



# INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS SOMALIA

This initiative supports the articulation of national commitments to SDG transformation, towards accelerated SDG action in the second half of the 2030 Agenda.

# HOW TO READ THIS REPORT



Integrated SDG Insights provides an overview of a country's economic growth trajectory, highlighting potential conflicts between growth, environmental concerns, and societal well-being (referred to as the **SDG Moment**).



It builds from the foundation of national SDG progress through the lens of the 5Ps and uses machine learning to analyse national development ambition with an SDG lens (**SDG Trends & Priorities**).



Combined, these insights are mapped against SDG interlinkages to define policy choices that accelerate SDG progress, tailored to national context (**SDG Interlinkages**).



These policy choices are made against fiscal constraints and opportunities for stimulus to ensure choices translate to development impact and leave no one behind (**Finance & Stimulus**).

# SDG MOMENT: SOMALIA

While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Somalia’s economy is in mitigation mode in 2023-2025.<sup>1</sup> This pace of growth is characterized by being 16% higher, on average, than the global forecast and is converging with the country’s growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Accordingly, the country’s policy focus is on macro stability, business reforms, job creation and social protection.

It highlights that this pace of economic expansion is increasingly less dependent on carbon emissions as the country’s emissions intensity of GDP is projected to decrease at annual rates of between 2% and 3%. Moreover, Somalia’s carbon intensity of GDP (from fossil fuel usage), at slightly more than 0.03 tonnes per \$1,000, is the third lowest in the world.<sup>2</sup>

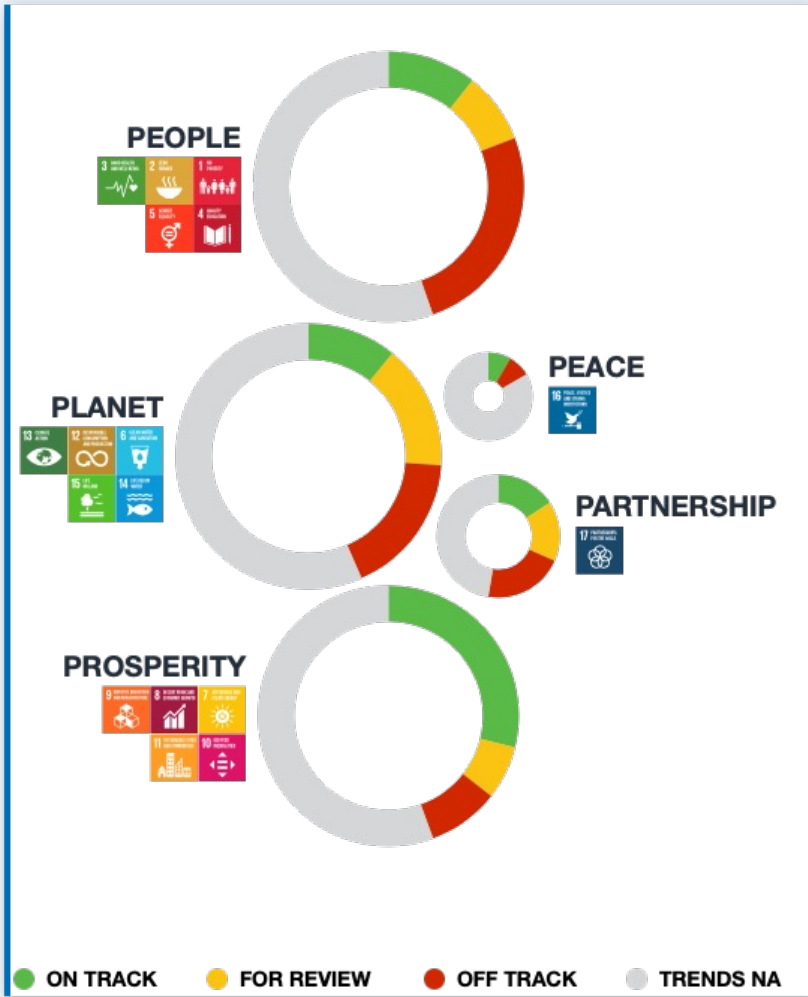
<sup>1</sup> The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country’s current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is coping if the adjusted rates range between 2%-4%, and it is in acceleration if they are above 4%.

<sup>2</sup> CO2 emissions intensity of GDP is computed as tonnes of CO2 per \$1,000 (2017 PPP).



# SDG TRENDS

Understanding how Somalia performs against the SDG targets provides a baseline landscape against which to build integrated SDG pathways. SDG progress tracking follows UN Stats standards and methodology, and is aligned with country profiles.



**Trends in detail:**  
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/sdg-trends>

# SDG PRIORITIES

Somalia’s national priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents. This analysis uses a custom-built model for SDG classification. It considers 100k+ terms, including phrases and expressions.



**Priorities in detail:**  
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/current-priorities>

- Key documents for analysis:
1. Voluntary National Review 2022
  2. Somali National Development Plan 2020 - 2024

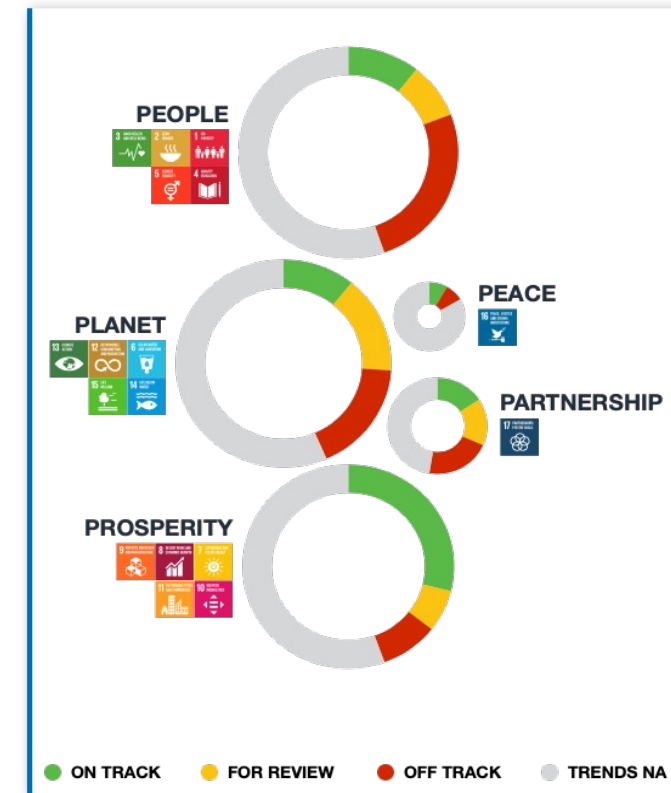
# SDG INTERLINKAGES

SDG interlinkages reveal how actions directed towards one SDG can impact others. Uncovering and understanding these interactions can help Somalia to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to navigate trade-offs.

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Somalia's SDG progress is colour-coded at the target level.

Building from national trends and priorities, the following integrated SDG pathways reflect policy choices with the most potential to accelerate the SDGs for Somalia:

- Target 1.5: Build resilience to environmental, economic, and social disasters
- Target 2.2: End all forms of malnutrition
- Target 4.1: Free primary and secondary education
- Target 9.1: Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



## ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



# SDG INTERLINKAGES

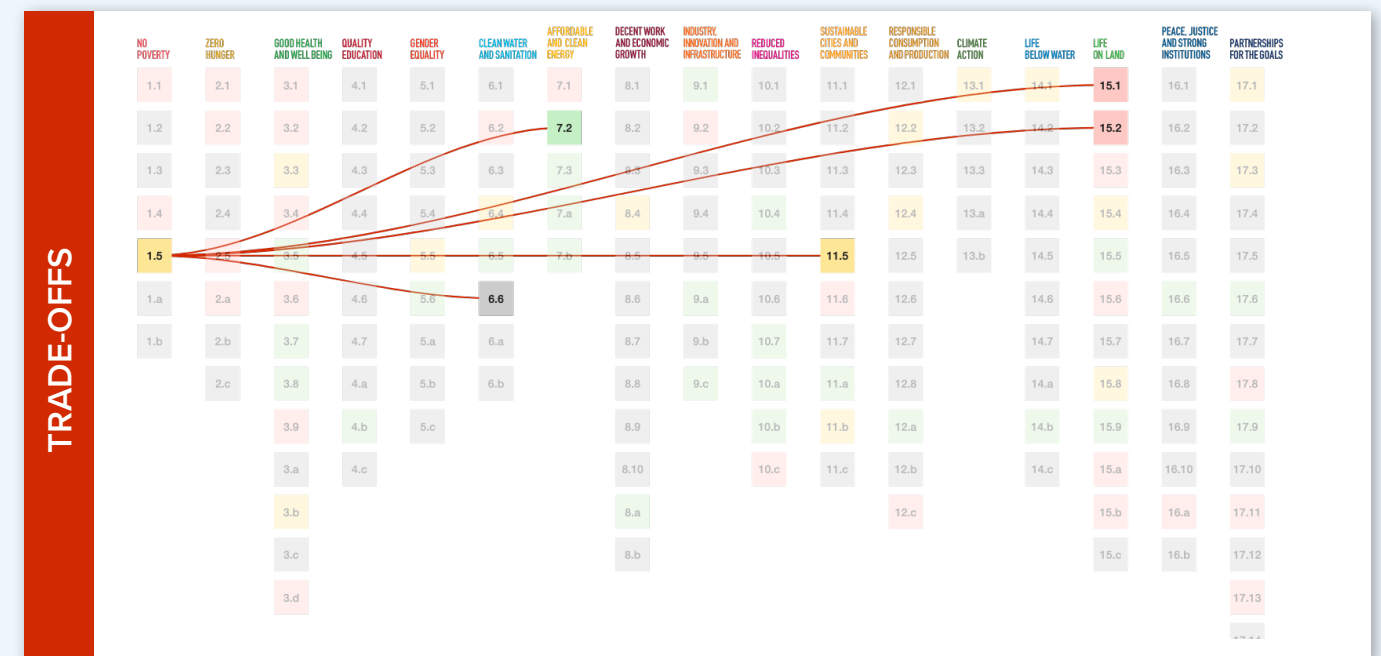
**1.5: By 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters**

The country is highly susceptible to droughts, conflicts and economic fluctuations, all of which disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. Nearly 70% of Somalis live on less than US\$ 1.90 per day, while almost 90% of Somali households are deprived in at least one dimension – monetary, electricity, education or water and sanitation – with nearly 70% of households deprived in two or more dimensions. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and nomadic populations have significantly higher levels of exposure to deprivations in multiple dimensions.

Improving water management and diversified agricultural practices leads to enhanced food security and reduced vulnerability to droughts. Economic diversification, coupled with social safety nets, are a buffer against economic downturns and provide stability for households. Strengthening social systems, including education and health care, can uplift human capital and enable communities to withstand shocks.

Additionally, resilience-building initiatives empower marginalized populations, promoting sustainable development and reducing the cyclical nature of poverty. Enhanced resilience can attract investments, boost local economies and foster long-term stability. By addressing the interconnected challenges of climate, economy and society, Somalia can create a more secure and prosperous future, lifting communities out of poverty's grip.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

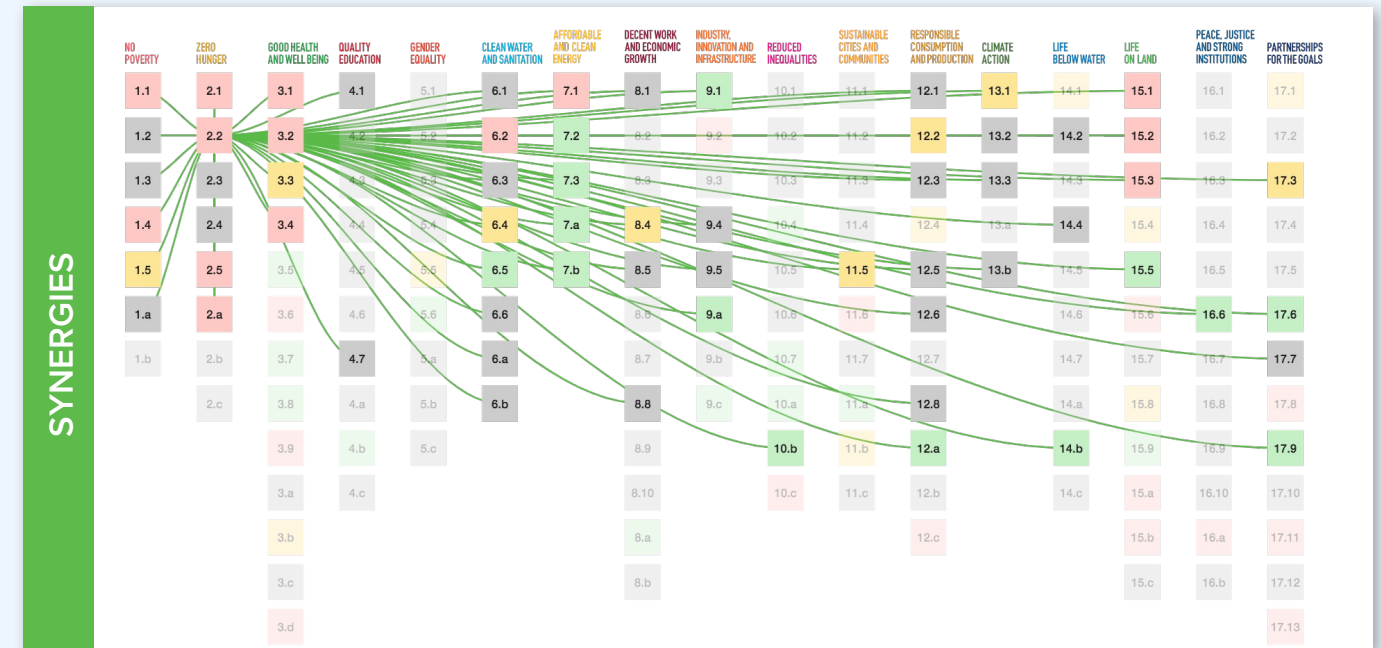
# SDG INTERLINKAGES

2.2: By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons

By the end of 2019, the national prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition, or wasting, was at 13.1%, and urgent treatment and nutrition support were needed for approximately 963,000 children below the age of 5 years. The level of Severe Acute Malnutrition stood at 1.8% at the end of 2019, however, its prevalence is increasing, particularly among IDP children. Moreover, 28% of children under 5 years are stunted.

Ending malnutrition involves adopting a multifaceted approach. It begins with scaling up nutrition-specific interventions, such as promoting exclusive breastfeeding, providing nutrient-rich foods for infants and young children and treating severe acute malnutrition. Simultaneously, nutrition-sensitive strategies like improving agricultural practices, enhancing access to clean water and sanitation, and bolstering women's empowerment are crucial. These interventions also have positive impacts on employment and livelihoods. Strengthening health care systems to offer nutrition services, enhancing data collection for monitoring and fostering partnerships among government, NGOs and international organizations should also be put in place. Public awareness campaigns about nutrition and hygiene, especially targeting remote and vulnerable communities, are also vital.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

# SDG INTERLINKAGES

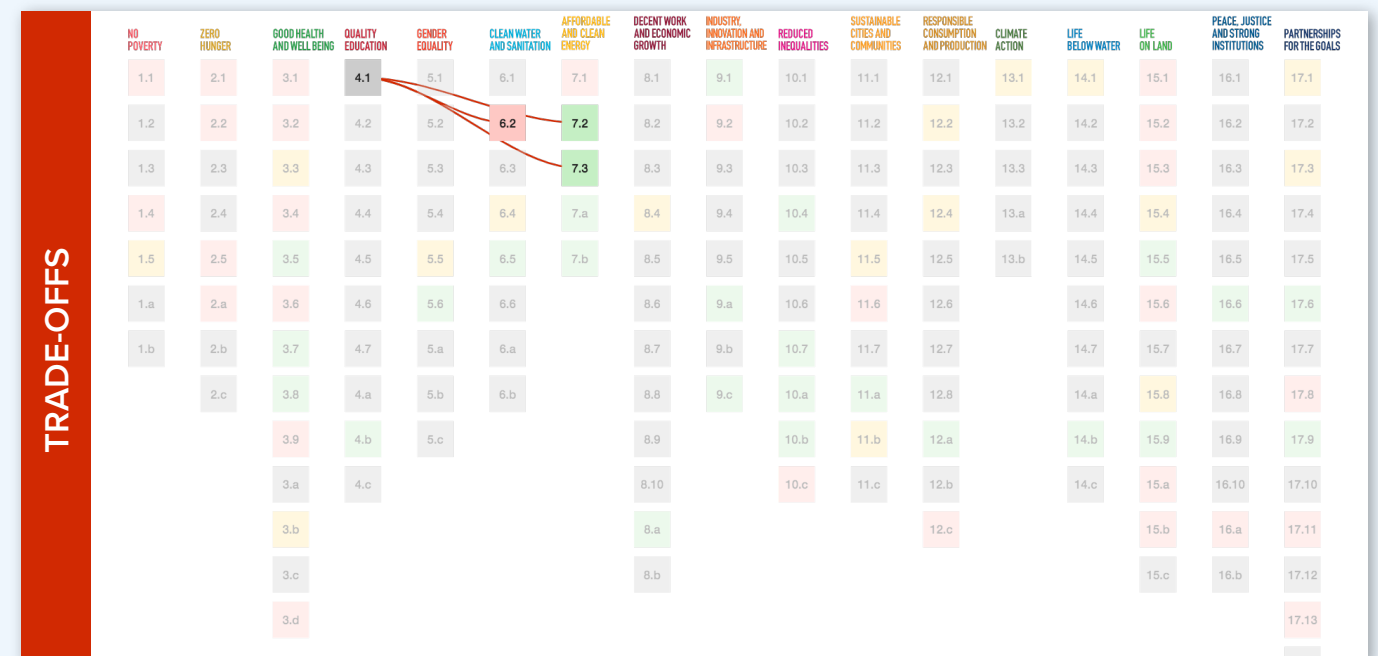
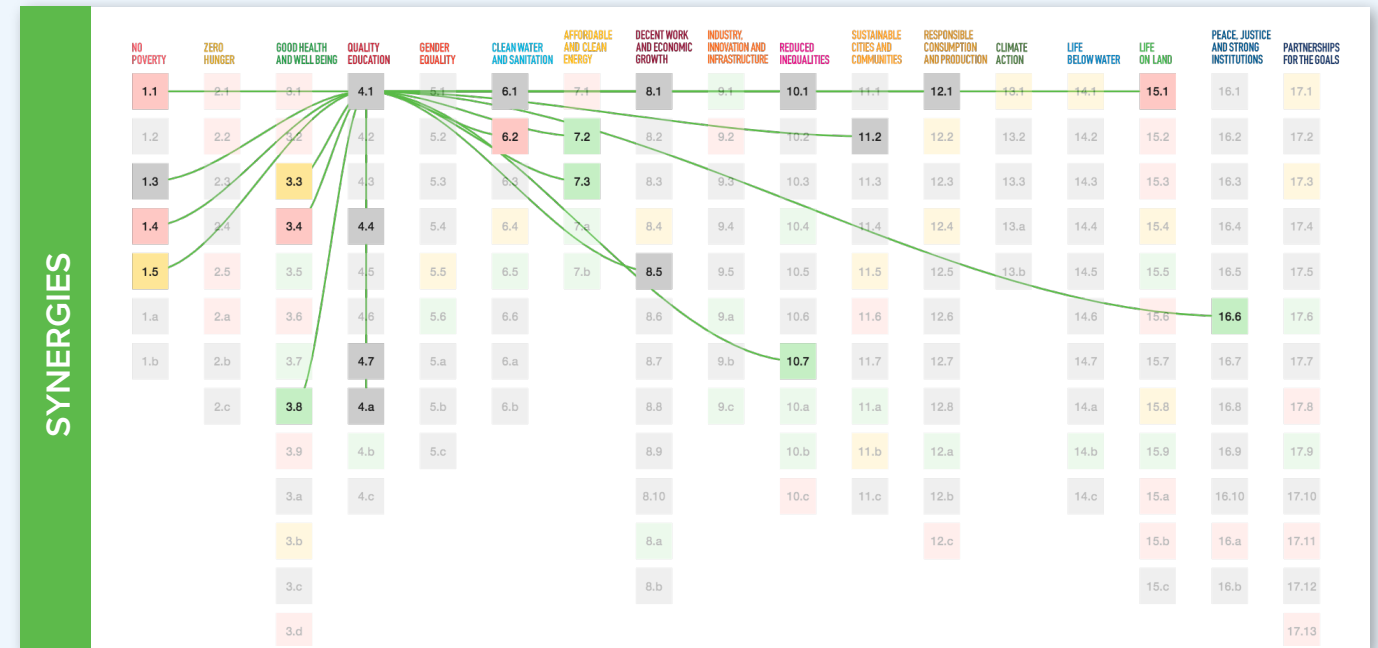
**4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes**

Almost half of Somali children and adults have never received formal education. Among boys and men, 45% have never had formal schooling, while among girls and women the figure is 48%. Among nomadic populations, the figures are as high as 78% among boys and men and 84% among girls and women. Even among those who have had an opportunity to attend school, few were successful in completing primary school: only 4% of boys and men and 5% of girls and women. Approximately 3 million out of 5 million children aged 6–18 years are out of school in Somalia. Only 30% of children at the primary education level and 26% at the secondary education level are enrolled in school.

A starting point is prioritizing education funding and resource allocation at the national level. Establishing and rehabilitating school infrastructure in underserved areas will enhance accessibility. Training and recruiting qualified teachers, particularly in rural regions, can improve education quality. Developing a relevant and inclusive curriculum that addresses local needs and aspirations will engage students better.

Additionally, creating incentives for enrolment, especially for girls and removing barriers like child labour will increase attendance rates. Leveraging technology for distance learning can extend educational opportunities to remote areas. Strengthening data collection and monitoring mechanisms will enable evidence-based decision-making. Collaborating with international partners and NGOs can provide expertise and resources.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/synergies-and-tradeoffs>



# SDG INTERLINKAGES

**9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all**

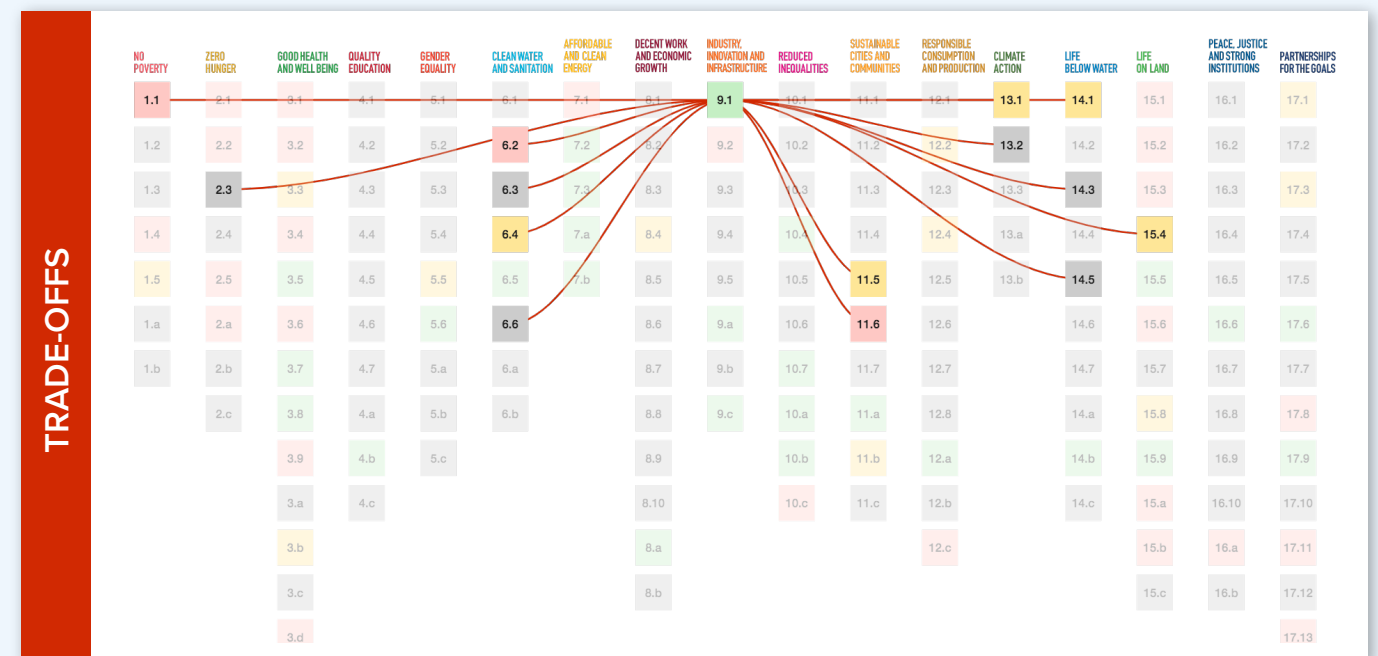
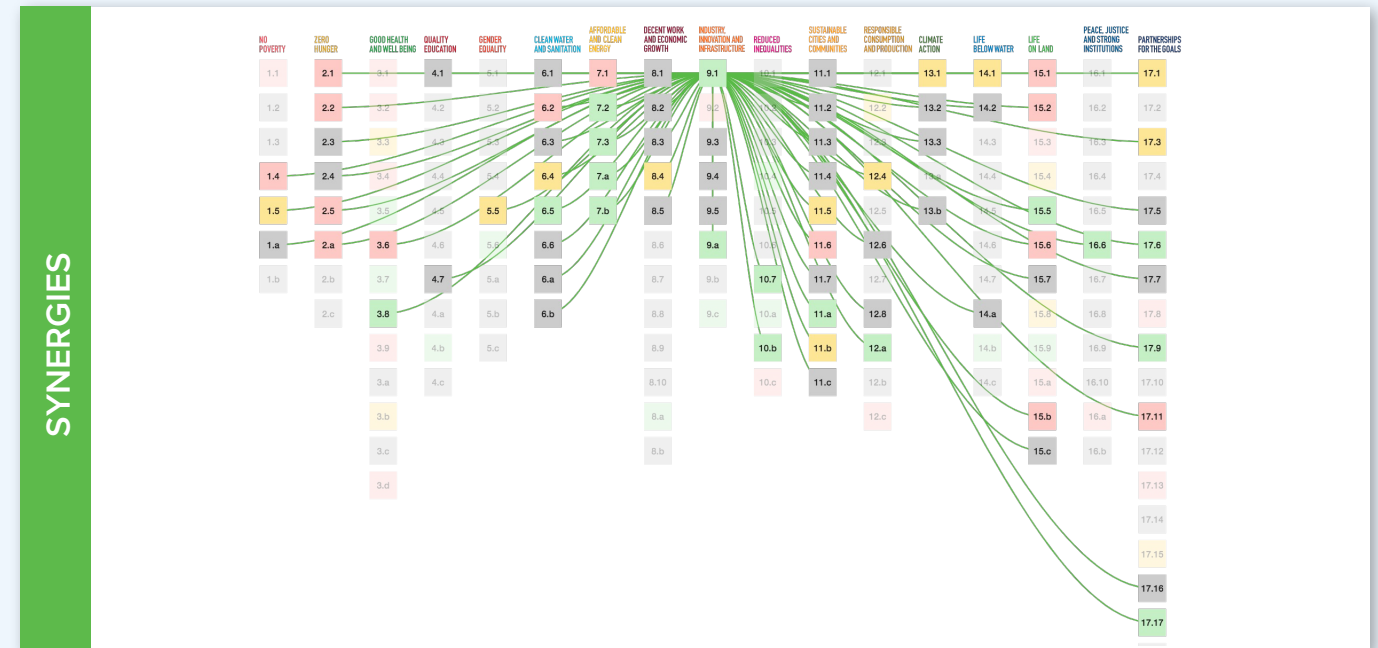
Decades of conflict have had a devastating impact on socio-economic conditions and infrastructure. The country has about 22,000 km of roads, 13% of which are paved, 4% are gravel and 83% are earthen. While the potential of cross-border trade is significant, poor road infrastructure and insecurity are significant constraints. Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa, with several harbours and ports. Despite this, the GDP contribution of the fisheries sector in Somalia is very limited.

Developing sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure in Somalia would bolster economic growth by improving transportation networks, energy access and communication systems, thereby attracting investments and creating jobs. Resilient infrastructure would enhance the country's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters and climate-related shocks, minimizing disruptions to livelihoods and improving the resilience of its population.

Inclusivity in infrastructure ensures equitable access for marginalized populations, reducing disparities and promoting social cohesion. Reliable energy and clean water supply improve living standards and public health. Connectivity through digital infrastructure can stimulate innovation, education and e-commerce. Sustainable practices in construction and operation reduce environmental degradation.

Overall, such infrastructure development would catalyse a positive cycle of economic prosperity, social well-being, environmental stewardship and resilience, propelling Somalia toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.unep.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

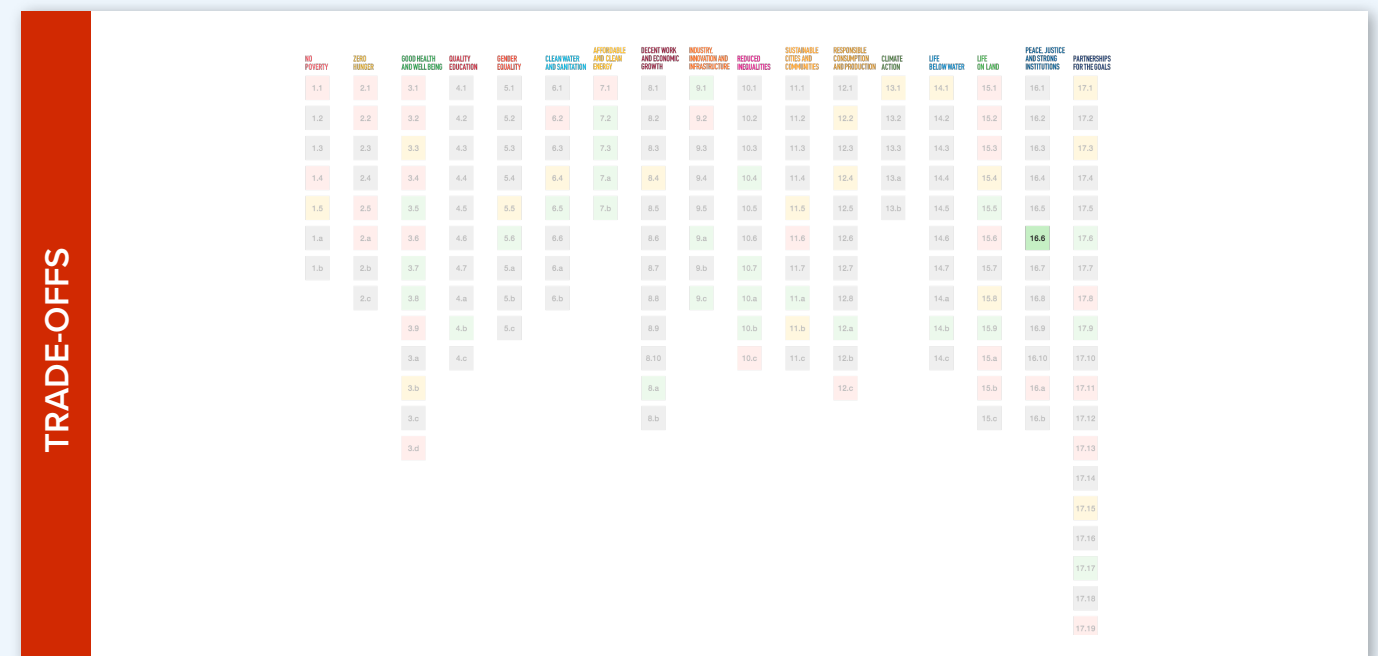
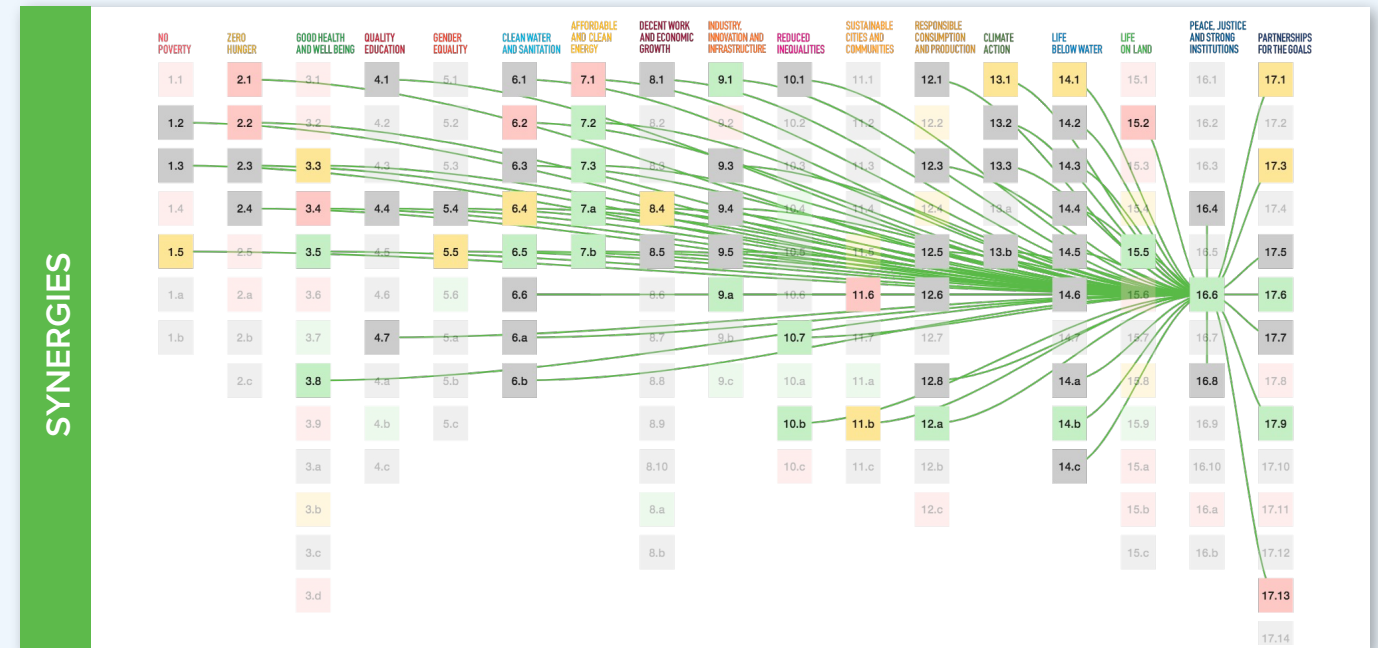
# SDG INTERLINKAGES

## 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

After decades of conflict, the institutional setup in Somalia has weakened, limiting its capacity to control territory, hindering effective service delivery, promoting instability and limiting its capacity to promote economic growth. The limited capacities at all levels of government to provide for the security, social, environmental and economic needs of the population pose an additional challenge to the legitimacy of the state. This is further aggravated by a fragile political environment and pervasive corruption.

Comprehensive governance reforms, including anti-corruption measures and clear legal frameworks, must be implemented. Strengthening public administration and civil service capacity through training and merit-based recruitment will enhance service delivery. Promoting citizen participation and engagement through open dialogue and decentralized decision-making can improve accountability.

Investing in technology for e-governance and digital services can enhance transparency and efficiency. Strengthening the judiciary's independence and capacity for fair dispute resolution is vital. International partnerships and technical assistance can provide expertise and resources for institution-building. Regular monitoring and evaluation of progress, coupled with transparent reporting, will foster a culture of accountability. This multifaceted approach will establish the foundation for sustainable development, attracting investments, fostering public trust and ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities for all.



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

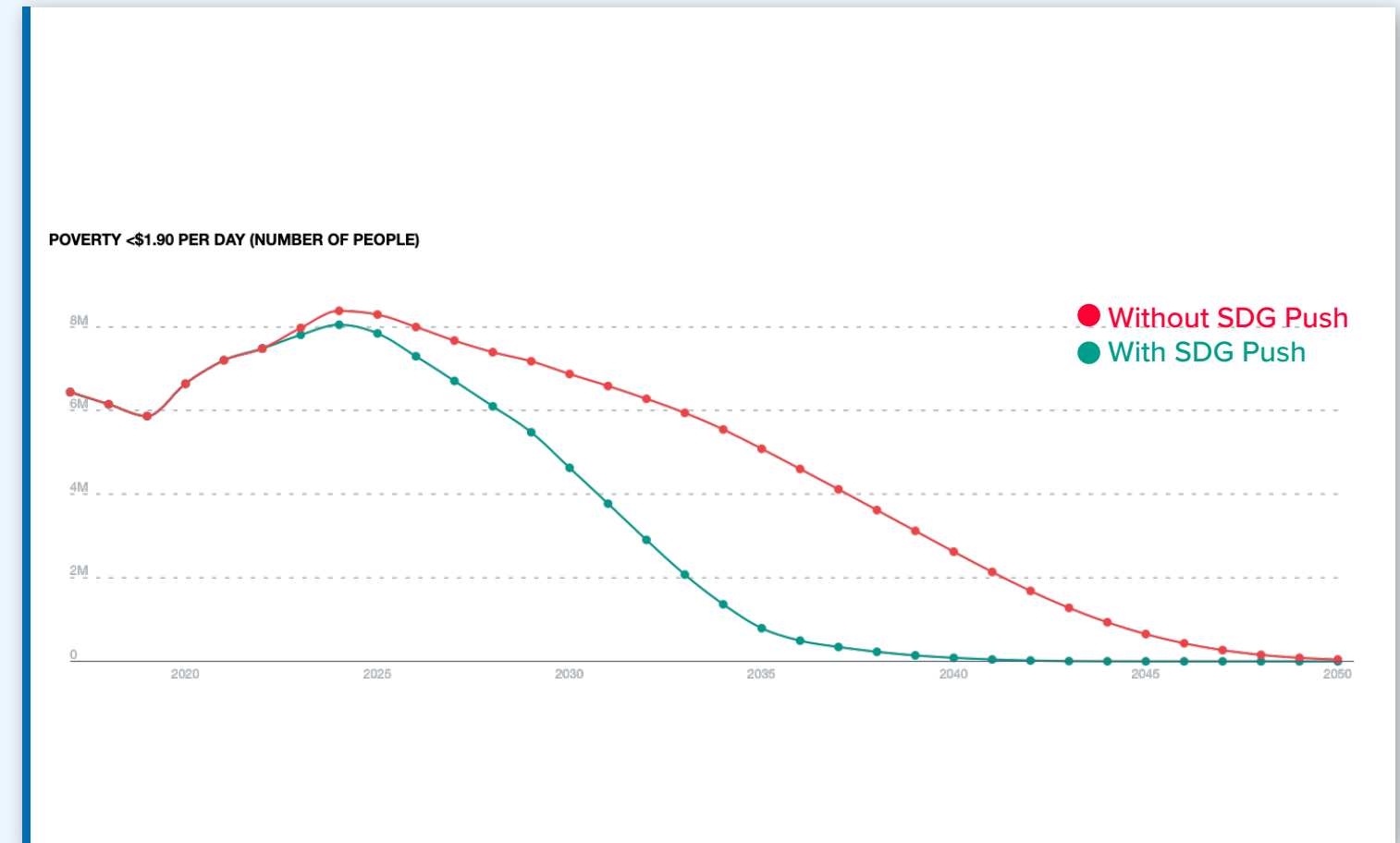
# FUTURES SCENARIOS

Achieving the SDGs is possible.

The ‘SDG Push’ is a futures scenario based on 48 integrated accelerators in the areas of Governance, Social Protection, the Green Economy and Digital Disruption. It uses national data to explore the impact on human development by 2030 and by 2050 across key SDG indicators.

Incorporating ‘SDG Push’ accelerators into development interventions in Somalia can reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	6.9 mn	45,000
With the SDG Push	4.6 mn	0



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SOM/future-scenarios>

# FINANCE & STIMULUS

Many countries are facing reduced fiscal space, high debt levels, rising interest rates and downgrades on credit ratings. Fiscal and financial constraints tend to slow or even reverse SDG progress.

The diagrams show low frequency data points linked to government revenue and natural resources rents as a proportion of GDP, the financial indicators of external debt servicing relative to revenue and the country's latest Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) risk rating.

Somalia is projected to collect 7.8% of GDP in revenue this year, which is nearly half the low-income developing countries' (LIDC) average of 14.9%.

The country's external debt servicing this year is projected to reach 7.9% of revenue compared to 14.1% for the LIDC average. Due to limited capacity to carry external debt of about 40% of GDP in 2022, Somalia's latest World Bank and IMF DSA from May 2023 rates the country 'in debt distress'. Somalia is part of both the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, and is in the process of negotiating debt restructuring with its creditors.

By early 2024, Somalia will be able to access significant new resources, such as concessional loans and credit from international financial institutions.

## LOW-FREQUENCY INDICATORS

● SOM ● LIDC Average

Revenue (% of GDP)

7.80 14.90

Natural resources rents (% of GDP)

9.80 11.24

## FINANCIAL INDICATORS

● SOM ● LIDC Average

Total external debt servicing (% of revenue)

7.9

14.1

DSA Rating

● ● ● ● ●

IN DEBT DISTRESS

**Notes:** External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt.

**Sources:** WDI (natural resources rents, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, data from 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), IMF/World Bank (DSA Rating as of 31 May 2023).

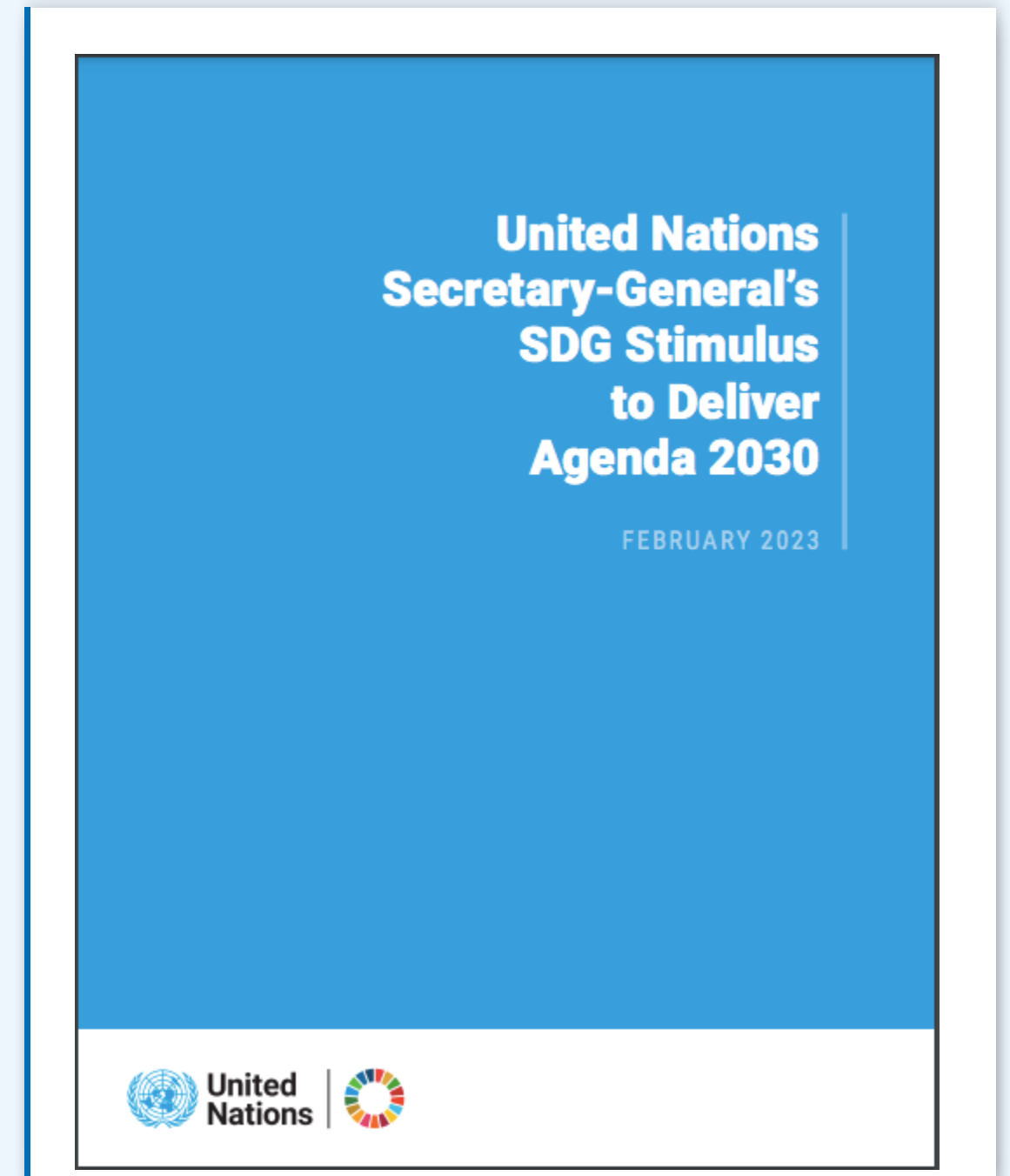
# SDG STIMULUS

The UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Plan lays out a blueprint for action within the existing financial architecture. It includes:

- Providing liquidity to support recovery in the near term
- Enhancing debt relief for vulnerable countries
- Expanding development financing by MDBs
- Aligning financial flows with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, according to country-level priorities and needs, for example through the roll-out of the UN Integrated National Financing Framework (INFFs).

Given the projected fiscal and financial constraints faced by Somalia, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Tax for SDGs
- Climate finance
- Leveraging private sector investments, through public-private partnerships, in infrastructure, energy, ports, and telecommunications sectors
- Enhancing financial inclusion and access to credit for small and medium enterprises, especially for women and youth, through digital technologies and microfinance institutions
- Remittances, philanthropy and faith-based financing



# METHODOLOGY

Click [here](#) to view the Methodological Note for the Integrated SDG Insights



## SDG MOMENT

### Methodology

Assesses challenges and opportunities in national growth trajectories with insights on environmental sustainability and inclusiveness.

### Data Sources

Future trajectories to 2025 are based on IMF-WEO GDP projections, distributions of per capita income or consumption from the World Bank, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Global Carbon Budget 2022 and EDGAR (JRC and IEA).



## TRENDS & PRIORITIES

### Methodology

SDG trends tracks progress from 2015 to date for the 231 indicators. National priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents.

### Data Source

Trends utilizes official [UN statistics](#) to assess [SDG progress](#), supplemented with national data when available. Priorities uses a custom-built model for SDG classification. The policy documents analyses are provided by Governments.



## INTERLINKAGES

### Methodology

Global target-level interlinkages are drawn from the [KnowSDGs Platform by European Commission](#). SDG interlinkages were retrieved through a structured literature review in Scopus and Google Scholar to tap both grey literature and peer-reviewed publications as a source of information.

### Data Source

The exercise globally considered a total of 454 documents published from 2015 to August 2022. ([Miola et al., 2019](#) updated in [2021-2022](#))



## FINANCE & STIMULUS

### Methodology

Provides insight into indicators of fiscal and financial stress with options (INFF) for stimulus and other means to accelerate progress.

### Data Source

Most recent resource data from UNU-WIDER GRD (between 2018 and 2021), debt and revenue from IMF WEO (between 2020 and forecasts for 2023), external debt from IDS (2023), yields from Haver Analytics (8 June 2023), credit ratings from S&P, Moodys and FITCH (2023), and DSA ratings from World Bank/IMF (31 May 2023).