



# INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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.

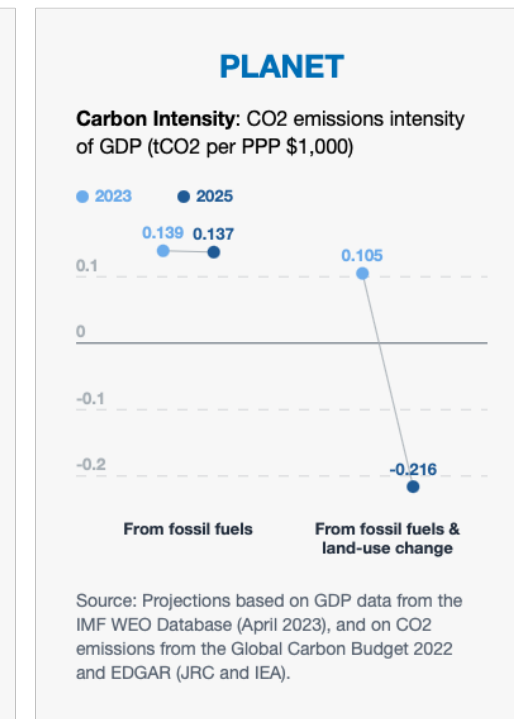
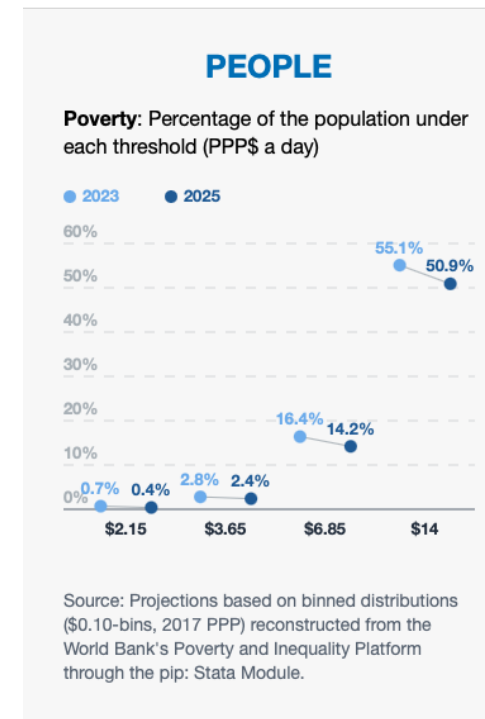
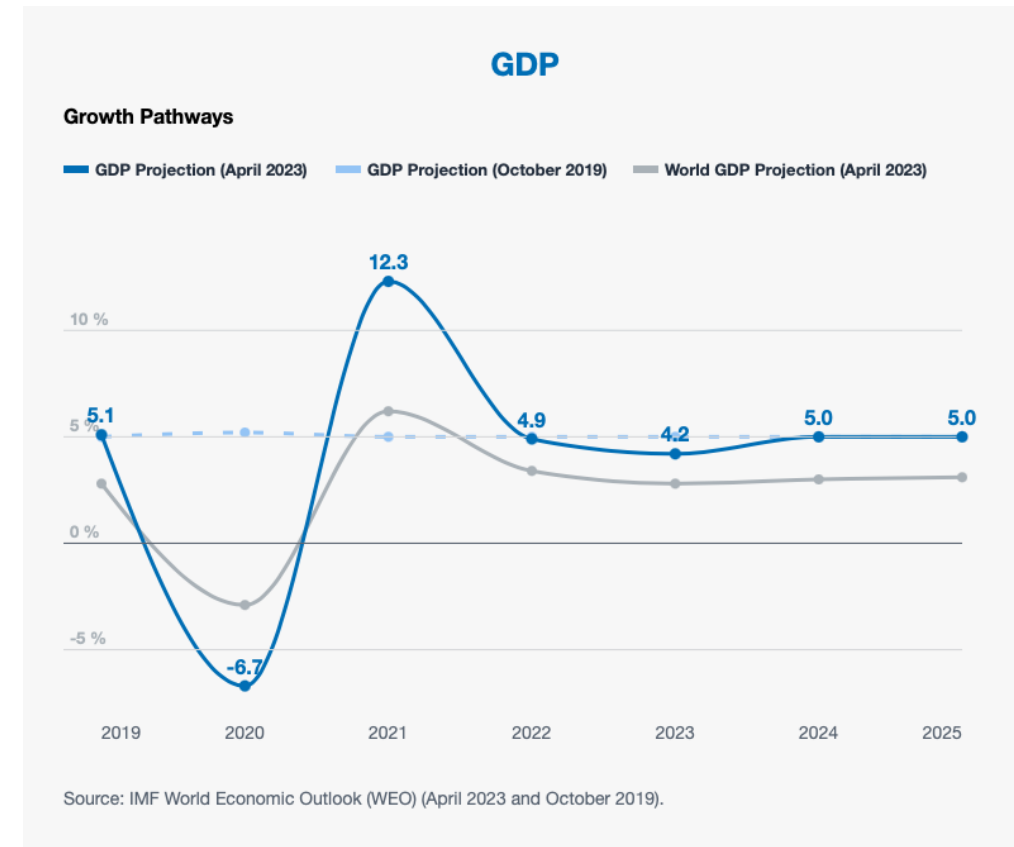
The Dominican Republic's economy continued its path towards recovery in 2023 and is projected to transition into acceleration mode in 2024-2025.<sup>1</sup> This pace of growth is characterized by being 60% higher, on average, than the global figure, and is aligned with the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Accordingly, the country's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on ensuring that economic growth translates more effectively into increasing people's well-being.

This economic expansion is projected to exert a moderate positive impact on reducing poverty. In fact, according to national estimates, general monetary poverty decreased in 2022 to 27.7% and extreme monetary poverty now sits at 3.8%. Nonetheless, challenges still remain associated with high levels of inequality within territories, affecting youth and women, and there is still a high rate of informality and low professionalization of the labour force to enhance competitiveness.

On the other hand, the pace of economic growth would be somewhat less dependent on carbon emissions as the country's fossil-fuel carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to decline at an annual rate of 0.6%, whereas favourable land-use change is expected to continue compensating and dominating over and above any dependency of GDP growth on emissions from fossil fuels.<sup>2</sup> These objectives are based on instruments that have been promoted in the country, such as the enactment of the Land Management Law, Nationally Determined Contribution and a road map for sustainable production and consumption with a consensus made between the public and private sectors.

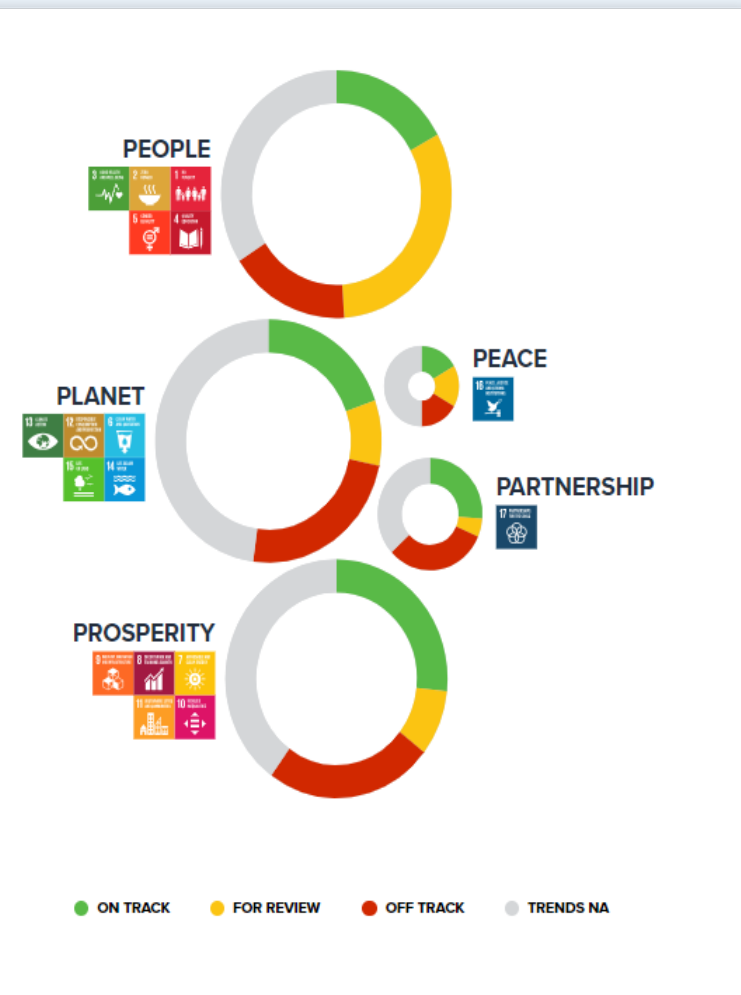
<sup>1</sup> The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; 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 the Dominican Republic 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.



The country created an effective implementation mechanism for the 2030 Agenda with a High-Level National Commission and four sub-commissions organized in five areas, uniting peace and partnership into one. It has constituted a strategic and operational instrument to accelerate its execution with important achievements by articulating a sectoral strategy and action frameworks for its fulfilment. The SDG trends observed here show opportunities for improvement to advance proportionally in all areas:

- Achieve greater homogeneity in the progress of the SDGs associated with each area.
- take advantage of the interconnections between the working sub-commissions to eliminate the risk of excessive sectorialization.
- Recommended development of more integrated cross-sectoral plans as a tool for acceleration.

The country can consider these measures as a strategy for a second phase of acceleration of compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

### Trends in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/DOM/current-priorities>

# SDG PRIORITIES

Dominican Republic 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.



### Key documents for analysis:

1. Pluriannual National Plan of the Public Sector
2. National Plan of Adaptation for Climate Change 2015- 2030
3. Digital Agenda 2030
4. Results Oriented Budget Program for Educational Quality
5. Results Oriented Program Budgeting (PPOR) to Reduce mortality from traffic accidents
6. PPOR to increase Employment
7. PPOR to improve conditions of life of the Rural Territories
8. PPOR for Technical Vocational Training and Labor Insertion
9. PPOR to Health in School
10. PPOR – Reduction of Crimes and Offenses that Affect Public Safety

### Priorities in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/DOM/current-priorities>

# SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

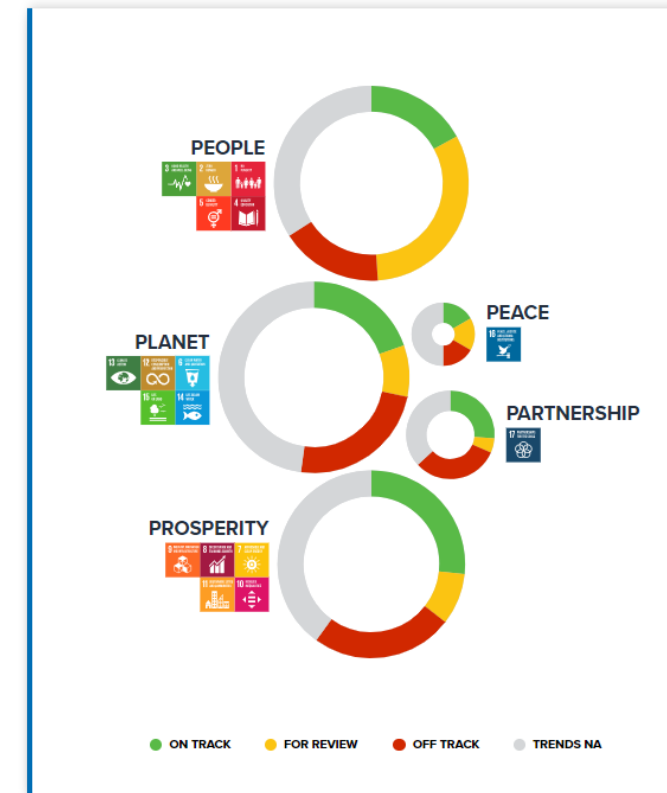
Based on a global framework for interlinkages the Dominican Republic's SDG progress is colour-coded at the target level.

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

- Target 3.4: Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health
- Target 4.4: Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success
- Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters
- Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere & Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

The analysis of trends in the fulfillment of the goals facilitates the identification of progress and challenges in certain SDGs integrated by areas. Considering the targets for which information has been obtained, the country records 36.0% of the 100 targets in the analysis in the "On track" category, 26% "For Review" and 38.0% "Off track".

It also allows us to verify which of the spheres requires an acceleration strategy due to delays in terms of achievements. The evaluation of the interlinkages between goals can become an instrument to guide more accurate decisions based on an evaluation of the goals with the greatest positive effects and that can more effectively drive other goals, generating greater cost-effectiveness of the results. For the DR, the Partnership and Planet spheres show percentages of 50.0% and 54.2% respectively, while the People (74.2 %), Peace (66.7%) and Prosperity (59.3%) spheres show high compliance.



## ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



# SDG INTERLINKAGES

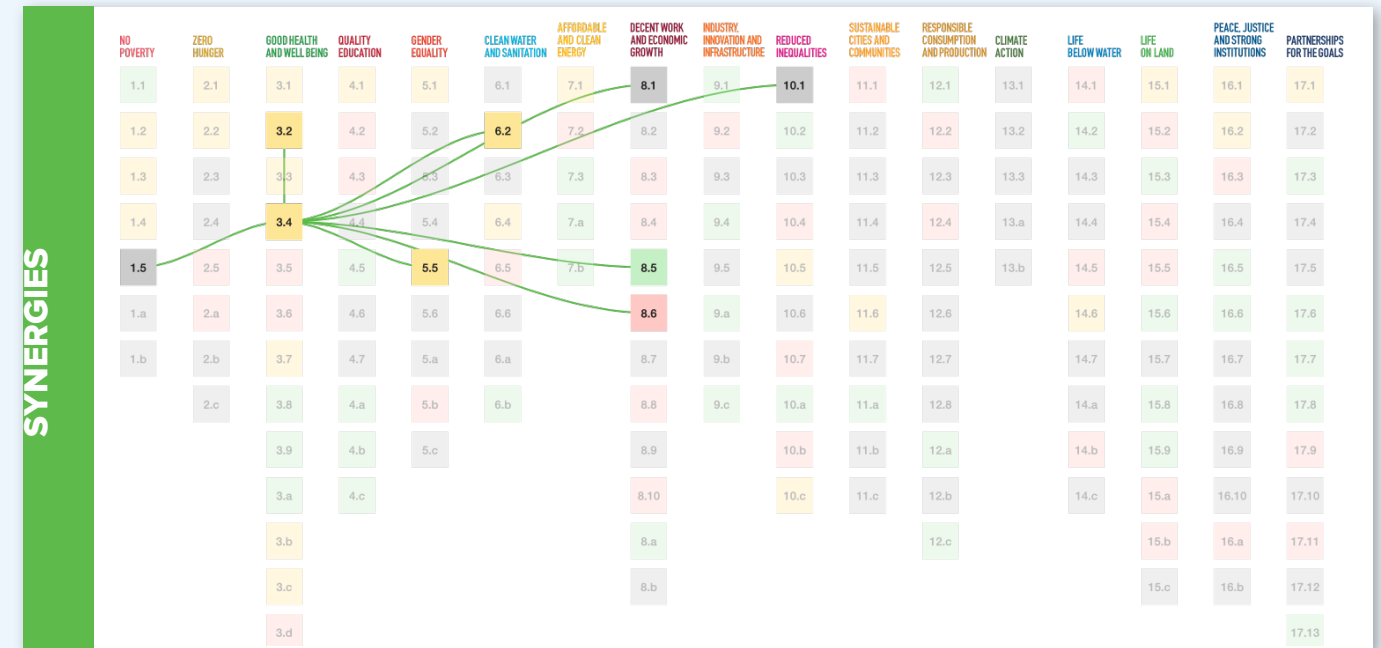
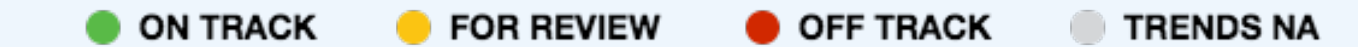
## 3.4: By 2030 “reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment” in all countries.

The epidemiological profile of the country shows a trend towards a higher incidence of non-communicable diseases due to the ageing of the population and challenges to promote preventive health and healthy lifestyles more effectively. The country has designed a health model that prioritizes prevention and primary care. Likewise, in 2023, the Ten-Year Health Plan was drawn up, which is an instrument to accelerate the achievement of this goal.

For the DR, noncommunicable diseases are one of the main integral health challenges, with negative effects on the quality and longevity of people in environments with scarcity of access to basic services, human development and their ability to participate in economic and social life.

A trade-off associated with the pressure exerted on health insurance policies and social security schemes for populations throughout the life cycle has been identified.

Its approach has an impact on goals associated with decent work and economic growth, productive employment, education and training for unemployed youth and a reduction of inequalities, thereby also contributing to the political and economic participation and autonomy of women.



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

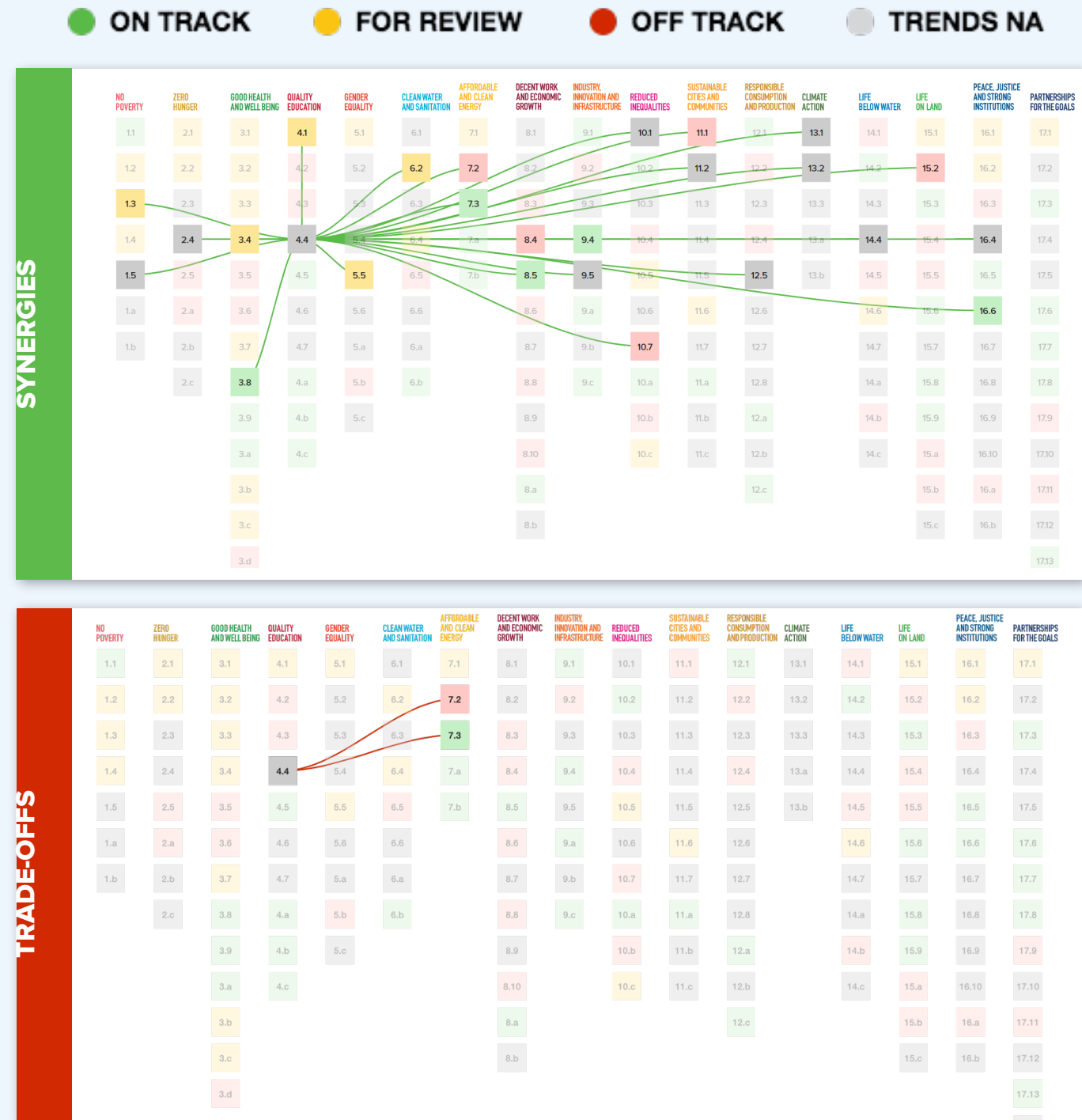
# SDG INTERLINKAGES

**4.4: By 2030 “substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.”**

The country has prioritized pre-university education and instruments to increase technical-vocational skills and education for the first job, considering that close to 50% of the Dominican population is concentrated in the youth and adult cycle. The number of educational centres with secondary and technical levels has doubled in the last four years. This goal constitutes an effective response to social and economic insertion for youth in poverty and vulnerability that face gaps in access to an academic offer that facilitates the effective transition from the end of school to the labour sector.

Progress in this area contributes substantially to human development opportunities and is connected to advancements in priority goals in the country's development agenda, such as quality education at all levels, skills development and equal opportunities for women, employability for decent work and income generation and sustainable enterprises, generation of knowledge for the protection of natural capital, among others.

The achievement of this goal generates a commitment to create better mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship, banking and access to infrastructure and digital opportunities thereby 'leaving no one behind'.



Explore the interlinkages at:  
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# SDG INTERLINKAGES

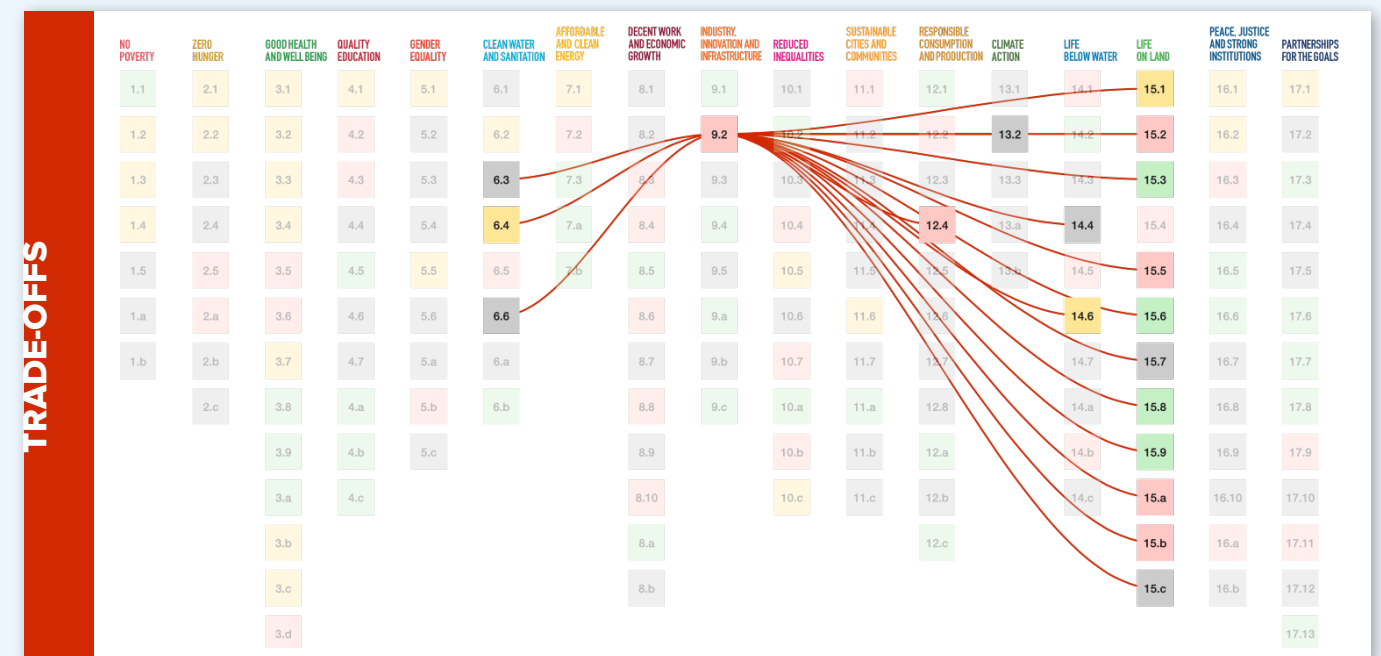
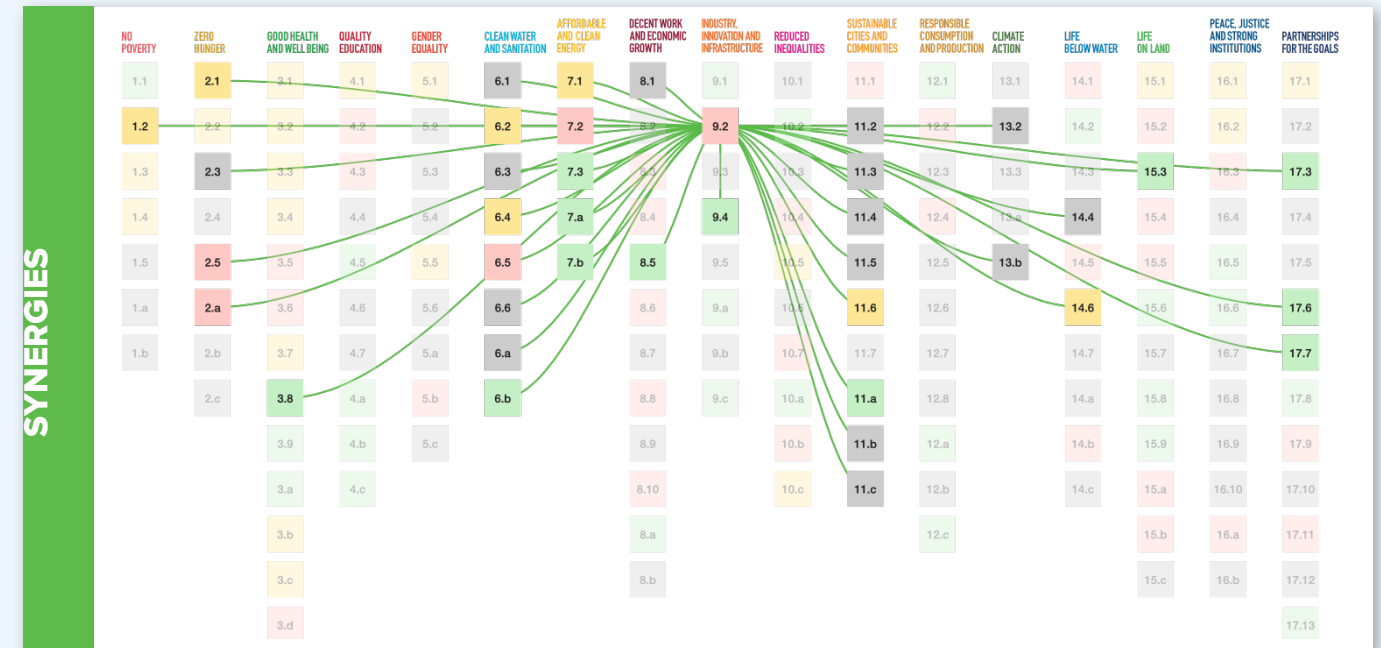
**9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.**

At the present time, it is essential to promote a more sustainable and inclusive industrialization, fostering innovation to generate greater productivity in labour markets in the Dominican Republic.

In the DR, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises represent more than 90% of the business fabric. To promote it structural, digital and sustainable transformation requires eliminating barriers, such as formalization costs, administrative barriers to expand supply, digital divide, linkages with large value chains and access to knowledge for innovation that constitute productivity losses for competitiveness.

These acceleration efforts should consider the transformation of to sustainable business models and the promotion of green jobs, which allows for a clean industrial development that does not compromise natural habitats, biodiversity and, in essence, future generations.

● ON TRACK ● FOR REVIEW ● OFF TRACK ● TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

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



# SDG INTERLINKAGES

## 13.1: By 2030 “strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.”

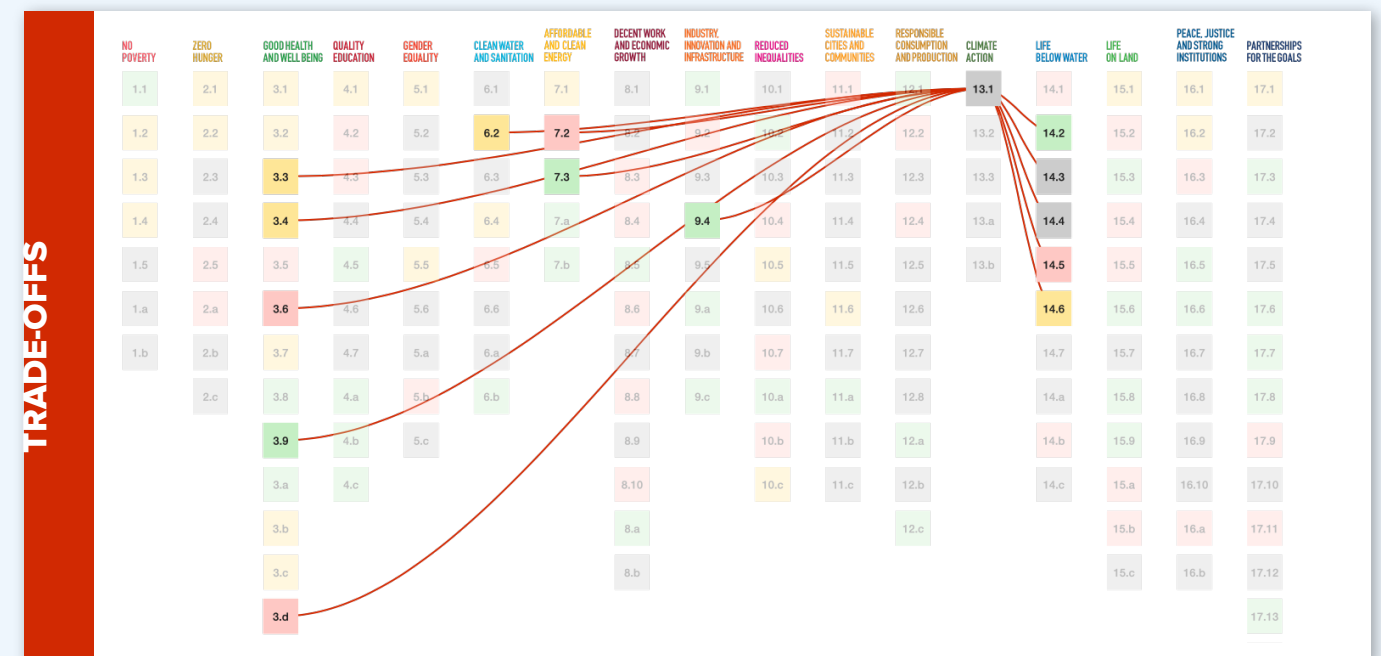
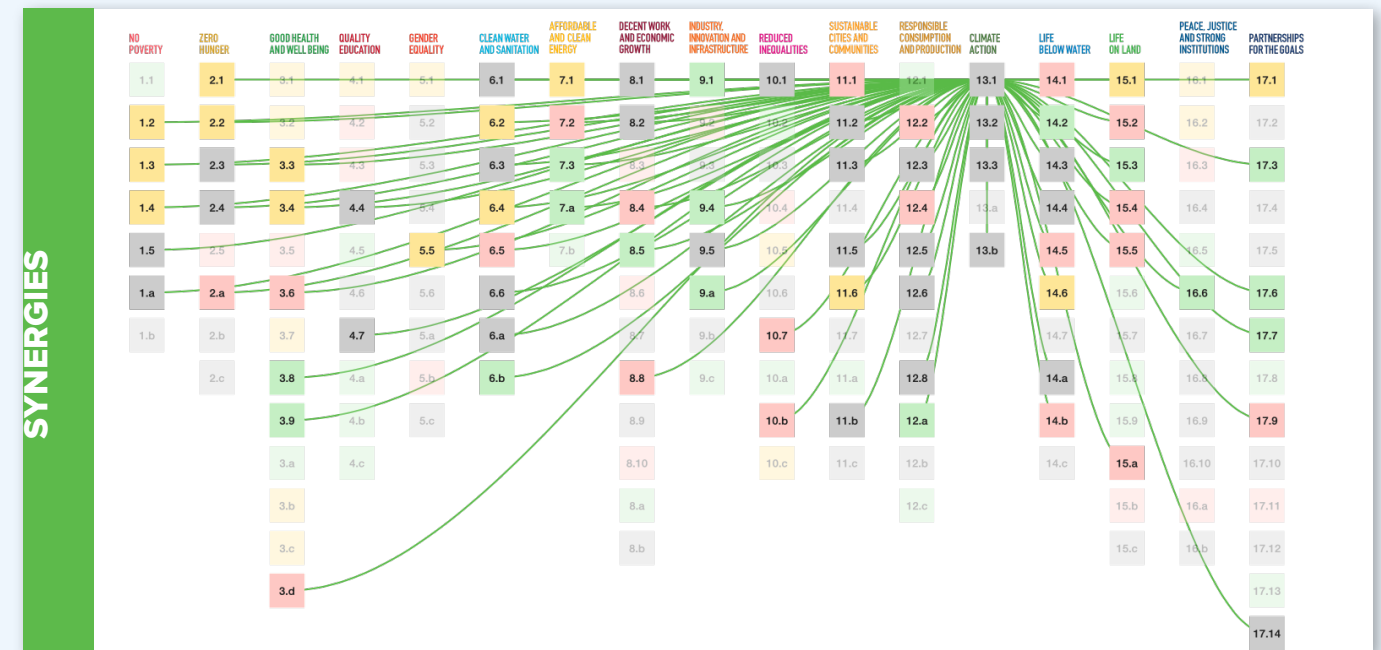
The Dominican Republic is a small island developing State (SIDS), with a high probability of being affected by storms and hurricanes, where 38.2% of households live in areas of high<sup>1</sup> (25.1%) or intermediate<sup>1</sup> (13.1%) risk of being impacted by a hydro-meteorological event.

The country has made progress in integrating risk management and climate change adaptation strategies into public institutional strategic plans through initiatives such as the Territorial Approach Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and the Damage Collection and Assessment System, as well as into private companies and school curricula.

This target has broad repercussions and opportunities for synergies with 80 SDG targets. It has great importance for public policy and poverty reduction and for the promotion of Sustainable Human Development due to the severity of the impact of climate events that in short periods of time reverse development achievements reached in decades.

<sup>1</sup> Climate Shock Vulnerability Index (IVACC), developed by the Unified System of Beneficiaries and UNDP, categorizes households according to their resilience levels to face the effects of hydro-meteorological shocks.

● ON TRACK ● FOR REVIEW ● OFF TRACK ● TRENDS NA



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# SDG INTERLINKAGES

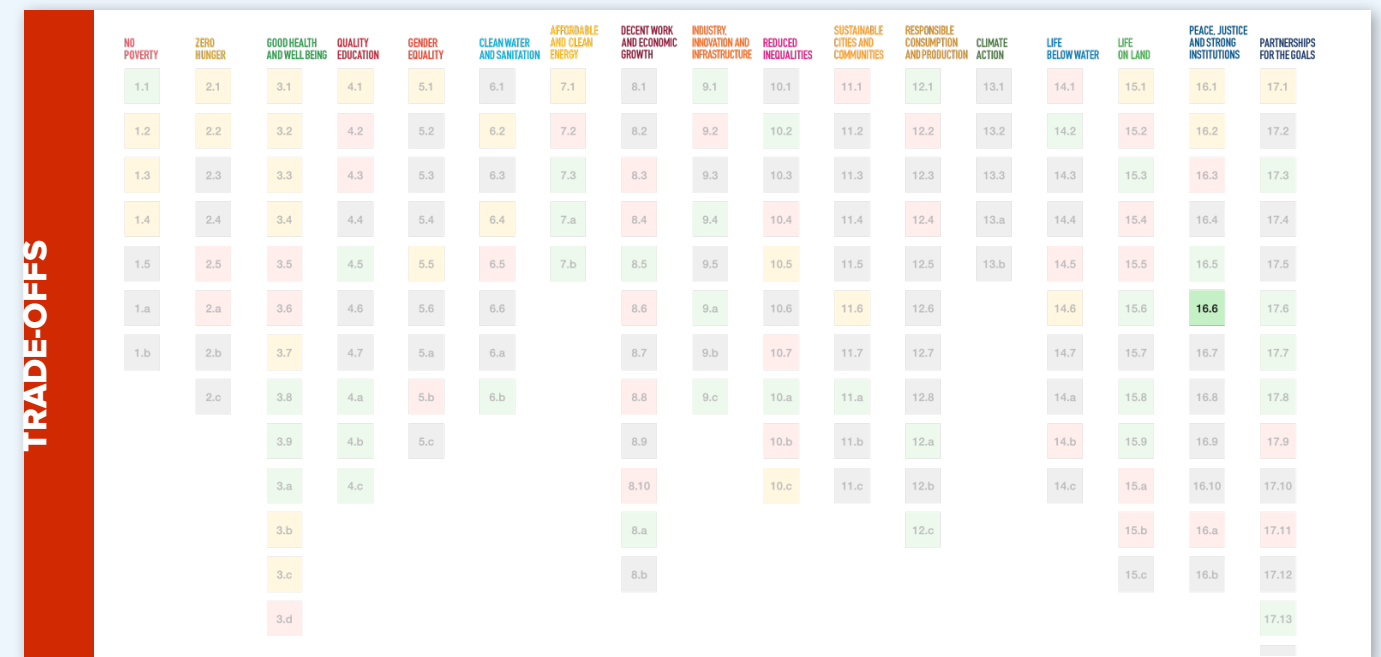
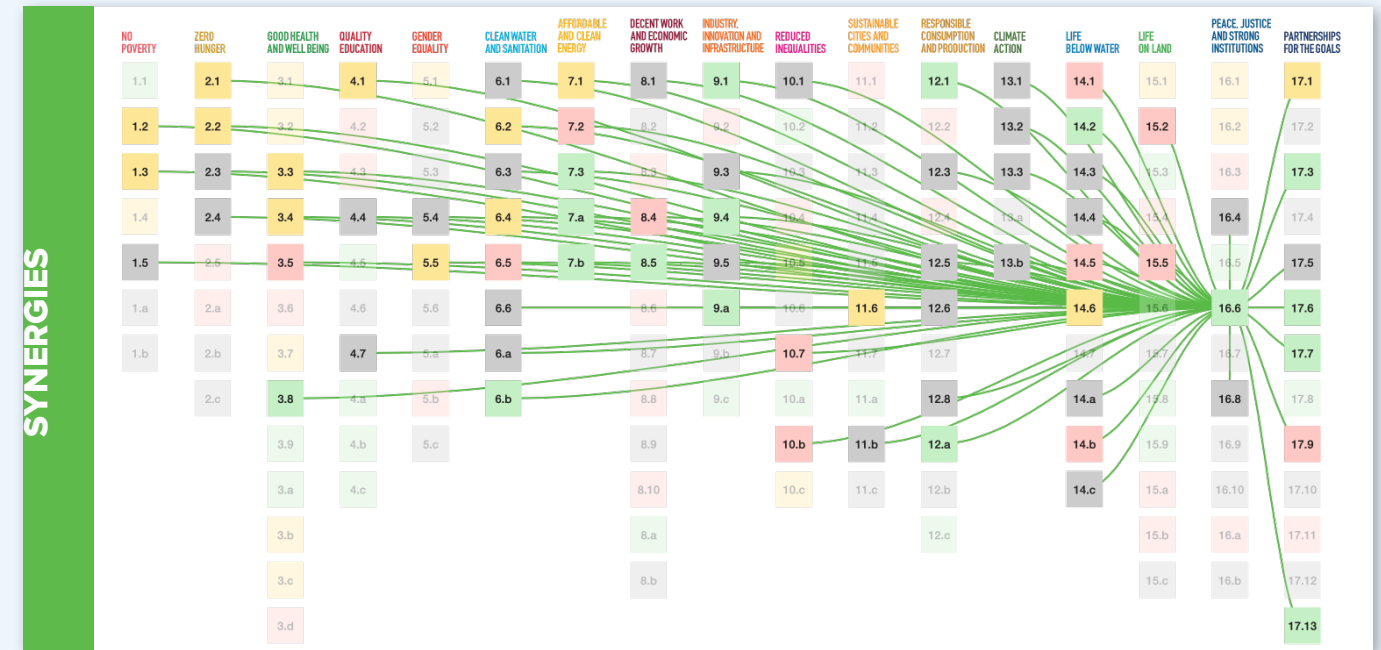
**16.1 and 16.6: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere and Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels;**

The country has made progress in transparency and accountability with the vision of developing a more robust justice system. In addition to strong institutions, a substantive element of effective governance is the capacity for agency and empowerment of people to recognize and demand their rights.

In the last three years, the country has prioritized citizen security as a key axis for democratic governance and the rule of law. Work has been carried out on police reform to strengthen protection capacities, the effective exercise of rights and monitoring and the follow-up of security indicators for public policy.

Significant progress has been made in reducing violent incidents, however, these persist in the most vulnerable areas. We know that significant challenges remain to achieve greater security in certain communities and neighborhoods, for example, by December 2022 there was an increase of 2.0 percentage points in the homicide rate compared to the previous year. It is important to highlight the importance of social cohesion (Target 10.2) to have greater citizen participation and thus create opportunities for upward mobility with greater inclusion.

● ON TRACK ● FOR REVIEW ● OFF TRACK ● TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

# FUTURES SCENARIOS

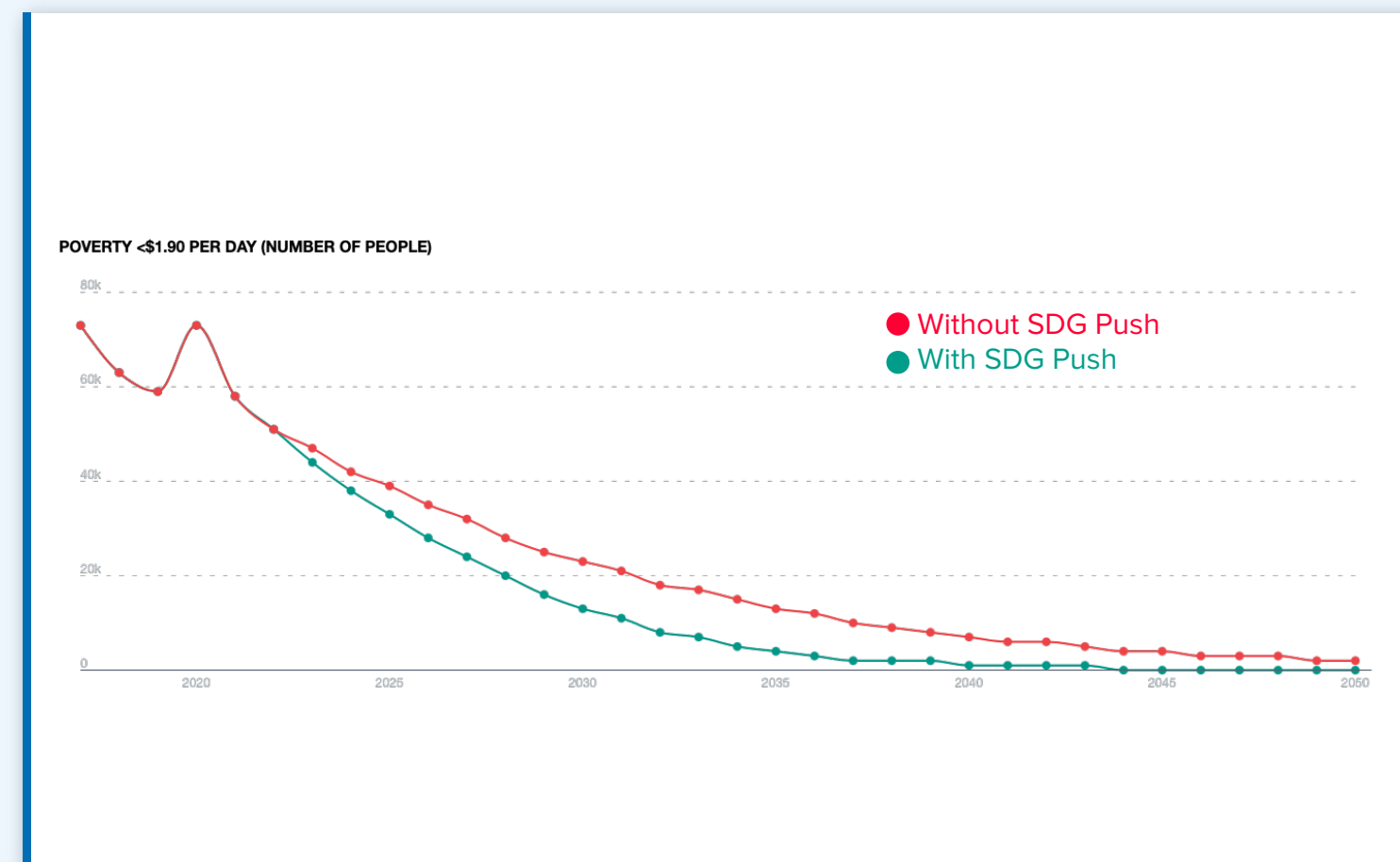
## Achieving the SDGs is possible.

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 the Dominican Republic reduces the number of people living in poverty over time. For the DR, SDG 1 of zero poverty in 2040 implies compliance 10 years earlier than the projection, based on current trend data.

However, zero poverty does not automatically guarantee Sustainable Human Development. For this reason, we must develop a comprehensive agenda with specific priorities for the protection and empowerment of all people and the planet, ensuring effective governance of development.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2045
Without the SDG Push	23,000	4,000
With the SDG Push	13,000	0



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/DOM/current-priorities>

# 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.

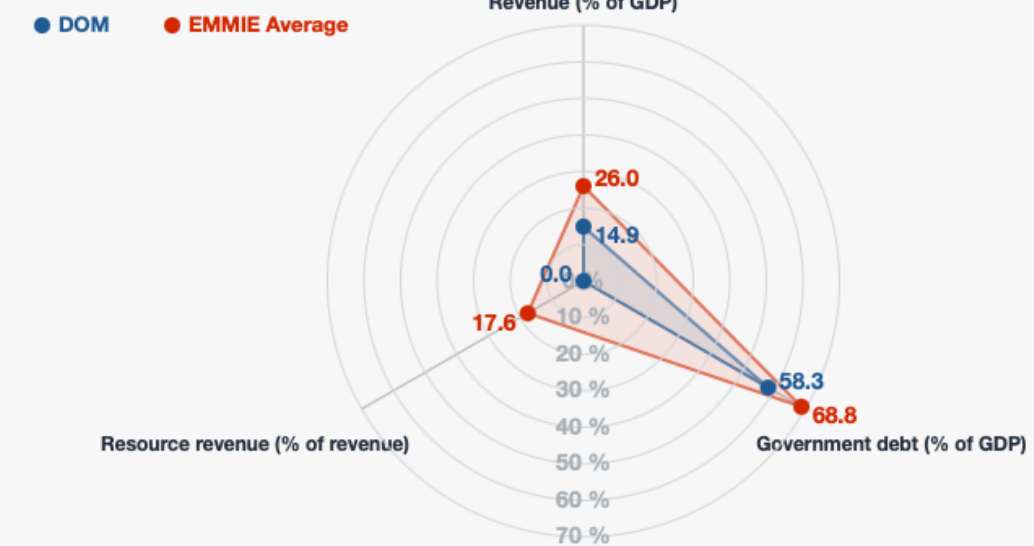
The radar diagram shows low frequency data points linked to government revenue and debt as a proportion of GDP and the natural resource share of total revenue. The financial indicator graph shows higher frequency data on external debt servicing relative to revenue and the country's sovereign credit rating.

The Dominican Republic's gross government debt, projected at 58.3% of GDP in 2023, is more than 10 percentage points (pp) below the emerging market and middle-income economies' (EMMIE) average of 68.8%. The country is projected to collect 14.9% of GDP in revenue this year, thus half the EMMIE average of 26%.

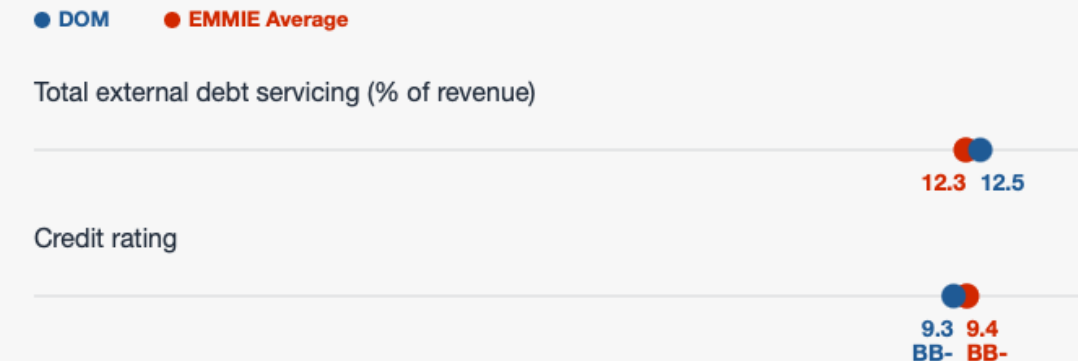
The Dominican Republic's external debt servicing relative to revenue is projected at 12.5% this year, hence very close to the average EMMIE country's 12.3%. As is the EMMIE average, the country's credit rating is in the 'non-investment grade speculative' category. Due to increasing external pressures and crisis on the international front that have translated into high prices, the government has assigned an important number of public resources to subsidies and debt, further affecting national fiscal resources. Discussions on innovative financing alternatives are relevant in this context, including mechanisms to better redistribute resources and to reduce the negative impacts on the poorest households.

Currently, the DR is starting an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) in order to develop a national financial strategy to identify, mobilize and optimize resources for national priorities aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

## LOW-FREQUENCY INDICATORS



## FINANCIAL INDICATORS



**Notes:** External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt. The EMMIE average of resource revenue (% of revenue) includes the 60 countries that reported data for that indicator. The credit rating shows the numerical average of S&P's, Moody's, and FITCH's ratings, expressed in S&P's scale in brackets.

**Sources:** UNU-WIDER GRD (resource revenue, data from 2017), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, forecasts for 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), S&P, Moody's and FITCH (credit ratings, data from 2023).

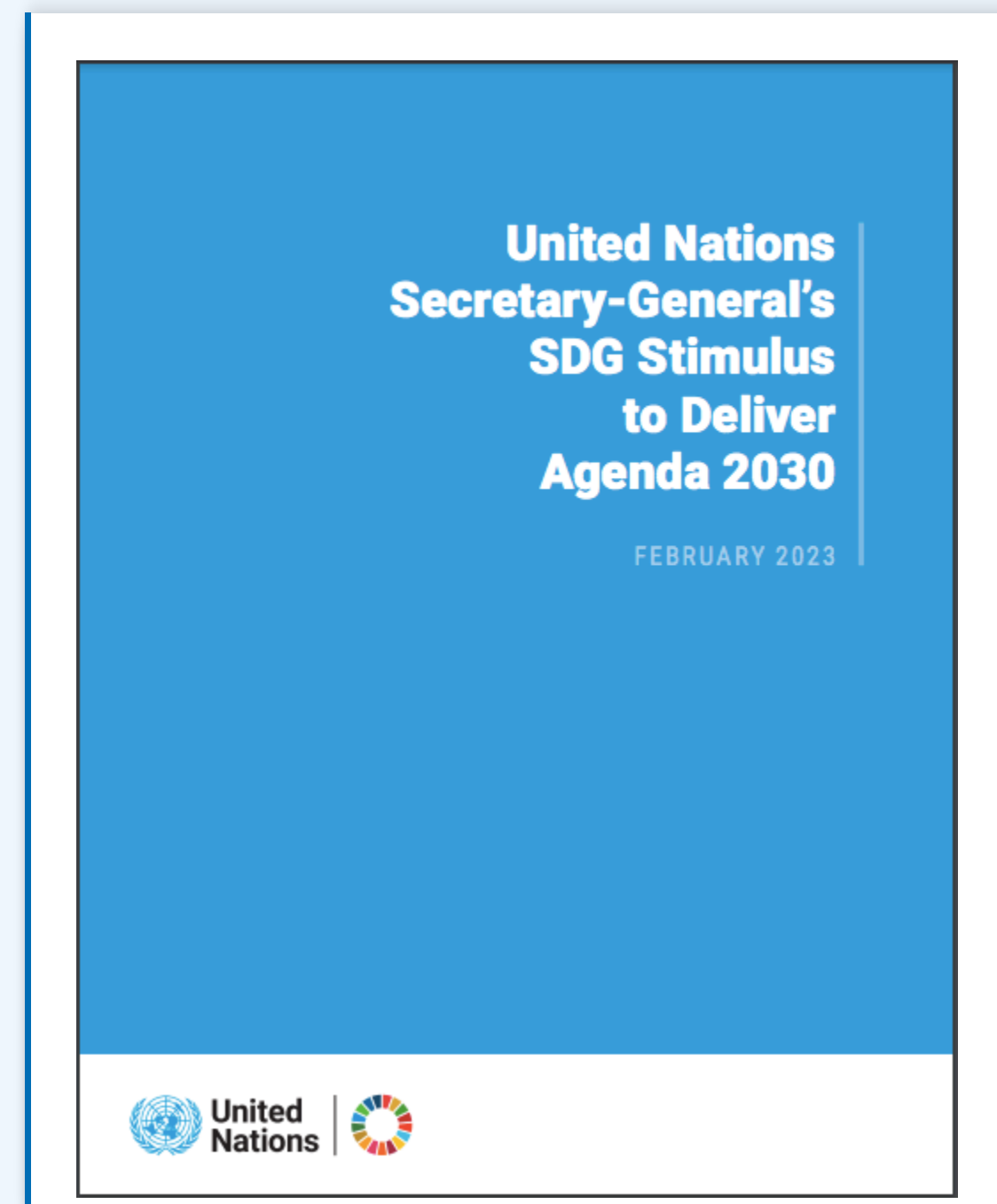
# SDG STIMULUS

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 the Dominican Republic, possible funding options for the derived investments from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- Accessing financial markets and insurance
- Remittances and philanthropy



# 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).