

2026 GLOBAL SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

Results & Findings



Putting **sustainable & inclusive growth** at the core of decision-making starts with equipping leaders with **timely, relevant & granular data** to provide a clear picture of the unique context of the communities they serve.

That's what we do.

Our flagship tool, the Social Progress Index[®], is powered by one of the world's largest collections of social progress data to provide a deeper understanding of the true state of a society



Tracks performance of 171 countries across 15 years

Maps more than 71 measures of social & environmental progress

Measures social progress exclusively & directly, independent of economic indicators

Considers outcomes & lived experience, regardless of effort spent

Composite index encompassing the many interrelated aspects of thriving societies

The **Social Progress Index** focuses on 12 universally important questions about the success of our societies

BASIC NEEDS

- **Nutrition & Medical Care**
Do people have enough food to eat & receive basic medical care?
- **Water & Sanitation**
Can people drink water & keep themselves clean without getting sick?
- **Housing**
Do people have adequate housing with basic utilities?
- **Safety**
Do people feel safe?

FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING

- **Basic Education**
Do people have access to an educational foundation?
- **Information & Communications**
Can people freely access ideas & information from anywhere in the world?
- **Health**
Do people live long & healthy lives?
- **Environmental Quality**
Does the environment support societal well-being?

OPPORTUNITY

- **Rights & Voice**
Are people's rights as individuals protected?
- **Freedom & Choice**
Are people free to make their own life choices?
- **Inclusive Society**
Is no one excluded from the opportunity to be a contributing member of society?
- **Advanced Education**
Do people have access to the world's most advanced knowledge?

The Social Progress Index 2026 aggregates 57 social & environmental outcome indicators from 171 countries

BASIC NEEDS

Nutrition & Medical Care

- Undernourishment
- Maternal mortality
- Child mortality
- Child stunting
- Infectious diseases
- Diet low in fruits & vegetables

Water & Sanitation

- Basic water service
- Basic sanitation service
- Unsafe water, sanitation & hygiene
- Satisfaction with water quality

Housing

- Access to electricity
- Household air pollution
- Dissatisfaction with housing affordability
- Usage of clean fuels & technology

Safety

- Interpersonal violence
- Intimate partner violence
- Money stolen
- Feeling safe walking alone
- Transportation related injuries

FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING

Basic Education

- Primary school enrollment
- Secondary school attainment
- Gender parity in secondary attainment
- Equal access to quality education
- Children grow & learn

Information & Communications

- Mobile telephone users
- Internet users
- Online Service Index
- World Press Freedom Index

Health

- Life expectancy at 65
- Non-communicable diseases
- Access to essential health services
- Equal access to quality healthcare
- Health problems

Environmental Quality

- Outdoor air pollution
- Particulate matter pollution
- Lead exposure
- Waste recovery

OPPORTUNITY

Rights & Voice

- Political rights
- Freedom of peaceful assembly
- Equality before the law & individual liberty index
- Rights equality
- Perception of corruption

Freedom & Choice

- Vulnerable employment
- Early marriage
- Satisfied demand for contraception
- Freedom over life choices
- Civil Society Organization (CSO) repression

Inclusive Society

- Acceptance of gays & lesbians
- Discrimination & violence against minorities
- Equal access index
- Count on help
- Young people not in education, employment or training

Advanced Education

- Expected years of tertiary education
- Women with advanced education
- Quality weighted universities
- Citable documents
- Academic freedom

The Social Progress Index aligns with all UN Sustainable Development Goals, offering a practical way to track & report progress

BASIC NEEDS

Nutrition & Medical Care



Water & Sanitation



Housing



Safety



FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING

Basic Education



Information & Communications



Health



Environmental Quality



OPPORTUNITY

Rights & Voice



Freedom & Choice



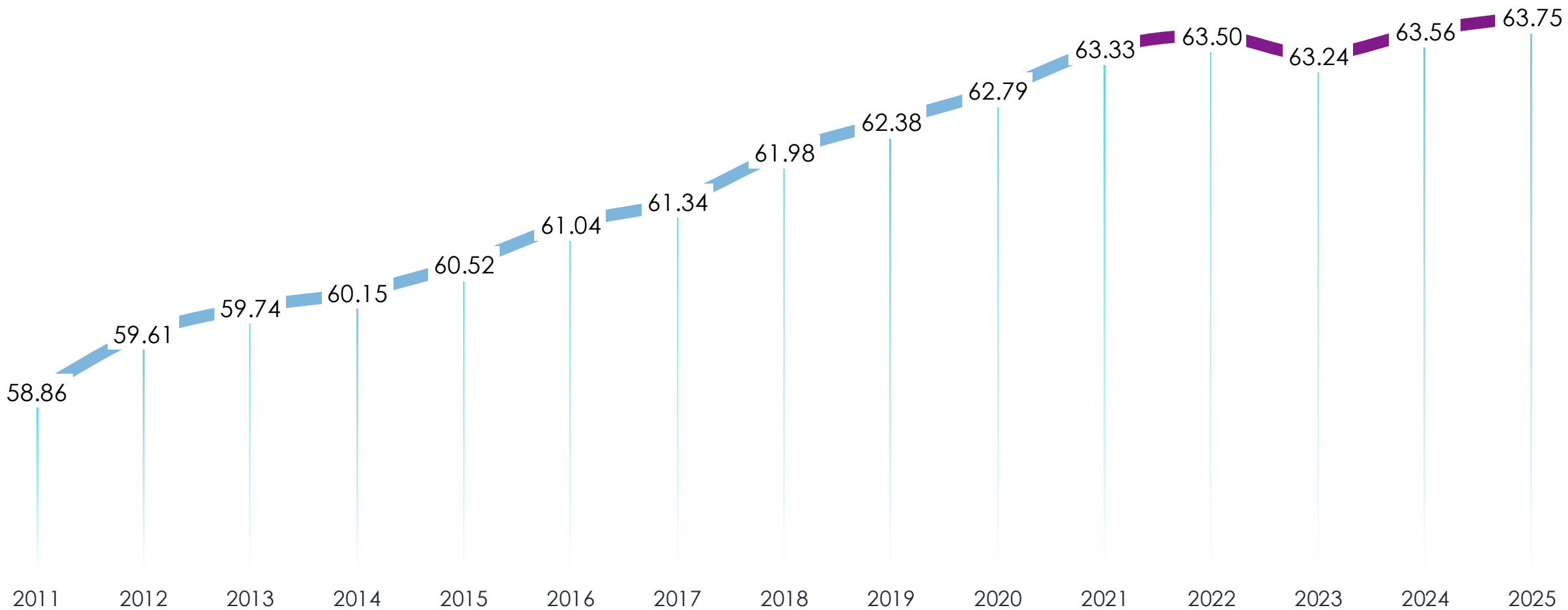
Inclusive Society



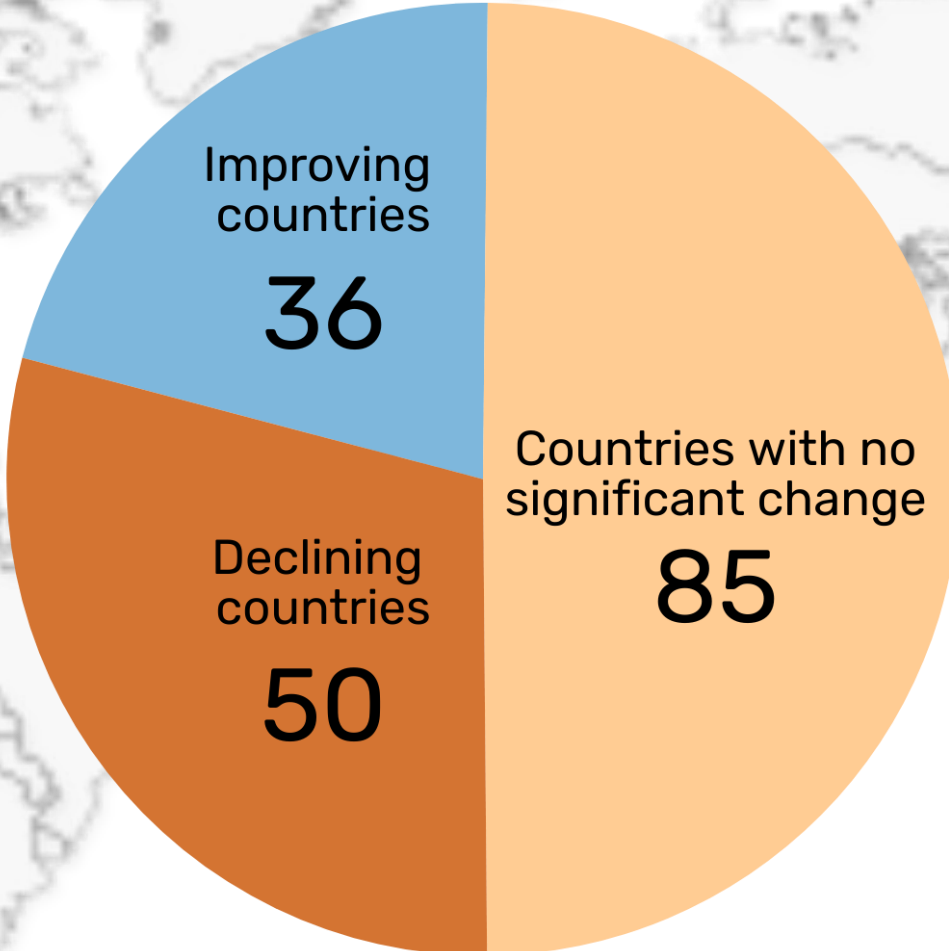
Advanced Education



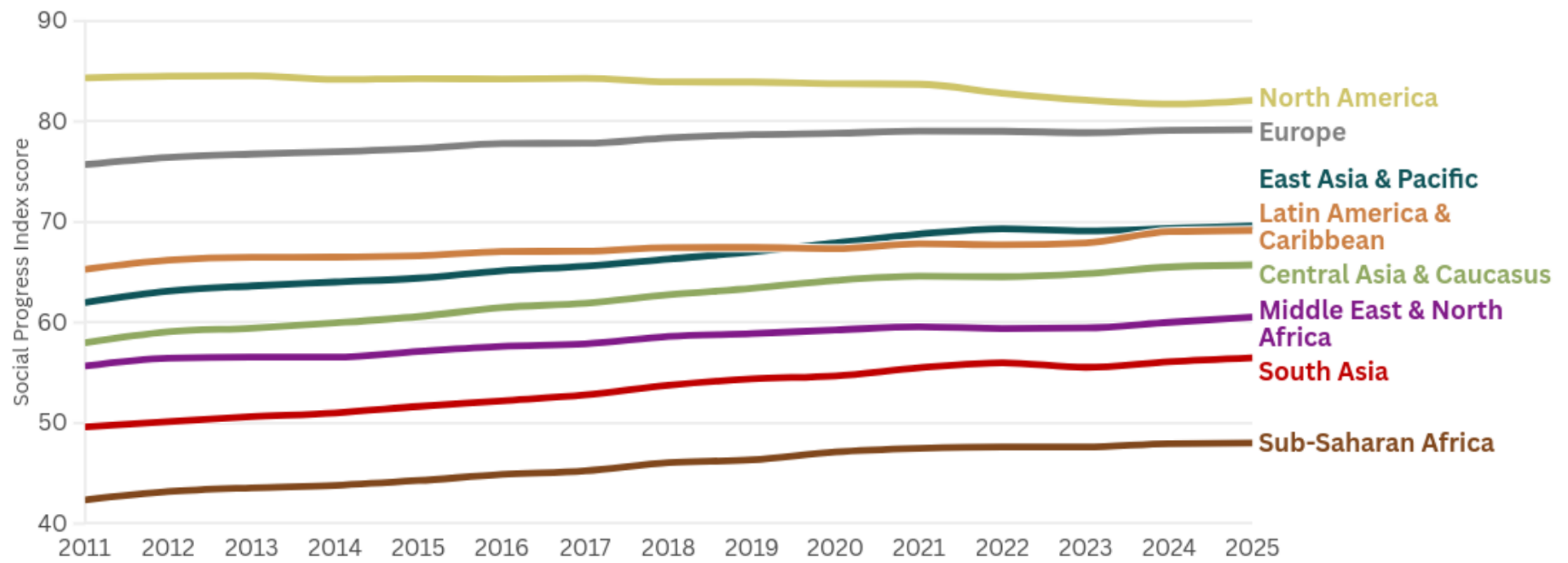
After a decade of steady growth globally, social progress has stagnated since 2021.



Of the 171 countries measured by the Global Social Progress Index, nearly a third declined in the last year.

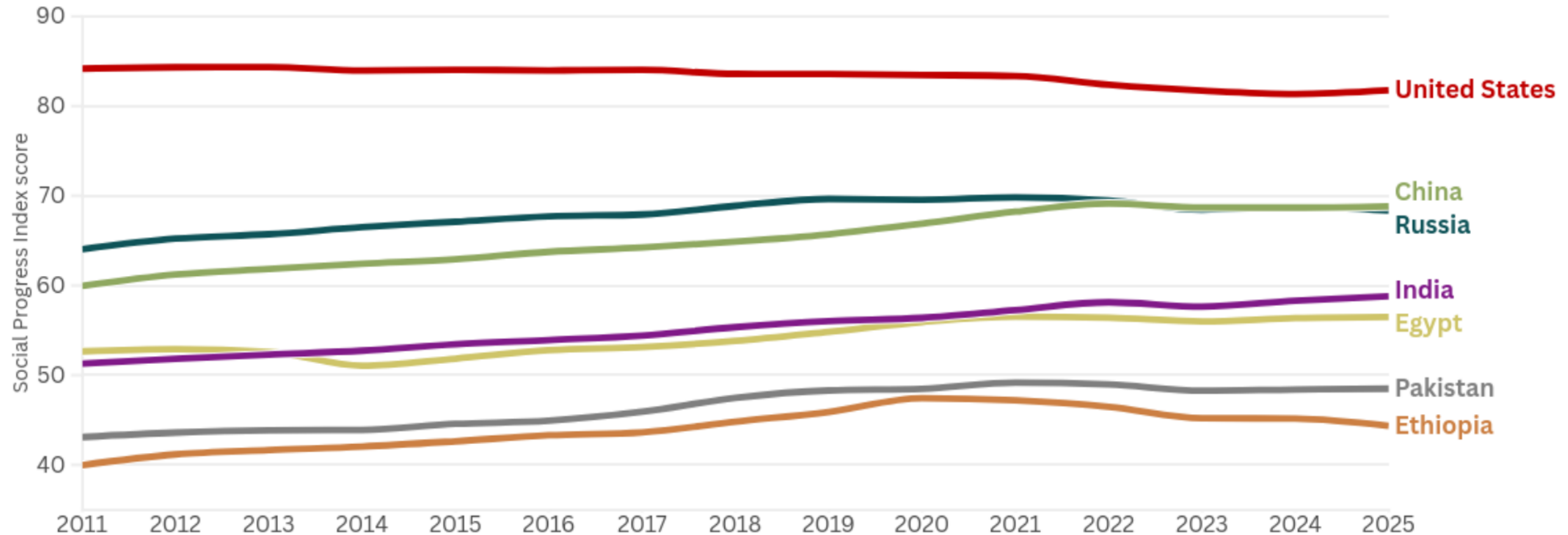


GLOBAL TREND: THE SOCIAL PROGRESS STAGNATION IS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON, IMPACTING ALMOST EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD



Large, significant countries have stalled or gone backwards in recent years

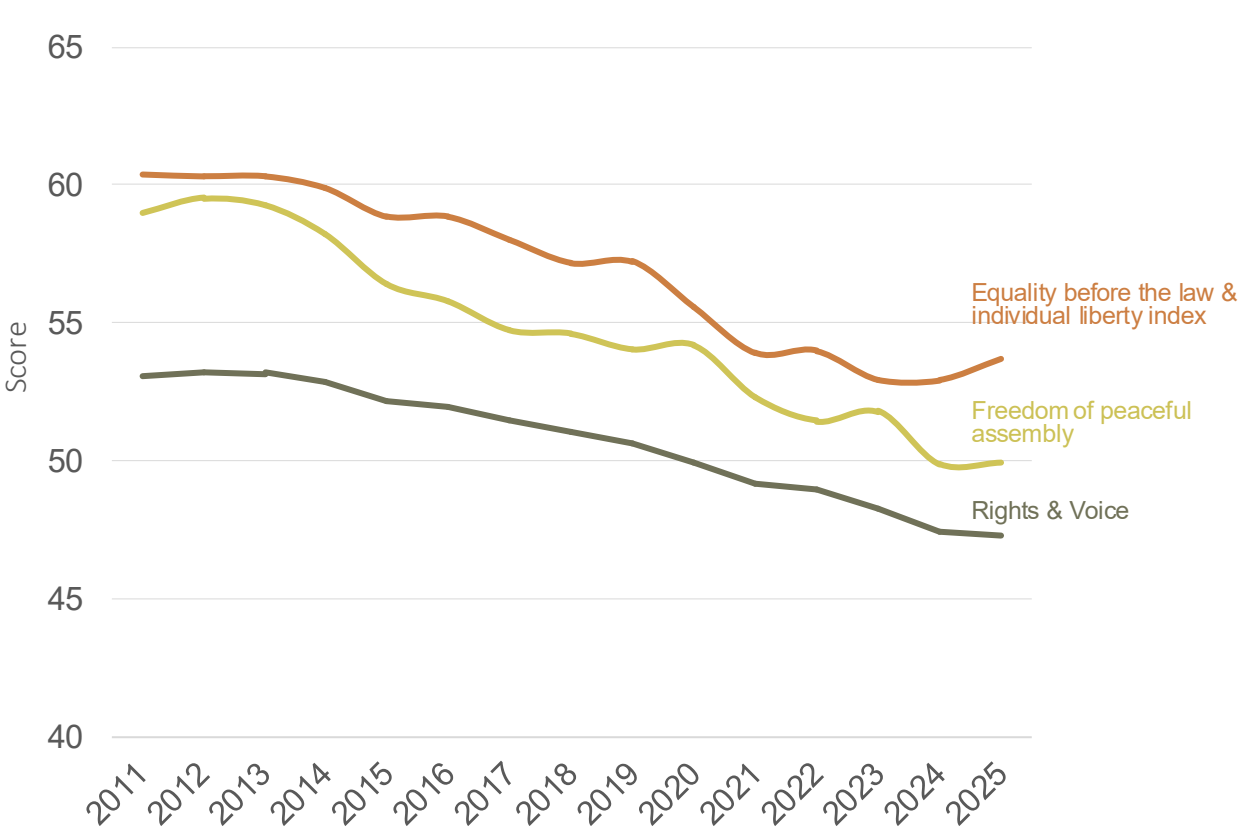
Since 2021 Egypt, Pakistan, Russia, the U.S. and Ethiopia all declined on social progress. Since 2021, China improved just 0.6 points (problems with Safety, Basic Education and Health) and India just 1.5 points (problems with Environmental Quality and Rights)



GLOBAL TREND: CHRONIC DECLINE RIGHTS & FREEDOMS

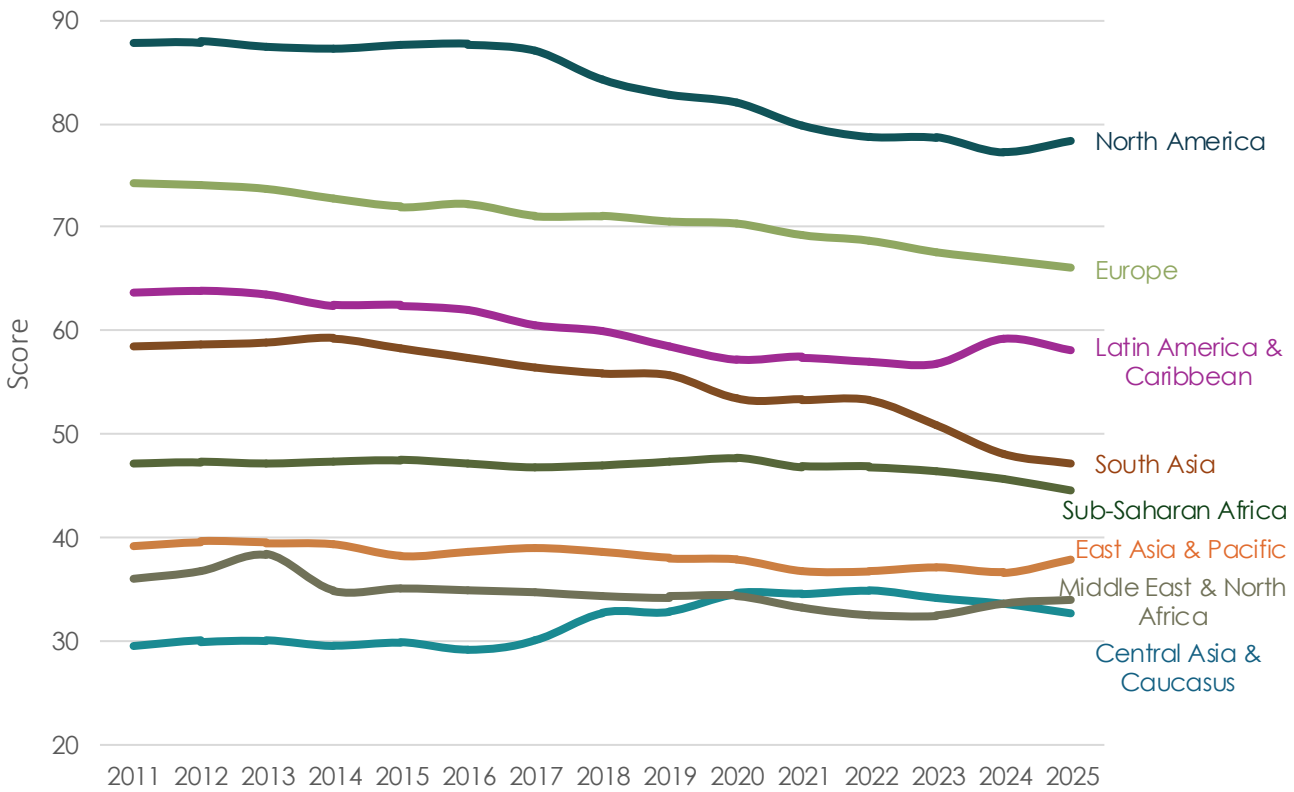
There has been a long-term decline in rights and freedoms globally driven by issues including equality before the law and equal rights.

WORLD RIGHTS & VOICE SCORES



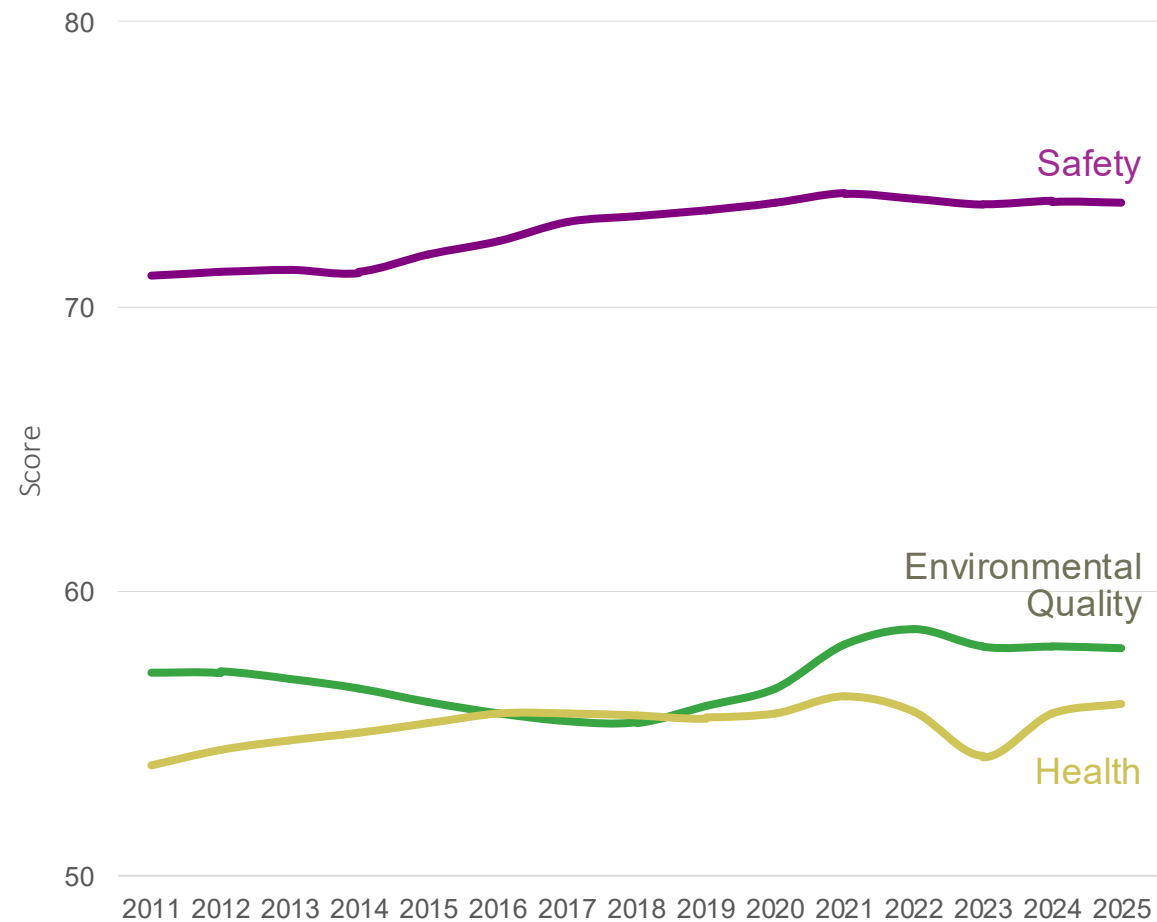
Only Central Asia & the Caucasus region has improved in these areas since 2011, yet it remains the lowest-scoring region.

REGIONAL RIGHTS & VOICE SCORES

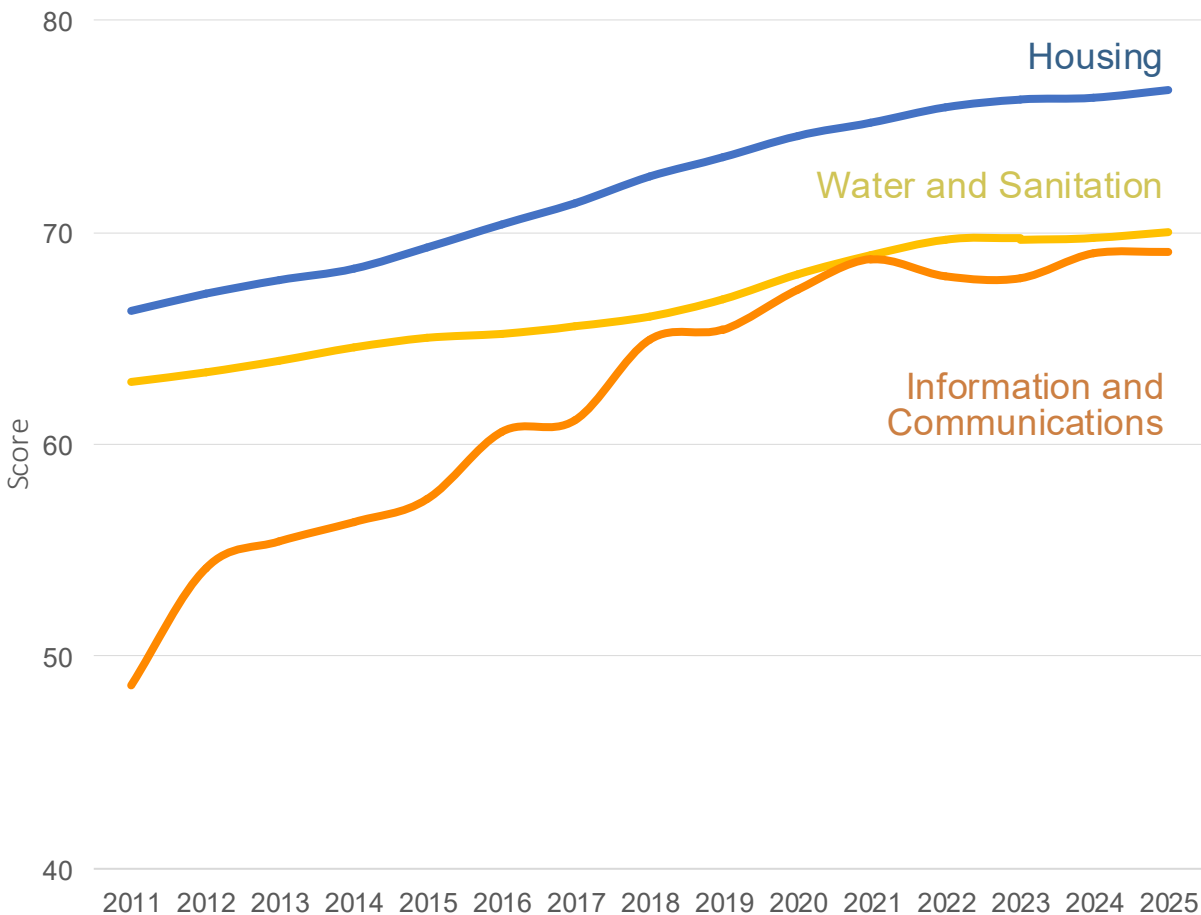


GLOBAL TREND: SINCE 2021, PROGRESS HAS REVERSED OR IS SLOWING ON MULTIPLE ASPECTS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS

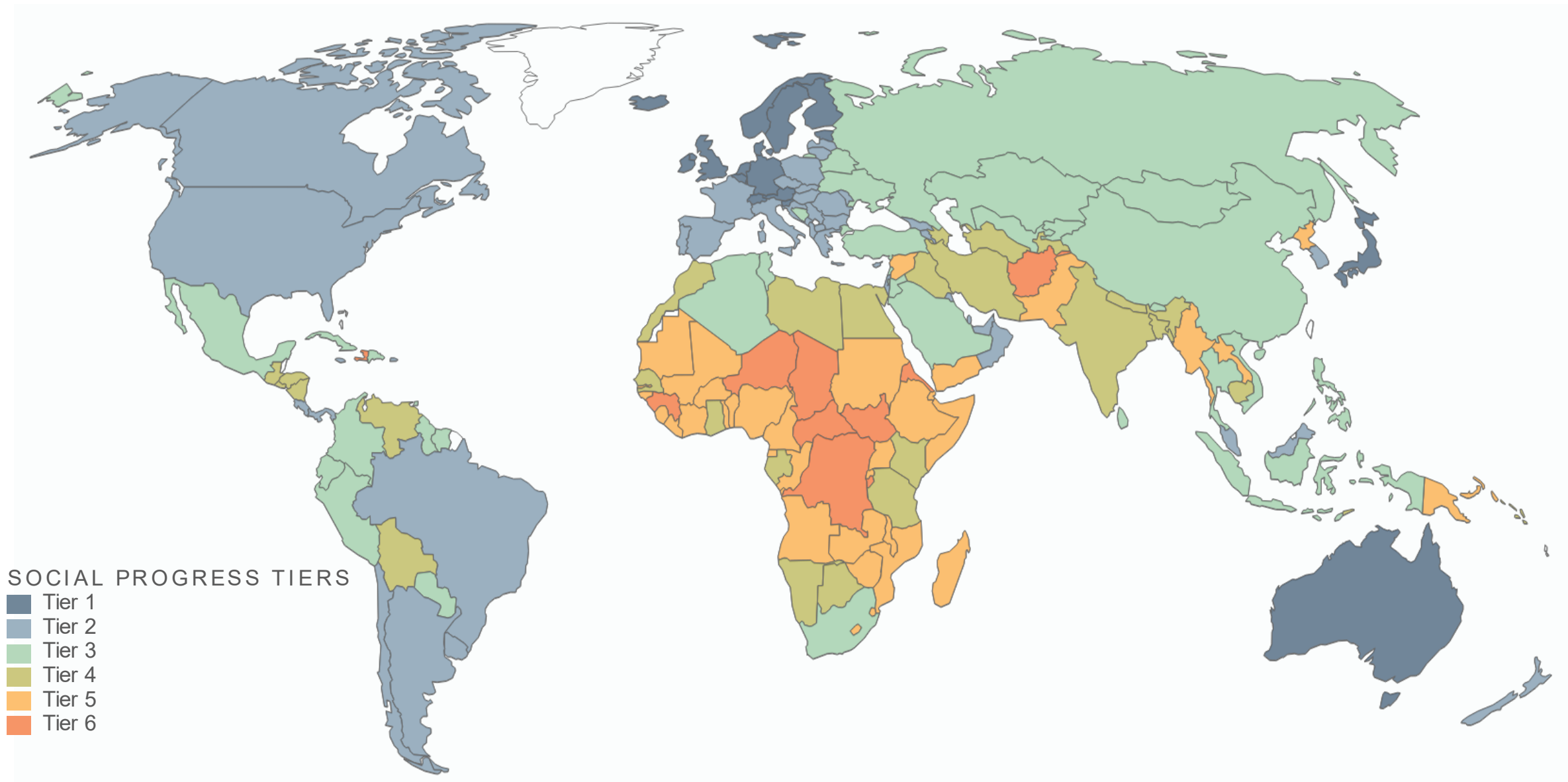
The world score on Safety, Environmental Quality and Health is lower now than in 2021.



Since 2021, the rate of increase has slowed for Housing, Water and Sanitation and Information and Communications.



2026 GLOBAL SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX



2026 GLOBAL SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

TIER 1				TIER 2				TIER 3				TIER 4				TIER 5				TIER 6			
RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	ANNUAL CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	ANNUAL CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	ANNUAL CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	ANNUAL CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	ANNUAL CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	ANNUAL CHANGE
1	Norway	91.73	↔	19	New Zealand	85.46	↓	61	Kazakhstan	70.85	↔	98	Bolivia	63.24	↓	126	Korea, Democratic Republic of	52.11	↓	162	Niger	41.05	↔
2	Denmark	91.16	↔	20	Spain	85.40	↔	62	Thailand	70.79	↑	99	Morocco	63.19	↑	127	Côte d'Ivoire	51.44	↑	163	Guinea	40.94	↔
3	Finland	90.83	↓	21	Korea, Republic of	85.14	↔	63	Vietnam	70.76	↔	100	Botswana	62.96	↑	128	Gambia, The	51.43	↑	164	Congo, Democratic Republic of	39.44	↔
4	Sweden	90.47	↓	22	Canada	85.11	↓	64	Trinidad and Tobago	70.47	↔	101	Azerbaijan	62.40	↓	129	Zambia	51.20	↓	165	Burundi	39.43	↓
5	Switzerland	90.41	↔	23	France	85.07	↔	65	Ukraine	70.02	↓	102	Iran	62.16	↑	130	Laos	50.81	↓	166	Eritrea	39.12	↓
6	Iceland	89.55	↔	24	Czechia	85.05	↔	66	Bahrain	69.94	↔	103	El Salvador	61.63	↓	131	Djibouti	50.74	↔	167	Haiti	38.40	↓
7	Luxembourg	89.11	↔	25	Italy	84.58	↔	67	Colombia	69.93	↔	104	Libya	60.43	↑	132	Benin	50.64	↔	168	Afghanistan	33.43	↔
8	Ireland	88.71	↔	26	Portugal	84.44	↓	68	Saudi Arabia	69.80	↑	105	Honduras	60.35	↔	133	Lesotho	50.42	↑	169	Chad	29.60	↓
9	Netherlands	88.24	↓	27	Malta	83.38	↔	69	Bosnia and Herzegovina	69.56	↔	106	Namibia	60.06	↑	134	Rwanda	50.32	↑	170	Central African Republic	28.78	↑
10	Belgium	87.97	↔	28	Lithuania	82.46	↑	70	Belarus	69.42	↓	107	Ghana	59.35	↔	135	Zimbabwe	50.23	↑	171	South Sudan	27.71	↓
11	Germany	87.79	↓	29	Poland	81.93	↑	71	Fiji	69.21	↑	108	Guatemala	58.98	↑	136	Myanmar	49.98	↔				
12	Austria	87.77	↔	30	Cyprus	81.89	↔	72	Cuba	68.86	↓	109	India	58.79	↔	137	Comoros	49.94	↔				
13	Australia	87.52	↔	31	Israel	81.82	↔	73	China	68.82	↔	110	Sao Tome and Principe	58.43	↔	137	Nigeria	49.94	↔				
14	Japan	87.23	↔	32	United States	81.76	↔	74	Jordan	68.75	↔	111	Nepal	58.21	↓	139	Eswatini	49.59	↔				
15	Singapore	86.74	↔	33	Latvia	81.03	↑	75	Mexico	68.73	↔	112	Timor-Leste	58.11	↔	140	Uganda	49.06	↔				
16	Slovenia	86.33	↔	34	Slovakia	80.33	↓	76	Maldives	68.62	↔	113	Turkmenistan	58.08	↔	141	Syria	48.62	↑				
17	Estonia	86.12	↔	35	Greece	80.04	↓	77	Russia	68.35	↓	114	Nicaragua	57.69	↓	142	Pakistan	48.49	↔				
18	United Kingdom	85.54	↔	36	Chile	79.50	↔	78	Indonesia	68.11	↑	115	Kenya	57.43	↓	143	Malawi	48.44	↓				
				37	Uruguay	79.33	↔	79	Algeria	67.62	↑	116	Venezuela	57.32	↓	144	Papua New Guinea	47.84	↔				
				38	Croatia	79.32	↔	80	Paraguay	67.42	↔	117	Tajikistan	57.23	↔	145	Togo	47.36	↓				
				39	Costa Rica	78.85	↔	80	Suriname	67.42	↔	118	Iraq	57.08	↑	146	Mozambique	47.01	↓				
				40	Hungary	77.16	↔	82	Peru	67.41	↓	119	Egypt	56.49	↔	147	Cameroon	46.44	↔				
				41	Barbados	76.06	↔	83	Dominican Republic	67.40	↑	120	Cambodia	56.34	↔	148	Guinea-Bissau	46.35	↓				
				42	Argentina	75.93	↓	84	Ecuador	67.30	↓	121	Gabon	56.00	↔	149	Burkina Faso	45.56	↓				
				43	Bulgaria	75.38	↓	85	Turkey	67.27	↑	122	Senegal	55.61	↑	150	Angola	45.26	↔				
				44	United Arab Emirates	74.68	↔	86	Kyrgyzstan	67.13	↓	123	Tanzania	54.87	↑	151	Ethiopia	44.35	↓				
				45	Romania	74.49	↔	87	Sri Lanka	66.76	↑	124	Solomon Islands	53.51	↔	152	Mauritania	44.20	↓				
				46	Montenegro	74.42	↔	87	Philippines	66.76	↑	125	Bangladesh	52.98	↔	153	Liberia	44.12	↔				
				47	Malaysia	74.13	↔	89	Tunisia	66.53	↓					154	Mali	43.91	↓				
				48	Qatar	74.12	↔	90	Uzbekistan	66.44	↑					154	Sierra Leone	43.91	↔				
				49	Kuwait	74.06	↓	91	South Africa	66.25	↓					156	Sudan	43.68	↑				
				50	Serbia	73.99	↔	92	Bhutan	66.11	↔					157	Equatorial Guinea	43.22	↓				
				51	Armenia	72.74	↔	93	Mongolia	65.87	↔					158	Madagascar	42.73	↔				
				51	Brazil	72.74	↑	94	Cabo Verde	65.79	↔					159	Yemen	42.72	↑				
				53	Oman	72.72	↑	95	Lebanon	65.22	↓					160	Congo, Republic of	42.63	↓				
				54	Albania	72.47	↑	96	Guyana	64.22	↔					161	Somalia	42.18	↑				
				55	Panama	72.30	↔		West Bank and Gaza	64.22	↓												
				56	Mauritius	72.28	↔																
				57	Moldova	72.02	↔																
				58	Georgia	71.54	↓																
				59	Jamaica	71.35	↓																
				60	Republic of North Macedonia	71.24	↑																

↑

Improving country (0.5 and more points)

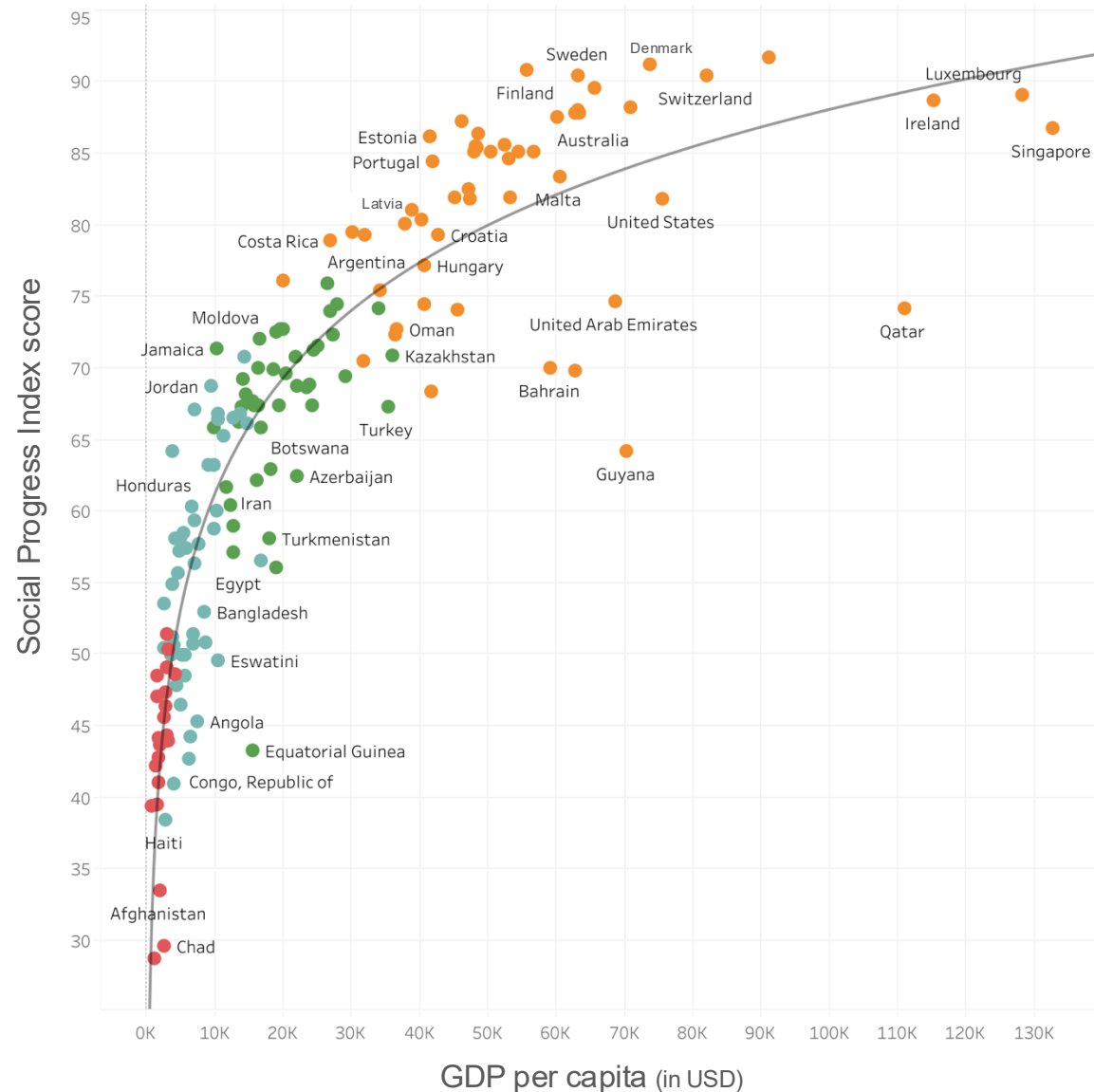
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Countries with no significant change (from 0 to 0.49 points)

↓

Declining country (less than 0)

Economic growth is an important driver of social progress, but GDP is not destiny

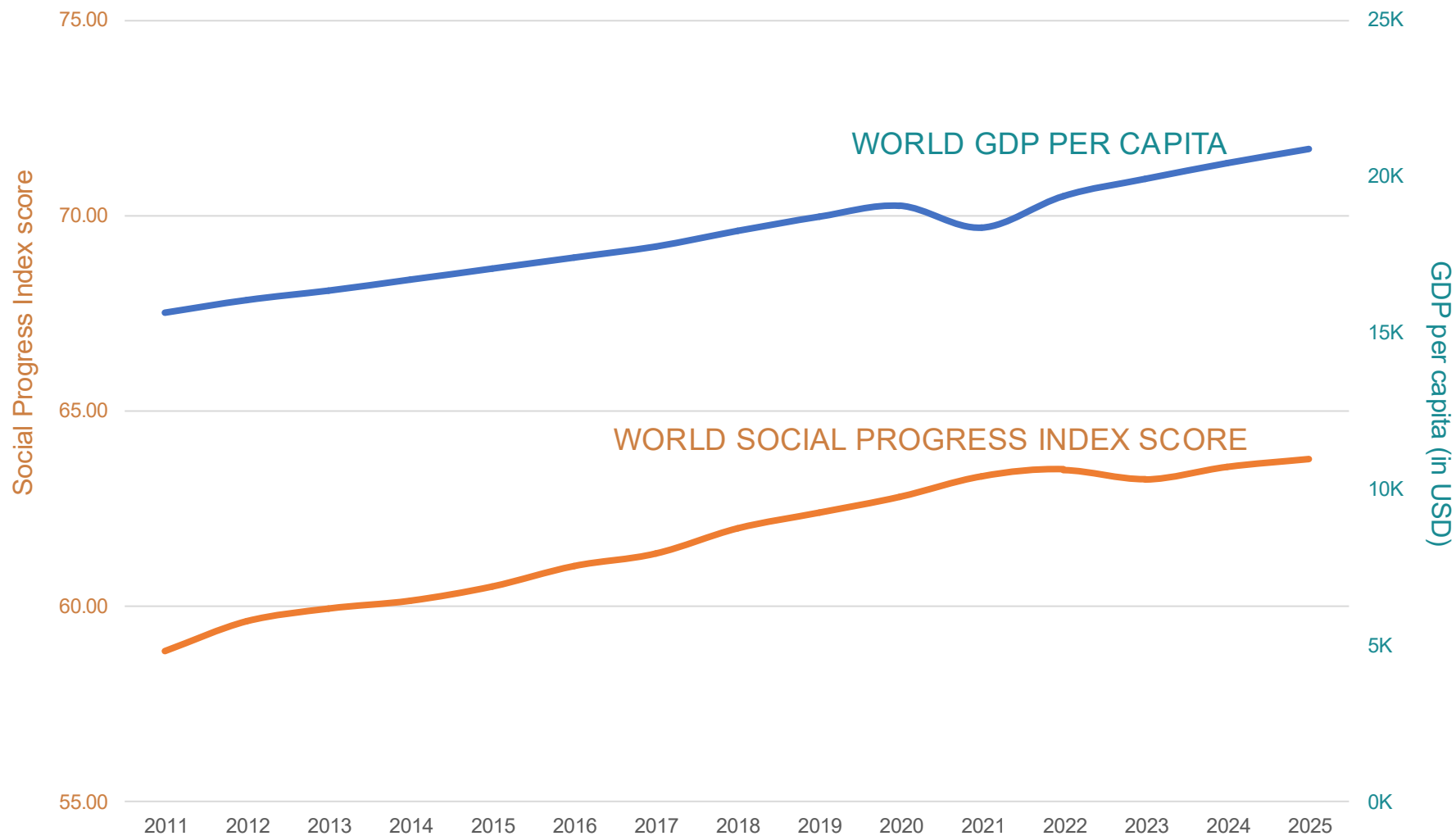


In all income groups, some countries are better than others as turning their economic resources into social progress results.

Denmark and the U.S. have similar GDP per capita, but U.S. social progress is nearly 10 points lower. The U.S. also has social progress results comparable to Latvia, despite Latvia's GDP per capita being half that of the U.S.

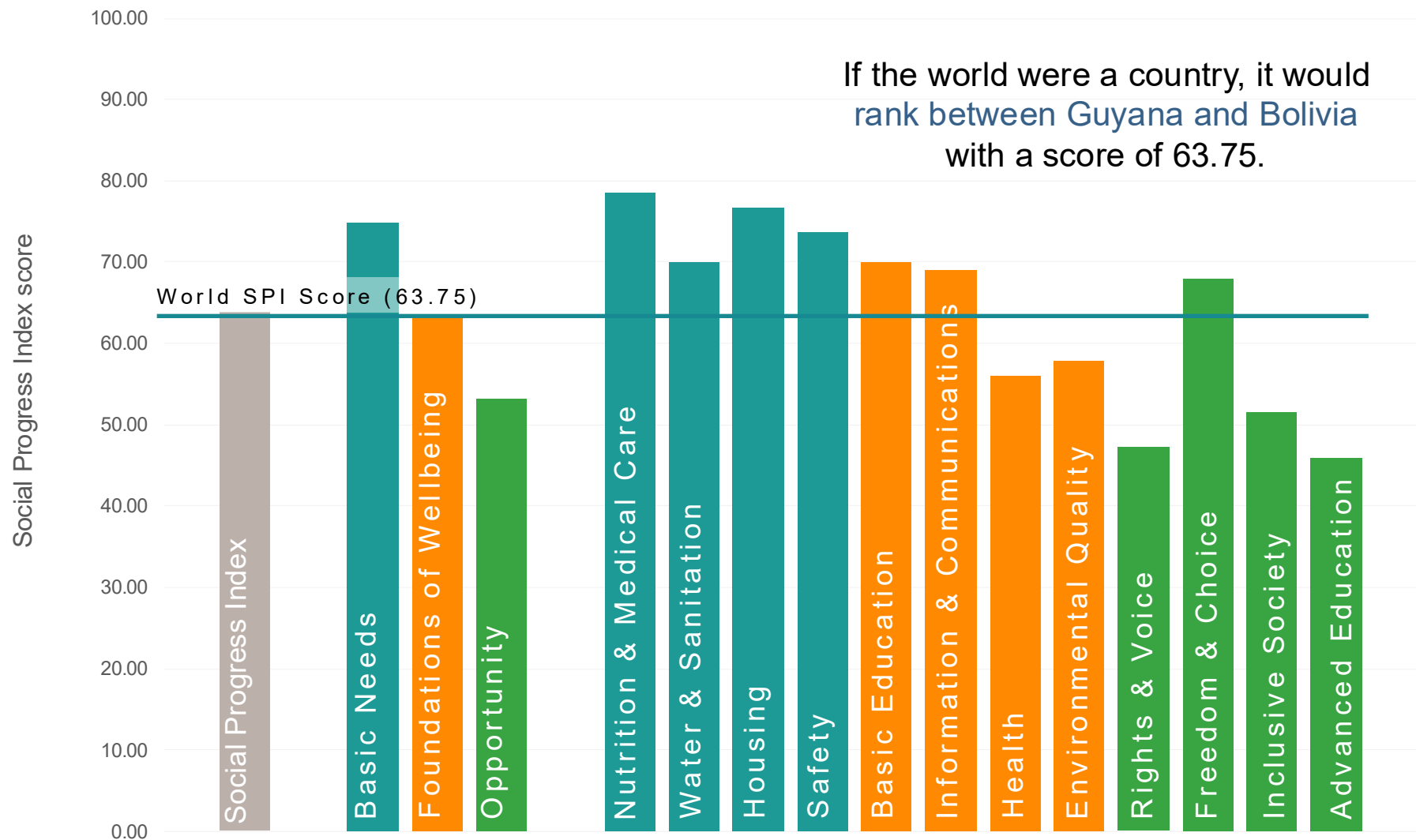
The relationship between economic and social progress has weakened since COVID.

World Social Progress Index score vs GDP per capita



Population-weighted world scores

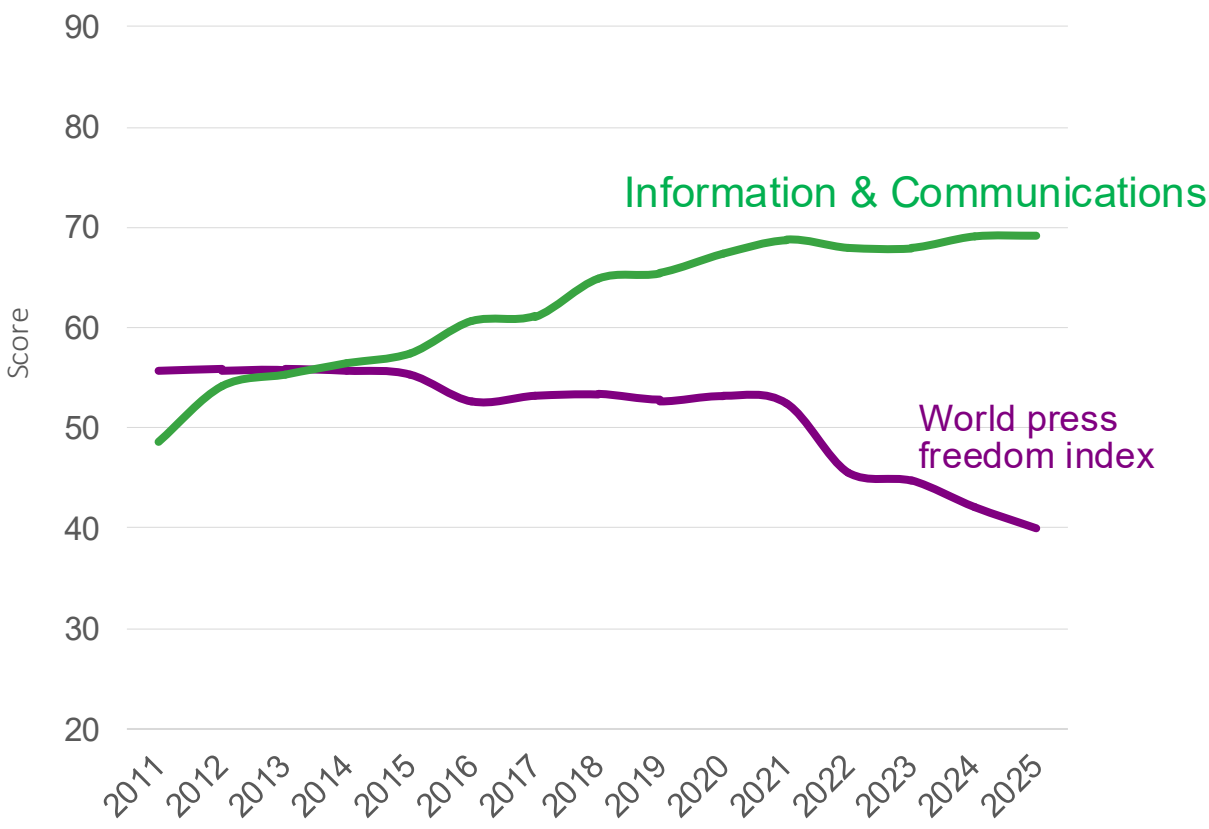
On average, the world scores highest on, Nutrition & Medical Care and Housing. It performs worst on Advanced Education and Rights & Voice.



GLOBAL TREND: DECLINING PRESS FREEDOM & RISING INTOLERANCE

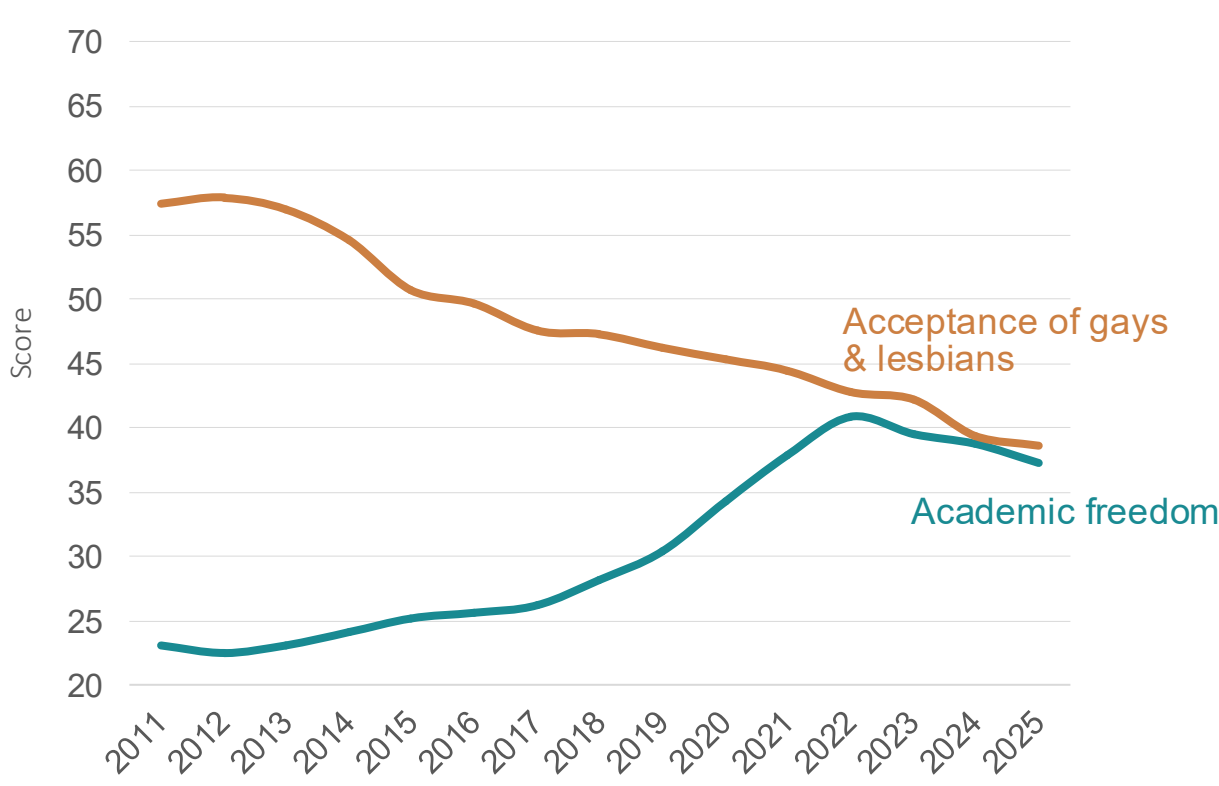
Declining rights are also seen in a slump in press freedom around the world, pulling down the world's score on Information & Communications in recent years.

WORLD INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESS FREEDOM



There are also signs of rising intolerance with a decline across all regions of acceptance of Gays & Lesbians and declining Academic Freedom.

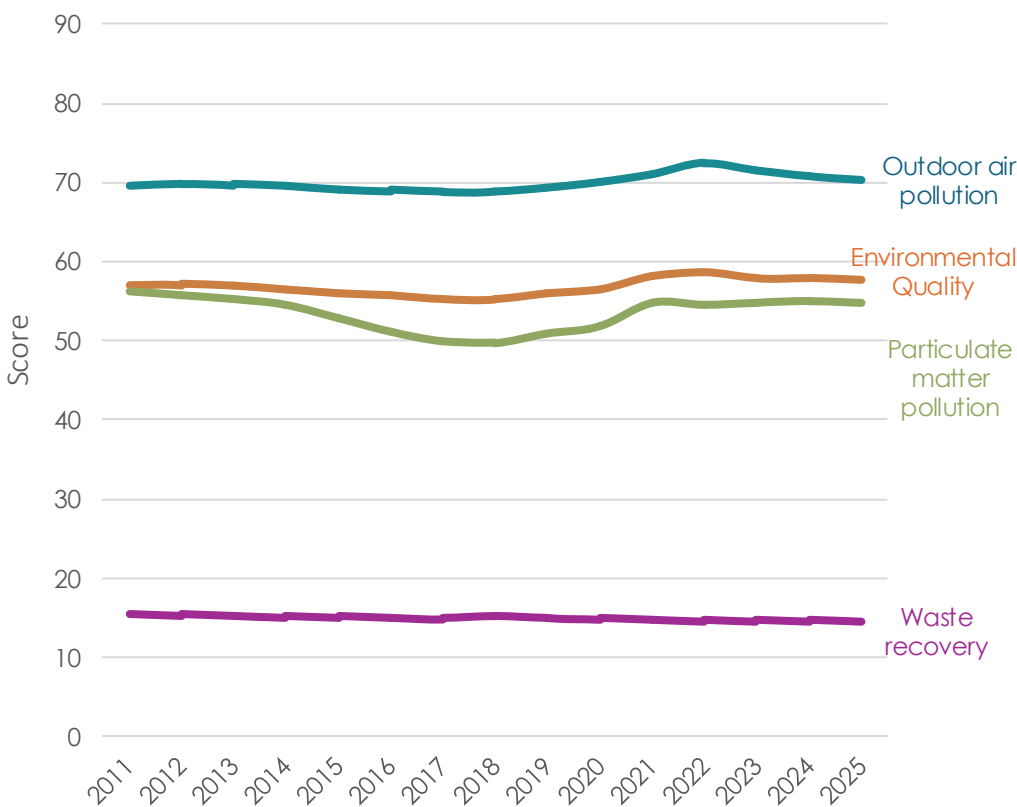
WORLD ACCEPTANCE OF GAYS & LESBIANS AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM



GLOBAL TREND: SLOW PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

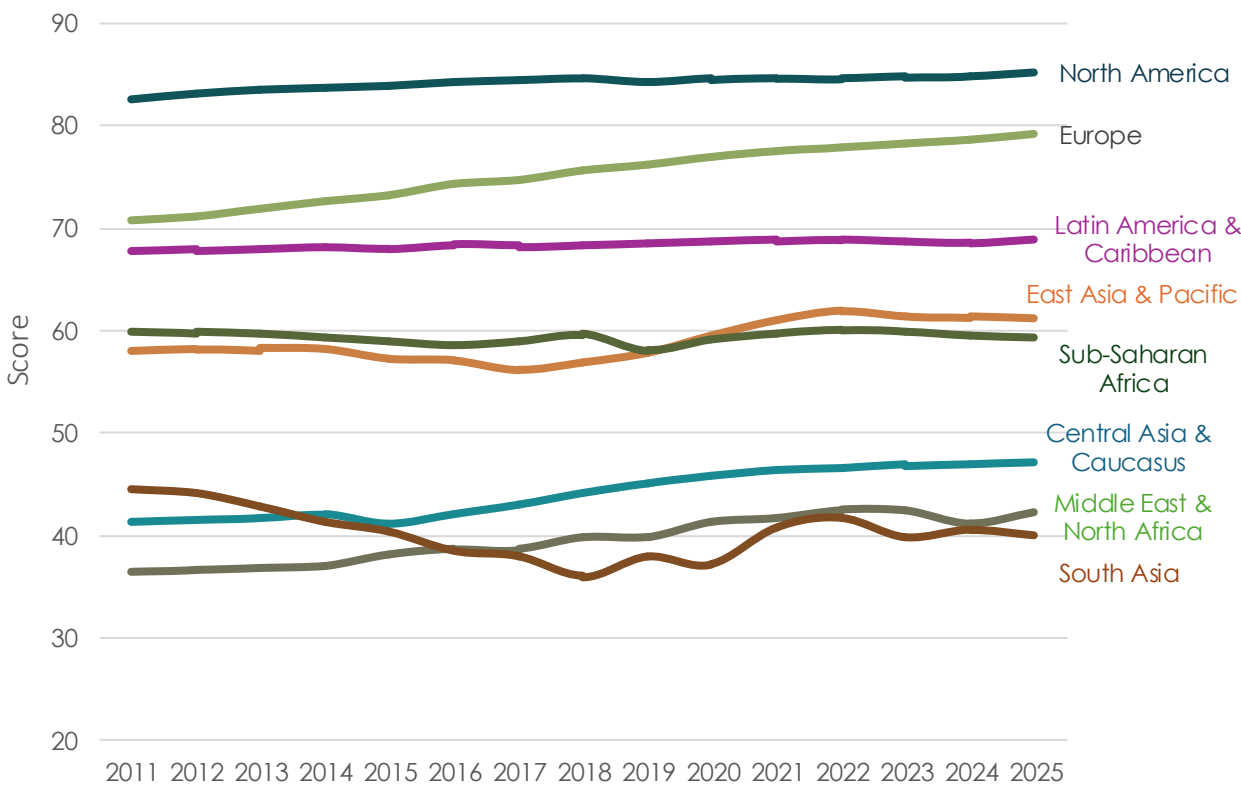
Despite short-lived improvement in air quality during COVID, world progress on Environmental Quality remains slow and with no sign of an acceleration.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Europe has seen the largest improvement, while South Asia has declined since 2011.

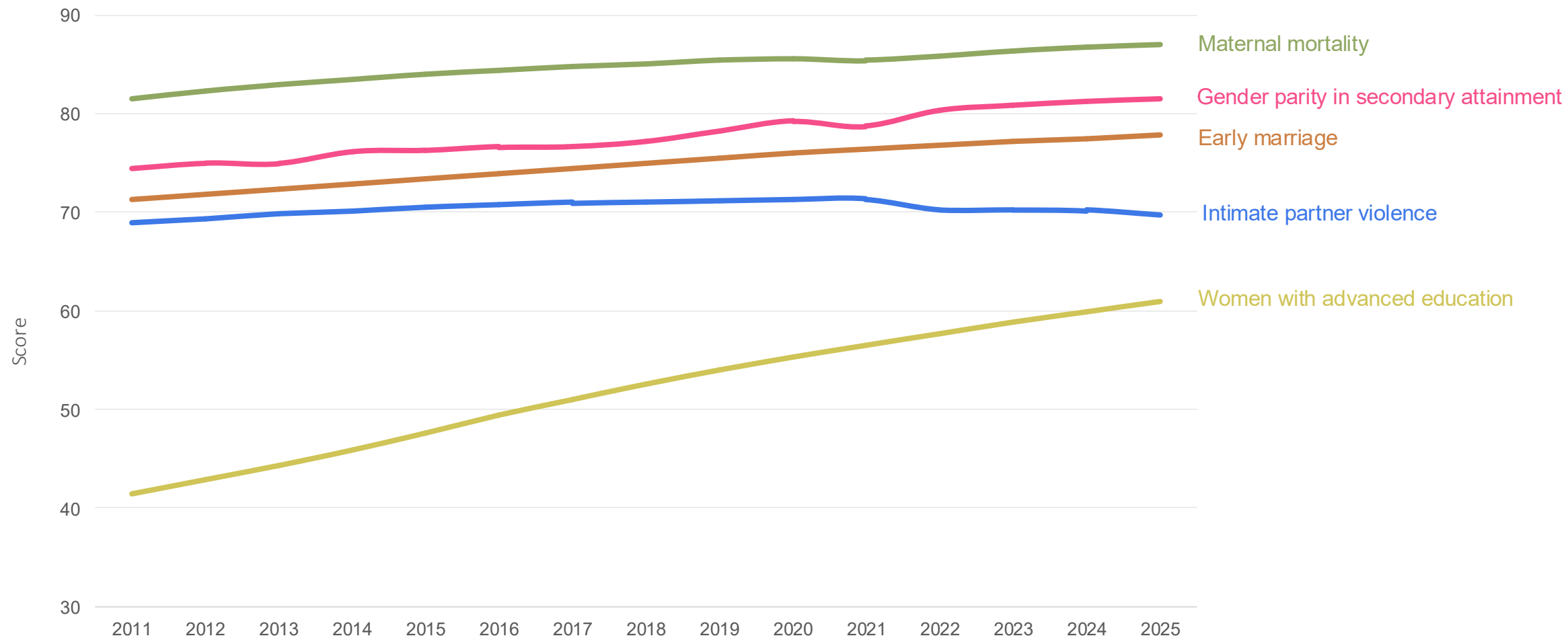
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



GLOBAL TREND: PARTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN GENDER EQUITY

Progress has been greatest in providing women access to higher education. Intimate partner violence has been getting worse.

WORLD GENDER INDICATORS



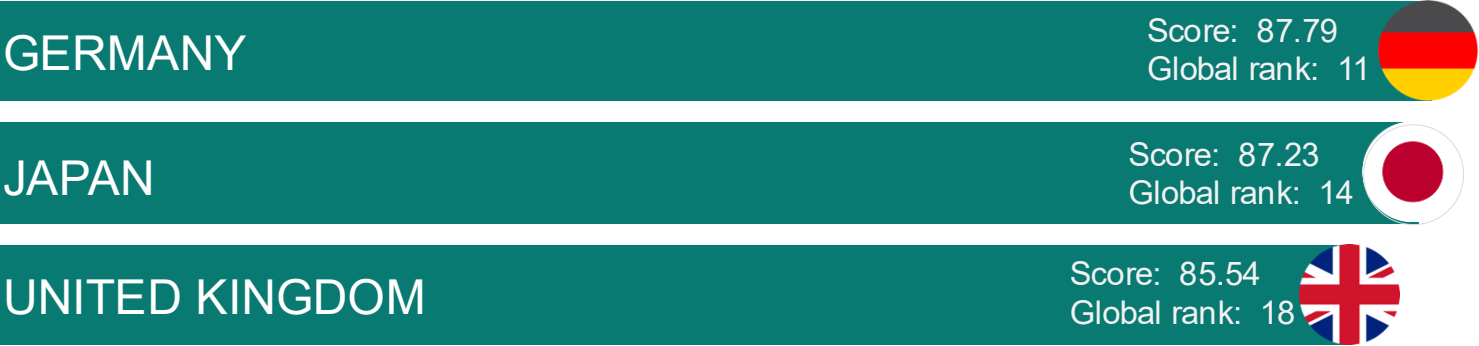
Since 2011, the world has seen the greatest improvements in Information & Communications, Housing, Advanced Education and Water & Sanitation while experiencing a significant decline in Rights & Voice.

Change in social progress globally 2011 to 2025



Four of the G7 countries are second-tier countries in social progress

TIER 1



TIER 2



Germany leads the G7 countries.

Canada has fallen into Tier 2 on social progress.

The U.S. is at the bottom of the G7 countries despite having the largest GDP per capita of the seven nations.

Countries with the most and least improvement since 2011

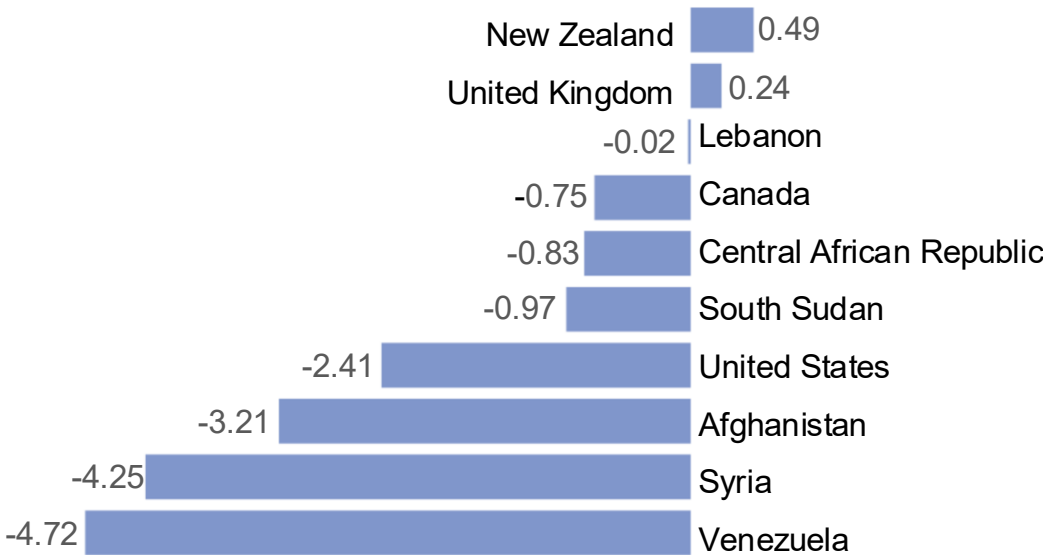
MOST IMPROVED COUNTRIES SINCE 2011

Fiji is the most improved country in the world since 2011 with significant improvements in Information and Communications, Advanced Education and Inclusive Society.

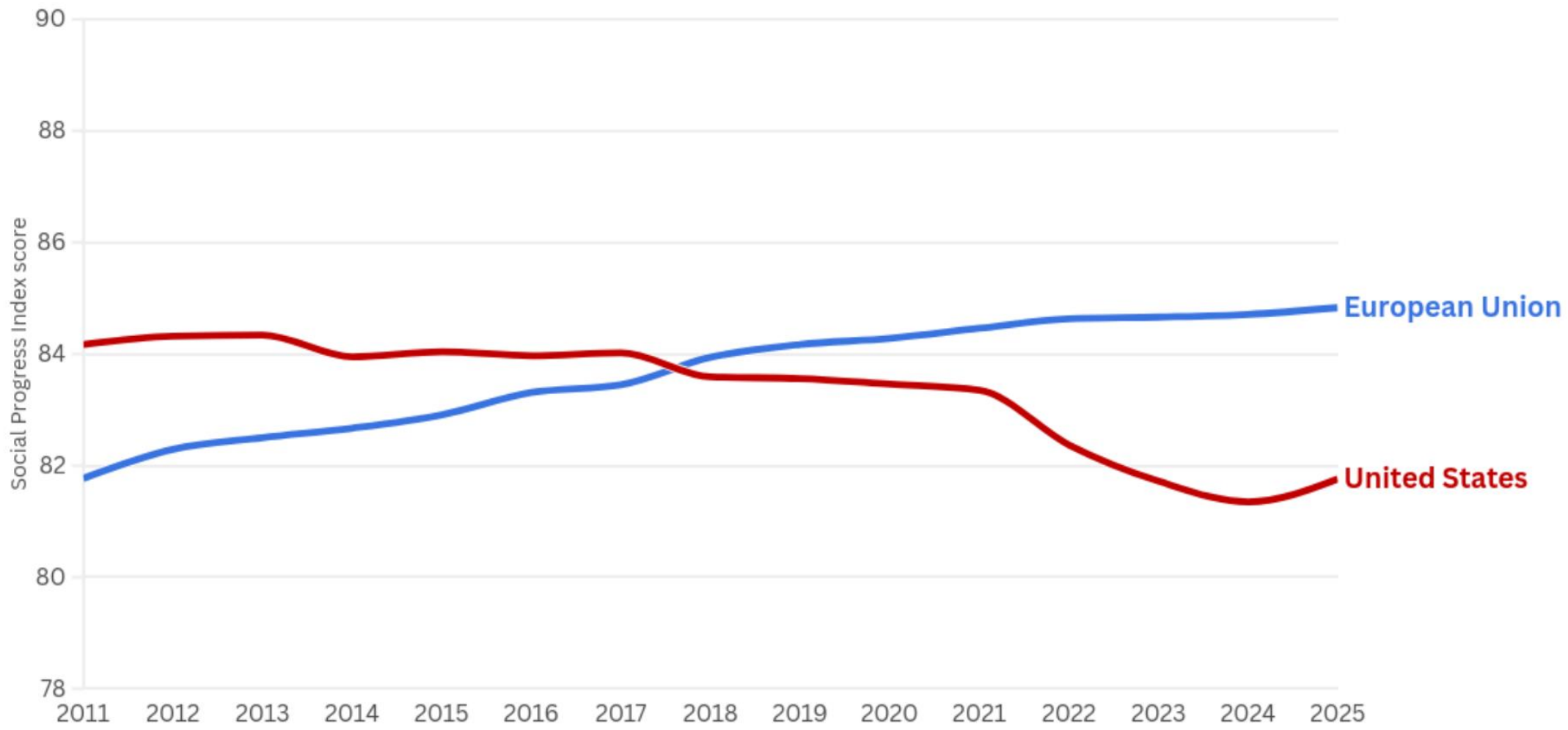


LEAST IMPROVED COUNTRIES SINCE 2011

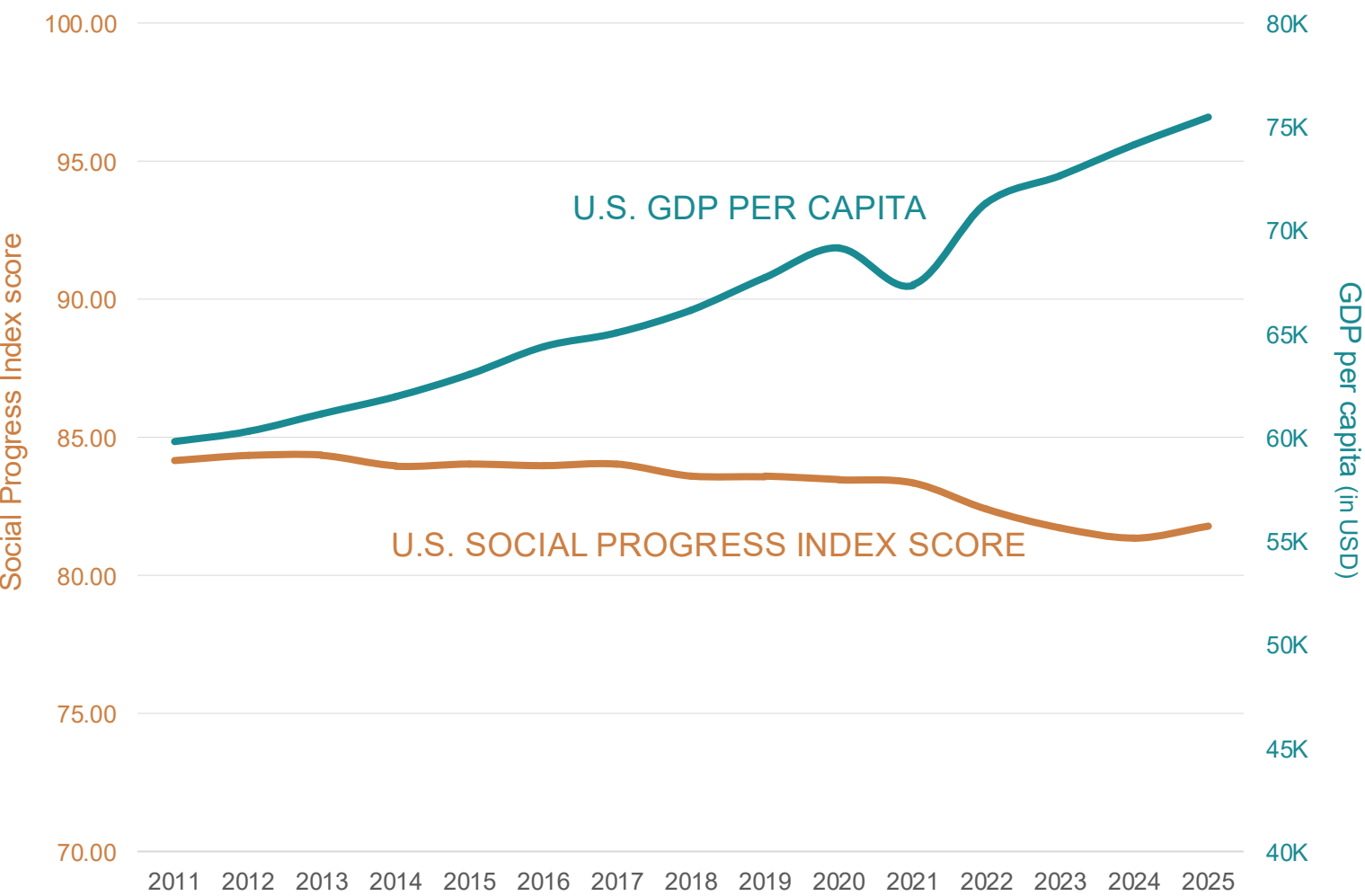
Countries with the least improvement have experienced significant state breakdown, particularly **Syria** and **Venezuela**. **Canada** and the **U.S.** are among the countries experiencing declining in social progress.



The European Union has overtaken the U.S. in social progress



U.S. is doing a remarkably poor job converting its wealth into positive social progress results

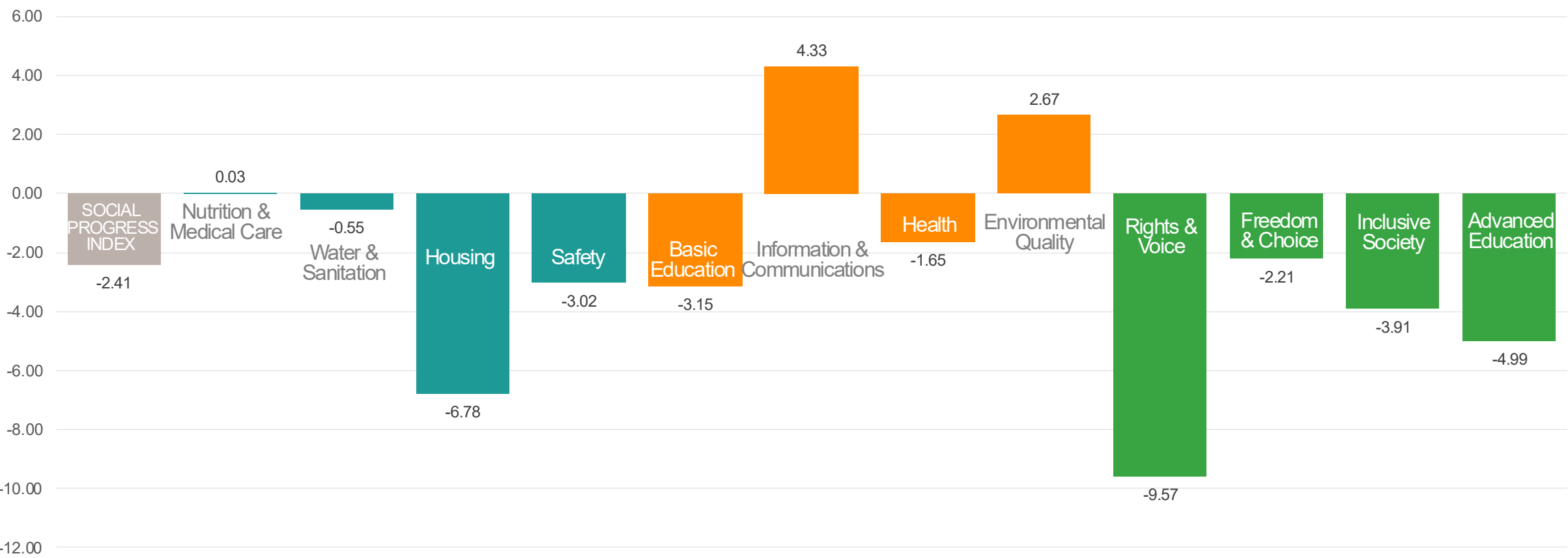


U.S. GDP per capita has increased significantly since 2011, maintaining its rank as the 7th highest GDP per capita in the world.

Meanwhile, its social progress has declined and the U.S. has fallen 12 places in the ranks since 2011 to 32nd in 2025.

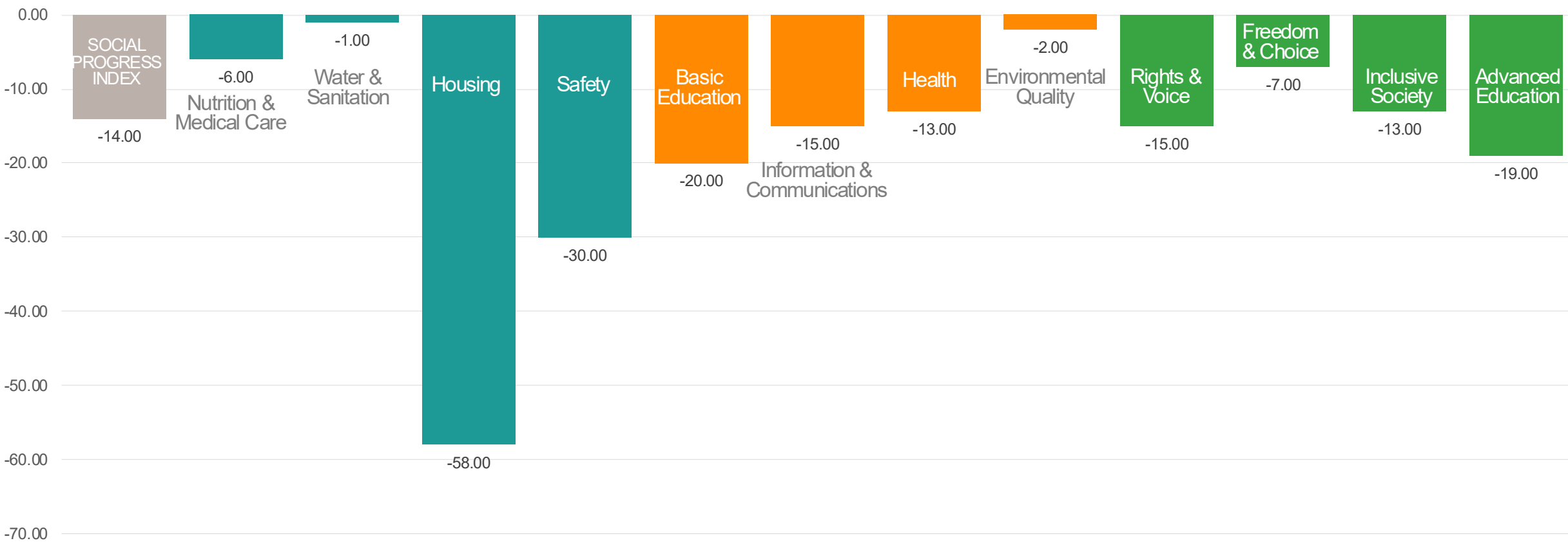
Since 2011, the U.S. score has declined in 9 of the 12 components of the Social Progress Index

CHANGE IN U.S. SCORES – 2011 VS 2025



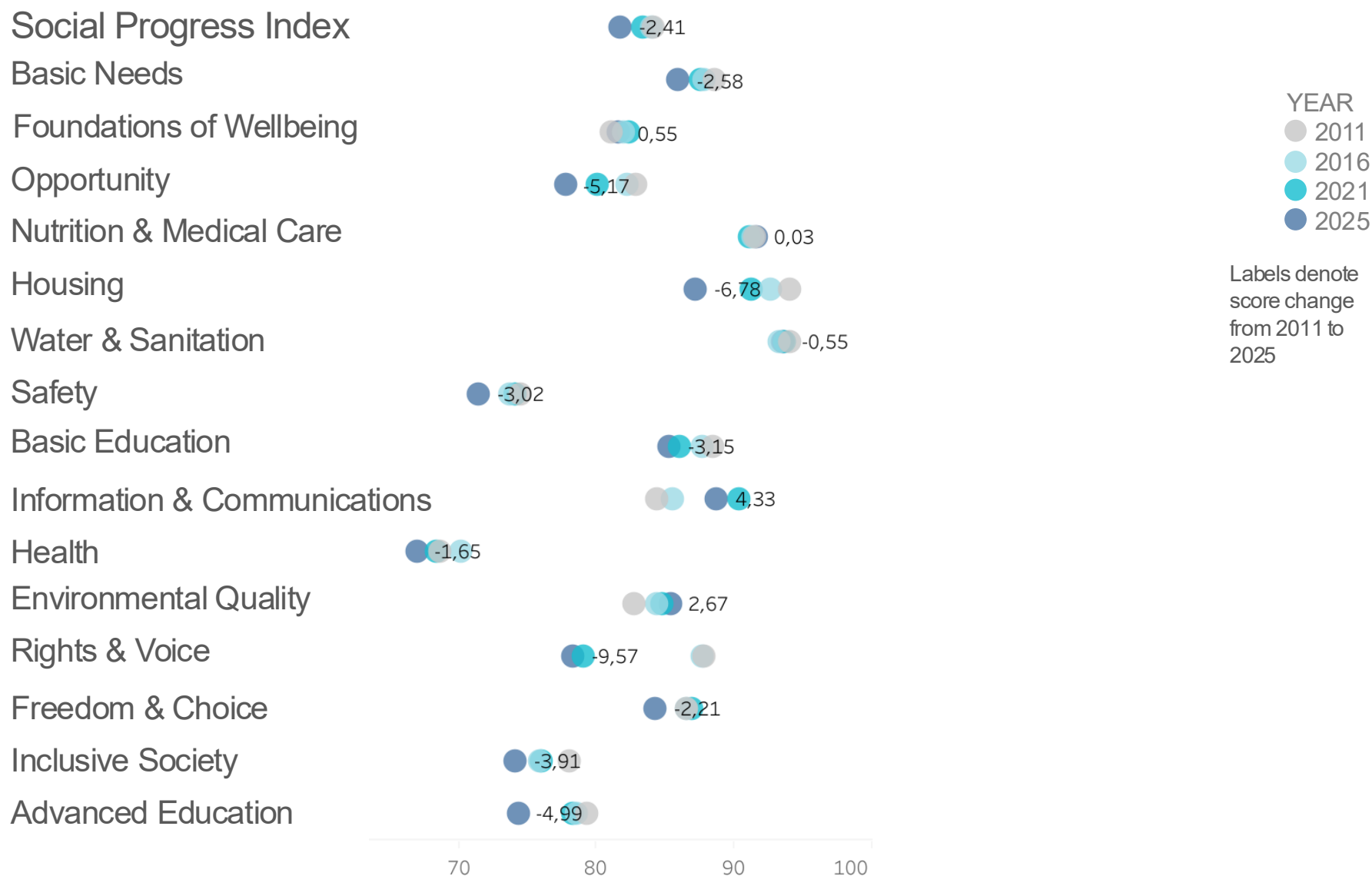
Since 2011, the U.S. ranking has declined for all 12 components of the Social Progress Index

U.S. COMPONENT CHANGE RANK 2011 VS 2025

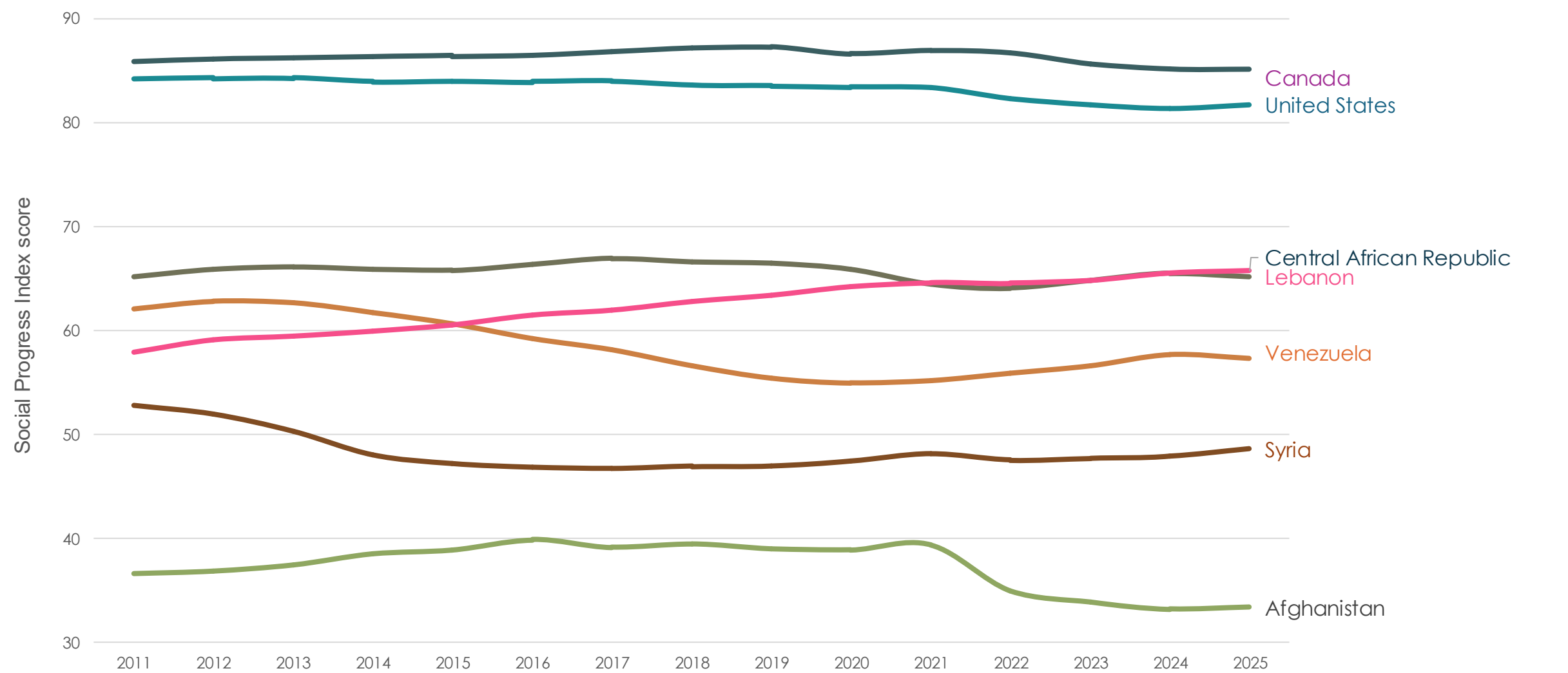


Since 2011, the U.S. has seen the greatest improvements in Information & Communications, and Environmental Quality while experiencing a significant decline in Rights & Voice, and Housing.

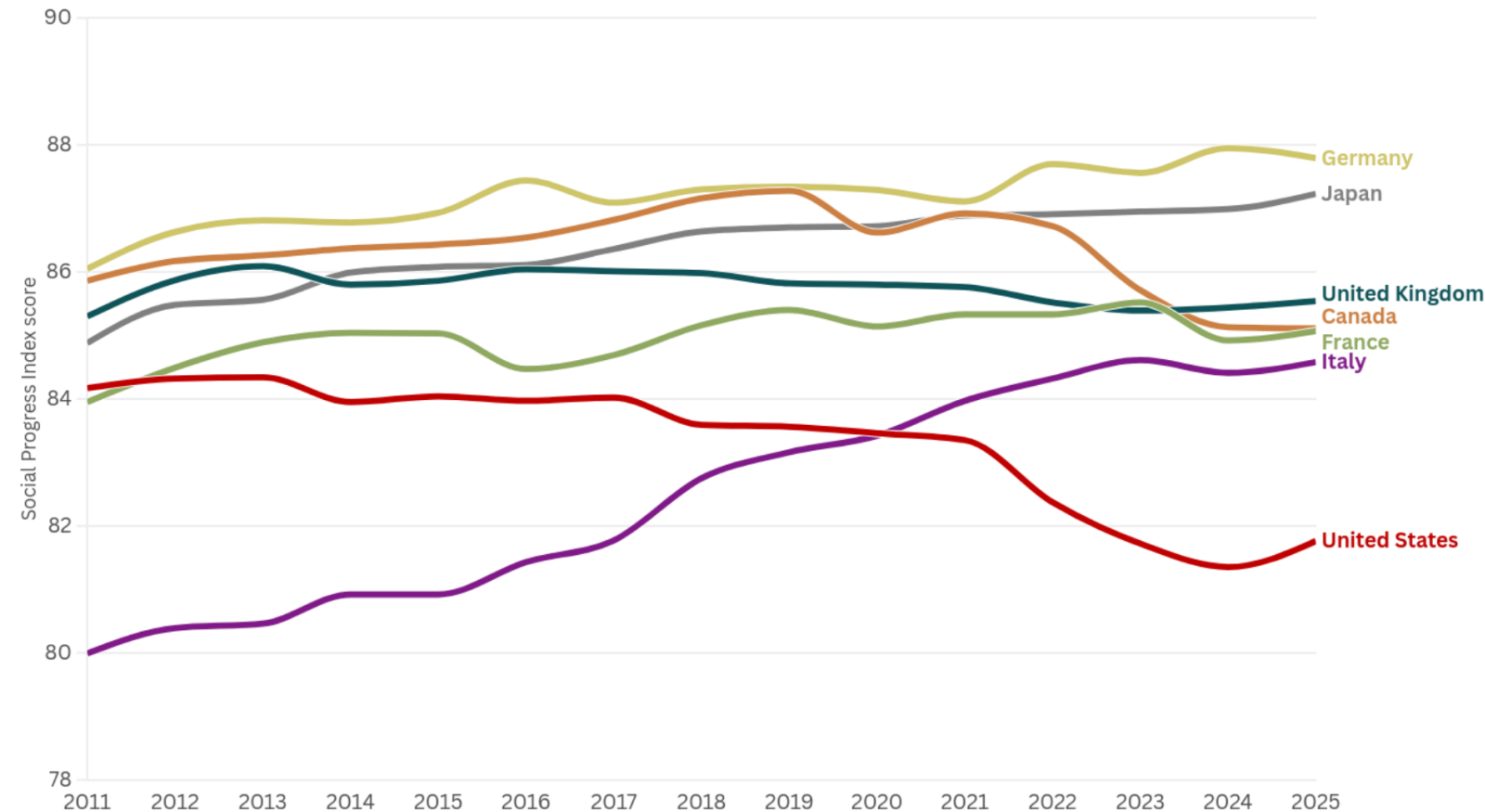
Change in the U.S. social progress 2011 to 2025



The U.S. and Canada are among only 8 countries to decline in social progress since 2011



G7 countries show diverging trends in social progress since 2011



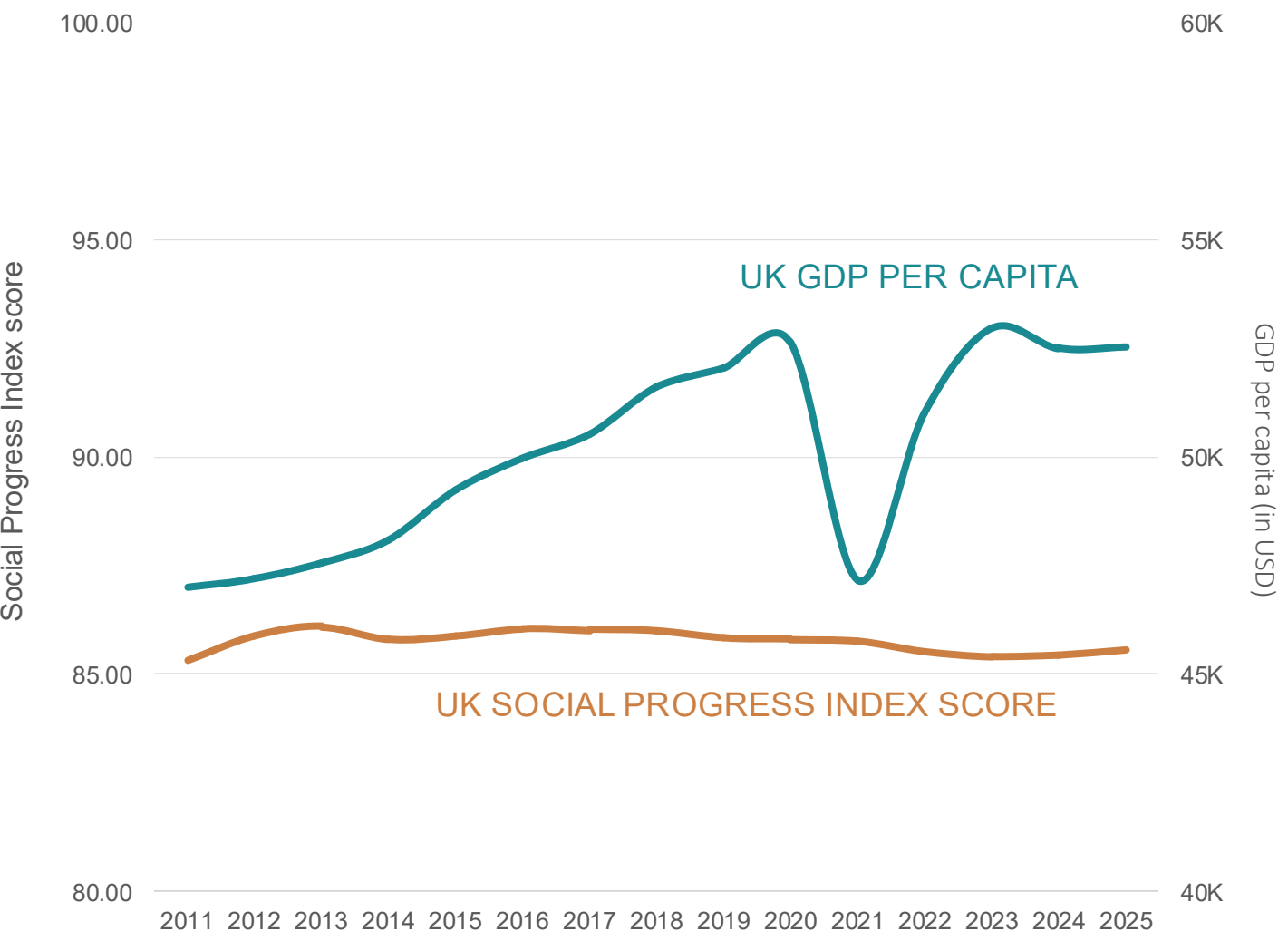
Germany and Japan lead the group.

Italy saw strong social progress growth from 2015 to 2022 but has stalled since 2023.

The UK and France have stagnated in social progress since 2011.

The U.S. has declined to last place in the G7. Canada showed significant improvement but declined recently.

The UK social progress has declined despite strong economic gains

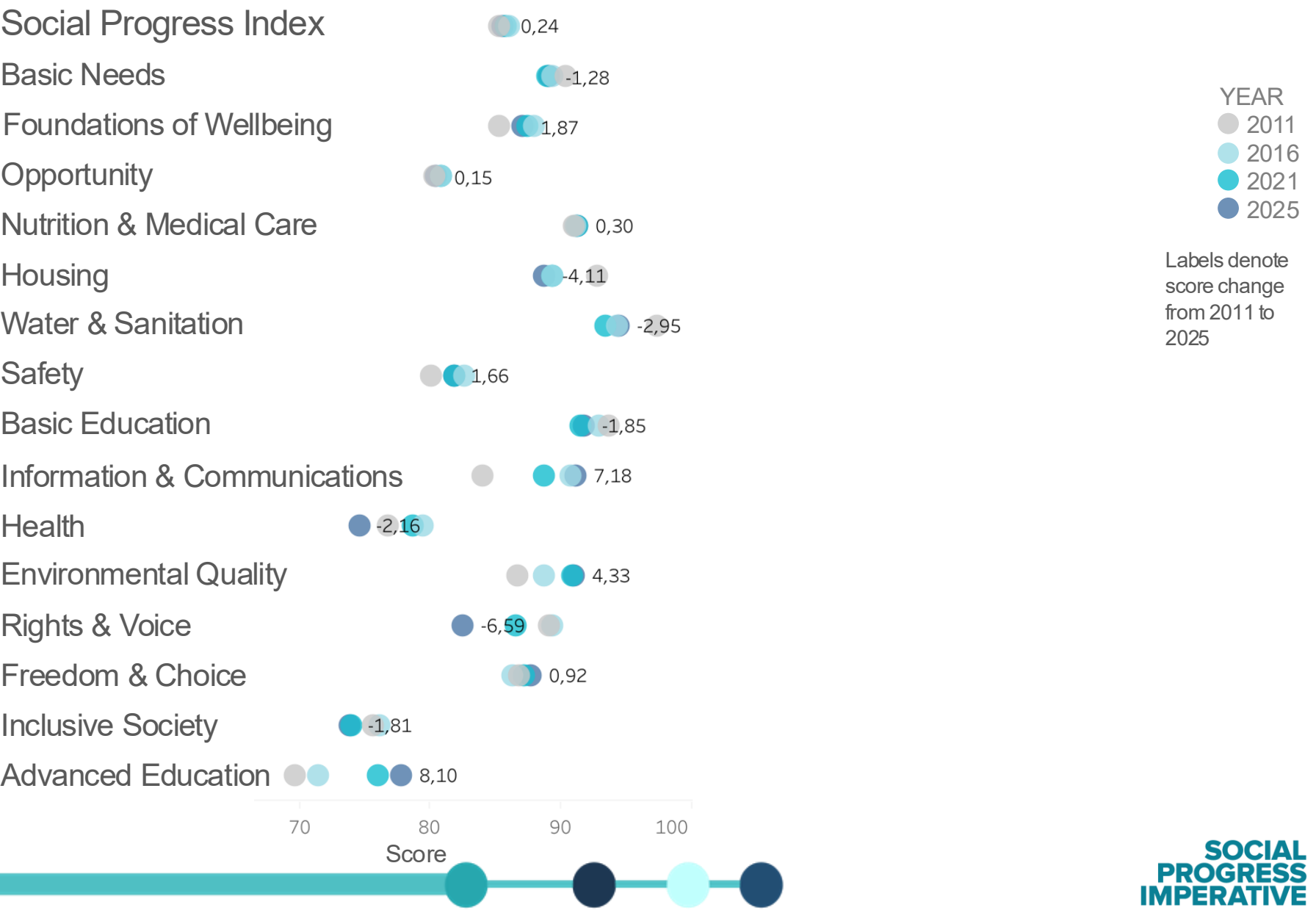


The UK economy has recovered from the downturn triggered by COVID.

However, its social progress is stalled with the UK falling five places in the ranks since 2011 to 18th in 2025.

Since 2011, the UK has made significant gains in Advance Education and Information & Communications. However, it has seen a major decline in Rights & Voice and has struggled in Water & Sanitation and Housing.

Change in the UK social progress 2011 to 2025



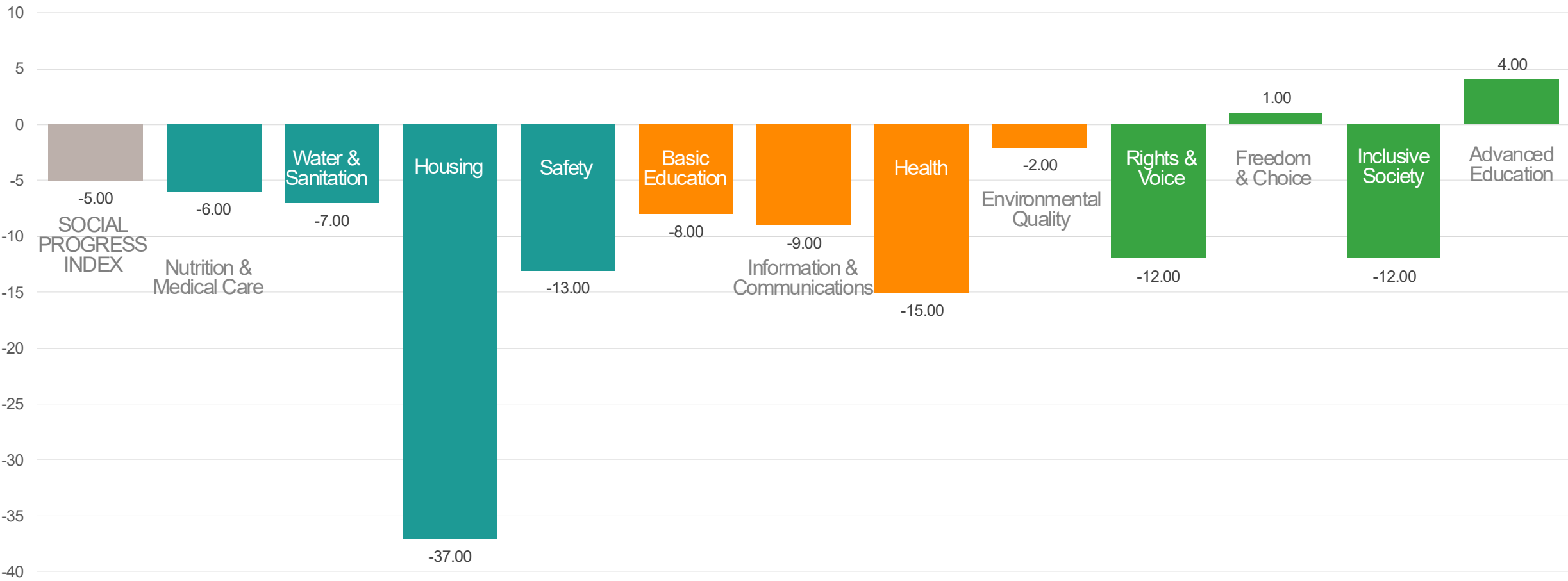
Since 2011, the UK score has declined in 6 of the 12 components of the Social Progress Index

RANK CHANGE IN THE UK COMPARED TO 2011

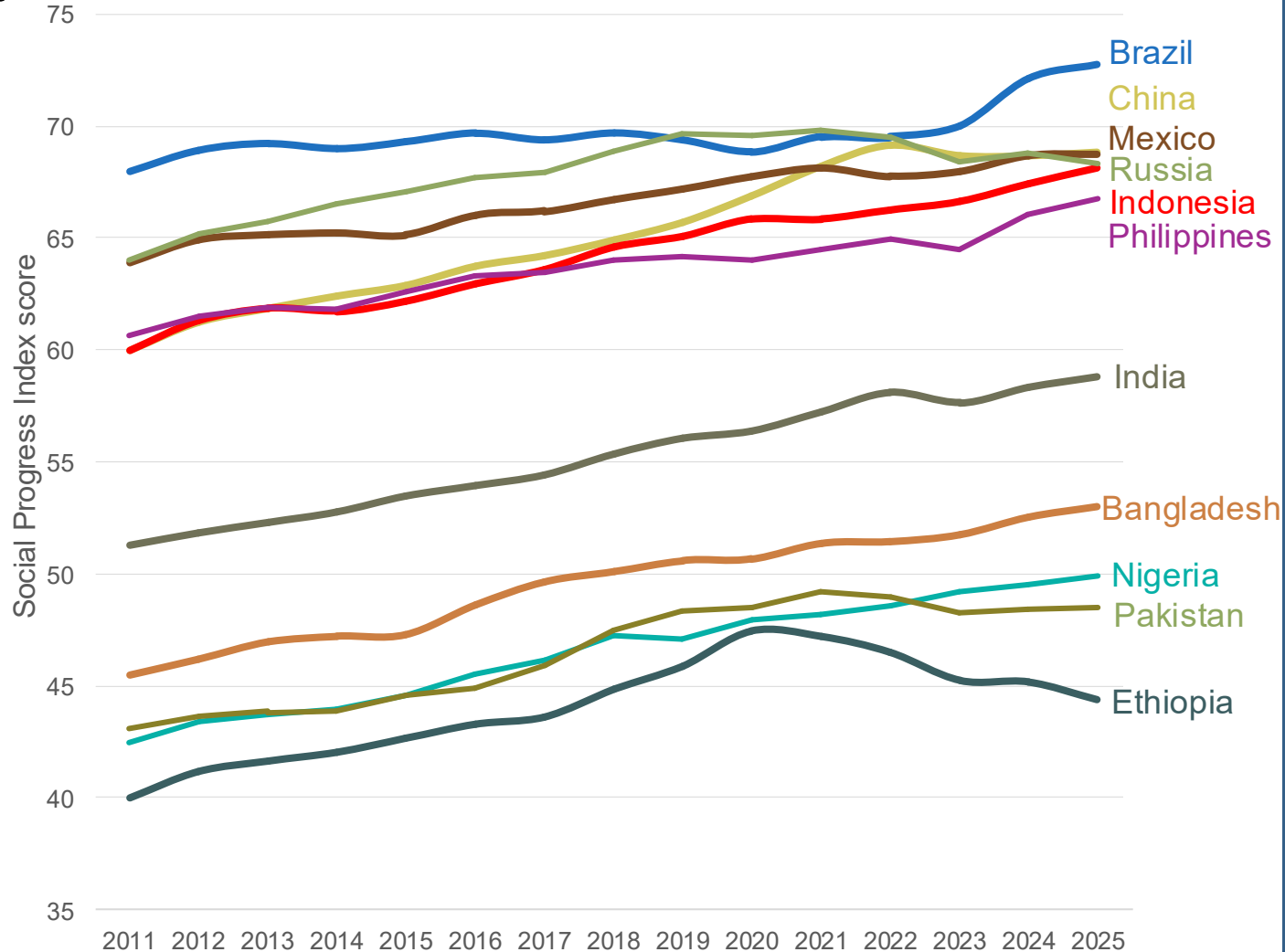


Since 2011, the UK ranking has declined in 10 of the 12 components of the Social Progress Index

RANK CHANGE IN THE UK COMPARED TO 2011



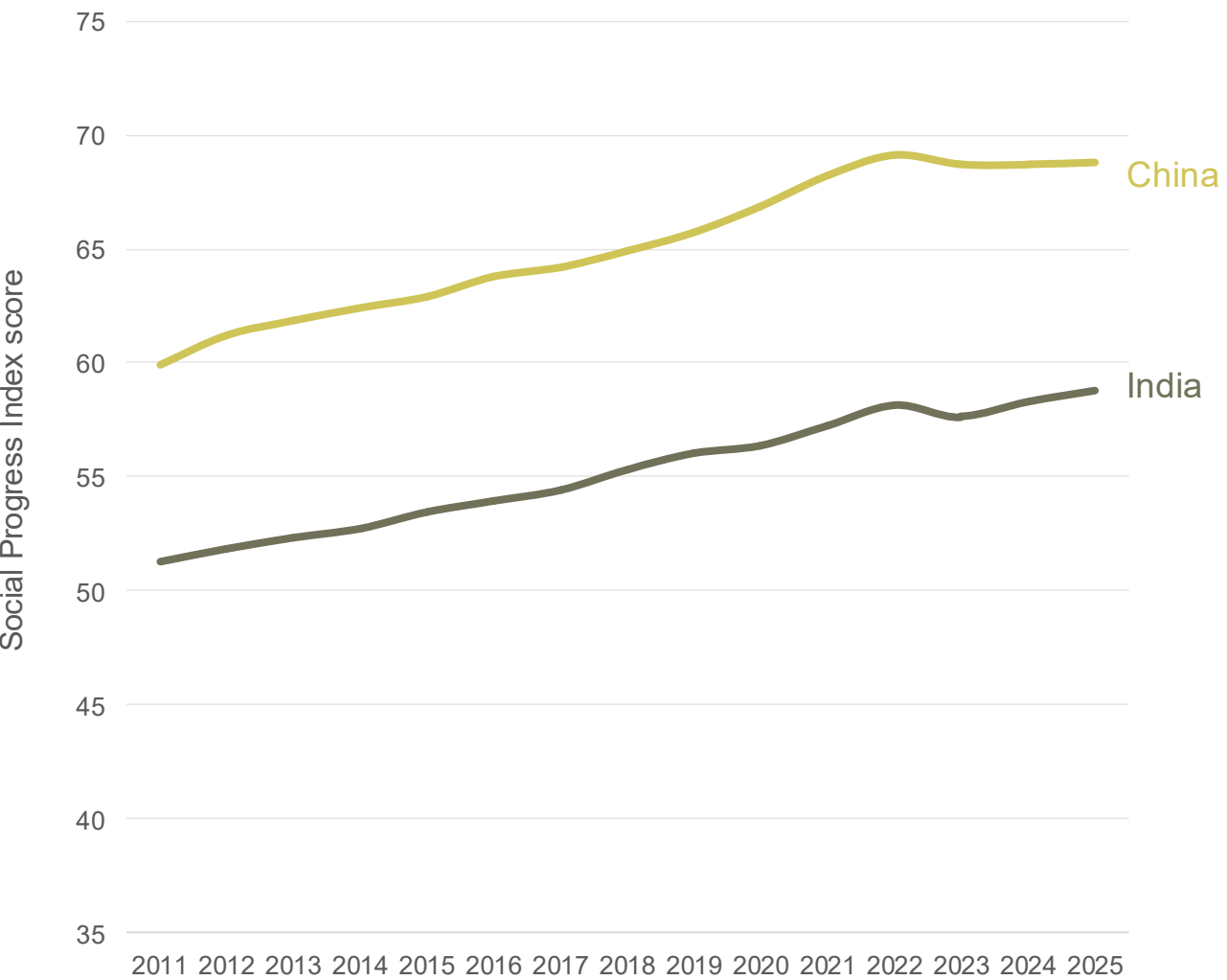
Major emerging economies are showing divergent trends in recent years



Brazil remains the top performer, thanks in part to its recovery in the last 2-3 years year driven by political change. The most consistent social progress performers since 2011 have been Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nigeria.

Ethiopia has experienced the most significant slowdown, since 2020. Pakistan and Russia are also declining. Russia's decline follows the full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

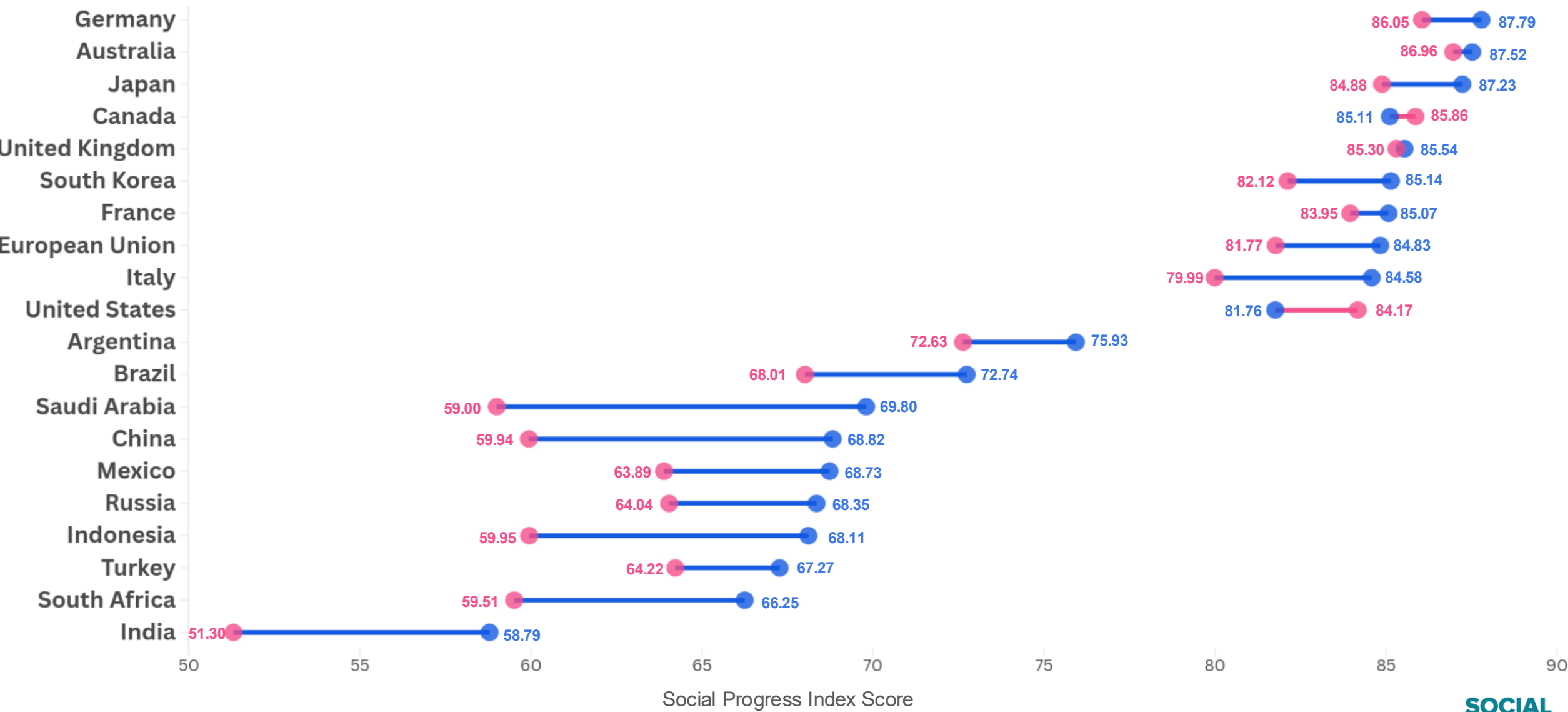
Social progress gains in the world's most populous countries have slowed



After years of steady growth, improvement in social progress in India and China has slowed since 2021.

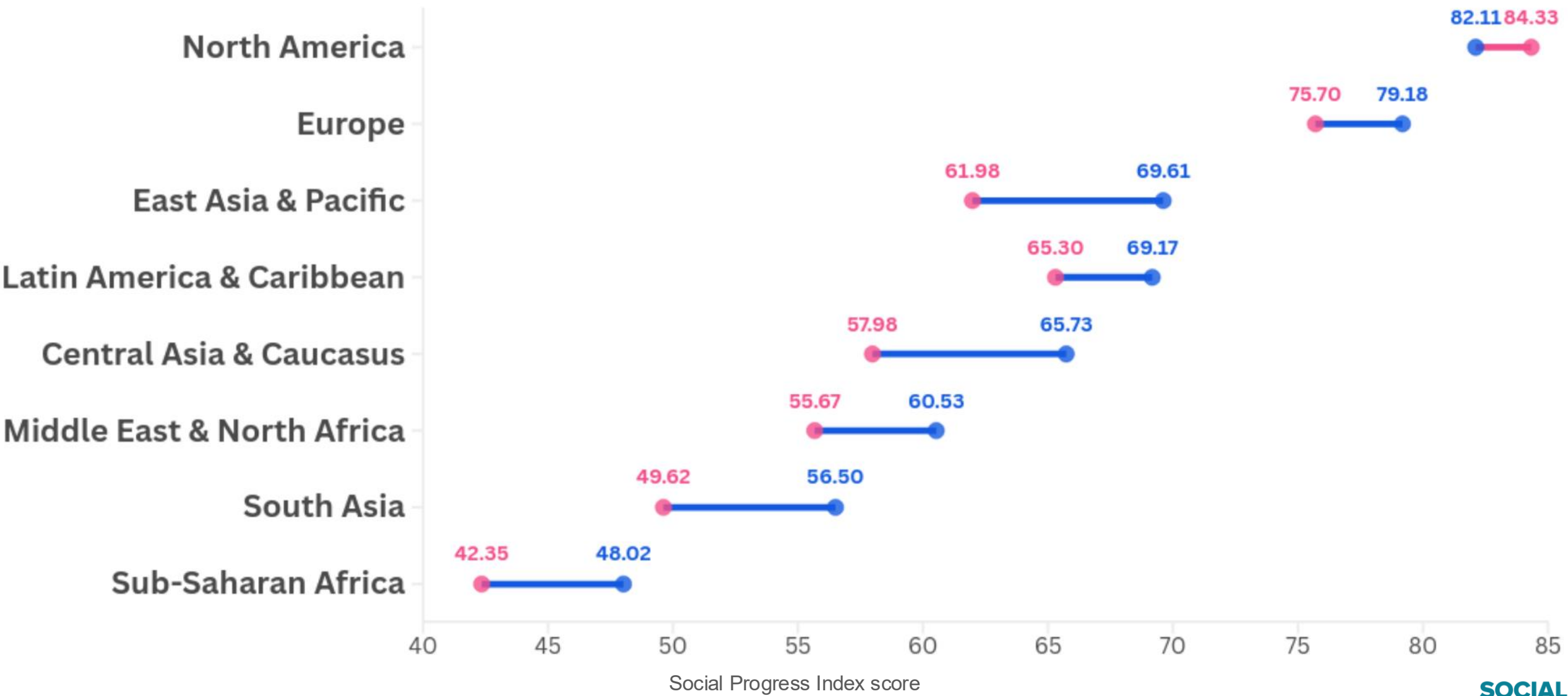
G20 countries: Changes in social progress from 2011 to 2025

Year ● 2011 ● 2025



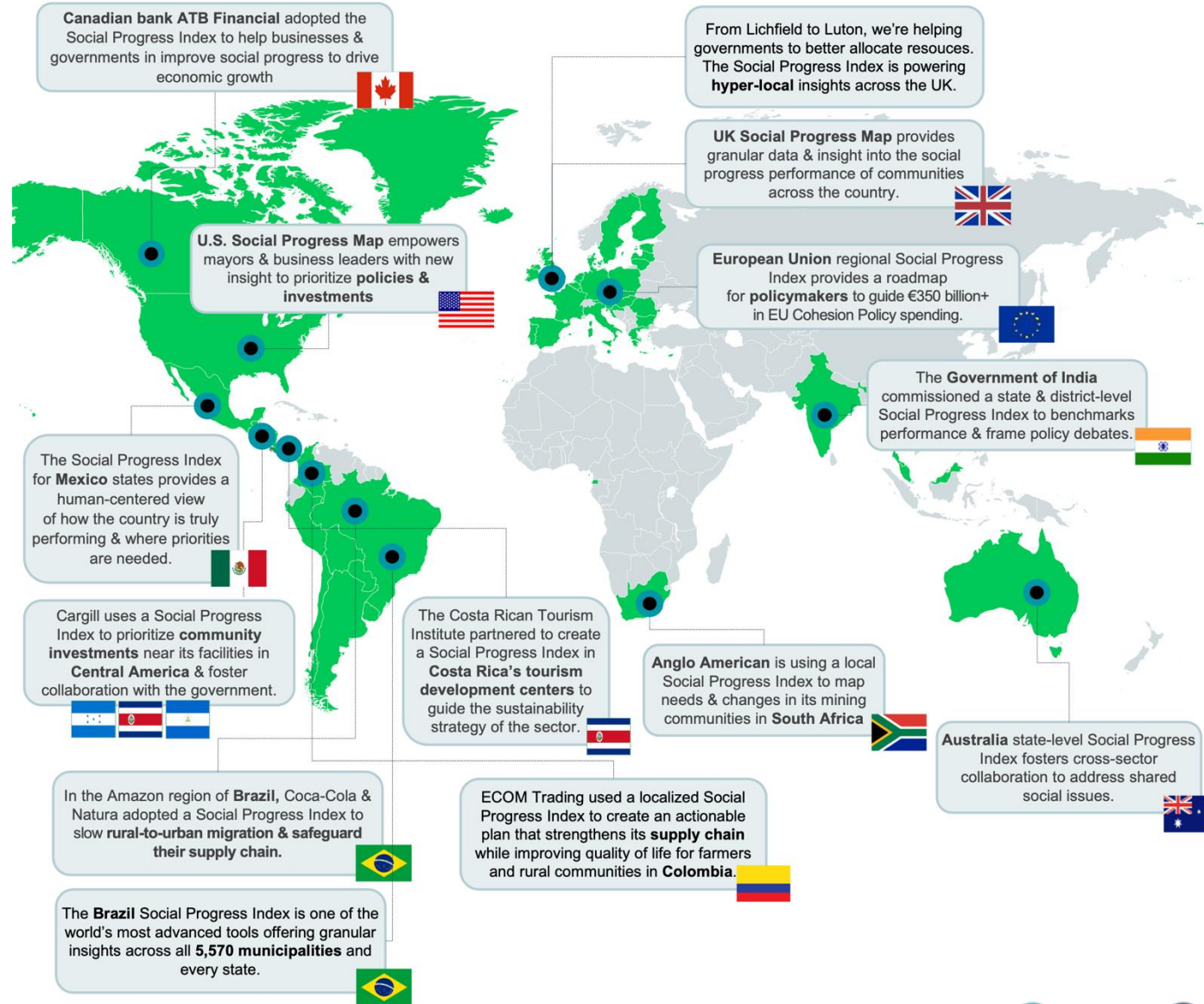
Regions: Changes in social progress from 2011 to 2025

Year ● 2011 ● 2025



From Index to Action to Impact

Delivering local data and insight that is meaningful, relevant and actionable



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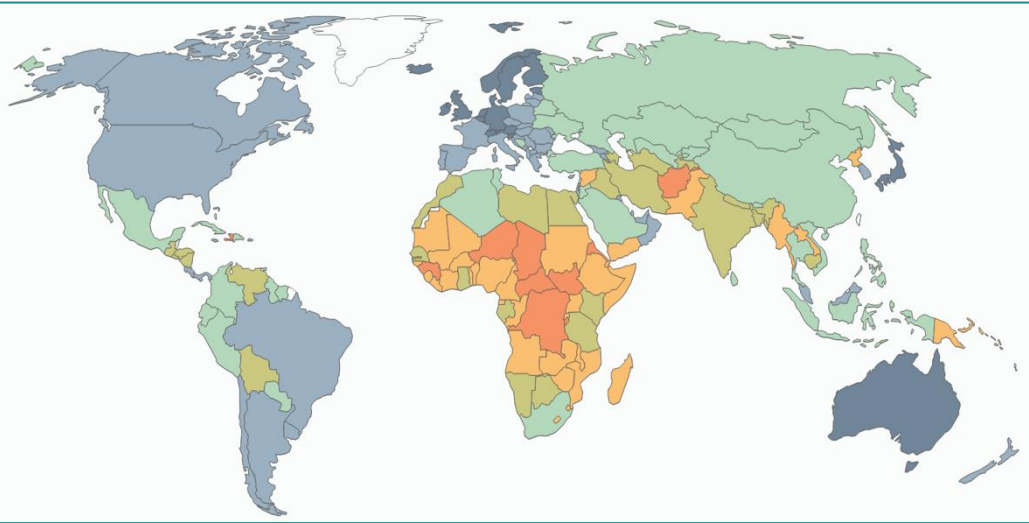
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Map data & results by country & indicator

Explore detailed country profiles



United States

Social Progress Index Score/Value: 81.76 / 100 Rank: 32 / 171

GDP per Capita (PPP) USD 75,491.61 7 / 165

Basic Needs	Score	Rank	Foundations of Wellbeing	Score	Rank	Opportunity	Score	Rank
Nutrition and Medical Care	91.59	35	Basic Education	85.33	47	Rights and Voice		
Child mortality	95.61	50	Children grow and learn	65.17	84	Equal protection ind		
Child stunting	95.39	30	Equal access to quality education	67.22	62	Equality before the l		
Diet low in fruits and vegetables	72.90	43	Gender parity in secondary attainment	100.00	1	Freedom of peaceful		
Infectious diseases	97.95	30	Primary school enrollment	93.93	81	Perception of corrup		
Maternal mortality	95.61	65	Secondary school attainment	97.71	21	Political rights		
Undernourishment	100.00	1	Information and Communications	88.71	19	Freedom and Choice		
Water and Sanitation	93.53	18	Internet users	93.14	32	CSO repression		
Basic sanitation service	97.38	35	Mobile telephone users	96.99	25	Early marriage		
Basic water service	99.22	17	Online services index	91.36	17	Freedom over life ch		
Satisfaction with water quality	80.25	32	World Press Freedom Index	65.49	50	Satisfied demand fo		
Unsafe water, sanitation & hygiene	98.26	11	Health	66.95	45	Vulnerable employe		
Housing	87.23	66	Access to essential health services	86.29	30	Inclusive society		
Access to electricity	100.00	1	Equal access to quality healthcare	44.10	98	Acceptance of gays c		
			Health problems	59.65	49	Count on help		
			Life expectancy at 65	70.89	28	Discrimination and v		
			Non-communicable diseases	63.66	92	Equal access index		
			Environmental Quality	85.37	22	Young people not in		
			Lead exposure	91.68	21	Advanced Educatio		



Discover premium data for regions and more

SPI rank	Country	SPI country code	SPI year	Status	Social Progress Index	Basic Needs	Foundations of Wellbeing	Opportunity	Nutrition and Medical Care	Water and Sanitation	Housing	Safety
47	Malaysia	MYS	2025	Ranked	74.13	84.40	76.84	61.16	84.93	84.27	87.26	81.13
49	Malaysia	MYS	2024	Ranked	73.94	84.52	76.38	60.92	84.55	84.73	87.95	80.86
46	Malaysia	MYS	2023	Ranked	74.18	84.72	77.20	60.63	83.20	85.60	88.96	81.11
47	Malaysia	MYS	2022	Ranked	73.99	84.75	77.51	59.71	84.50	85.13	89.48	79.90
48	Malaysia	MYS	2021	Ranked	73.67	84.10	76.87	60.05	84.09	83.69	89.31	79.29
49	Malaysia	MYS	2020	Ranked	73.02	83.33	76.39	59.32	84.35	82.33	88.71	77.93
49	Malaysia	MYS	2019	Ranked	72.49	82.93	75.57	58.97	84.03	81.59	88.80	77.32
54	Malaysia	MYS	2018	Ranked	70.26	82.50	73.23	55.05	83.86	81.88	89.15	75.11
55	Malaysia	MYS	2017	Ranked	69.38	82.15	71.14	54.85	83.61	82.16	89.52	73.30
55	Malaysia	MYS	2016	Ranked	68.91	81.74	70.27	54.73	83.53	82.46	89.73	71.23
55	Malaysia	MYS	2015	Ranked	68.65	81.40	70.09	54.46	83.54	81.90	89.39	70.76
53	Malaysia	MYS	2014	Ranked	68.79	81.85	70.20	54.33	83.65	82.09	89.89	71.76
50	Malaysia	MYS	2013	Ranked	69.24	82.36	71.75	53.60	83.64	82.50	90.93	72.37
50	Malaysia	MYS	2012	Ranked	69.14	83.35	70.95	53.14	83.52	83.80	92.44	73.65
49	Malaysia	MYS	2011	Ranked	68.57	83.81	69.01	52.88	83.27	84.71	93.10	74.15

Download data set to conduct research & analyze specific to your requirements

APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX DESIGN PRINCIPLES

1. exclusively **social** and **environmental** indicators



2. **outcomes**

not inputs



3. relevant to **all countries**



4. **actionability**



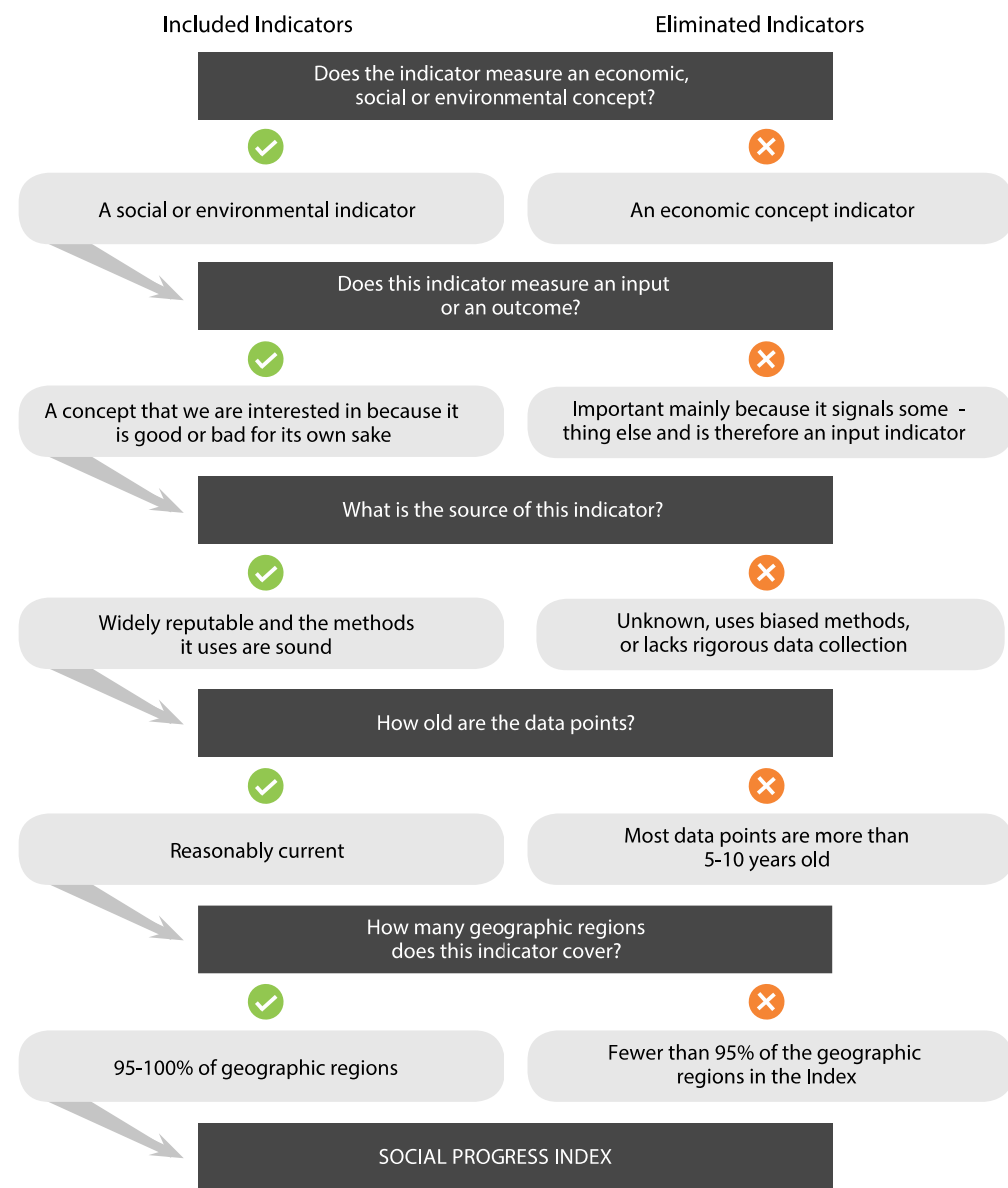
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS ONLY Measures social progress exclusively and directly, independent of economic indicators

OUTCOMES, NOT INPUTS Measures outcomes or lived experience, regardless of effort spent

HOLISTIC & RELEVANT TO ALL COMMUNITIES Multidimensional measure that encompasses the many inter-related aspects of thriving societies everywhere

ACTIONABILITY Practical tool that helps leaders and decision-makers implement policies and programs to drive faster social progress

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX INDICATOR SELECTION



COMPONENT METHODOLOGY

$$\text{Component}_c = \sum_i (w_i * \text{indicator}_i)$$

Each **component** is calculated as the **weighted sum of the individual indicators**, where the weights are determined by factor analysis.

CALCULATING DIMENSIONS & AGGREGATE INDEX

For each **dimension**, we calculate the average of each of the components:

$$\text{Dimension}_d = \frac{1}{4} \sum_c \text{Component}_c$$

The **Social Progress Index** is the average across the three dimensions:

$$\text{SPI} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_d \text{Dimension}_d$$

DATA SOURCES

The Social Progress Index includes only indicators that are measured consistently using the same methodology by a single organization across all countries. We assess each indicator to ensure the methods used to generate the measure are reliable and that it accurately reflects what it claims to represent.

- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) | 17
- UN Institutions (e.g., WHO, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, ITU and others) | 13
- International Research Institutions (e.g., Freedom House, Transparency International, Fund for Peace and others) | 10
- Gallup World Poll | 10
- Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) | 9
- World Bank | 4

For more insights about the methodology, visit socialprogress.org/methodology