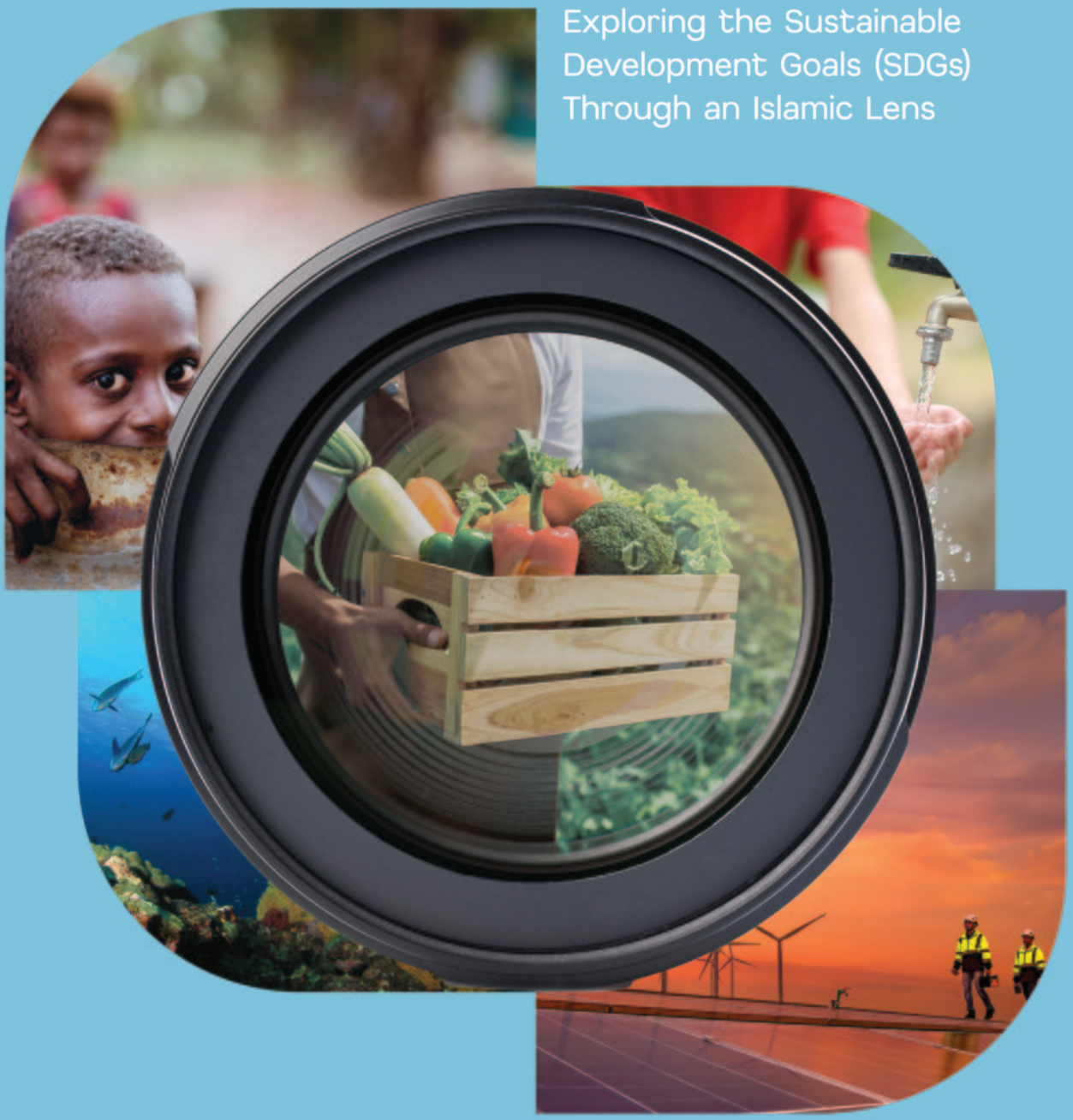
The Sustainability Book

Exploring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through an Islamic Lens



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Exploring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Through an Islamic Lens



I.M.A.M.

The 17 SDGs Titles through an Islamic Lens

1.	**Title:**	SDG 1: An Islamic Framework for Global Goals
	Subtitle:	Faith, Knowledge, and Justice for Humanity
2.	**Title:**	SDG 2: Islamic Sustainable Development Goals
	Subtitle:	The Qur'an and Ahl al-Bayt as Guides to Justice and Dignity
3.	**Title:**	SDG 3: Pathways of Islam toward Sustainability
	Subtitle:	Building a Just and Dignified Future for All
4.	**Title:**	SDG 4: Towards an Islamic Vision of Development
	Subtitle:	Integrating Faith, Ethics, and the Global SDGs
5.	**Title:**	SDG 5: Justice, Mercy, and Human Dignity
	Subtitle:	Islamic Insights on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
6.	**Title:**	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
	Subtitle:	Purification and Preservation: Water as a Divine Trust (*Amanah*)
7.	**Title:**	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
	Subtitle:	Stewardship (*Amanah*) and the Ethical Imperative for Sustainable Resources
8.	**Title:**	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
	Subtitle:	The Right to Dignified Livelihood: Justice (*Adl*) in Work and Equitable Wealth Circulation
9.	**Title:**	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
	Subtitle:	Harnessing Intellect (*ʿAql*) for Progress: Innovation as a Collective Good (*Maṣlaḥah*)
10.	**Title:**	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
	Subtitle:	Universal Brotherhood (*Ukhuwwah*): Upholding Human Dignity and Equity (*Qisṭ*) Across All Nations
11.	**Title:**	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
	Subtitle:	The Islamic City: Safety (*Amn*), Well-being, and the Rights of the Neighbor (*Jīrān*)
12.	**Title:**	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
	Subtitle:	Moderation (*iʿtidāl*) and Gratitude: Rejecting Waste and Extravagance (*Isrāf*) in Resource Use
13.	**Title:**	SDG 13: Climate Action
	Subtitle:	Vicegerency (*Khilāfah*): Restoring the Earth's Balance (*Mīzān*) Through Responsible Action
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	Subtitle:	The Abundance of the Seas: Protecting God's Creation and Rejecting Corruption (*Fasād*) in the Oceans
15.	**Title:**	SDG 15: Life on Land
	Subtitle:	Stewardship of the Land: Cultivating and Preserving the Balance of Terrestrial Life
16.	**Title:**	SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
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17.	**Title:**	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
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Foreword

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Praise and blessings be upon all of God's emissaries, and especially upon the Seal of the Prophets, Muhammad, and his pure progeny.

All praise belongs to God, who created and ennobled humankind, appointing human beings as stewards upon the earth to cultivate it with justice and goodness. Peace and blessings be upon Muhammad and his family—the lamps of guidance and the ships of salvation.

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations member states in 2015, represent a shared human roadmap to confront urgent challenges: poverty, hunger, illness, injustice, and environmental degradation. Yet these aspirations are not alien to the conscience of humanity, nor are they new to the message of heaven. The Qur'an, the teachings of the Prophet, and the supplications of the Imams of his household emphasize the very same imperatives: the eradication of poverty, feeding the hungry, upholding justice, safeguarding creation, protecting human dignity, and cultivating peace.

This book does not seek to supplant the global framework but to accompany it with a spiritual lens rooted in the Shia Islamic heritage—especially in the *Al-sahifa al-sajjadiyya*, the "Psalms of Islam," with its timeless prayers and intimate supplications. In doing so, it builds a bridge between divine guidance and humanity's shared aspirations for a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

The yearning for justice, peace, and sustainability lies at the core of humanity's moral consciousness. In the Islamic worldview, this is not merely an aspiration—it is a sacred trust. As *khulafa' al-ard* (stewards of the earth), humanity is charged with upholding justice, nurturing the environment, and fostering harmony among all creation, reflecting the principle expressed in the Qur'an: "*Indeed, I will place a vicegerent upon the earth*" (Qur'an 2:30).

In an era marked by systemic injustice, ecological collapse, and what many now describe as "climate apartheid," this trust demands not passive reflection but active engagement. The Qur'an calls: "*Stand up for God, in pairs or individually*" (Qur'an 34:46), a call to sincere reflection that can also inspire moral courage and personal responsibility.

This work is thus both timely and necessary. By illustrating how the timeless values of Islam, rooted in the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp), resonate with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, this work reframes these global objectives through principles of justice, mercy, coexistence, and stewardship.

In doing so, it offers inspiration and guidance to individuals, institutions, and communities striving to align their efforts with both Islamic ethics and universal human values. It is my conviction that this book will serve as a meaningful resource for scholars, students, activists, and all who labor to build a more equitable and compassionate world.

With deep appreciation, I commend this work to readers, praying that it sparks thoughtful reflection, nurtures a greater sense of moral responsibility, and encourages sustained, values-driven action in pursuit of justice, human dignity, and the protection of our shared home.

Sayyid M. B. Kashmiri
Jurist Representative

Introduction

The vision of a just, peaceful, and sustainable world—where all people live with dignity and can nurture their full potential in a healthy environment—remains one of humanity's deepest and most enduring aspirations. In the Islamic tradition, this vision is not simply a noble ideal but a sacred trust. The Qur'an describes humankind as the vicegerent of God on earth: *"Indeed, I will place upon the earth a vicegerent (khalifa)"* (Qur'an 2:30). This role carries a profound moral and spiritual responsibility: to care for creation, uphold justice, and promote human flourishing.

Today's global challenges render this responsibility more urgent than ever. Structural inequality, environmental degradation, overexploitation of natural resources, and the denial of access to food, clean water, and healthcare threaten the dignity and security of millions. What some have called "climate apartheid" highlights the deeply unjust ways ecological and economic crises converge. In this context, Islamic ethics call not for silence but for action. The Qur'an exhorts: *"Stand up for God, in pairs or individually"* (Qur'an 34:46), an exhortation to sincere reflection that can also inspire moral conviction and responsibility.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect many of these same principles. Goals such as ending poverty, protecting the environment, advancing justice, and ensuring access to education and healthcare are in harmony with the values taught by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) and his family, the Ahl al-Bayt (p). For this reason, we employ the term *Islamic Sustainable Development Goals*, underscoring the spiritual and ethical alignment between these global objectives and the Islamic tradition.

The Qur'an itself provides striking points of resonance. Goal 1, which seeks to eradicate poverty, echoes the verse: *"Satan threatens you with poverty"* (Qur'an 2:268), reminding us that fear must never inhibit generosity. Goal 15, which calls for the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, mirrors the Qur'an's condemnation of those who spread corruption and destroy the earth's natural balance: *"…causing ruin in the land and destroying crops and progeny"* (Qur'an 2:205). Goal 16, which promotes justice and accountable institutions, reflects the divine command: *"Indeed, God commands you to uphold justice and excellence"* (Qur'an 16:90).

For the first time in history, the global community has articulated a shared set of priorities that embody fundamental ethical commitments. For Muslims, these goals are not optional—they are an *amanah*, a trust, owed to the vulnerable, the marginalized, and future generations. To neglect them would be betraying both human responsibility and divine command.

Realizing these goals requires action at every level. On the personal and familial level, cultivating sustainable and ethically conscious lifestyles is indispensable. On the societal and institutional level, supporting policies and structures that promote equity, peace, and sustainability is critical. The Qur'an instructs: *"And cooperate with one another in righteousness and piety"* (Qur'an 5:2). Every effort, no matter how small, acquires weight when driven by sincerity and aligned with a higher purpose.

Muslim scholars, leaders, and institutions are uniquely positioned to contribute to this collective vision. Drawing on centuries of wisdom and leveraging far-reaching networks, they can help shape a future that unites spiritual values with global responsibility. This book is part of that effort. It invites readers to explore how the Islamic tradition engages with each of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, offering insights that combine spiritual depth with practical relevance.

We believe the path forward will not be shaped by waiting, but by action—action rooted in faith, integrity, and shared humanity. It is our hope that this volume inspires reflection, sparks dialogue, and encourages sustained commitment toward justice, dignity, and the protection of our shared home.

This book was developed by the Imam Mahdi Association of Marjaeya (I.M.A.M.) with the contributions of its dedicated team. We are especially grateful to Dr. Sayed Masoud Noori, our representative to the United Nations; Shaykh Dr. Faiyaz Jaffer, a member of our scholarly team; brother Mohammad Saleh, our educational curriculum lead; brother Danish Raza, our graphic designer; and the dedicated members of our Digital Content Team. Their service to humanity and commitment to advancing Islamic values in the contemporary world—particularly in the realms of justice, peace, coexistence, and sustainable development—have provided both scholarly grounding and spiritual inspiration for this work.

I.M.A.M.

SDG 1:

No Poverty



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Poverty remains one of the most pressing challenges of our time. While it is often thought of as a lack of money, poverty also reflects the absence of access to basic resources needed for a dignified life. Extreme poverty refers to living without the essentials, such as adequate food, clean water, clothing, shelter, and healthcare. In 2022, approximately 838 million people lived on less than $3.00 a day, struggling to meet even their most fundamental needs.[1]

The consequences of poverty are far-reaching. It denies people opportunities, reinforces cycles of inequality, and keeps entire communities vulnerable. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 seeks to eradicate poverty in all forms, everywhere. This involves more than financial assistance; it requires providing social protection, ensuring access to essential services, creating economic opportunities, and breaking down structural barriers that prevent progress.

Eliminating poverty is a prerequisite for global peace, stability, and sustainable growth. By enabling every individual to live with dignity and participate fully in society, we unlock human potential and build a more equitable and compassionate world.

1 https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/ending-poverty?

Islamic Reflection

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) is noted to have said, *"One is not truly a believer whose stomach is filled while the neighbor to his side goes hungry."* [2] Caring for the poor and vulnerable is not only a moral responsibility in Islam but also a spiritual obligation. Central to this ethic is *zakat*, the divinely mandated financial duty intended to redistribute wealth, reduce inequality, and help those in need meet their basic needs. Through *zakat*, wealth circulates rather than remaining concentrated in the hands of a few. Islamic teachings warn of the spiritual and moral consequences of neglecting this obligation, as the Qur'an reminds us: *"And in their wealth there is a right for the beggar and the deprived."* [3]

Eradicating poverty requires more than financial aid; it calls for creating opportunities, empowering communities, and guaranteeing access to food, education, healthcare, and livelihoods. In Islam, wealth is a trust from God, and to use it in service of the vulnerable is both obedience and devotion.

Thus, ending poverty is not merely an act of charity—it is a sacred duty to uphold justice, compassion, and social welfare, so that every person may live with dignity.

What Can You Do to Help?

Support initiatives that provide education, skills training, and job opportunities to low-income communities. You can also volunteer, donate responsibly, or advocate for policies that create fair economic opportunities for everyone.

Facts & Figures

According to the World Bank, more than 824 million people lived in extreme poverty in 2024.[4]

Questions

- How does poverty in one part of the world affect people in other parts of the world?

Prayer

"O God, I seek refuge in You from disbelief and from poverty."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp), al-Kafi, vol. 4, p. 403.

"...اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْكُفْرِ وَالْفَقْرِ ..."

2 Al-Reyshahri, "*Mizan al-Hikmah*", v. 1, p. 488.

3 The Holy Quran, 51:19

4 https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/september-2026-global-poverty-update-from-the-world-bank--one-in?

SDG 2:

Zero Hunger



Somkid Thongdee/Shutterstock

Advances in agricultural technology, modern farming, and harvesting techniques have significantly boosted global food production, moving far beyond traditional methods. However, despite this progress, hunger remains one of the world's greatest challenges, highlighting serious problems in how food is produced, distributed, and made accessible. Malnutrition and food insecurity continue to affect millions, especially in developing countries. Additionally, hunger is often intensified by natural disasters like floods, droughts, and earthquakes, as well as human-caused crises such as wars and armed conflicts.

According to the 2026 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, approximately 645 million people faced hunger in 2025—nearly one in thirteen people globally. The situation is most severe in Africa, where one in five people are undernourished.[5] This serves as a testament that conflict, climate change, and unequal access to resources deepen the crisis, leaving families trapped in cycles of poverty and deprivation.

Ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture are the aims of SDG 2. This means ensuring that everyone has access to enough safe and nutritious food, supporting farmers with sustainable practices, and building resilient food systems that can withstand environmental and economic shocks.

Access to adequate food is a fundamental human right, not merely a basic need. Hunger prevents us from building healthier communities and empowering children to learn, while also weakening societies socially and economically.

5 FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 (Rome: FAO, 2026), https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8306en

Islamic Reflection

Feeding the needy is not only a moral responsibility but also an act of worship. Yet the Qur'an reminds us that one of the major causes of poverty and hunger is extravagance and the waste of resources.

The urgency of this issue is stark today. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), global food waste in 2022 reached approximately 1.05 billion metric tons—nearly 19% of all food available to consumers. This food waste occurred while hundreds of millions of people worldwide faced hunger.[6]

When a small group lives in excess and exploits nature's provisions, many are left deprived of their most basic rights. God strongly warns against such behavior: *"Do not be wasteful. Indeed, the squanderers are brothers of Satan, and Satan has always been ungrateful to his Lord."*[7]

Wastefulness is not only a social injustice but also a form of spiritual corruption. Islam calls for moderation, gratitude, and fairness, reminding us that food is a blessing from God—meant to be used wisely and shared generously. By safeguarding these blessings from waste and ensuring their just distribution, Muslims help combat hunger and malnutrition, uphold social justice, and honor the dignity of every human being.

What Can You Do to Help?

We can help end hunger by supporting local farmers and markets, making sustainable food choices, promoting good nutrition for all, and reducing food waste at home and in our communities.

Facts & Figures

In 2024, approximately 150.2 million children under five, or 23.2 percent, were affected by stunting.[8]

Questions

- Do you think ending hunger requires more focus on producing more food, or managing resources more fairly? Why?
- How does ensuring access to nutritious food benefit not only individuals but also entire societies?

Prayer

"O God, enrich every poor person, feed every hungry one, clothe every unclothed one, and relieve every debtor of his burden."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp), *Bihar al-Anwar*, vol. 95, p. 120.

"... اللَّهُمَّ أَغْنِ كُلَّ فَقِيرٍ، وَأَشْبِعْ كُلَّ جَائِعٍ، وَاكْسُ كُلَّ عُرْيَانٍ، وَاقْضِ دَيْنَ كُلِّ مَدِينٍ ..."

6 https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/world-squanders-over-1-billion-meals-day-un-report?

7 The Holy Qur'an, 17:26-27

8 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/zero-hunger

SDG 3:

Good Health & Well-being



FoToArtist_1/Envato Elements

Our health is never just an individual matter. Rather, it is deeply interconnected with families, communities, and nations worldwide. A virus that emerges in one corner of the globe can spread across continents within days, while a breakthrough in medicine in one laboratory can transform lives everywhere. This shared reality lies at the heart of SDG 3: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all.

Progress is being made. Vaccinations, innovative treatments, and greater access to essential medicines save lives every day. Diseases that once claimed countless lives can now be prevented or managed. With affordable healthcare, mothers survive childbirth, children have a better chance of growing into adulthood, and entire communities become stronger. Access to education, family planning, and protection from violence further strengthens well-being.

Yet these achievements exist alongside enormous gaps. Millions still lack access to even basic healthcare. Preventable deaths among mothers and children, the continued spread of malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV, rising cancer rates, substance abuse, and growing mental health struggles remain urgent global concerns. Tragically, an estimated 4.9 million children under five died in 2024, most from preventable causes, while millions more suffer from conditions that could be treated with basic medical care.

The road ahead is demanding, but achievable. If nations, researchers, and communities continue to invest in innovation, strengthen healthcare systems, and prioritize prevention, we can move closer to a future where everyone, regardless of where they live, has the chance to live a healthy, fulfilling life. Strong health systems and preventive care allow people not just to live longer, but to live healthier, more dignified, and productive lives.

Islamic Reflection

Islamic teachings call us to see our communities as one body. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) offered a vivid example: passengers on a ship would never allow one among them to drill a hole in its floor, for the safety of all depends on the actions of each. Likewise, the health of every individual is bound to the well-being of the entire community. When one suffers, all are affected.

At the same time, Islam emphasizes personal responsibility. Our bodies are a trust from God, and caring for them is an act of worship. Playing a sport, taking a walk, or eating wholesome food—when done with gratitude and the intention of self-care—becomes a form of devotion that pleases the Creator.

Supporting SDG 3 means ensuring access to healthcare, promoting preventive care, and addressing both physical and mental health needs. Good health strengthens families, supports education, boosts productivity, and enables communities to flourish. By safeguarding life and promoting well-being, Muslims fulfill their duty as stewards of the body, of society, and of creation.

The Prophet taught: *"Two blessings are often unappreciated: safety and health."* [9] Islam therefore encourages seeking treatment, maintaining cleanliness, and consuming what is pure. Through these practices, we safeguard our health, cultivate balance in our lives, and ensure that our strength serves not only ourselves but also our families, our communities, and the wider world.

What Can You Do to Help?

We can support good health by taking care of ourselves and those around us—making informed lifestyle choices, practicing safe habits, and ensuring children receive recommended vaccinations. Sharing health knowledge and encouraging preventive care in our communities also makes a big difference. We can also advocate for accountability from governments, community leaders, and policymakers in fulfilling their commitments to expanding access to healthcare.

Facts & Figures

In 2023, approximately 4.6 billion people were not fully covered by essential health services, while 47.6 percent of the global population lacked social protection coverage.[10]

Questions

- How does inequality in access to healthcare, between rich and poor, or between urban and rural areas, affect a society's overall well-being?
- Islam emphasizes cleanliness, moderation, and caring for others. How can these values shape healthier communities today?

Prayer

"O God, bless Muhammad and his family, and grant me well-being that is sufficient, healing, lofty and ever-growing; a well-being that gives birth to well-being in my body; the well-being of this world and the hereafter. And favor me with health, security and safety in my faith and my body, and with insight in my heart."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), "*al-Sahifah al-Sajjadiyah*", Duaa No. 23

"...اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِهِ، وَ عَافِنِي عَافِيَةً كَافِيَةً شَافِيَةً عَالِيَةً نَامِيَةً، عَافِيَةً تُوَلِّدُ فِي بَدَنِي الْعَافِيَةَ، عَافِيَةَ الدُّنْيَا وَ الْآخِرَةِ، وَ امْنُنْ عَلَيَّ بِالصِّحَّةِ وَ الْأَمْنِ وَ السَّلَامَةِ فِي دِينِي وَ بَدَنِي، وَ الْبَصِيرَةِ فِي قَلْبِي..."

9 Shaykh al-Majlisi, "Bihar al-Anwar", v. 78, p. 170.

10 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/good-health

SDG 4:

Quality Education



Waheedullah Jahesh/Shutterstock

Education is the gateway to personal growth, social development, and economic opportunity. Attending school and learning alongside peers is vital for every child, shaping both their present and future. It equips children with the tools to dream, question, and build a better world.

The right to education has long been recognized as a cornerstone of human rights. While earlier goals focused on ensuring completion of primary education, SDG 4 sets a higher standard: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." Quality matters. Too often, children spend years in school without mastering basic skills like reading, writing, or arithmetic. Access is also unequal, with the most opportunities often reserved for the privileged. Education extends beyond primary school; vocational training, secondary schooling, and higher education all play critical roles in social and economic progress.

Significant progress has been made, including rising enrollment rates, higher literacy, and increased attendance of girls in school. However, despite these gains, challenges persist, particularly in regions affected by poverty, conflict, or emergencies. In Western Asia and North Africa, ongoing armed conflict has increased the number of children out of school. Children from the poorest households are significantly more likely to be out of school than those from the wealthiest families, and rural-urban disparities remain high.

Education must leave no one behind, regardless of gender, ability, background, or status. At its core, SDG 4 envisions learners who are not only educated but empowered to uphold human rights, live sustainably, and actively contribute to a just and peaceful society.

Islamic Reflection

The very first revelation to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) was Surat al-'Alaq, which includes the words: *"Read! Your Sustainer is the Most Bountiful, who has taught [man] the use of the pen."*[11] This profound message underscores that acquiring, preserving, and applying knowledge is a divine blessing.

The Prophet often emphasized the lifelong pursuit of knowledge, declaring: *"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim."*[12] Education empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and equips people to fulfill their duties to God and society. Knowledge allows a person to contribute meaningfully to their family, community, and the wider world. The Qur'an reinforces this principle: *"Are those who know equal to those who do not know? Only those who have understanding take heed,"*[13] and promises elevated ranks and greater rewards to the knowledgeable: *"God elevates those among you who believe and those given knowledge, many steps. God is aware of what you do."*[14]

Indeed, knowledge is power. It opens doors to opportunities and enables individuals to acquire skills that shape their future. As Imam Ali (p) said, *"Seeking knowledge is more incumbent upon you than seeking your livelihood."*[15]

Ensuring access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, and promoting lifelong learning opportunities, reflect the Islamic emphasis on knowledge. Fostering learning allows Muslims to honor their role as stewards of intellect, helping others thrive spiritually, socially, and economically, and fulfilling a sacred responsibility from God.

What Can You Do to Help?

Volunteer as a tutor, donate books or learning materials, and advocate for equal access to education for all children, especially girls and marginalized groups.

Facts & Figures

In 2024, approximately 79 million primary-school-age children were out of school worldwide.[16]

Questions

- Imam Ali (p) famously stated, "Seeking knowledge is more incumbent upon you than seeking your livelihood." How does this teaching challenge our modern pursuit of material success, and what lessons can we draw about the role of education in shaping a meaningful life?
- Why do you think millions of children around the world still lack access to basic education despite global progress in schools and technology?

Prayer

"O Allah, bring me out of the darkness of doubt and honor me with the light of understanding. O Allah, open to us the doors of Your mercy and spread before us the treasures of Your knowledge, by Your mercy, O Most Merciful of the merciful."

Fayd al-Kashani, *Khulasat al-Adhkar*, sec. 3, p. 70.

"اللَّهُمَّ أَخْرِجْنِي مِنْ ظُلُمَاتِ الْوَهْمِ، وَأَكْرِمْنِي بِنُورِ الْفَهْمِ، اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ، وَانْشُرْ عَلَيْنَا خَزَائِنَ عُلُومِكَ، بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ."

11 The Holy Qur'an, 96:3–4.
12 Shaykh al-Kulayni, "al-Kafi", v. 1, p. 30
13 The Holy Qur'an, 39:9
14 The Holy Qur'an, 58:11
15 Shaykh al-Kulayni, "al-Kafi", v. 1, p. 30.
16 https://www.unesco.org/en/education/view/outofschool?

SDG 5:

Gender Equality



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Gender equality means ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and protections for everyone, regardless of gender. Across the world, women and girls have historically faced, and continue to face, discrimination that limits their access to education, work, and political participation. Tragically, one in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence during her lifetime.[17] In many countries, laws and policies fail to protect women adequately, and legal barriers still prevent them from fully participating in economic, social, and political life.

Ending discrimination against women and girls is essential for both human rights and a sustainable, equitable future. Empowering women drives economic growth, strengthens communities, and advances human development, while inequality restricts freedoms and limits everyone's potential.

SDG 5 calls for eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls while promoting equal access to education, economic opportunities, healthcare, and leadership roles. Achieving gender equality is not just a matter of justice. It benefits families, communities, and societies as a whole. When women and girls thrive, human potential is unlocked, and progress accelerates across all SDGs.

17 https://www.who.int/News-Room/Fact-Sheets/Detail/Violence-Against-Women.

Islamic Reflection

Social justice and equality stand at the heart of monotheistic religions, particularly the Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each of these traditions emphasizes supporting and empowering those who face discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, or other factors.

God affirms the equal spiritual status of men and women, stating in the Holy Qur'an, *"For men there is reward for what they have earned, and likewise for women there is reward for what they have earned. And ask God of His bounty. Surely, God is ever All-Knower of everything."*[18] Both men and women are expected to uphold high moral character and chastity, and both will receive equal rewards in this world and the hereafter. The Qur'an further emphasizes that true merit is determined not by lineage, wealth, race, sex, or social titles, but by righteousness, consisting of both faith and just action.

Similarly, God declares in the Holy Qur'an, "*O mankind! We created you from a single male and female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Verily, the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you."*[19]

Islam recognizes that men and women are equal yet distinct. Women are granted rights parallel to those of men, including access to education, participation in business and trade, the freedom to choose a spouse, and the right to work—whether through paid employment or voluntary service. The fruits of one's labor belong solely to the individual, regardless of gender.

The Prophet of Islam further emphasized moral conduct and respect in relationships, saying: *"The most complete believer in faith is the best in morals, and the best among you is the best to their wives."*[20] This teaching shows that true equality requires justice, respect, and ethical behavior in every aspect of life.

What Can You Do to Help?

Challenge gender stereotypes in your daily life, whether at home, school, or work, and support equal opportunities for women and men in decision-making, education, and employment.

Facts & Figures

Approximately 32 percent of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.[21]

Questions

- The Qur'an teaches: "Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you" (49:13). How does this verse challenge cultural practices that discriminate based on gender?

Prayer

"*O God, I ask Your pardon for a wronged person who was wronged in my presence and whom I did not help; for a kindness done to me for which I gave no thanks; for a wrongdoer who apologized to me and whom I did not forgive; and for a person in need who asked of me and whom I did not put before myself…*"

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 38.

"اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعْتَذِرُ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ مَظْلُومٍ ظُلِمَ بِحَضْرَتِي فَلَمْ أَنْصُرْهُ، وَمِنْ مَعْرُوفٍ أُسْدِيَ إِلَيَّ فَلَمْ أَشْكُرْهُ، وَمِنْ مُسِيءٍ اعْتَذَرَ إِلَيَّ فَلَمْ أَعْذِرْهُ، وَمِنْ ذِي فَاقَةٍ سَأَلَنِي فَلَمْ أُوثِرْهُ..."

18 The Holy Qur'an, 4:32

19 The Holy Qur'an, 49:13

20 Shaykh al-Hurr al-Amili, "Wasail al-Shia", v. 20, p.171.

21 https://www.who.int/News-Room/Fact-Sheets/Detail/Violence-Against-Women

SDG 6:

Clean Water and Sanitation



Maria Sbytova/Envato Elements

The human brain is nearly 70% water, and so is the heart. Water is essential for life. It sustains our bodies, nourishes crops, supports ecosystems, and fuels industry. It is a cornerstone of growth, health, and prosperity. Yet approximately 2.1 billion people worldwide lacked access to safely managed drinking water in 2024.

Climate change is intensifying this crisis. Increasing droughts, desertification, and water stress threaten communities around the globe. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will face recurring water shortages. In addition to climate-related water stress, sanitation remains a major global challenge. In 2024, approximately 3.4 billion people lacked access to safely managed sanitation services.[22]

Contaminated water and inadequate sanitation contribute to preventable diseases, malnutrition, and death. In 2022, approximately 42% of household wastewater worldwide was discharged without safe treatment, contributing to environmental pollution.[23]

SDG 6 calls for ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030 requires investment in infrastructure, sanitation facilities, hygiene promotion, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems. This means reaching the hundreds of millions who still lack even basic water services and improving accessibility and safety for more than two billion others.

Access to clean water and sanitation goes beyond a basic necessity, as it underpins health, education, gender equality, and economic growth. Responsible water management and sanitation investments safeguard lives, protect ecosystems, and ensure a healthier future for generations.

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22 https://data.unicef.org/resources/jmp-report-2025/

23 https://www.unwater.org/publications/progress-wastewater-treatment-2024-update.

Islamic Reflection

Water is described as the most vital source of life on Earth. The Qur'an reminds us: *"And We made from water every living thing."*[24] Life on this planet depends on water and the atmosphere, which support living organisms and ecosystems. Water is thus regarded as a sacred blessing from God, essential for life, purity, and health.

The Qur'an further highlights water's role in sustaining life and supporting agriculture: "*It is He who sends down water from the skies; you drink thereof, and thereof [drink] the plants upon which you pasture your beasts; [and] by virtue thereof He causes crops to grow for you, and olive trees, and date-palms, and grapes, and all [other] kinds of fruit: in this, behold, there is a message indeed for people who think!*"[25]

Access to clean water and proper sanitation is crucial for individual health as well as for the dignity and stability of entire communities. Where these are lacking, people are left vulnerable to waterborne diseases, which can spread rapidly in today's interconnected world. Ensuring clean water for all is therefore not just a necessity but a shared responsibility.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) taught that humanity is like one body: when one part suffers, all feel it. Conserving water is one way to live out that compassion. Islamic tradition emphasizes restraint in consumption, and the Prophet (pbuh&hp) urged conservation even beside a flowing river, reminding us that protecting water is both a spiritual duty and a practical act of compassion.[26]

What Can You Do to Help?

Save water in your daily routine. Turn off taps while brushing, fix leaks promptly, and avoid wasting clean water to ensure more people have access to this vital resource.

Facts & Figures

In 2024, approximately 695 million people worldwide lacked access to even basic drinking water services, including 106 million who drank untreated water directly from rivers, lakes, and other surface sources.[27]

Questions

- How does equitable access to water influence the overall development and stability of a society?

Prayer

"O Allah, give us rain to drink, and spread Your mercy over us through Your abundant rain from clouds driven along to the delightful plants of Your earth in every horizon."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 19.

"اللَّهُمَّ اسْقِنَا الْغَيْثَ، وَانْشُرْ عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ بِغَيْثِكَ الْمُغْدِقِ مِنَ السَّحَابِ الْمُنْسَاقِ لِنَبَاتِ أَرْضِكَ الْمُونِقِ فِي جَمِيعِ الْآفَاقِ."

24 The Holy Qur'an, 21:30

25 The Holy Qur'an, 16:10-11

26 Shaykh al-Kashani, "Tafsir al-Safi", Vol. 3, p 187.

27 WHO and UNICEF, Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2024: Special Focus on Inequalities (New York: UNICEF and WHO, 2025), https://data.unicef.org/resources/jmp-report-2025/.

SDG 7:

Affordable & Clean Energy



APchannel/Envato Elements

Energy powers our modern world: from homes and schools to hospitals, businesses, and transportation. Yet billions still rely on harmful fuels like wood, charcoal, or coal for cooking and heating, which harm both health and the environment.

According to the International Energy Agency, fossil fuels accounted for approximately 80 percent of global energy supply in 2025, including oil (29.6 percent), coal (27.3 percent), and natural gas (22.7 percent).[28] Dependence on non-renewable energy threatens future energy security and drives climate change. Fossil fuel extraction and use also contribute to habitat destruction, air pollution, and biodiversity loss. This makes the shift to clean, sustainable energy urgent.

SDG 7 calls for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and clean energy for all. Achieving this means expanding clean energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and making renewable technologies accessible to communities everywhere.

In 2024, approximately 655 million people worldwide lacked access to electricity.[29] Among these populations are hidden talents, creativity, and potential waiting to be unleashed. Access to sustainable energy is more than a convenience, as it is essential for education, healthcare, economic growth, and environmental protection. Responsible energy use can unlock development opportunities while protecting the planet for generations to come.

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28 International Energy Agency, Global Energy Review 2026 (Paris: IEA, 2026), https://www.iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2026.

29 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/affordable-and-clean-energy

Islamic Reflection

Islamic teachings firmly uphold the principle that the end does not justify the means. The ultimate purpose of Islamic law is to guide humans toward success in both this life and the hereafter, nurturing them to reach the highest levels of morality and humanity. Accordingly, the ways in which we pursue our goals are as important as the goals themselves.

A clean, healthy, and well-managed environment forms the foundation for humans to realize their full potential. Among the many blessings God has entrusted to humanity are the resources of the earth, which must be valued, preserved, and used responsibly. The Qur'an reminds us: *"It is He who subjected the sun and the moon for you, constantly running [their courses], and the stars are subjected by His command. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who reason."*[30] These blessings are not given for reckless exploitation but for wise and responsible stewardship.

Using Earth's resources while protecting the environment and ensuring sustainability is therefore an ethical obligation. Maintaining a clean and life-sustaining world for all creatures reflects faith and gratitude.

More importantly, humanity has a greater responsibility because of the potential God has endowed it with. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) taught that the best of God's creation are those who bring benefit to others the most.[31] Applying knowledge to serve humanity, through energy efficiency, equitable resource access, or clean technologies, is both a praiseworthy act and an expression of faith and stewardship.

What Can You Do to Help?

At home, save electricity by using a power strip and turning appliances off completely, including your computer. Whenever possible, walk, bike, or use public transport to cut down on carbon emissions. Additionally, you can support clean energy by choosing sustainable options, whether through investing in renewable energy services or adopting new technologies that reduce emissions.

Facts & Figures

The energy sector is the largest driver of climate change, responsible for 73% of greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activities.[32]

Questions

- From an ethical perspective, discuss what makes energy clean.

Prayer

"O God… and employ me in what You will ask me about tomorrow, and let my days be wholly occupied with what You created me for."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 20.

"إِلٰهِي أَلْبَسْتَنِي نِعَمَكَ، وَغَمَرْتَنِي بِفَضْلِكَ، وَأَعْلَيْتَنِي بِمَعْرُوفِكَ، وَأَغْنَيْتَنِي بِعَطَائِكَ، وَأَكْرَمْتَنِي بِنَعْمَائِكَ، فَأَيُّ شُكْرٍ أُدَاوِمُ بِهِ عَلَيْكَ؟..."

30 The Holy Qur'an, 16:12

31 Shaykh al-Kulayni, "al-Kafi", v. 2, p. 164

32 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/affordable-and-clean-energy

SDG 8:

Decent Work and Economic Growth



Justin Lim/Unsplash

Across the globe, millions work tirelessly yet remain trapped in poverty. Youth unemployment remains high, modern slavery still affects millions, and unfair wages leave countless families struggling to meet their basic needs. At the same time, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption place immense pressure on both workers and the planet.

As the global economy recovers, growth often remains slow, inequalities are widening, and the number of available jobs falls short of the needs of a growing labor force. This challenge is reflected in International Labour Organization (ILO) data, which projects that approximately 186 million people worldwide will be unemployed in 2026.[33]

Decent work goes beyond mere employment, reflecting dignity, fairness, and opportunity for all. The ILO defines decent work as work that is productive, delivers fair income, ensures workplace security and social protection, promotes personal development, allows freedom of expression and organization, and guarantees equality of opportunity and treatment for all.[34]

SDG 8 calls for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. This means creating fair opportunities for youth, protecting workers' rights, promoting safe working conditions, and ensuring that growth benefits everyone and not just a privileged few.

Decent work is more than a paycheck. It is about security, dignity, and the ability to support one's family and contribute meaningfully to society. When economic growth is fair and sustainable, it becomes a powerful engine for progress, lifting communities and fostering a more equitable future.

33 https://www.ilo.org/publications/flagship-reports/employment-and-social-trends-2026

34 https://www.ilo.org/topics-and-sectors/decent-work

Islamic Reflection

Islamic tradition honors labor as a source of dignity, self-respect, and social justice. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) is quoted to have said: "Whoever eats from the lawful earnings of his own labor, the gates of Paradise will be opened for him, and he may enter through whichever of them he wishes."[35]

Islam does not oppose economic growth. Its goal is to expand goodness and protection, ensuring a world where hunger, poverty, lawlessness, and servitude are restrained. For this reason, Islamic law dedicates significant attention to outlining economic guidelines that form the heart of a moral economy.

These principles establish fair labor practices, safeguarding justice, dignity, and an honorable standing for workers and artisans alike. They emphasize that employer-employee relationships must never resemble oppression or servitude. Exploiting or mistreating workers is a grave violation in Islam, and those responsible will be held accountable before God. Work itself, when performed with honesty and integrity, is elevated beyond mere survival and becomes an act of worship.

Accordingly, Islam strongly condemns exploitation, unfair wages, and the hoarding of wealth, while encouraging ethical trade, fair compensation, and honesty in business as part of one's accountability before God. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) warned: *"Whoever withholds from his Muslim brother something that is his right, God will deprive him of the blessing of sustenance, unless he repents."*[36]

True economic growth, therefore, is not measured solely by profit, but by its ability to uplift the poor, strengthen families, and support communities. By fostering decent work and just economic systems, Muslims fulfill their responsibility of stewardship and justice, ensuring that prosperity benefits all rather than a privileged few. Thus, Islam aligns seamlessly with the principles of sustainable, inclusive, and just economic growth.

What Can You Do to Help?

Promote fair and sustainable economic growth by supporting businesses that uphold decent working conditions and fair wages. You can also make a difference by choosing ethically made products, encouraging youth entrepreneurship, and advocating for workplace equality and safety.

Facts & Figures

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global unemployment rate is projected to remain at 4.9% in 2026, representing approximately 186 million people without work.[37]

Questions

- How does access to decent work affect a person's dignity, family life, and ability to contribute to society?
- How does supporting entrepreneurship and innovation help reduce poverty and improve economic opportunities for communities?

Prayer

"O God… and let good flow to people through my hands, and do not let me spoil it by reminding others of my favors."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 20.

"…اللهي… وَأَجْرِ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى يَدِيَ الْخَيْرَ، وَلَا تَمْحَقْهُ بِالْمَنِّ …"

35 al-Reyshahri, "Mizan al-Hikmah", v. 2, p. 1075

36 al-Reyshahri, "Mizan al-Hikmah", v. 2, p. 1074

37 International Labour Organization, Employment and Social Trends 2026 (Geneva: ILO, 2026), https://www.ilo.org/publications/flagship-reports/employment-and-social-trends-2026.

SDG 9:

Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure



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Industry, innovation, and infrastructure form the backbone of progress and drive modern society forward. Infrastructure keeps nations moving, from roads and bridges to power grids, water systems, and internet networks. Industry creates jobs, fuels economies, and produces the goods we rely on every day. And innovation pushes us forward, transforming ideas into solutions that improve lives, from the steam engine to renewable energy and digital technology.

Yet, much of today's industry still depends heavily on fossil fuels, creating long-term risks for both people and the planet. The challenge is clear. We must expand access to modern infrastructure and sustainable industries while fostering innovation that creates cleaner, smarter, and more inclusive solutions.

SDG 9 is built on the recognition that resilient industries and infrastructure are essential to overcoming both current and future challenges. Achieving this requires investment in sustainable technologies, as well as ensuring equal access to information and financial markets. Done right, this will foster prosperity, create jobs, and build stable societies across the globe.

But the reality is stark: many developing countries still lack basic infrastructure and industrial capacity, limiting opportunities for growth. In 2025, approximately 2.2 billion people worldwide remained offline, most of them in low- and middle-income countries, limiting opportunities for education, innovation, and economic growth. Bridging this digital divide is not just about technology; it is about creating equal opportunities, unlocking innovation, and empowering entrepreneurship.

Innovation drives progress, and resilient infrastructure enables societies to thrive. Together, they form the foundation of a sustainable and inclusive future.

An Inspiring Story

Brilliant minds exist in marginalized communities worldwide, waiting to be discovered. One such example is Zabeer Zarif Akhter, a Bangladeshi student who developed an innovative water purifier at age 17. Recurring floods and arsenic-contaminated wells threaten his hometown. Determined to find a solution, Zabeer turned to discarded electronics: rickshaw motor drivers, broken laptops, and old circuit boards. Using them, he developed a plasma water purifier designed

to eliminate harmful bacteria and break down organic contaminants, with the option of using solar energy. By repurposing e-waste, he not only addressed a critical health issue but also offered an affordable, eco-friendly innovation that could save lives in communities battling waterborne diseases.[38]

Zabeer's ingenuity illustrates a larger truth: hidden talent is everywhere, but opportunity often is not. Around the world, countless brilliant minds are born into underprivileged communities where access to education, infrastructure, and technology is scarce. Imagine the impact if such ingenuity had access to proper resources and support. SDG 9 teaches that building resilient infrastructure and supporting inclusive innovation are about more than progress; they are about unlocking the transformative potential of every individual.

Islamic Reflection

Throughout history, humans have sought new ways to earn a living, trade, and communicate. Islamic tradition encourages Muslims to use both their intellectual and spiritual potential to explore the unknown and uncover the hidden aspects of creation.

Knowledge, innovation, and building strong foundations become acts of worship when aimed at serving humanity and promoting justice.

Islam consistently promotes a positive outlook on innovation and scientific inquiry. Islamic scriptures all highlight that improving people's living conditions has always been a central objective of the faith. The life of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) offers many examples of his practical, forward-thinking approach to creating dignified livelihoods and sustainable development.

This pursuit of knowledge and discovery, always aimed at the welfare of humanity, is a recurring theme in the Qur'an and Hadith. As the Qur'an states: "Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for those of understanding."[39] These signs encourage believers to expand their knowledge and skills to promote justice and equity, while remaining mindful of causing no harm to people, creatures, or nature.

Islam also cautions that technology and resources carry both constructive and destructive potential.[40] Used responsibly, they can strengthen society and uphold justice; misused, they can lead to exploitation, harm, and moral decline. For this reason, innovation must always remain guided by responsibility and spiritual awareness.

By supporting fair infrastructure, ethical technology, and inclusive innovation, Muslims fulfill their role as stewards of the earth. True progress is measured not by material growth alone, but by advancements grounded in morality, sustainability, and service to humanity.

What Can You Do to Help?

Support innovation and resilient infrastructure by choosing products and services from companies that invest in sustainable technologies. You can also encourage creativity and problem-solving in your community, whether by backing local startups, learning new skills, or sharing ideas that improve efficiency and sustainability.

Facts & Figures

In 2024, approximately 1.5 billion people worldwide lacked access to basic sanitation services. In 2024, approximately 655 million people worldwide lacked access to electricity.[41]

Questions

- How might education, healthcare, and access to technology each play a role in breaking the cycle of poverty?

Prayer

"O God, lead me along the most exemplary path, and let me die and live upon Your creed. O God, bless Muhammad and his family, grant me the enjoyment of moderation, and make me among the people of sound conduct and among the guides to right guidance…"

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 20.

"اللَّهُمَّ اسْلُكْ بِيَ الطَّرِيقَةَ الْمُثْلَى، وَ اجْعَلْنِي عَلَى مِلَّتِكَ أَمُوتُ وَ أَحْيَا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِهِ، وَ مَتِّعْنِي بِالِاقْتِصَادِ، وَ اجْعَلْنِي مِنْ أَهْلِ السَّدَادِ، وَ مِنْ أَدِلَّةِ الرَّشَادِ…"

38 https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/zabeer-wins-back-back-stockholm-junior-water-prize-bangladesh-3902881

39 The Holy Qur'an, 3:190

40 The Holy Qur'an, 57:25

41 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/industry-innovation-and-infrastructure

SDG 10:

Reduced Inequalities



Wavebreakmedia/Envato Elements

Inequality remains one of the most pressing challenges to sustainable development worldwide. Current economic models have concentrated wealth in the hands of a few, often at the expense of the majority. According to the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026, the wealthiest 1.5% of adults worldwide, those with more than $1 million in wealth, held approximately 48.4% of global wealth in 2025.[42]

Nearly half of humanity lives on less than $8.30 a day. In 2022, approximately 3.8 billion people lived below this threshold, which reflects the typical poverty line of upper-middle-income countries.[43]

Inequality is about more than income, as it extends to education, healthcare, justice, and opportunities for work. In many countries, marginalized groups, such as migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities, face discrimination that keeps them trapped in cycles of poverty.

SDG 10 calls for reducing economic disparities by bridging the widening gap between the rich and the poor. Achieving this requires sound policies that ensure fair wages, equal access to resources, and opportunities for all, both within and among nations, while also addressing systemic barriers that prevent people from advancing. Tackling inequality is not just a moral obligation; it also lays the foundation for peace, stability, and shared prosperity, benefiting everyone in society.

42 https://www.ubs.com/global/en/wealthmanagement/insights/global-wealth-report.html

43 https://www.cgdev.org/blog/evolving-world-banks-twin-goals

Islamic Reflection

Equality and justice are divine mandates that shape both social and economic life. God has dignified every human being, and no one deserves to be left behind, regardless of their race or social status. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) echoed this notion in his Farewell Sermon: *"No Arab has superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab; no white over a black, nor a black over a white, except by piety."*[44] This timeless message dismantles all forms of superiority based on privilege or material possession.

Yet inequality persists when wealth is hoarded and the vulnerable are neglected. To address this, Islam established zakat, an obligatory charitable contribution distributed to the poor, the needy, eligible travelers, those in debt, and other designated recipients. This system ensures wealth circulates throughout society rather than remaining in the hands of a few.

By obeying these divine obligations, Muslims do not merely perform charity; they fulfill a social duty designed to prevent structural inequality. The circulation of wealth uplifts the underprivileged, provides dignity to the marginalized, and creates opportunities for growth and participation in society.

Supporting the reduction of inequalities today, through fair wages, access to healthcare and education, and protection of refugees, follows God's path, embodying His justice and mercy while ensuring that no one is left behind in human development.

Questions

- How does increasing inequality impact efforts toward sustainable development?
- Islamic teachings hold that every good deed, even a smile, counts as charity. Beyond monetary donations, how can individuals actively contribute to reducing inequality in their daily lives?

What Can You Do to Help?

In your daily life, practice inclusion in your workplace, school, and community, and promote equality by supporting policies and initiatives that give everyone fair access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Facts & Figures

According to the World Inequality Report 2022, the richest 10% of the global population owned 76% of total wealth, while nearly half of humanity lives on less than $8.30 a day.

Prayer

"O God, do not raise me a single degree among people without lowering me by the same amount in my own eyes, and do not bring about for me any outward honor without bringing about for me an inward humility in my own eyes of equal measure."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 20.

"إِلٰهِي...وَلَا تَرْفَعْنِي فِي النَّاسِ دَرَجَةً إِلَّا حَطَطْتَنِي عِنْدَ نَفْسِي مِثْلَهَا، وَلَا تُحْدِثْ لِي عِزّاً ظَاهِراً إِلَّا أَحْدَثْتَ لِي ذِلَّةً بَاطِنَةً عِنْدَ نَفْسِي بِقَدَرِهَا..."

44 al-Reyshahri, "Mizan al-Hikmah", v. 4, p. 3629.

SDG 11:

Sustainable Cities and Communities



JWVANECK/Unsplash

Cities around the world are expanding at an unprecedented pace. Urban populations continue to grow as people migrate in search of better opportunities and as cities experience natural population growth. Yet in many areas, urban growth outpaces infrastructure and services, leading to congested roads, accumulating waste, unaffordable housing, and inadequate access to healthcare, education, and clean water. The result is often poverty, inequality, and unsafe living conditions.

SDG 11 calls on us to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. This involves designing urban spaces that serve all residents, especially the most vulnerable, like children, the elderly, and those with disabilities. It means building reliable public transport, affordable housing, efficient waste management, and green spaces that act as the “lungs” of our cities. It also requires long-term planning so that growth today does not undermine the well-being of future generations.

Ultimately, the future of cities depends not just on governments and institutions but also on the active participation of citizens. Sustainable communities are born from cooperation, where every individual contributes to neighborhoods that are fair, healthy, and livable for all.

Islamic Reflection

God holds humanity to a high moral and social standard. In Islamic teachings, humans are described as the most noble of God's creations—and with that nobility comes the responsibility to act with integrity. We are entrusted with the care of the resources and blessings placed in our hands, and we will be held accountable for how we use and safeguard them.

This perspective reminds us that the world is not merely an inheritance from our ancestors, but a trust to be preserved for future generations. Building just, livable communities is therefore both a social responsibility and a spiritual duty. Faith in Islam is not practiced in isolation; it informs how we engage with others and how we shape the societies we live in.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) emphasized care for the environment and community well-being, encouraging the planting of trees, the maintenance of public pathways, and the protection of neighbors from harm. These teachings highlight that creating healthy, inclusive, and resilient communities is deeply rooted in Islamic values.

When Muslims strive to improve housing, ensure accessibility for the vulnerable, promote public transportation, or keep cities clean and green, they are not only contributing to global progress—they are living their faith. Sustainable communities, in this sense, are faith in action, guided by justice, compassion, and foresight.

Questions

- What role do citizens, as opposed to only governments and institutions, play in building sustainable and resilient communities?

What Can You Do to Help?

Help make your city more sustainable by supporting public transport, biking, and walking instead of driving. Get involved in local initiatives that improve green spaces, reduce pollution, and promote safe, inclusive, and resilient communities.

Facts & Figures

In 2024, approximately 1.16 billion people worldwide lived in slums or informal settlements, and the number continues to rise.[45]

Prayer

"O God… and grant us endless wealth, and support us with a strength that never fades. And let us roam freely in the kingdom of eternity. Indeed, You are the One, the Only, the Eternal Refuge."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 35.

"اللهي...وَمَتِّعْنَا بِثَرْوَةٍ لاَ تَنْفَدُ وَأَيِّدْنَا بِعِزٍّ لاَ يُفْقَدُ وَأَسْرِحْنَا فِيْ مُلْكِ الأَبَدِ إِنَّكَ الْوَاحِدُ الأَحَدُ الصَّمَدُ،..."

45 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/sustainable-cities-and-communities

SDG 12:

Responsible Consumption & Production



Karsten Wurth/Unsplash

Every product we use has a story, spanning farms, factories, shipping routes, and countless hands and resources. Consider a simple loaf of bread: from growing and harvesting wheat to processing, packaging, transporting, and shelving, each step consumes energy, water, and materials.

SDG 12 calls us to ensure that today's production and consumption do not compromise tomorrow's needs. Yet in 2022, approximately 1.05 billion metric tons of food were wasted worldwide at the retail, food service, and household levels, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable production and consumption.[46] Food loss and waste occur throughout the supply chain, from farms to households.

More than just squandering labor, water, and energy, food waste also generates significant greenhouse gas emissions when it decomposes in landfills. Beyond its environmental toll, it raises pressing moral questions, as millions continue to face hunger.

SDG 12 challenges individuals, communities, and industries to rethink consumption: plan and store food wisely, minimize excess, recycle, and embrace sustainable practices across supply chains. By consuming responsibly, we protect the environment, combat hunger, and safeguard resources for future generations.

True progress requires efficiency, fairness, and environmental responsibility throughout the system. Individuals can choose durable, eco-friendly products and avoid unnecessary purchases, while lasting change depends on businesses and governments making sustainable options accessible and standard.

46 https://www.fao.org/4/mb060e/mb060e00.htm?

Islamic Reflection

Islam teaches that all of God's creations on earth are a trust, and we are their caretakers. SDG 12 echoes this responsibility, urging us to consume and produce in ways that avoid waste, destruction, or injustice. The Qur'an instructs: *"Eat and drink but do not be excessive, for God does not love those who are excessive."*[47] Through responsible consumption, avoiding waste, and sharing surplus, Muslims fulfill a moral and spiritual duty, protecting God's blessings, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring equitable access to life's necessities.

Imam al-Kadhim (p) emphasized that true goodness lies in balance, saying: *"The best of matters is the moderate (balanced) one."*[48] This principle extends beyond worship to every aspect of life: eating, dressing, building, purchasing, and using the resources entrusted to us. Living with moderation recognizes that blessings are meant to be shared, wastefulness is ingratitude, and extravagance deprives others. Even small actions matter, like turning off unused lights, conserving water, or reducing paper waste. On the Day of Judgment, we will be accountable for these choices too.

Believers are called not only to avoid excess but also to cultivate sustainable habits—reusing, recycling, purchasing only what is needed, and supporting ethical production. Through these practices, they honor the trust of God, express gratitude through action, and contribute to building a just and sustainable world where resources remain a blessing for generations to come.

Questions

- Why do you think overconsumption and waste are still widespread despite knowledge about their environmental and social impacts?

What Can You Do to Help?

Reduce waste and consume responsibly by buying only what you need, choosing products with minimal packaging, and recycling whenever possible. Support companies that adopt sustainable practices and encourage others to make mindful choices too.

Facts & Figures

In 2022, approximately 1.05 billion metric tons of food were wasted globally at the household, food service, and retail levels.[49]

Prayer

"O God, bless Muhammad and his family, shield me from extravagance and excess, keep me upright through generosity and moderation, teach me good measure, and by Your gentleness hold me back from waste."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 30.

"اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، وَاحْجُبْنِي عَنِ السَّرَفِ وَالاِزْدِيَادِ، وَقَوِّنِي بِالْبَذْلِ وَالاِقْتِصَادِ، وَعَلِّمْنِي حُسْنَ التَّقْدِيرِ، وَاقْبِضْنِي بِلُطْفِكَ عَنِ التَّبْذِيرِ ..."

47 The Holy Qur'an, 7:31

48 al-Reyshahri, "Mizan al-Hikmah", v. 1, p. 846.

49 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/responsible-consumption-and-production

SDG 13:

Climate Action



Rod Long/Unsplash

Earth's climate underpins all life, regulating rainfall, temperature, and weather patterns that sustain ecosystems, agriculture, and human civilization. Yet human activities have disrupted this balance. Burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial emissions have led to rising temperatures, melting ice caps, and more frequent extreme weather events.[50]

No country is immune to the impacts of climate change. With global greenhouse gas emissions reaching a record 57.7 billion metric tons of CO_2 equivalent in 2024, these long-lasting changes threaten ecosystems, economies, and human lives, potentially causing irreversible consequences if unchecked.[51] The economic toll is staggering, with annual losses from climate-related disasters reaching hundreds of billions of dollars. Even more devastating are the human costs: between 1998 and 2017, climate-related and geophysical disasters claimed 1.3 million lives and left 4.4 billion people injured, displaced, homeless, or in need of emergency assistance.[52]

SDG 13 emphasizes the urgent need for action, both to reduce emissions and to help vulnerable countries adapt to the changing climate. Addressing climate change is not just an environmental priority, as it is a moral responsibility to protect our planet and secure a sustainable future for current and future generations.

50 https://www.greenislam.org/articles/muslim-women-are-the-greatest-victims-of-climate-change

51 United Nations Environment Programme, Emissions Gap Report 2025 (Nairobi: UNEP, 2025), chap. 2, https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2025.

52 Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Economic Losses, Poverty & Disasters 1998–2017 (Brussels: CRED; Geneva: UNDRR, 2018), https://www.undrr.org/publication/economic-losses-poverty-disasters-1998-2017.

Islamic Reflection

Islam teaches that the Earth is a trust from God, and humans are its stewards. Life is an integral part of nature, and preserving creation's balance is a collective responsibility for all Muslims. The Qur'an warns: *"Corruption has appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of people have earned…,"*[53] underscoring the consequences of human mismanagement.

Today, climate change stands as a clear sign of imbalance. Islamic tradition teaches that the environment can only be preserved when humans care for nature, live simply, and practice moderation in their use of resources such as food, water, clothing, fuel, and daily goods. Patience, humility, and restraint help prevent overconsumption, while sharing resources is regarded as both charity and spiritual virtue.

Addressing climate change is therefore not only an ecological necessity but also a moral and spiritual obligation. By reducing emissions, conserving resources, and protecting the environment, Muslims fulfill their responsibility to safeguard life on Earth—for both present and future generations.

What Can You Do to Help?

Take action against climate change by reducing your carbon footprint. Walk, bike, or use public transport, save energy at home, and support policies and initiatives that promote renewable energy and environmental protection.

Facts & Figures

Global average sea levels have risen by at least 8–9 inches (21–24 centimeters) since 1880.[54]

Questions

- In what ways can innovation, technology, and sustainable practices reduce the human impact on climate change?

Prayer

"Be mindful of God regarding His servants and His lands, for you will be held accountable even for plots of land and for animals."

Imam Ali (p), *Nahj al-Balagha*, Sermon 167.

"اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ فِي عِبَادِهِ وَبِلَادِهِ، فَإِنَّكُمْ مَسْؤُولُونَ حَتَّى عَنِ الْبِقَاعِ وَالْبَهَائِمِ."

53 The Holy Qur'an, 30:41

54 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/climate-action

SDG 14:

Life Below Water



GreensandBlues/Envato Elements

The oceans are the beating heart of our planet, sustaining life both beneath and above the waves. Covering more than 70% of the Earth's surface, they are home to extraordinary marine life and sustain life on land by regulating our climate, producing more than half the oxygen we breathe, and providing food for billions of people.

SDG 14 is about safeguarding this vast blue treasure. Yet today, our oceans are under siege. Overfishing depletes fish stocks faster than they can recover. Plastic pollution clogs waterways and strangles marine life. Carbon emissions are making the seas warmer and more acidic, threatening coral reefs and the species that depend on them.

The scale of destruction is staggering. Every year, an estimated 11 million metric tons of plastic enter the oceans, equivalent to more than one garbage truckload every minute.[55] Coral reefs, which shelter a quarter of marine species, are dying at alarming rates due to rising ocean temperatures. These are not distant problems; they are crises that affect our food chains, our weather patterns, and ultimately, our survival.

Yet there is still time to act. By reducing pollution, protecting coastal ecosystems, ending destructive fishing practices, and conserving marine areas, we can begin restoring the oceans' health. SDG 14 calls us to act, not just for marine life, but for humanity itself. Without healthy oceans, there can be no healthy planet.

55 United Nations Environment Programme, From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Nairobi: UNEP, 2021), https://www.unep.org/resources/pollution-solution-global-assessment-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution.

Islamic Reflection

God made the Earth and its bounties subservient to humanity to fulfill our mission in this world. He reminds us in the Qur'an:

"It is He who subjected the sea for you, so that you may eat from it tender meat and extract from it ornaments which you wear. And you see the ships plowing through it, so that you may seek of His bounty and perhaps you will be grateful."[56]

The blessings of God are not to be exploited recklessly. Fertile soil, flowing rivers, and abundant seas are to be preserved as a trust for all living beings. Misusing these blessings harms the environment and reflects ingratitude toward God, the Giver. Oceans, while a source of sustenance and livelihood, are also sacred trusts. Polluting waterways, overfishing, or destroying marine ecosystems violates this trust and disrupts the harmony of creation, in which even sea creatures glorify God, as stated in the Holy Qur'an:

"The seven heavens, the earth, and whatever is between them all glorify Him. There is nothing that does not glorify Him and always praise Him, but you do not understand their praise and glorification."[57]

True gratitude to God is shown through responsible stewardship of His gifts. Believers are entrusted to manage land and water wisely, for the benefit of both people and all living creatures. When neglected or misused, these blessings can become sources of harm—water may bring floods or endanger aquatic life, while fertile soil, rivers, and seas may be degraded. Such abuse is not only harmful but also a form of ingratitude toward the Creator. Islam therefore prohibits any action or neglect that damages the environment or life on land or in water.

Our duty is clear: to protect the seas, preserve marine life, and ensure that future generations inherit oceans that are pure, life-giving, and abundant. Safeguarding the environment is both a moral responsibility and an act of worship—an enduring expression of gratitude to God.

What Can You Do to Help?

Protect oceans and marine life by reducing plastic use, properly disposing of waste, and supporting sustainable seafood choices. Participate in local clean-up efforts and advocate for policies that prevent water pollution and overfishing.

Facts & Figures

According to a 2005 United Nations Environment Programme estimate, more than 13,000 pieces of plastic litter were floating on every square kilometer of ocean.[58]

Questions

- How does protecting oceans contribute to the well-being of the planet and future generations?

Prayer

"O God, grant us success in obedience, distance from sin, sincerity of intention, and recognition of what is sacred…"

Imam al-Mahdi (p), *al-Balad al-Amin*, p. 480; *al-Misbah*, p. 374; *al-Sahifa al-Mubaraka al-Mahdawiyya*.

"اللَّهُمَّ ارْزُقْنَا تَوْفِيقَ الطَّاعَةِ، وَبُعْدَ الْمَعْصِيَةِ، وَصِدْقَ النِّيَّةِ، وَعِرْفَانَ الْحُرْمَةِ..."

56 The Holy Qur'an, 16:14

57 The Holy Qur'an, 17:44

58 https://www.greenmatch.co.uk/ocean-pollution-facts?

SDG 15:

Life on Land



Sutirta Budiman/Unsplash

The Earth is a masterpiece of colors, textures, and life. Scientists estimate that millions of species share this planet with us, although estimates vary widely. From towering trees to tiny insects, from vast deserts to lush forests, every element of biodiversity plays a role in sustaining our existence. We depend on these natural cycles for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat.

SDG 15 calls on us to honor and protect this priceless wealth of life on land. Yet, the reality is sobering: humanity is consuming far more of the earth's resources than nature can replenish. A single road through a forest might not seem devastating on its own, but multiplied thousands of times, such destruction fractures ecosystems beyond repair.

Global Forest Watch, in 2025, tropical primary rainforests disappeared at a rate equivalent to approximately 11 football fields every minute, 660 every hour, and nearly 16,000 every day.

But there is hope. Protecting forests, restoring degraded lands, and living more sustainably can help turn the tide. Each tree planted, each habitat preserved, is an act of healing. While SDG 15 focuses on protecting nature, it ultimately safeguards ourselves, ensuring Earth's living library thrives for generations to come.

Islamic Reflection

As God considers us to be His vicegerents on earth, this honor comes with responsibility: to care for nature and every creature within it.

The Qur'an warns, "*Do not destroy the land after it has been well established, but pray to God, have fear of Him, and hope to receive His mercy. God's mercy is close to the righteous people.*"[59] We are called to protect life on land, its forests, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

In Islam, the natural world is a trust from God, not a resource to exploit without limit. Destroying forests, polluting the soil, or driving species to extinction is a betrayal of that trust and silences part of creation's worship of its Creator. Safeguarding this trust requires leaving a positive footprint. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) emphasized that the one who *"plants a crop or sows a seedling from which a bird, a human, or an animal eats, except that it will be counted for him as a charity."*[60]

Stewardship in Islam extends beyond human society to the very Earth we walk upon and the creatures that share it with us. It is a sacred duty to preserve biodiversity, restore balance, and leave behind a world full of life, not one stripped bare by neglect or greed.

Questions

- Islam teaches that humans are stewards of the Earth and all creatures. How can this principle guide our actions toward forests, animals, and land resources?

What Can You Do to Help?

Help preserve ecosystems by planting trees, protecting wildlife habitats, and reducing the use of harmful chemicals.

Facts & Figures

Between 2015 and 2025, approximately 10.9 million hectares of forest were lost to deforestation annually.[61]

Prayer

"O God… bring my intention to the best of intentions, and my deeds to the best of deeds. O Allah, through Your gentleness make my intention complete, through what is with You make my certainty sound, and through Your power set right whatever has become corrupt in me…"

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 20.

"إِلٰهِي... وَانْتَهِ بِنِيَّتِي إِلَى أَحْسَنِ النِّيَّاتِ، وَبِعَمَلِي إِلَى أَحْسَنِ الْأَعْمَالِ. اللَّهُمَّ وَفِّرْ بِلُطْفِكَ نِيَّتِي، وَصَحِّحْ بِمَا عِنْدَكَ يَقِينِي، وَاسْتَصْلِحْ بِقُدْرَتِكَ مَا فَسَدَ مِنِّي ..."

59 The Holy Qur'an, 7:56

60 Ahmad bin Hanbal, "Musnad Ahmad", v. 45, p. 353.

61 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/life-on-land

SDG 16:

Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions



Photobyphotoboy/Envato Elements

Some people live in well-functioning countries governed by the rule of law, with freedom of expression and voting rights. Others live in nations plagued by corruption and mismanagement, where even basic documentation like a birth certificate may be absent. Some experience safety and security, while others endure constant fear of violence.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, whether threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group, resulting or likely to result in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation. Violence manifests in many forms: domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual violence, indiscriminate violence, war, terrorism, torture, and other human rights violations.

SDG 16 calls on the global community to foster peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at every level. Achieving this requires significant efforts to reduce all forms of violence and related casualties worldwide. Success relies on collaboration among professionals across disciplines, sectors, and borders to promote safety, justice, and strong institutions for everyone.

Islamic Reflection

As Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&hp) wisely said: *"Two blessings are often unappreciated: safety and health."*[62] Reflecting on the privilege of safety, we understand that sustainable development cannot thrive without peace, stability, human rights, and effective governance grounded in the rule of law.

Imam al-Sadiq (p) stated, *"A Muslim is one from whose hand and tongue people are safe."*[63] This reminds us that every Muslim is called to embody peace and security. Such conduct forms the foundation of a healthy society, where individuals can grow, thrive, and contribute to collective well-being.

No one deserves to live in fear or instability. Every human being is a creation of God, endowed with dignity, and it is both a moral and spiritual duty to protect that dignity. To deny anyone safety or rights is to contradict the principles of Islam.

This is why building strong, just, and accountable institutions is so important. Such institutions must uphold the rule of law, respond swiftly to injustice, corruption, and violence, and work to improve the social and economic well-being of all people. Promoting justice, integrity, and ethical governance is not only a civic responsibility—it is a core Islamic value. Justice lies at the heart of Islamic jurisprudence and serves as a foundation for maintaining social, economic, and moral balance.

What Can You Do to Help?

Make use of your rights by ensuring elected leaders are held accountable, seeking access to information, and voicing your perspectives to them. Encourage inclusivity and show respect for individuals of diverse backgrounds, faiths, and viewpoints.

Facts & Figures

By the end of 2025, approximately 117.8 million people worldwide had been forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations.[64]

Questions

- What role do citizens play in holding leaders accountable and fostering peace at local, national, and global levels?
- How can education, civic engagement, and awareness campaigns help build stronger institutions and more peaceful communities?

Prayer

" O God…and adorn me with the adornment of the righteous and clothe me in the ornament of the God-mindful: in spreading justice, restraining anger, putting out the fire of conflict, bringing together those who are divided, and reconciling people."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 20.

"إِلٰهِي…وَحَلِّنِي بِحِلْيَةِ الصَّالِحِينَ، وَأَلْبِسْنِي زِينَةَ الْمُتَّقِينَ، فِي بَسْطِ الْعَدْلِ، وَكَظْمِ الْغَيْظِ، وَإِطْفَاءِ النَّائِرَةِ، وَضَمِّ أَهْلِ الْفُرْقَةِ، وَإِصْلَاحِ ذَاتِ الْبَيْنِ…"

62 Al-Majlisi, Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 170

63 al-Reyshahri, "Mizan al-Hikmah", v. 2, p. 1340.

64 https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/figures-glance?

SDG 17:

Partnerships for the Goals



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The world is more interconnected than ever, and the future holds limitless possibilities. While we cannot predict exactly what 2030 will look like, one truth remains certain: everything created by humans can also be shaped by human action. Societies are built and transformed by the decisions of those who inhabit them. Just as history was written by the choices of past generations, the actions we take today will determine the world of tomorrow.

The challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, and climate change, are too vast for any one individual or organization to tackle alone. SDG 17 emphasizes partnership: joining hands across borders, sectors, and communities to bring the Sustainable Development Goals to life. Governments have a responsibility, but so do local organizations, faith communities, and each of us. Businesses, whether multinational corporations or small local enterprises, must contribute. International institutions and wealthier nations must support those with fewer resources.

Real change happens when knowledge is shared, resources are distributed equitably, and trust is built through collaboration. Alone, we may carry stones; together, we can build mountains. By working collectively, we can achieve the future we envision and create a world that is just, sustainable, and prosperous for all.

Islamic Reflection

Cooperation and partnership are not merely practical strategies; they are fundamental principles of faith. The Qur'an commands: "*Cooperate with each other in righteousness and piety, not in sin and hostility.*"[65] At its core, SDG 17 embodies this spirit, urging humanity to join hands in building a world rooted in justice, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

Divisions among people have too often led to alienation, deprivation, and conflict. Yet the Qur'an reminds us that diversity is meant to be a source of connection, not division: "*O mankind, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you.*"[66] Our differences are not barriers but bridges, designed to strengthen understanding, mutual support, and collaboration.

In today's interconnected world, Islam calls believers to see cooperation as both a duty and an act of worship. Sharing knowledge, resources, and compassion fulfills God's command to uplift one another and foster a legacy of justice and mercy. Islam emphasizes building strong partnerships at every level—within families, communities, nations, and across the globe. Collective action for the common good is encouraged, while causing harm to people, societies, or nature is strictly prohibited. Debate and dialogue are welcomed, but must always be guided by fairness, justice, and the pursuit of dignity and peace for all.

Questions

- Why do some countries and organizations struggle to achieve the SDGs without international collaboration?
- How can partnerships between governments, private sectors, and civil society accelerate progress toward global development goals?
- What challenges might arise when trying to build fair and effective global partnerships?

What Can You Do to Help?

Become part of, or establish, a community group dedicated to driving action toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Facts & Figures

According to the United Nations' Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2026, developing countries face an annual financing gap of approximately $4 trillion to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[67]

Prayer

"O God, to You I seek help and deliverance, in You I place my hope, to You I call, in You I seek refuge, in You I trust, from You I seek aid, in You I believe, upon You I rely, and on Your generosity and kindness I depend."

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p), *al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya*, Supplication 52.

"إلٰهي...وَبِكَ أَسْتَغِيثُ، وَإِيَّاكَ أَرْجُو، وَلَكَ أَدْعُو، وَإِلَيْكَ أَلْجَأُ، وَبِكَ أَثِقُ، وَإِيَّاكَ أَسْتَعِينُ، وَبِكَ أُؤْمِنُ، وَعَلَيْكَ أَتَوَكَّلُ، وَعَلَى جُودِكَ وَكَرَمِكَ أَتَّكِلُ."

65 The Holy Qur'an, 5:2

66 The Holy Qur'an, 49:13

67 https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/partnerships-for-the-goals

Conclusion

All praise belongs to God, who has granted us the ability to present a vision that affirms the harmony between divine guidance and humanity's shared pursuit of a dignified and sustainable life.

Linking the Sustainable Development Goals with the supplications of Imam Zayn al-Abidin (p) and the broader Shia devotional tradition uncovers a luminous truth: faith and righteous action, justice and compassion, the preservation of blessings and the protection of creation are not temporary ideals, but eternal responsibilities entrusted to humankind.

May these prayers inspire our deeds, and may these values guide our lives. Together—as believers and as members of the human family—let us strive to build a world grounded in justice, security, and peace, giving living expression to the Qur'anic call:

"*And cooperate with one another in righteousness and piety*" (Qur'an 5:2).

Peace and blessings be upon Muhammad and his pure family.

Imam Mahdi Association of Marjaeya, Dearborn, MI 48124, www.imam-us.org

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