

Module 3 – Sustainable Development Goals – Part II

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Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals – Part II

In this module, we will continue to elaborate the sustainable development goals. Additionally, we will be examining a compilation of success stories and lessons learned in Sustainable development goals implementation

Let's get started!

Sustainable cities and communities: Sustainable Development Goal 11

SDG 11 is to: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable".

SDG 11 has 10 targets to be achieved, and this is being measured with 15 indicators. The seven "outcome targets" include:

- Safe and affordable housing, affordable and sustainable transport systems;
- inclusive and sustainable urbanization;

- protect the world's cultural and natural heritage;
- reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters;
- reduce the environmental impacts of cities;
- provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces.

The three "means of achieving" targets include: Strong national and regional development planning; implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction; support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building.

The number of slum dwellers reached more than 1 billion in 2018, or 24 per cent of the urban population. The number of people living in urban slums is highest in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia.

In 2019, only half of the world's urban population had convenient access to public transport, defined as living within 500 metres' walking distance from a low-capacity transport system (such as a bus stop) and within 1 km of a high-capacity transport system (such as a railway).

Responsible consumption and production: Sustainable Development Goal 12

SDG 12 is to: "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns".

The targets of the goal are:

- implement the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
- achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources;
- reducing by half the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and the reduction of food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses;
- achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle;
- reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse;
- encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices;
- promote public procurement practices that are sustainable;
- and ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development.

The three "means of achieving" targets are: support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity; develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts; and remove market distortions, like fossil fuel subsidies, that encourage wasteful consumption.

To ensure that plastic products are more sustainable, thus reducing plastic waste, changes such as decreasing usage and increasing the circularity of the plastic economy are expected to be required. An increase in domestic recycling and a reduced reliance on the global plastic waste trade are other actions that might help meet the goal.

Climate action: Sustainable Development Goal 13

SDG 13 is to: "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy".

The targets cover a wide range of issues surrounding climate action. There are five targets in total. The first three targets are "output targets":

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters;
- integrate climate change measures into policies and planning;
- build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change.

The remaining two targets are "means of achieving" targets: To implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; and to promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management.

The decade between 2010 - 2019 was the warmest decade recorded in history. Currently climate change is affecting the global community in each country of the world. Its impact affects not only national economies, but also lives and livelihoods, especially those in vulnerable conditions. By 2018, climate change continued exacerbating the frequency of natural disasters, such as massive wildfires, droughts, hurricanes and floods, affecting more than 39 million of people. Over the period 2000–2018, green house emissions of developed countries and economies in transitions have declined by 6.5%. The emissions of the developing countries are up by 43% in the period between 2000 and 2013. In 2019, at least 120 of 153 developing countries had undertaken activities to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.

Life below water: Sustainable Development Goal 14

SDG 14 is to: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

- The first seven targets are "outcome targets":
- Reduce marine pollution;
- protect and restore ecosystems;
- reduce ocean acidification;
- sustainable fishing;
- conserve coastal and marine areas;
- end subsidies contributing to overfishing;
- increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources.

The last three targets are "means of achieving" targets: To increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health; support small scale fishers; implement and enforce international sea law.

Oceans and fisheries support the global population's economic, social and environmental needs. Oceans are the source of life of the planet and the global climate system regulator.

They are the world's largest ecosystem, home to nearly a million known species. Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the earth's surface and contain 97% of the planet's water. They are essential for making the planet livable. Rainwater, drinking water and climate are all regulated by ocean temperatures and currents. Over 3 billion people depend on marine life for their livelihood. However, there has been a 26 percent increase in acidification since the industrial revolution. Effective strategies to mitigate adverse effects of increased ocean acidification are needed to advance the sustainable use of oceans.

The current efforts to protect oceans, marine environments and small-scale fishers are not meeting the need to protect the resources.

Life on land: Sustainable Development Goal 15

SDG 15 is to: "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss".

The nine "outcome targets" include:

- Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems;
- end deforestation and restore degraded forests;
- end desertification and restore degraded land;
- ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems, protect biodiversity and natural habitats;
- protect access to genetic resources and fair sharing of the benefits;
- eliminate poaching and trafficking of protected species;
- prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems;
- and integrate ecosystem and biodiversity in governmental planning.

The three "means of achieving targets" include: Increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystem and biodiversity; finance and incentivize sustainable forest management; combat global poaching and trafficking.

The proportion of forest area fell, from 31.9 per cent of total land area in 2000 to 31.2 per cent in 2020, representing a net loss of nearly 100 million ha of the world's forests.

This was due to decreasing forest area decreased in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and South-Eastern Asia, driven by deforestation for agriculture.

Desertification affects as much as one-sixth of the world's population, 70% of all drylands, and one-quarter of the total land area of the world. It also leads to spreading poverty and the degradation of billion hectares of cropland.

Peace, justice and strong institutions: Sustainable Development Goal 16

SDG 16 is to: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

The goal has ten "outcome targets":

- Reduce violence;
- protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence;
- promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice;
- combat organized crime and illicit financial and arms flows, substantially reduce corruption and bribery;
- develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions;
- ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making;

- strengthen the participation in global governance;
- provide universal legal identity;
- ensure public access to information
- and protect fundamental freedoms.

There are also two "means of achieving targets": Strengthen national institutions to prevent violence and combat crime and terrorism; promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies.

Reducing violent crime, sex trafficking, forced labor, and child abuse are clear global goals. The International Community values peace and justice and calls for stronger judicial systems that will enforce laws and work toward a more peaceful and just society.

With more than a quarter of children under 5 unregistered worldwide as of 2015, about 1 in 5 countries will need to accelerate progress to achieve universal birth registration by 2030.

Partnership for the goals: Sustainable Development Goal 17

SDG 17 is to: "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development".

Increasing international cooperation is seen as vital to achieving each of the 16 previous goals.

Goal 17 is included to assure that countries and organizations cooperate instead of compete. Developing multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial support is seen as critical to overall success of the SDGs. The goal encompasses improving north–south and South-South cooperation, and public-private partnerships which involve civil societies are specifically mentioned.

With US\$5 trillion to \$7 trillion in annual investment required to achieve the SDGs, total official development assistance reached US\$147.2 billion in 2017. This, although steady, is below the set target. In 2016, six countries met the international target to keep official development assistance at or above 0.7 percent of gross national income. Humanitarian crises brought on by conflict or natural disasters have continued to demand more financial resources and aid. Even so, many countries also require official development assistance to encourage growth and trade.

2.7 Best Practices

In order to better understand the each sustainable development goals and associated challenges, it is worth to examine success stories and lessons learned in Sustainable development goals implementation. Please go through the booklet prepared by the United Nations involving several outstanding examples across the globe received in response to the first open call for SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned. To review the booklet, please go to <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/SDG%20Good%20Practices%20Publication%202020.pdf>

2.8 Assignments

Please review the SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned. Booklet and choose two solutions which might be also applicable in your country/neighborhood.