, and social progress. It explores the industry's potential to contribute positively to the SDGs while acknowledging the challenges it faces in balancing economic development with environmental and social responsibility. The review aims to provide stakeholders with valuable insights into the global T&A production and trade trends, the current status of the Ethiopian T&A industry, and the challenges it faces in achieving sustainable development. By analyzing the industry's impact on the SDGs, this review seeks to inform strategies for accelerating

progress towards a more sustainable future for Ethiopia and the global community.

## Methodology

This review paper employed a systematic approach to analyze both published and unpublished secondary sources related to the Ethiopian textile and apparel (T&A) industry and its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The data collection process involved:

**Compilation of Secondary Sources:** A comprehensive review of national and international organizational reports, research articles, and relevant publications was conducted. These sources provided insights into the T&A industry, sustainable development, and the SDGs.

**Keyword-Based Search:** Searches were conducted using keywords such as "sustainability development goals," "sustainable development," "sustainable manufacturing," "sustainability assessment," "textile & apparel industry," "indicators," and "Social Progress Index measures" on platforms like Google and Google Scholar.

**Selection Criteria:** A conscious, joint, and iterative decision-making process was employed to identify relevant articles based on their quality, recency, and alignment with the review's objectives.

**Data Analysis:** The collected data was analyzed, organized, and synthesized to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Ethiopian T&A industry's impact on the SDGs. The review focused on summarizing key studies and presenting a descriptive overview of the findings.

This approach ensured a thorough and systematic review of the existing literature, providing a robust foundation for the analysis

of the Ethiopian T&A industry's role in achieving the SDGs.

### **UN global goals-2030 and global progress perspectives**

The world faces a complex array of challenges, and progress towards achieving a sustainable future has been uneven. While significant strides have been made in areas like nutrition, basic healthcare, and access to education, issues like tolerance, inclusion, health, and well-being require more comprehensive solutions. Social progress, defined as a society's ability to meet the fundamental needs of its people, is crucial for improving and sustaining standards of living and fostering an environment where everyone can reach their full potential. The Social Progress Index (SPI) stands out as the only measurement tool that comprehensively and systematically assesses the non-economic dimensions of social performance globally, providing transparent and actionable data (INDEX, S. P. & INDEX, G., 2018).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN Member States, provides a roadmap for achieving peace, prosperity, and a sustainable future for people and the planet (Zavyalova and Kuzmenkova, 2022). This agenda calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future. The government's primary duty is to protect the interests of society, including the implementation of the SDGs. The role of business in achieving the SDGs is multifaceted and requires careful consideration. The Decade of Action's agenda highlights the crucial need for businesses to integrate the SDGs into their corporate plans (Zavyalova and Kuzmenkova, 2022). This underscores the critical importance of aligning business practices with the

principles of social progress and sustainable development.

### **The main aim of global sustainable development goals 2030**

The 21st century presents humanity with a multitude of complex challenges. The international community, united by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is obligated to work collaboratively to overcome these challenges and create a better world for present and future generations. In 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 aspirational objectives with 169 targets designed to guide the actions of governments, international agencies, civil society, and other institutions over the next 15 years (2016-2030) (MacFeely, 2020). Building upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the ambitious 2030 Agenda envisions a global future where poverty and hunger are eradicated, and natural resources are restored and sustainably managed. The 17 SDGs are interconnected and encompass the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. They are indivisible, requiring comprehensive and participatory approaches, and universal, applying equally to developed and developing nations. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of implementation tools, including finance, trade, capacity building, research, technology, and innovation, and emphasizes the need to provide member states with the necessary resources to achieve their goals (Yu et al., 2020).

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP addresses systemic concerns, including policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, data, monitoring, and

accountability. It strengthens the delivery of implementation tools at the regional level and contributes to global processes, particularly those focusing on financing for development, science, technology, and innovation (ESCAP, 2020).

The 2030 Agenda represents a collective commitment to a more sustainable and equitable future. Through collaborative efforts and a shared vision, the international community can work towards achieving these ambitious goals and creating a world where everyone can thrive.

### **Global sustainable development goals 2030**

The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of seventeen interlinked objectives designed to serve as a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future" (Veland, et al., 2022). The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The Brundtland report (Keeble, 1988), articulated a commonly accepted definition of sustainable development:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations, 1987). Social and environmental movements highlight the social justice dimensions of sustainability and the economic, social, and environmental dimensions in light of current inequalities and processes of exclusion for the total world population. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Learn more and take action. The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world: GOAL 1: No Poverty: Increased Prosperity GOAL 2: Zero Hungry

GOAL 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

GOAL 5: Attain Gender Equality: Empower

Women and Girls Everywhere GOAL 6:

Secure Clean Water and Sanitation for All

GOAL 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Sustainable, and Reliable Modern Energy Services for All:

GOAL 8: Promote Strong, Inclusive, and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work:

GOAL 9: Promote Sustainable Industrialization, Innovation, and Infrastructure:

GOAL 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries:

GOAL 11: Build Inclusive, Safe, and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

GOAL 12: Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns GOAL 13: Climate

Action: Mitigation of Climate Change Impact

GOAL 14: Attain Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources, Oceans, and Seas: Life below GOAL 15: Protect and Restore Terrestrial Ecosystems and Halt All Biodiversity Loss: Life on Earth

GOAL 16: Achieve Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Rule of Law, Effective, and Capable Institutions:

GOAL 17: Partnership for the Goal: Innovative Partnership = Unprecedented Progress

### **Categorization of sustainable development goals into 5Ps**

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals can be categorized into the five Ps to better assess the 17 goals.

**People:** The SDGs are goals that represent and emphasize the importance of the livelihood of all people. The first five goals of the sustainable development goals are designed to provide appropriate target for meeting the fundamental responsibilities of all people around the world. The first two goals addressed the most basic sustenance. Goals

three and four assert the access to fundamental goals of health, well-being and education. Goals 5 pose to focus on one of the key social issue of empowering girls and women around the world. By asserting equal opportunity for all women including jobs, food and education.

**Planet:** We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations. Goals 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15 present the challenges that our planet is facing around the world. This is an important on the planning upon which the SDG were agreed within the international community, because the global community can deeply appreciate the critical importance of saving our planet and how our future depended on transforming our approaches to responding to the climate crisis. Goal six ascribes management of water and sanitation for all to ensure access to clean and safe water for all people.

**Prosperity:** We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature. SDGs are not intended to disregard the importance of economic development. In order for the world to live with peace and prosperity, the economic development that can attain prosperity is the requisite condition for all people. Goal 8, 9, 10, 11 speaks to the issues involving fair and justice systems both in public and private communities and national entities. Again, these issues are directly related to goal five in that fairness and justice must be realized throughout the lines on gender, age, geographic regions, political and cultural entity involving every individual around the globe. These goals assert sustainable economic successes must be achieved in manners that promote and attain fair justice system. These

goals address that such achievement can be realized through smart and innovative approaches for sound and reliable economic foundation. In these goals, the SDG highlights the importance in reducing inequalities for fair gross for everyone.

**Peace:** We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Peace has been an important aspect with the development of the 2030 agenda. Conflicts, terrorism and other forms of difficulties were threatening the peace around the world. In addition, weak institutions can become the targets from those who threaten peace around the world.

Therefore, goal 16 shows how the international community must come together to promote and protect peace around the world, not with military actions but preferably so strong institutions of justice.

**Partnership:** We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people. Goal 17 represents the partnerships for the goals. As we have seen in goal eight of the MDGs, partnership constitute an important factor in all the 17 goals. Although the SDGs were agreed upon by the member states within the United Nations, achieving the SDGs involve all entities in the international community.





## Global population progress

The world is poised to reach a population of 8 billion in November 2022, a significant milestone highlighting the rapid growth of our planet. While the population is projected to continue increasing, reaching 9 billion by 2037 and 10 billion by 2058, it's important to note that this growth is unevenly distributed. Half of the world's population currently resides in just seven countries, underscoring the vast disparities in population density across the globe.

This expanding population coincides with a growing demand for social responsibility from businesses. A recent survey revealed that 94% of Gen-Z believe companies should actively address pressing social and environmental issues. This sentiment is echoed across generations, with 76% of consumers stating they would refuse to do business with companies holding views or supporting causes that conflict with their own.

Furthermore, consumers are increasingly willing to put their money where their values are. Over 90% of shoppers worldwide are likely to switch to brands that support a good cause, and 55% are willing to pay extra for products and services that contribute to positive change. This shift in consumer

behavior is driving a significant change in the business landscape, with 90% of consumers trusting and being loyal to socially responsible businesses, compared to those that don't demonstrate these traits.

The consequences of failing to meet these expectations are clear: 90% of shoppers would boycott companies found engaging in irresponsible business practices, with 55% having already done so in the past year. This growing awareness and willingness to act underscores the critical importance of businesses demonstrating a commitment to social responsibility.

The historical trajectory of population growth further emphasizes the scale of this challenge. While it took all of human history up to 1800 to reach 1 billion people, the second billion was achieved in just 130 years (1930). This trend accelerated further, with the third billion reached in 30 years (1960), the fourth in 15 years (1974), and so on. The rapid pace of population growth in the 20th century, from 1.65 billion to 6 billion, highlights the need for sustainable solutions to meet the needs of a growing population.

As we enter a world of 8 billion people, the demand for businesses to prioritize social responsibility is undeniable. Companies that embrace these values and actively contribute to positive change will not only thrive but also play a crucial role in shaping a more sustainable future for all.

## Global accelerator on job & social protection for transition

This literature offers a compelling analysis of the evolution of global development goals, highlighting the shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the emergence of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. Here's a

breakdown of the key points and some potential improvements:

**The Global Accelerator:** Launched in 2021, the Global Accelerator aims to create 400 million decent jobs and extend social protection to 4 billion people, focusing on green, digital, and care economies. It seeks to address the economic insecurity exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly impacting informal workers and those lacking social safety nets.

**From MDGs to SDGs:** The SDGs represent a broader and more transformative approach to development compared to the MDGs. They address shortcomings in the previous framework by incorporating a wider range of development dimensions, including human rights, empowerment, and equality, and emphasize the need for structural reforms in the global economy.

**The Gender Agenda:** The text highlights the importance of the gender agenda within the SDGs, recognizing its crucial role in achieving sustainable development.

**Shifting the Development Discourse:** The transition from MDGs to SDGs reflects a shift in the discourse of sustainable development, moving beyond a sole focus on poverty reduction through economic growth to encompass a broader set of objectives across economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

**Targeting Marginalized Groups:** The SDGs target the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, emphasizing the need for disaggregated data to address specific needs.

**From Economic Growth to Human Rights:** The MDGs primarily focused on addressing poverty through economic growth, while the SDGs adopt a more human rights-based approach to development, recognizing the importance of social and political reforms alongside economic growth.

Potential Improvements:

**Clarity and Organization:** The text could benefit from clearer organization and section headings to improve readability.

**Connecting the Dots:** The text could strengthen the connections between the different points, particularly between the Global Accelerator and the broader discussion of the SDGs and MDGs.

**Concrete Examples:** Providing concrete examples of how the SDGs are being implemented in practice would enhance the text's impact and make it more engaging.

**Addressing Challenges:** The text could discuss the challenges of implementing the SDGs and the Global Accelerator, such as funding, political will, and coordination between stakeholders.

**Future Outlook:** The text could conclude with a discussion of the future of sustainable development, highlighting the potential for the SDGs to achieve a more just and equitable world.

By making these improvements, the text could be a more comprehensive and compelling analysis of the evolution of global development goals and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

### **Global social progress index**

Social progress has become an increasingly critical agenda for leaders in government, business and civil society. Economic development does not necessarily result in social progress. Rising income typically results in significant advancements in areas like basic education, literacy, and access to clean water. However, in general, personal security is often worse in middle-income countries compared to low-income ones. And, regardless of income, far too many people live without full rights and face discrimination or even violence because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Traditional measures of national income, such as GDP per capita, fall short of



capturing societies' overall progress (Romanello et al., 2021).

The Social Progress Index rigorously measures country performance on a wide range of social and environmental indicators relevant to countries at all stages of economic development. It allows for the evaluation of not only absolute country performance but also relative performance in comparison to a country's economic peers. The index provides governments and businesses with the tools they need to rigorously track social and environmental performance and make better public policy and investment decisions. The Social Progress Index also allows us to evaluate a country's success in translating economic progress into better social outcomes. Overall, the Social Progress Index is the first tangible framework for benchmarking and prioritizing an action agenda that advances both social and economic performance (Singh, et al., 2021) According to 2021 report coincides with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), at which countries are facing pressure to realize the ambition of the Paris Agreement to keep the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C and to mobilizes the financial resources required for all countries to have an effective climate response.

These talks are taking place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global health crisis that has claimed millions of lives, impacted livelihoods and communities around the world, and exposed deep fissures and inequities in the world's capacity to cope with and respond to health emergencies.

Nonetheless, in responding to both crises, the world has an unprecedented opportunity to ensure a healthy future for all.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report are in jeopardy as the world faces cascading and interlinked global

crises and conflicts. Using current data, the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 provides evidence of the destructive impact of these crises on the achievement of the SDGs. The situation will only worsen as a result of increased heat waves, droughts and floods (Ensen, 2022).

### **Social progress index vs. GDP per capita**

The figure below shows the relationship between GDP per capita and social progress. The data reveal several key findings: There is a positive and strong relationship between the Social Progress Index and GDP per capita. The relationship between economic development and social progress is not linear. At lower income levels, small differences in GDP per capita are associated with large improvements in social progress. As countries reach high levels of income, however, the rate of change slows. GDP per capita does not completely explain social progress. Countries achieve divergent levels of social progress at similar levels of GDP per capita. The index is structured around 12 components and 53 distinct indicators. The framework not only provides an aggregate country score and ranking but also allows benchmarking on specific areas of strength and weakness. Transparency of measurement based on a comprehensive framework allows change makers to set strategic priorities, acting upon the most pressing issues in their societies (Socialprogress.ORG. 2021).

### **Global key principle supporting the 2030 sdgs agenda**

The SDGs help translate the core values and principles underlying the agenda into concrete and measurable result.

1) **Universality:** The 2030 Agenda has a global reach and pledges all nations—regardless of their income levels and degrees

of development—to making a substantial contribution to sustainable development. The agenda is relevant in every nation, in every setting, and always.

2) **No one is left behind:** To reach out to everyone who is in need and deprivation, wherever they may be, in a way that focuses on their unique difficulties and vulnerabilities, the 2030 Agenda pledges to leave no one behind. As a result, there is an extraordinary need for local, de-identified data to evaluate results and monitor progress.

3) **Relationships and Indivisibility;** The interconnectedness and unity of the 2030 Agenda's 17 SDGs serve as its foundation. It is essential that all organizations in charge of putting the SDGs into action consider them as a whole rather than as a menu of individual goals from which to pick and choose.

4) **Inclusiveness:** The 2030 Agenda calls for the participation of all segments of society, irrespective of their race, gender, ethnicity, and identity to contribute to its implementation.

5) **Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships :** The 2030 Agenda calls for establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to support the achievement of SDGs in all countries.

definition of social progress.

The Social Progress Index uses the following working definition: Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential ((Socialprogress.ORG. 2021).

1. **Exclusively social and environmental indicators:** The aim is to measure social progress directly, rather than utilize economic proxies or outcomes. By excluding economic indicators, we can, for the first time, rigorously and systematically analyze the relationship between economic development (measured for example by GDP per capita) and social development. Prior efforts to move “beyond GDP” have comingled social and economic indicators, making it difficult to disentangle cause and effect (Socialprogress.ORG. 2021).

2. **Outcomes not inputs:** The purpose is to measure the outcomes that matter to the lives of real people, not the inputs. For example, we want to measure a country’s health and wellness achieved, not how much effort is expended nor how much the country spends on healthcare.

## Global social progress index methodology

The design principles are the foundation for our conceptual framework and formulate the



Figure 2. 2021 Social Progress Index Framework

### 3. Holistic and relevant to all countries:

Striving to create a holistic measure of social progress that encompasses the many aspects of the health of societies. Most previous efforts have focused on the poorest countries, for understandable reasons. But knowing what constitutes a successful society for any country, including higher income countries, is indispensable for charting a course for all societies (Socialprogress.ORG. 2021).

4. **Actionable:** The Social Progress Index aims to be a practical tool that helps leaders and practitioners in government, business, and civil society to implement policies and programs that will drive faster social progress. To achieve that goal, we measure outcomes in a granular way that focuses on specific areas that can be implemented directly (Socialprogress.ORG. 2021).

### Ethiopian textile and apparel industry in the system of accelerating sustainable development goal 2030



Figure 3: Health and Safety Conditions

The Ethiopian textile and apparel industry holds potential to contribute to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**SDG 3 (Health and Well-being):** The industry can promote health by providing decent work, fair wages, and safe working conditions. Sustainable practices, such as supply chain

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at global progress. This paper focuses on the Ethiopian textile and apparel industry's potential to contribute to two key SDGs: eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and ending hunger (SDG 2). The industry, a major employer in Ethiopia, has contributed to poverty reduction by creating jobs and boosting economic growth. However, challenges remain, including inadequate infrastructure, high energy costs, and limited access to finance.

Regarding SDG 2, the industry plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in cotton production, which benefits both farmers and the environment. The industry's growth has been supported by government policies, including investment in infrastructure and favorable trade agreements.

management, can reduce its environmental impact.

**SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** The industry employs a large number of women, offering economic empowerment opportunities and contributing to their social and economic development.

**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** The industry can adopt water-efficient production processes, explore alternative water sources, and invest in wastewater treatment to ensure sustainable water management.

**SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** By adopting energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources, the industry can reduce its energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels, contributing to a sustainable energy future for Ethiopia.

While not directly contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education), the industry indirectly supports it by creating jobs and promoting economic growth, which can increase access to education.

**Decent work and economic growth:** The Ethiopian textile and apparel industry plays a significant role in achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to economic growth, employment, and sustainable practices.

**SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** The industry promotes economic growth, creates employment opportunities, develops skills, and improves working conditions, contributing to overall economic development.

**SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):** The industry fosters innovation, promotes sustainable industrialization, and contributes to resilient infrastructure development.

**SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** The industry can reduce inequalities by providing employment opportunities, particularly for marginalized groups, and promoting fair wages and working conditions.

**SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** The industry can contribute to sustainable urbanization by promoting responsible consumption and production, and supporting sustainable infrastructure development.

**SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production):** The industry can achieve this goal by adopting sustainable practices, reducing waste, and promoting circular economy principles.

**SDG 13 (Climate Action):** The industry can reduce its environmental impact by adopting sustainable practices, reducing its carbon footprint, and promoting renewable energy sources.

**SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** The industry can contribute by promoting responsible business practices and supporting the development of strong institutions.

**SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** The Ethiopian textile and apparel industry can play a crucial role in achieving this goal by collaborating with stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector, to achieve sustainable development.

The industry's contributions to these SDGs make it a key player in Ethiopia's development agenda.

### **Impact of working hours in Textile and Apparel industry in SDGs and Social progress index**

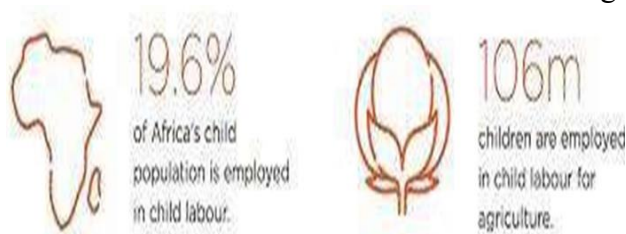
The textile and apparel industry's reliance on long working hours presents a significant challenge to achieving both social progress and sustainable development. This practice negatively impacts employee well-being, potentially leading to physical and mental health problems, work-life imbalance, and reduced productivity. Furthermore, excessive working hours can violate labor laws and regulations, contributing to worker exploitation, particularly among vulnerable populations. This exploitation perpetuates poverty and inequality, hindering progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To address these issues, stakeholders must prioritize reducing working hours and ensuring compliance with labor laws. This includes



setting reasonable work limits, improving working conditions, and providing workers with access to legal protection and representation. By taking these steps, the industry can contribute to a more just and sustainable future, improving the Social Progress Index (SPI) and advancing the SDGs.

The paragraph also highlights the detrimental impact of child labor, which perpetuates poverty across generations. Child laborers miss out on education and are more likely to be trapped in low-paying work as adults, repeating the cycle of poverty. The physical toll of long hours and arduous work can lead to health issues that impact their earning potential and future well-being.



**Figure 4:** Child labour in Africa

**Where are children laboring?** The vast majority of child labourers are either in Africa – where 19.6 percent of the child population is employed in child labour – or in Asia (7.4 percent of its child population). Most child labor is used in agriculture. It employs about 106.2 million children, or 70 percent of the children affected. Rights groups have documented much evidence showing how child labour is used in cotton cultivation, with children as young as five working in cotton fields or ginning factories in countries

such as India, Egypt and Kazakhstan (Codata, 2018).

### **Child labor in the fashion industry**

The textile and apparel industry faces a widespread problem of child labor, documented by NGOs in various contexts:

**India:** Almost half a million children work in cottonseed production for major seed companies.

**Bangladesh:** Garment brands contribute to child labor, impacting children's lives directly and indirectly.

**Turkey:** Syrian child refugees are exploited as laborers in the garment industry.

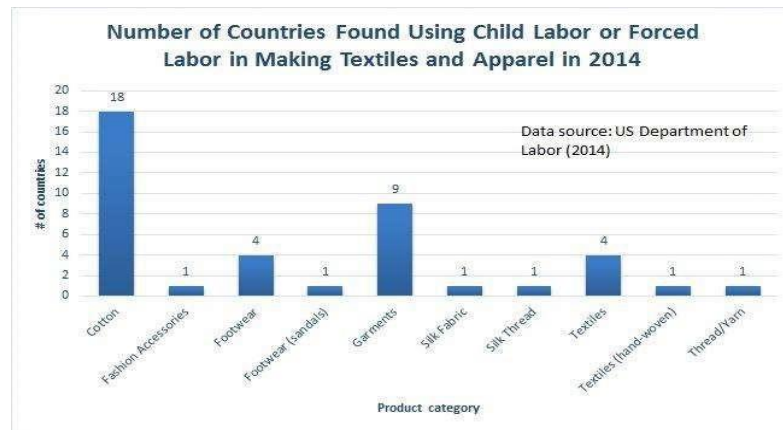
Forced labor has also been a significant issue, particularly in Uzbekistan, a major cotton exporter. Until recently, the government forced over a million people, including children, to harvest cotton. While Uzbekistan has made progress in combating this, the issue persists in other regions. To address these challenges, the industry must:

**Increase transparency and accountability:** Brands must ensure their products are not produced using child or forced labor.

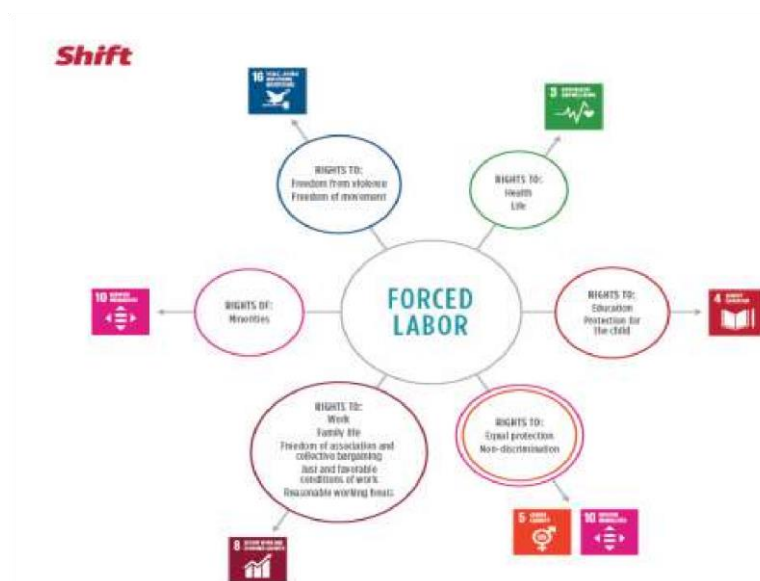
**Collaborate with NGOs and labor rights organizations:** This helps identify and address labor abuses and support vulnerable workers.

**Invest in ethical sourcing and production practices:** This includes fair wages, safe working conditions, and educational opportunities for workers. These steps are crucial for creating a more just and sustainable future for workers in the textile and apparel industry.





**Figure 5: Child Labour in Textile and Fashion industry**



**Figure 6: Forced labour and Sustainable development goals (Shift, 2020)**

Many cases of forced labour have also been reported along the supply chain of the fashion industry. The most infamous example was

taking place until recently in Uzbekistan, one of the world's largest cotton exporters. Every autumn, the government was forcing over one

million people to leave their regular jobs and go pick cotton. Children were also mobilized and taken out of school to harvest cotton. Uzbekistan managed to accelerate the fight against child and forced labour in 2020 and has now almost eliminated it.

## **Results and discussion**

In this section of the review, evidence obtained from published and unpublished documents of secondary sources is compiled and presented in logical connection with existing studies. Based on documents assessed, author's deduction is also included.

### **The world achievement rank and score on the SDGs 2022**

The world is facing a confluence of crises, including ongoing conflicts like the war in Ukraine, which exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and energy access issues. These crises, coupled with climate change, biodiversity loss, and health emergencies, have significantly hampered progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2021 SDG Index report revealed a slight decline in the average score, primarily due to the slow or nonexistent recovery in poorer and more vulnerable nations. This highlights the interconnected nature of these challenges, where health and security crises have stalled SDG advancement.

While Finland holds the top spot in the 2022 SDG rankings with a score of 86.5, countries like South Sudan, Somalia, Chad, Central African Republic, and Sudan occupy the bottom ranks. This stark contrast underscores the vast disparities in progress across the globe.

The 2021 Social Progress Index (SPI) similarly reflects these disparities. Norway ranks first with a score of 92.63, while Canada, the highest-ranking G7 country, sits at

sixth place. The top 14 countries are all high-income and exhibit similar social progress levels.

Tier 2 of the SPI includes a wider range of scores, with countries like Luxembourg and Hungary occupying the top and bottom, respectively. The remaining G7 countries (France, UK, Italy, and the US) fall within this tier. Tier 6 countries, primarily low-income and fragile states, exhibit the most significant range of scores, with Pakistan and South Sudan holding the highest and lowest positions, respectively. Conflict zones like South Sudan and Yemen are among the lowest-ranked countries on the SPI.

These indices highlight the urgent need for global cooperation to address the interconnected challenges facing humanity. Addressing poverty, inequality, and conflict, while promoting sustainable development, is crucial for achieving a more just and equitable world.

### **African achievement of sustainable development (SDGs-2030)**

The African Agenda 2063 (AA2063), adopted in 2013, predates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015. It reflects African leaders' commitment to defining their own development priorities at national and regional levels. AA2063 positions itself as a "shared strategic framework" for sustainable development and inclusive growth on the continent. It outlines 20 Goals grouped into seven Aspirations, aiming to guide Africa's transformation.

The Agenda's design is rooted in an analysis of past achievements, current challenges, and opportunities at national, continental, and global levels. This comprehensive understanding provides the context for developing and implementing measures to achieve the continent's development goals. A

visual representation of the connections between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Agenda 2063 utilizes a color-coded line system to depict the strength of their alignment: dotted grey for 30-50% connection, dotted black for 50-75%, and solid black for 75% or higher. This diagram highlights the potential for synergy between the two agendas, demonstrating how achieving the SDGs could unlock significant economic benefits for Africa, including \$12 trillion in market opportunities and 380 million jobs by 2030. The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is seen as a key driver for implementing these agendas. However, the 2020 Africa Sustainable

Development Report reveals that Africa is only halfway towards achieving the SDGs by 2030, with an average score of 53.82 across member states, indicating a need for focused efforts to accelerate progress.

Development Report was published in March 2022. The five pillars of people, prosperity, planet, peace, and partnerships are used to evaluate the SDGs in the report. These pillars divide the 20 goals into more manageable areas of analysis and closely match the five transformational outcomes of Agenda 2063.

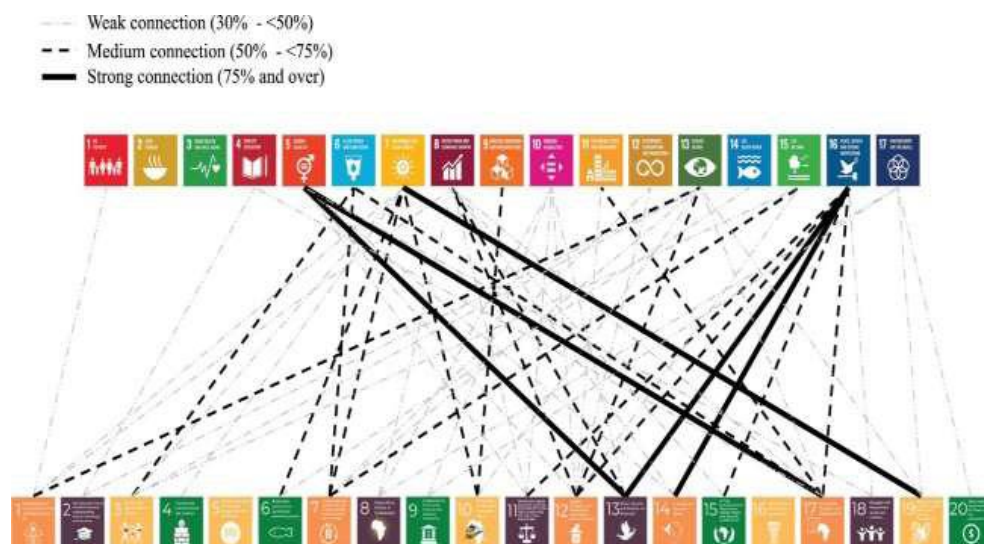


Figure 8; Resulting linkages and converging areas of action African 2063 and SDGS

Africa's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 remains a challenge. While the average SDG score for the continent slightly improved from 52.9% in 2019 to 53.82% in 2020, this still indicates that Africa is only halfway towards meeting its targets. The top five performing African nations in 2020 were Tunisia, Mauritius, Morocco, Algeria, and Cape Verde. However, the 2022 Africa SDGs report highlights the significant impact of the triple crises of COVID-19, climate change, and the Ukraine War on Africa's progress. These crises have negatively impacted both the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The report provides an in-depth analysis of five key SDGs: Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 14 (Life below Water), Goal 15 (Life on Land), and Goal

17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The report emphasizes the need for accelerated action to meet SDG targets, warning that without deliberate policies, at least 492 million people will remain in extreme poverty by 2030, and this number could rise to 350 million by 2050.

Further analysis of SDG performance across specific areas like public life, education, and welfare in 2021 shows Mauritius leading with a score of 0.6514, while countries like Mali, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Chad, and Niger are lagging behind.

These findings underscore the urgency for African nations to prioritize and implement effective strategies to address these challenges and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and the goals of Agenda 2063.

### **Ethiopian achievement of sustainable development goals 2030**

Ethiopia has shown a strong commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating them into its national development plans, including the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) and its 10-year prospective development plan. The government's focus on pro-poor interventions, with 62% of spending directed towards these areas, demonstrates its dedication to achieving the SDGs. While Ethiopia has made progress in reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, challenges remain. The country's overall SDG index score of 53.2, ranking 135th out of 162 countries, highlights the need for further improvement, particularly in areas

like water and sanitation. Ethiopia has also made significant strides in the education sector. Gross enrollment rates in primary and secondary education have improved, with notable increases in primary net enrollment rates. However, challenges persist in secondary education enrollment and completion rates, as well as in primary school dropout rates. The Ethiopian government recognizes the need for accelerated action to achieve the SDGs. The country's experience underscores the importance of integrating the SDGs into national development plans and prioritizing pro-poor interventions. A multi-pronged approach is essential to address the

remaining challenges and ensure that Ethiopia meets its SDG targets by 2030.

INDICATOR	REFERENCE		PROGRESS		TREND
Net Enrolment Rate:					
Pre-primary	2015/16	48.1	21.2	2020/21	↓
Primary	2015/16	100.3	86.3	2020/21	↓
Secondary	2015/16	23.8	29.5	2020/21	↑
Completion Rate:					
Grade 5 (Female)	2018/19	79	63.8	2020/21	↓
Grade 6 (Male)	2018/19	86	67.5	2020/21	↓
Total (Grade 6)	2018/19	82.5	65.7	2020/21	↓
Grade 8 (Female)	2015/16	53.3	67.8	2020/21	↑
Grade 8 (Male)	2015/16	55.3	71.7	2020/21	↑
Total (Grade 8)	2015/16	54.3	69.8	2020/21	↑
Dropout rate (1-8):					
Female	2015/216	11.9	13.7	2020/21	↑
Male	2015/16	11.4	15.2	2020/21	↑
Total	2015/16	11.7	14.8	2020/21	↑

	2015/16	2020/21	TREND
<b>Primary (1-8)</b>			
Female	7	7.1	↑
Male	9	8.9	↓
Total	8	8	→
<b>Secondary (9-12)</b>			
Female	1.3	2.1	↑
Male	1.7	2.8	↑
Total	1.5	2.5	↑

Table – 3: progress Summary

Ethiopia has made progress in closing the gender gap in education, particularly at the secondary level. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for secondary education increased from 0.87 in 2018/19 to 0.92 in 2020/21. However, the GPI has declined in pre-primary, primary, and middle education levels.

This progress is reflected in Ethiopia's improved ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI), moving from 124th in 2015 to 97th in 2021. The GGI assesses gender equality across four key areas: economic participation, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

Ethiopia has also made significant strides in renewable energy development. The country's installed renewable energy capacity has increased from 2400MW in

2015/16 to 4465.1MW in 2020/21, with hydropower accounting for 92% of its electricity generation. This commitment to renewable energy contributes to Ethiopia's efforts to achieve SDG 13 (Climate Action). Despite these positive developments, Ethiopia's overall SDG performance remains a challenge. The country's overall SDG score in 2022 was 58.01/100, ranking 128th out of 163 countries. This highlights the need for continued efforts to address the remaining challenges and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

The data presented underscores the importance of a multi-pronged approach to achieving the SDGs, addressing not only economic and social development but also environmental sustainability and gender equality.



INDICATOR	REFERENCE		PROGRESS
Proportion of seats held by women in national Parliament	2015/16	38.7	42
Percentage of Women Participation in the Labour Force	2012/13	74.6	56.8
Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting	2005/6	74	65
Ethiopia's rank in Gender Gap Index	2015	124	97
The proportion of currently married women using modern contraceptive method	2015/16	35	41

Table – 4: progress Summary

Score stagnating or increasing at less than 50 percent of required rate. The attain score of quality education Score stagnating or increasing at less than 50 percent of required rate. When we come to see climate change action performance Ethiopian has taken urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Ethiopia is on a track or maintaining achievement through climate change.

### **Ethiopian social progress index**

Ethiopia faces significant challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improving its social progress. The country ranks 135th out of 162 countries in the SDG index, with a score of 53.2, which is almost identical to the sub-regional average. This ranking highlights the

need for substantial improvement, particularly in areas like water and sanitation.

The Social Progress Index (SPI) of 2022 further underscores these challenges, placing Ethiopia at 150th out of 169 countries. Ethiopia's low ranking in categories like Basic Human Needs and Access to Information and Communications indicates a lack of access to essential resources and technologies for its citizens. The country also faces significant challenges in ensuring individual rights and combating discrimination against women and girls, as reflected in its low ranking in the Personal Freedom and Choice category.

While Ethiopia has made progress in some areas, such as access to education, the SPI highlights the need for greater focus on addressing the challenges in basic human needs, access to information and communication, and individual rights. Addressing these challenges will be crucial for ensuring that all Ethiopians have access to the basic rights and opportunities necessary for a prosperous and equitable society.

## 2022 Social Progress Index rankings (2)

Tier 4		Tier 5		Tier 5		Tier 6	
Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country
98	Ghana	127	Côte d'Ivoire	156	Equatorial Guinea	159	Niger
99	El Salvador	128	Nigeria	157	Haiti	160	Burundi
100	Morocco	129	Lesotho	158	Sudan	161	Congo, Democratic Republic of
101	Saudi Arabia	130	Solomon Islands			162	Guinea
102	Iran	131	Rwanda			163	Yemen
103	Azerbaijan	132	Zimbabwe			164	Afghanistan
104	Sao Tome and Principe	133	Comoros			165	Somalia
105	Gabon	134	Zambia			166	Eritrea
106	Namibia	135	Syria			167	Chad
107	Honduras	136	Togo			168	Central African Republic
108	Nicaragua	137	Myanmar			169	South Sudan
109	Guatemala	138	Cameroon				
110	India	139	Pakistan				
111	Nepal	140	Laos				
112	Timor-Leste	141	Sierra Leone				
113	Egypt	142	Burkina Faso				
114	Venezuela	143	Djibouti				
115	Kenya	144	Uganda				
116	Senegal	145	Eswatini				
117	Iraq	146	Liberia				
118	Turkmenistan	147	Mozambique				
119	Bangladesh	148	Papua New Guinea				
120	Tajikistan	149	Congo, Republic of				
121	Cambodia	150	Ethiopia				
122	Benin	151	Madagascar				
123	Tanzania	152	Mali				
124	Gambia, The	153	Angola				
125	Malawi	154	Guinea-Bissau				
126	Libya	155	Mauritania				

**Figure 9:** Social Progress Index ranging, 2022)

The textile and fashion industry plays a significant role in shaping a country's Social Progress Index (SPI), influencing several key indicators related to social and environmental performance. While the industry can create jobs, boost economic growth, and contribute to cultural identity, its extensive use of water, energy, and chemicals can lead to environmental degradation, resource depletion, and health hazards for workers and communities. The SPI highlights the importance of sustainable and ethical practices within the textile and fashion industry. By prioritizing environmental and social concerns, the industry can contribute to improving a country's SPI score. This includes reducing

water and energy consumption, minimizing chemical usage, ensuring fair labor practices, and promoting responsible sourcing of materials. The SPI tool provides a valuable framework for tracking and identifying areas that require more attention within the textile and fashion industry. The example of China, a country with economic strength but lagging in social progress, highlights the importance of prioritizing social and environmental outcomes. Conversely, Costa Rica, with a relatively modest GDP, demonstrates that a focus on equal education, healthcare, and environmental protection can lead to strong social progress.

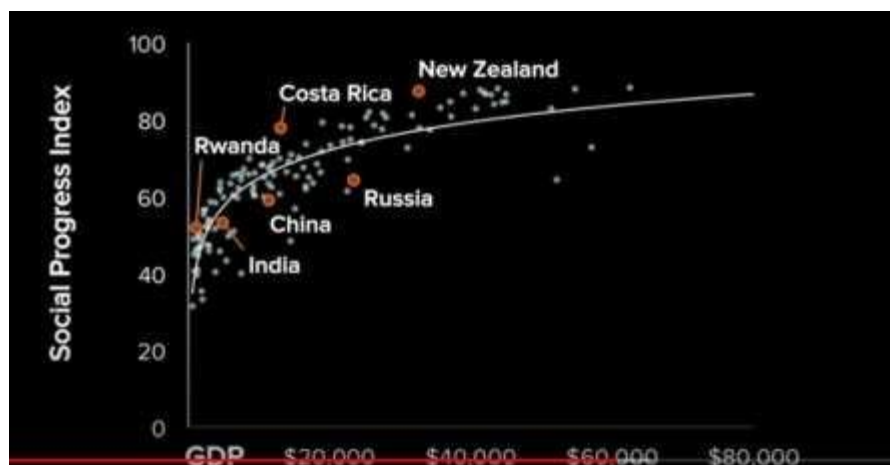


Figure 10: SPI versus GDP (Source: Michael Green <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o08ykAqLOxk>, 2015)

## Conclusion

This review has highlighted the current state of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, focusing on Ethiopia's socio-economic context. While Ethiopia has made strides in certain areas, significant challenges remain, particularly in achieving gender equality and ensuring social progress. The review emphasizes the need for a multi-pronged approach, encompassing not only economic development but also social and environmental considerations. The 2030 Agenda calls for innovative solutions and a shift in thinking to effectively address present development challenges. While advocacy and awareness-raising are crucial, a commitment to lifelong learning is

essential for driving lasting change and achieving sustainable lifestyle choices. The review underscores the importance of prioritizing gender equality, as it is a key driver for overall development and well-being. Empowering women and girls is critical for economic growth, improved family health, and sustainable population management. The review concludes with a call for collective action. All stakeholders, including governments, organizations, and individuals, must commit to bridging the existing gaps and fulfilling the 17 global SDGs, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), which are essential for achieving the broader development goals.

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