



SDG MOMENT AND LOCALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA: LESSONS FROM THE MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE SDG INSIGHTS REPORTS AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023

Prepared by Rogers Dhliwayo, UNDP South Africa for presentation at a UNDESA, UN Mozambique, UNDP Mozambique and Government of Mozambique National workshop on "Localizing SDGs and the National Development Strategy: Progress through Voluntary Local Reviews in Mozambique," Macaneta Beach Resort, Mozambique, 29 November – 1 December. 2023

PREPARING FOR THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT

“ **What is needed now is a surge in commitment from governments and stakeholders to take implementation to the next level... At the Summit, I urge world leaders to convey a National Commitment to SDG Transformation.** ”

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres Letter to Member States, 3 April 2023



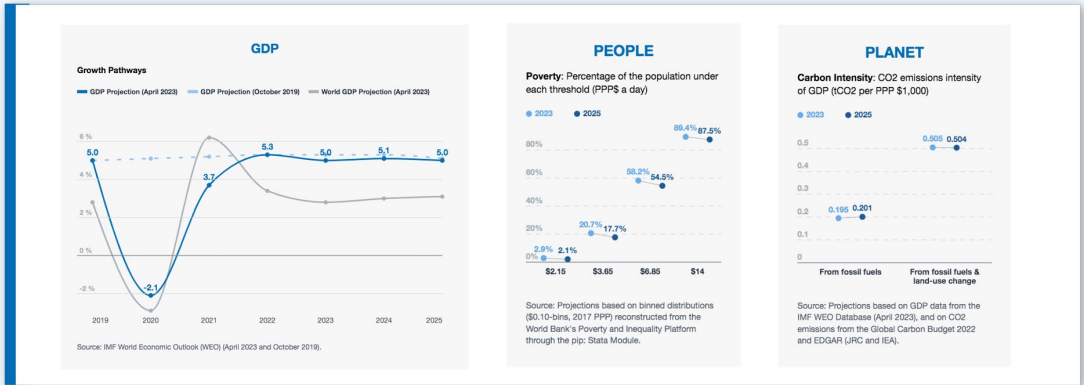
“ **Countries can draw on global and regional level tools such as the [SDG Push Diagnostic](#) and its national 'Integrated SDG Insights' report developed by IDP.** ”

SDG Summit Guidance Note on National Commitments, May 2023

NAVIGATING THE INSIGHTS

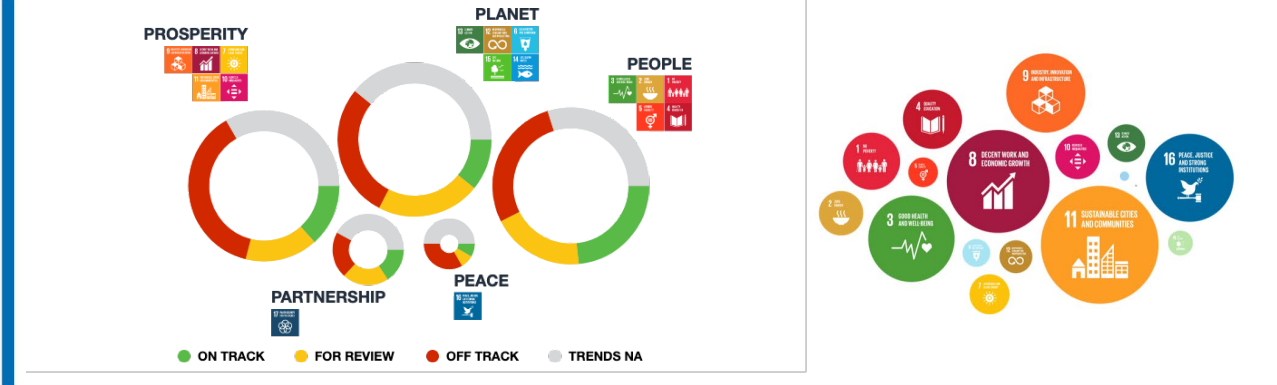
SDG MOMENT

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



TRENDS AND PRIORITIES

Utilizes official UN statistics to assess SDG progress, and custom-built machine learning to synthesize national priorities & align to the SDGs.



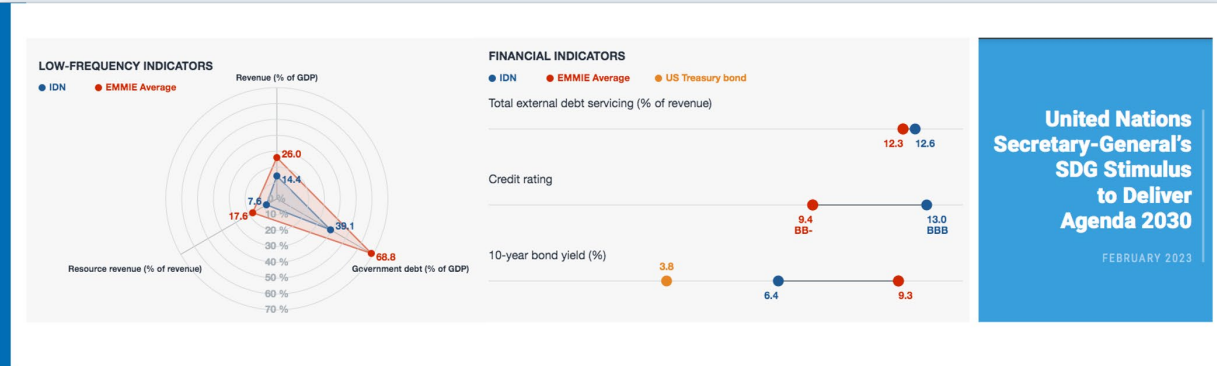
INTERLINKAGES

Maps synergies and trade-offs for the most relevant SDG targets (informed by trends and priorities, cognizant of constraints) to chart policy pathways with biggest multiplier effects.



FINANCE & STIMULUS

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



“ The insights delivered something unique --not a statistical gaps report or evaluation of development impact-- but a playbook, exploring both the strategies and tactics needed to advance SDG pathways.”

The 'development we want' is often held hostage by the 'growth we get'.

- 1 The 'growth we get' is often fossil-fuel driven, debt-fueled and frequently unjust. The default trajectory is seeding further economic, social, political, and environmental turmoil and divergence.
- 2 The 'development we want', is based on mutually reinforcing forces for human and planetary well-being and is emerging through bold choices and courageous leadership.
- 3 The ecosystem needed to enable this transformation involves lifting fiscal/financial constraints, but also strengthening institutional effectiveness, justice and governance.

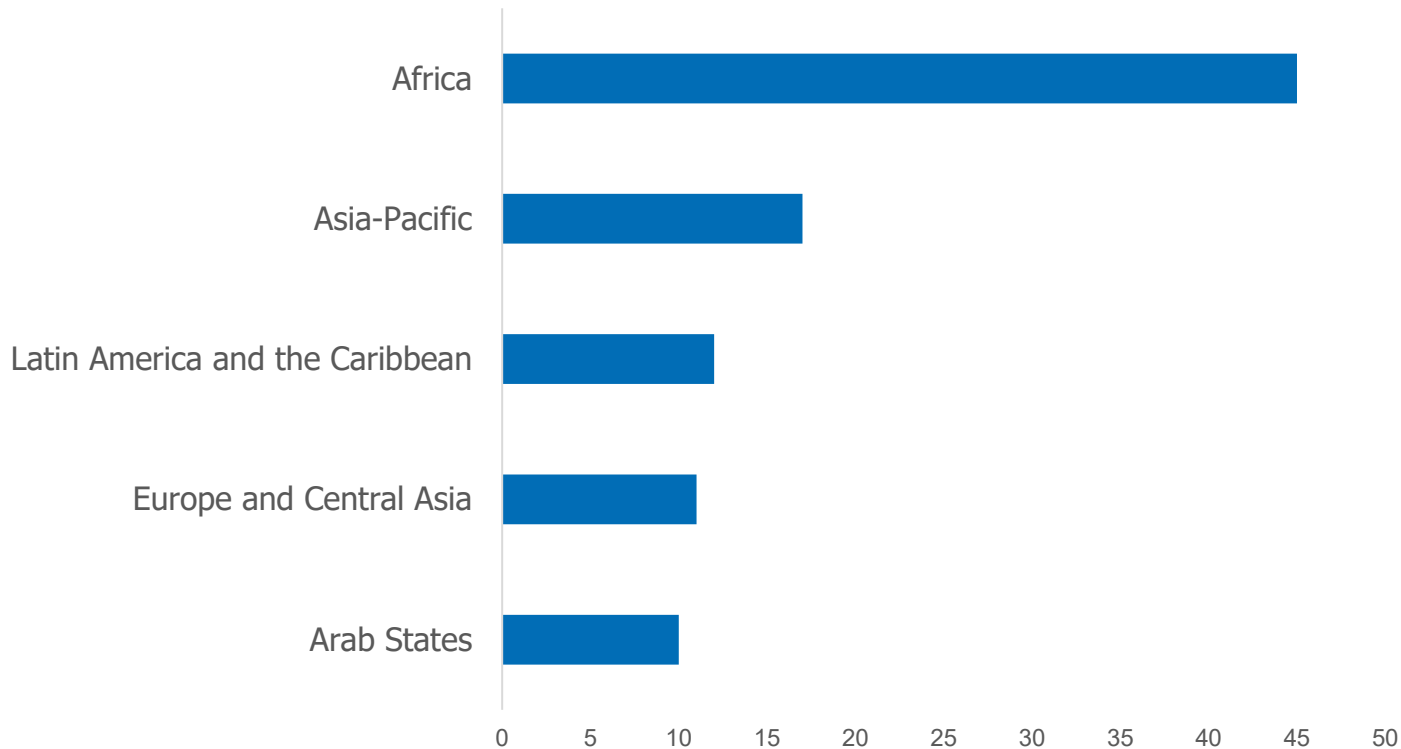
This first-of-its kind playbook supported government to prepare for the SDG Summit and implement the second half of the 2030, as well as points to macro- and micro-patterns that will endure beyond 2030.

INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS: COUNTRY COVERAGE



95

**Reports
across all
regions**



44

**Reports
across the
Africa
region**

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- CAR
- Chad
- Comoros
- Côte d'Ivoire
- DRC
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

META ANALYSIS: EMERGING PATTERNS IN THE REPORTS



While **“there is no trade-off between poverty and climate”** is the common refrain, most reports illustrate that growth/jobs/distributive in the present, will triumph deep decarbonization in the future.



After three years of mitigating crises, we are witnessing **“bread and butter”** moments for future development: jobs + social protection + cities + capable states.



“Debt overhang is here and it is damaging future development prospects for human development.” Countries are scrambling to service debt and leverage future investments at the same time.

GROWTH, CARBON AND POVERTY

GROWTH

Post pandemic, the economies of the 44 countries recovered at annual growth rates of more than 4 percent, on average, and are projected to continue expanding at annual rates of between 4 and 4.5 percent during the period 2023-2025.

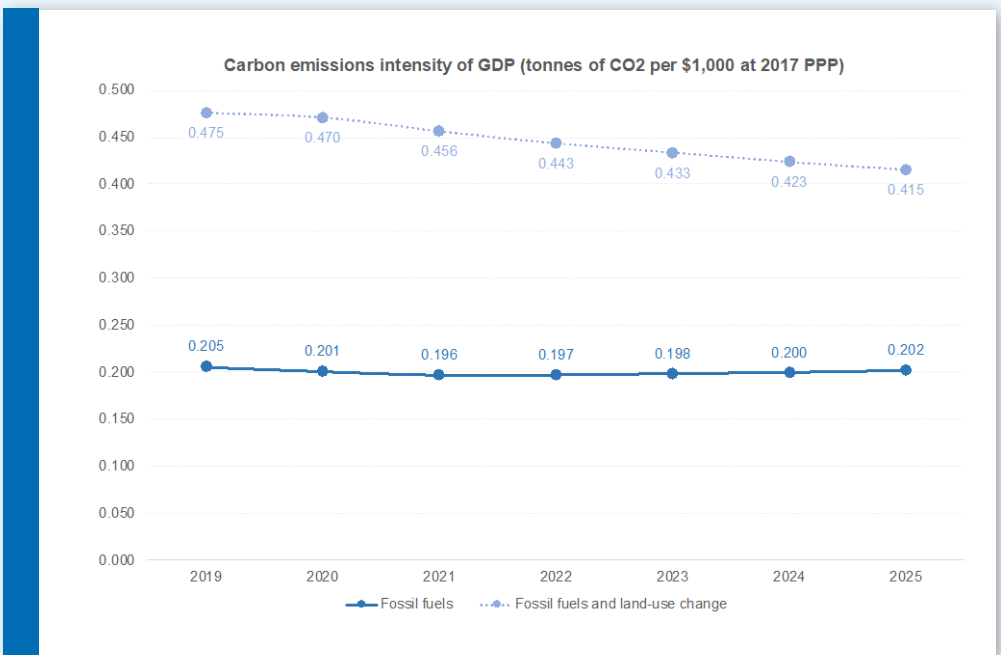
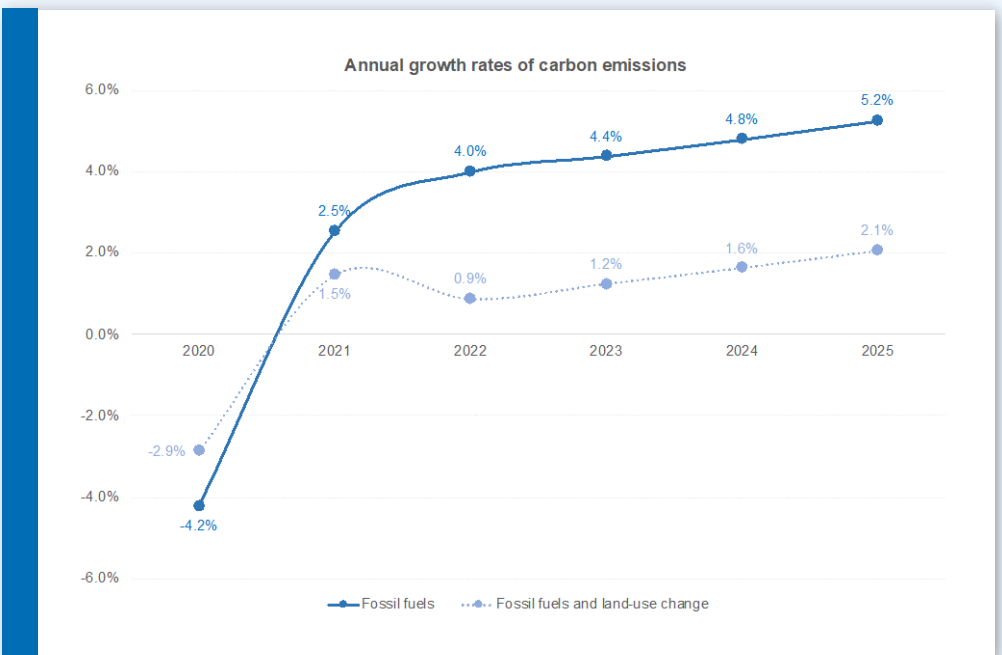
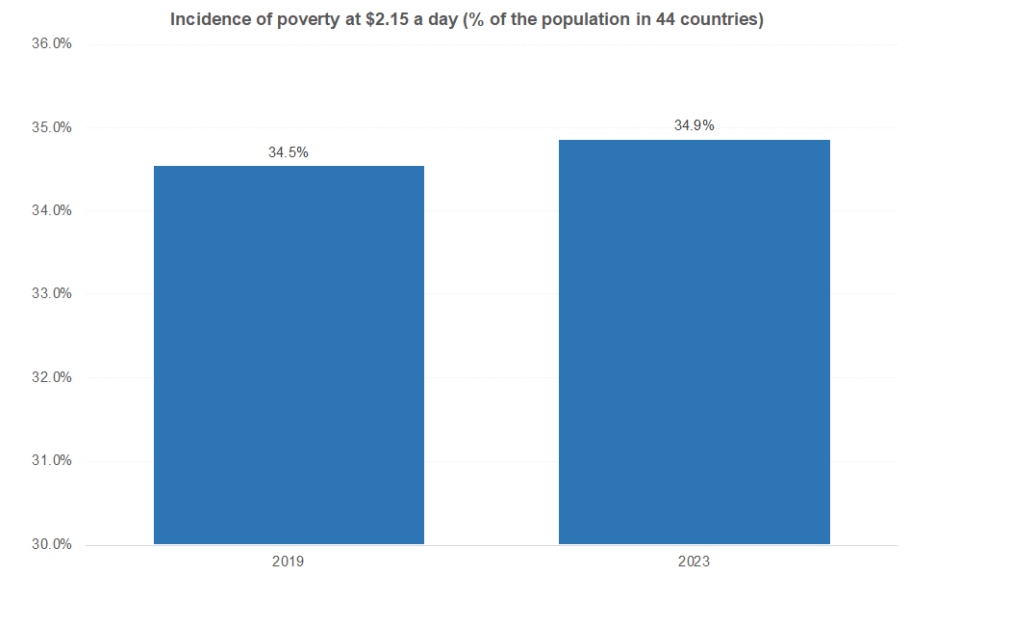
CARBON

This positive economic outlook is accompanied by an increase of carbon emissions (total tonnes). The pre-pandemic level was recovered in 2022 and since then total emissions from fossil fuel usage are expected to continue rising at annual rates of between 4 and 5 percent, and between 1 and 2 percent when also considering land-use change.

Further, the fossil carbon intensity of GDP has remained virtually unchanged at around 0.20 tonnes per \$1,000 (2017 PPP)

POVERTY

The positive economic outlook post-pandemic is not expected to exert a noticeable effect on reducing poverty. People living on less than \$2.15 a day is expected to only increase by 0.4% between 2019 and 2023. This highlights the urgency to address distributional challenges to accelerate SDG progress.



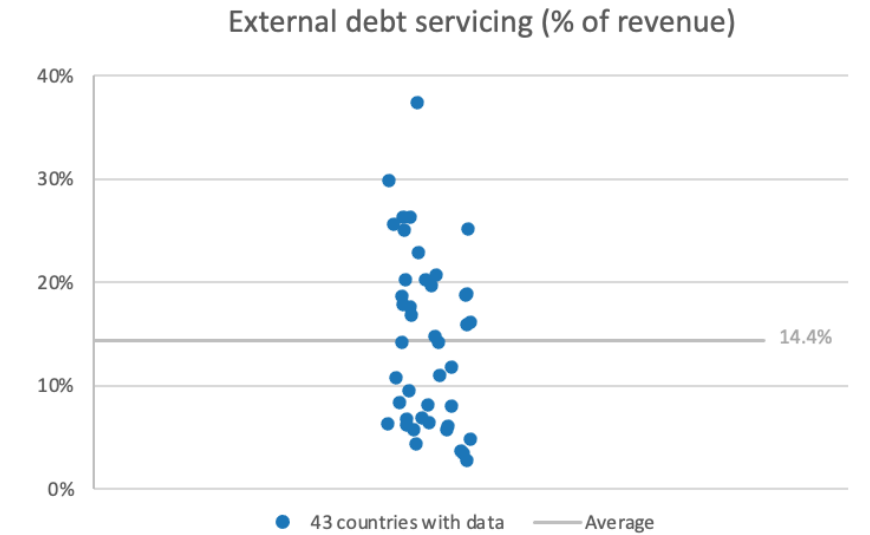
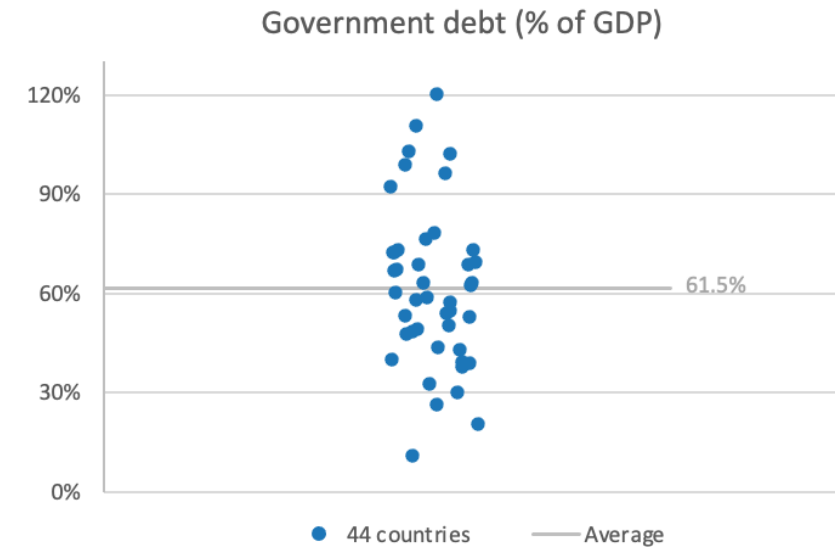
FISCAL AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS



DEBT

Twenty-one of the analysed countries struggle with above-average government debt of more than 61.5% of GDP.

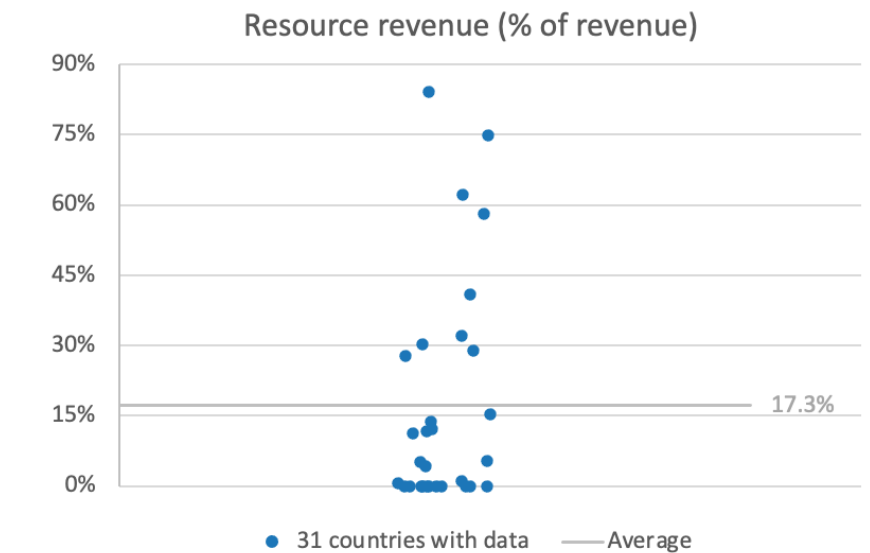
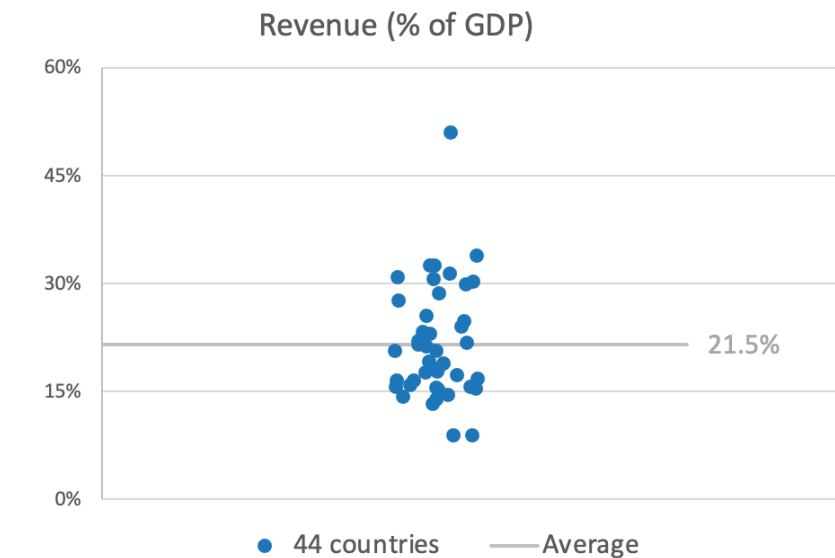
Countries need to spend on average 14.4% of their revenue on external debt servicing rather than being able to invest in sustainable development.¹



REVENUE

The analysed countries collect on average 21.5% of GDP in revenue. Thirty-five countries face particular challenges in raising sufficient resources to invest in national priorities (less than 30% of GDP).

On average, 17.3% of said revenue stems from natural resources.² Four countries are particularly dependent on natural resources and collect more than half of their revenues from the latter.



¹ Data on external debt servicing is available for 43 of the 44 analysed countries.

² Data on the natural resources share of revenue is available for 31 of the 44 analysed countries.

EMERGING PRIORITIES AND SDG LINKAGES IN THE REPORTS



- **8.1:** Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, by at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.
- **11.b:** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- **16.6:** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



- **5.4** Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities
- **7.2:** Increase global percentage of renewable energy
- **8.2:** Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
- **10.1:** Reduce income inequalities
- **16.6:** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



- **SDG target 8.5:** Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- **SDG target 9.1:** Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
- **SDG target 11.1:** Safe and affordable housing
- **SDG target 16.6:** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

SDG INTERLINKAGES: DRIVING PROGRESS ACROSS GOALS

Our insights look across national policy priorities to uncover where investment in one SDG can unlock progress on others. These clusters are an essential tool to pinpoint **the combination of policy choices that can rebalance social, environmental, and economic achievements.**

Decent work for all can drive SDG progress.

The most powerful policy combinations and co-investments in the region include:

- Eradicating extreme poverty
- Achieving universal health coverage
- Increasing the number of people with relevant skills for financial success
- Increasing renewable energy and improve energy efficiency
- Promoting policies to support job creation, growing enterprises, and youth employment, education and training
- Developing sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- Strengthening science, technology and innovation capacity



For Zimbabwe for instance, it is associated with progress through infrastructure investments and reinforces the goal of building resilient infrastructure (9.1) and promoting inclusive industrialization (9.2).

SDG INTERLINKAGES: DRIVING PROGRESS ACROSS GOALS

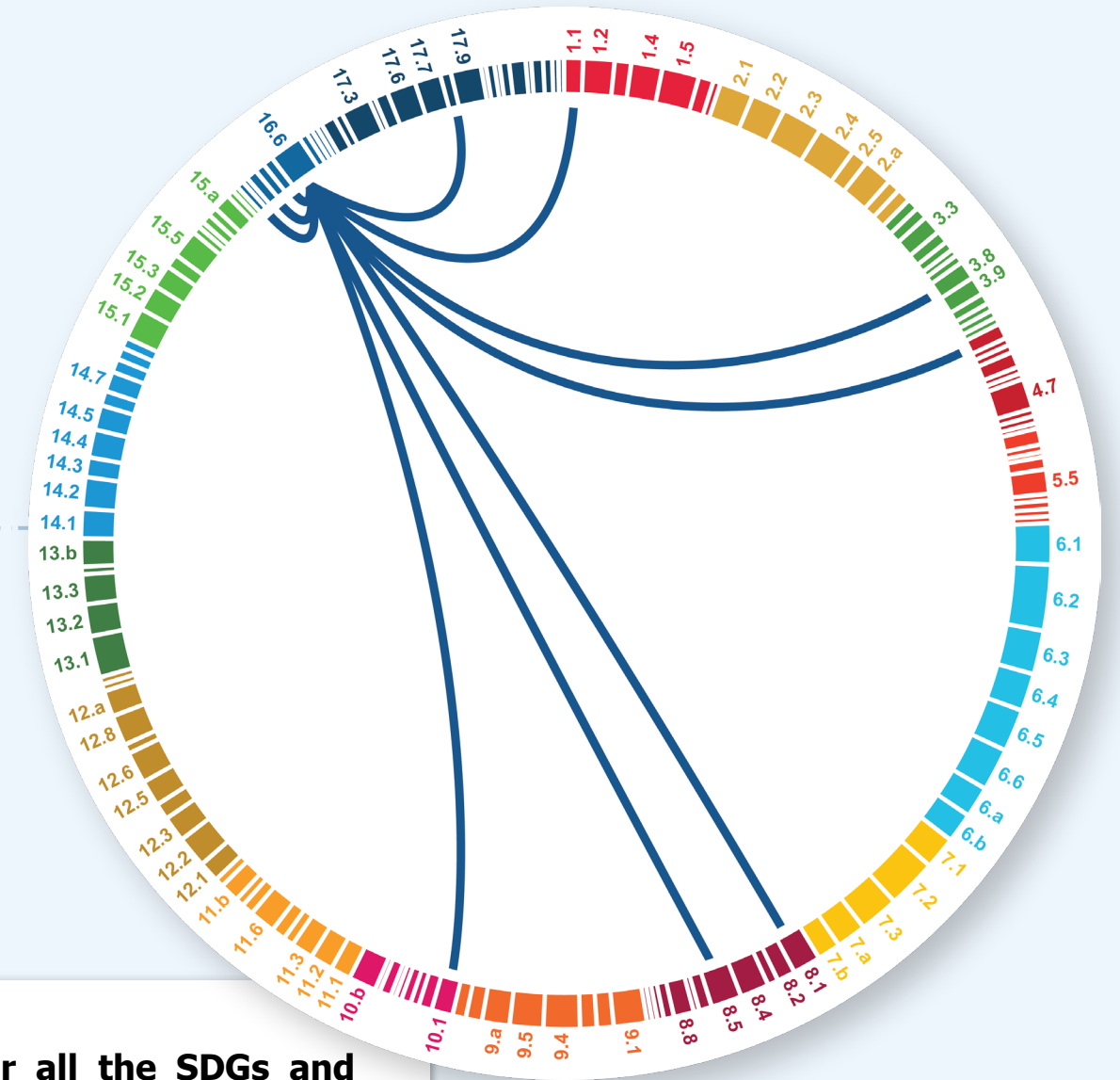
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Effective and accountable institutions are a driver of societal well-being.

The most powerful policy combinations and co-investments in the region include:

- Eradicating extreme poverty
- Achieving universal health coverage
- Free primary and secondary education
- Increasing renewable energy and improve energy efficiency
- Sustainable economic growth as well as full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Reducing income inequalities
- Reducing violence everywhere and promoting the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice
- Strengthening science, technology and innovation capacity

SDG 16.6 is an enabler for all the SDGs and Agenda 2030. E.g., progress on SDG 16.6 will enhance economic growth (SDG 8). SDG 16.6 will improve education outcomes (SDG 4) and in turn progress on SDG 4 will promote a culture of peace, justice and inclusion.



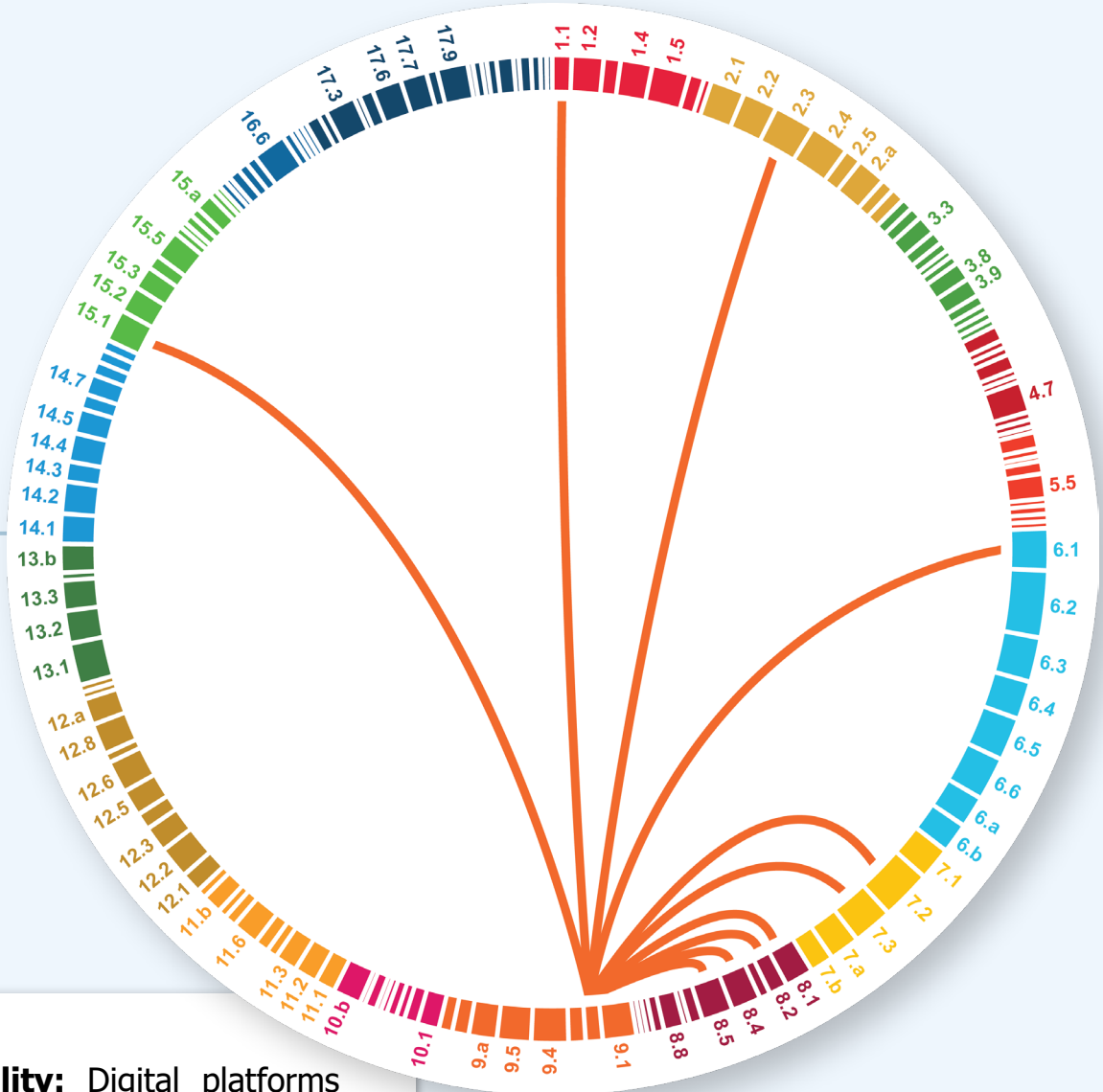
SDG INTERLINKAGES: DRIVING PROGRESS ACROSS GOALS

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A functioning and resilient infrastructure is the foundation of every successful community.

The most powerful policy combinations and co-investments in the region include:

- Eradicating extreme poverty
- Doubling the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
- Safe and affordable drinking water
- Sustainable economic growth, improve economic productivity and resource efficiency, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- Developing sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
- Conserving and restoring terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems



E-Governance and Accountability: Digital platforms can enable transparent and efficient governance, enhancing public service delivery and accountability mechanisms. E-governance facilitates citizen engagement and fosters trust in institutions and accelerate the achievement of other SDGs.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?

Transformation is possible, and inevitable as reinforced by the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 (GSDR 2023)

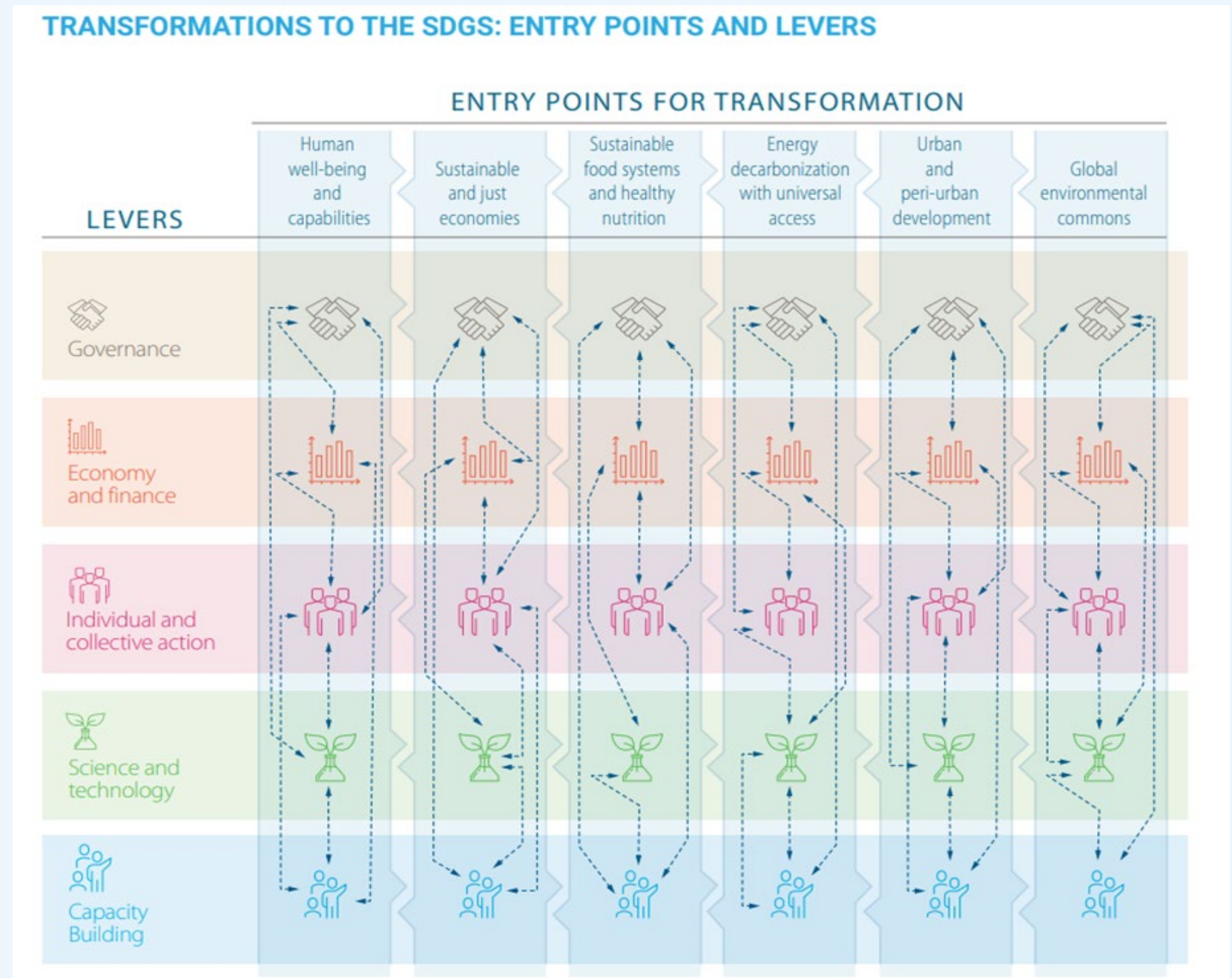
Policymakers stand to benefit by leveraging synergies and minimizing tradeoffs between SDGs, including accounting for spillovers across national borders.

Calls to action:

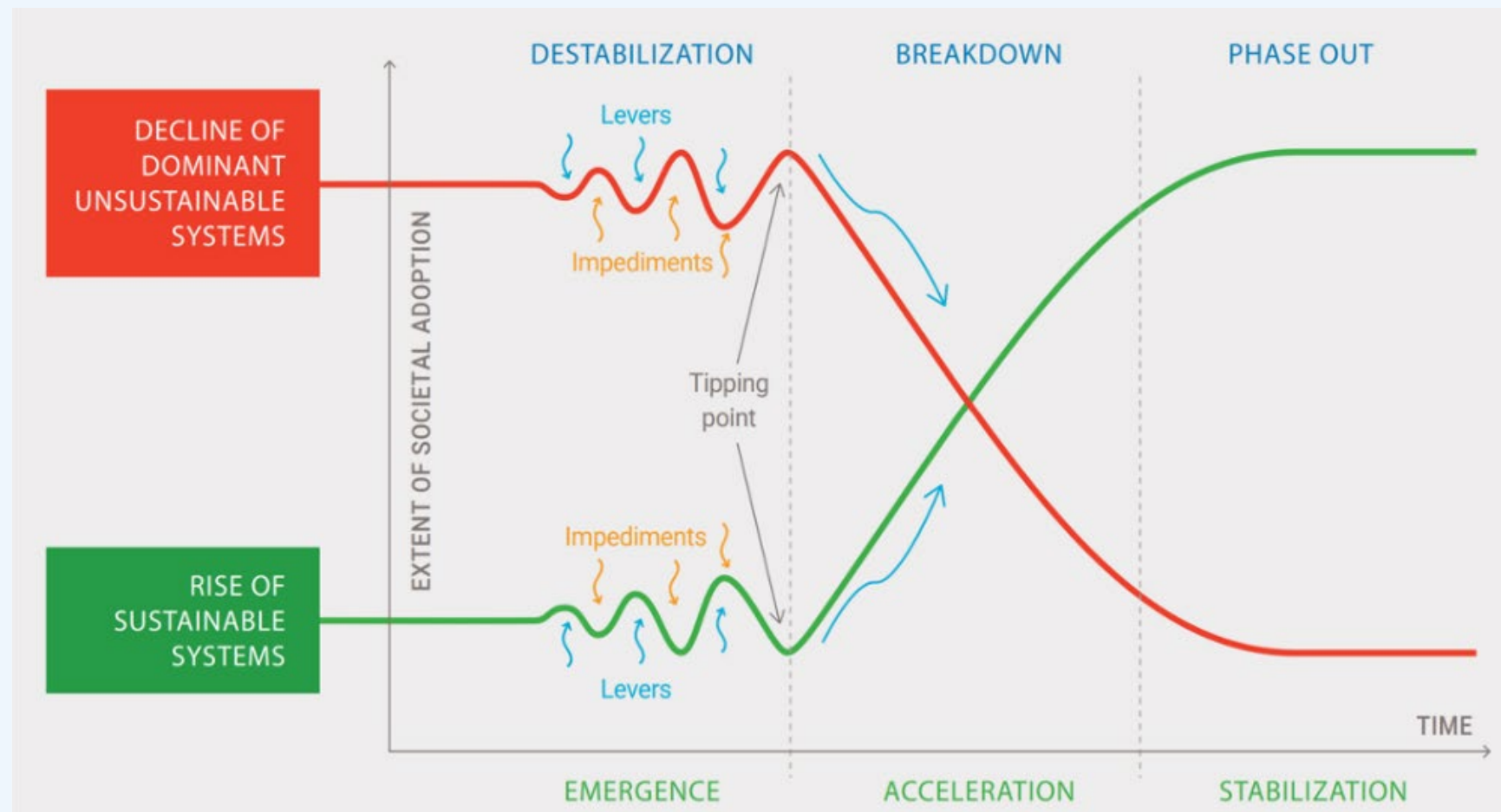
1. Carry out context-specific analyses of SDG interlinkages to guide priority setting
2. Closer collaboration between science and policy is needed; use available science-based tools (e.g., SDG Synergies and the iSDG framework)
3. Institutionalize the SDGs in policy impact assessment procedures (OECD recommendation on PCSD)

The GSDR 2023: Need for transformative and accelerated actions

- Business-as-usual strategies will not deliver the SDGs by 2030 or even 2050 but working through six key entry points to leverage interlinkages could unleash rapid progress.
- Locally relevant, synergistic and integrated implementation processes will be needed that break down the silos of public service and policymaking.
- Levers need to work together in a cohesive manner to overcome impediments
- **Identifying key interventions**
 - 6 entry points to transformation (2019 GSDR)
 - 5 Levers for transformation (2019 GSDR + capacity building added in 2023 GSDR) and crucial for enabling transformation
- The GSDR 2023 calls for the establishment of an SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Actions by 2024

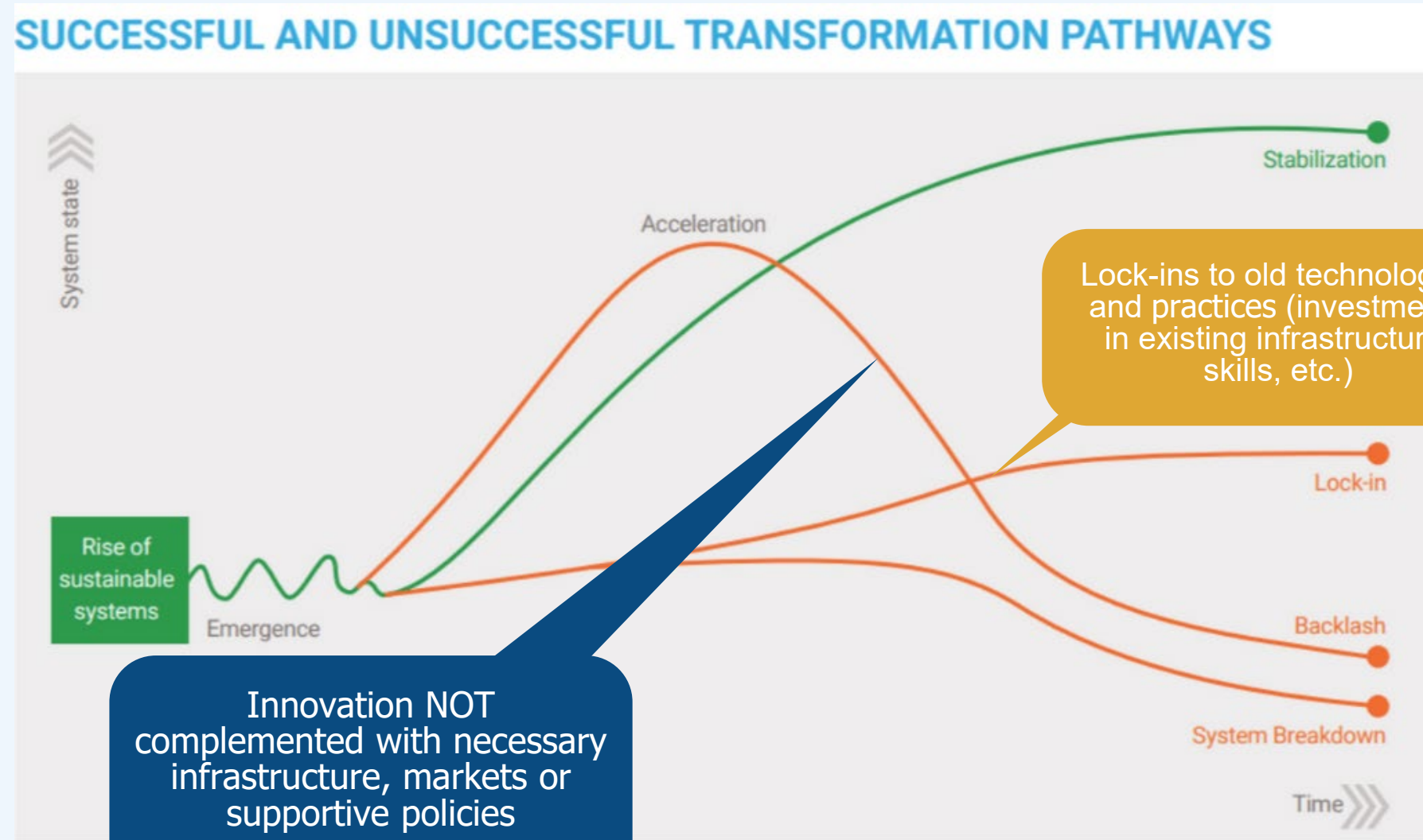


Driving Transformation through its phases on an S-curve



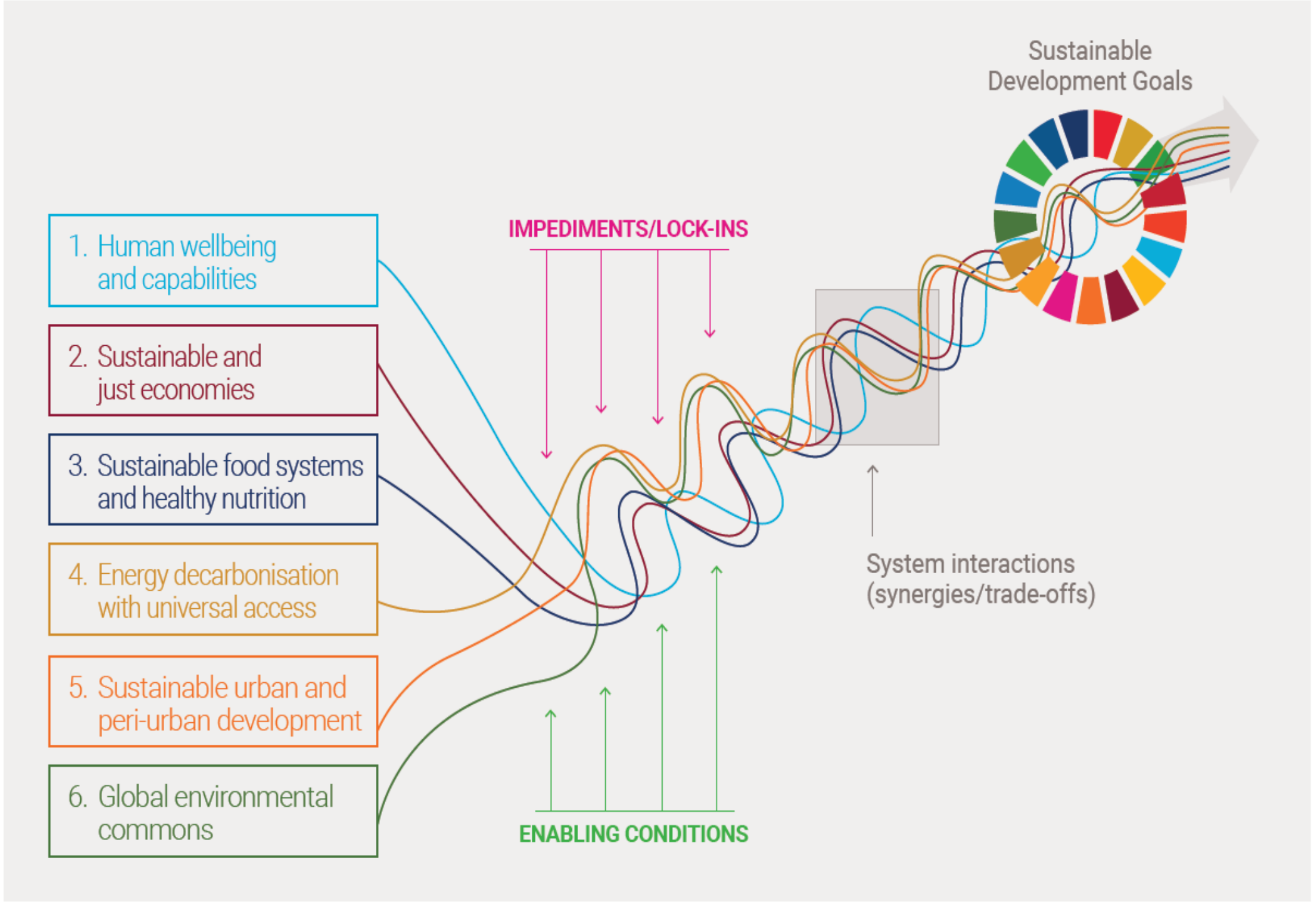
- Strategies for the SDGs must minimize impediments and support promising solutions specific to different phases of transformation:
 - *Emergence*
 - *Acceleration*
 - *Stabilization*
- Tipping points examples:
 - Major societal shifts in perspectives (single-use plastics)
 - Innovations suddenly become easier to use or more socially desirable (smart phone)
- **Strategic combinations of levers enable SDG solutions to move from *emergence*, to *acceleration*, to *stabilization***

Overcoming impediments for dynamic transformations



- **Acceleration** is Key
- Nurture **innovation**
- Give **strategic direction**
- Goals Matter
- **Foresight** capacity
 - Use scenarios and models
- Standardization and quality assurance
- Innovation (COVID-19 and virtual meetings)
- Powerful actors support new ways of thinking, doing and acting (electric car)

TRANSFORMATIONS ARE INTERLINKED ACROSS SYSTEMS – COHERENT ACTIONS CAN GENERATE SYNERGIES/MANAGE TRADE-OFFS



An SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Actions

Member states are encouraged to establish an SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Action by 2024. The framework should bring together local action with international cooperation and consider contexts, needs, aspirations and capabilities. As part of these transformation frameworks countries are encouraged to develop national plans for coordinated SDG action with local governments, industry associations and institutional investors.

The Transformation Frameworks should consist of 6 elements:

- National Plans for transformative accelerated actions grounded on science and inclusive processes to identify and harness SDG synergies and reduce negative transboundary spillovers.
- Local and industry-specific planning to feed into national plans.
- Initiatives through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to increase fiscal space, debt restructuring and relief and increased engagement from international financial institutions for SDG implementation.
- Investing in SDG-related data, science-based tools and policy learning with attention to closing SDG data, research and development financing gaps.
- Establishing partnerships to strengthen the science-policy-society interface.
- Investing in measures to improve accountability of governments and other stakeholders.

... For today, we will focus on the First Call to Action theme.

An SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Actions...

When implemented at a national level, a transformative framework for acceleration actions has several key qualities:

- It aligns with national priorities. Governments focus on SDGs that resonate with influential decision-makers and with the general public, which translates into political enthusiasm.
- It is comprehensive and clear. People understand why the government is moving in a particular direction and how their own efforts fit into the scheme. They are motivated to participate in the endeavor.
- It is organized through high-visibility, long-term programs that include visionary targets and practical milestones for tracking progress along the way.
- It produces rapid results and longer-term benefits, reinforcing the SDG initiatives' relevance and political viability.
- It is designed to attract private and public funding, backed by a national investment plan that dedicates local resources to the effort.
- It has political longevity, helping to build the credibility needed for ambitious, longer-term planning and action.
- It is innovative, taking advantage of technological advances such as generative AI (GenAI) and using existing tools and methods in next-generation ways.
- It engages partners in the private sector, including tech and financial companies, to participate with and support government efforts. This can increase the country's economic value proposition to the world, its revenue sources, and its overall capacity to deliver results. In effect, these partnerships galvanize the private sector to help deliver public sector value.
- It entails a public commitment, with specified budgets and human resources, to address priority SDGs.
- It calls for continuing investment in the core capabilities of government, including workforce capacity, digital technology, and relevant skills.

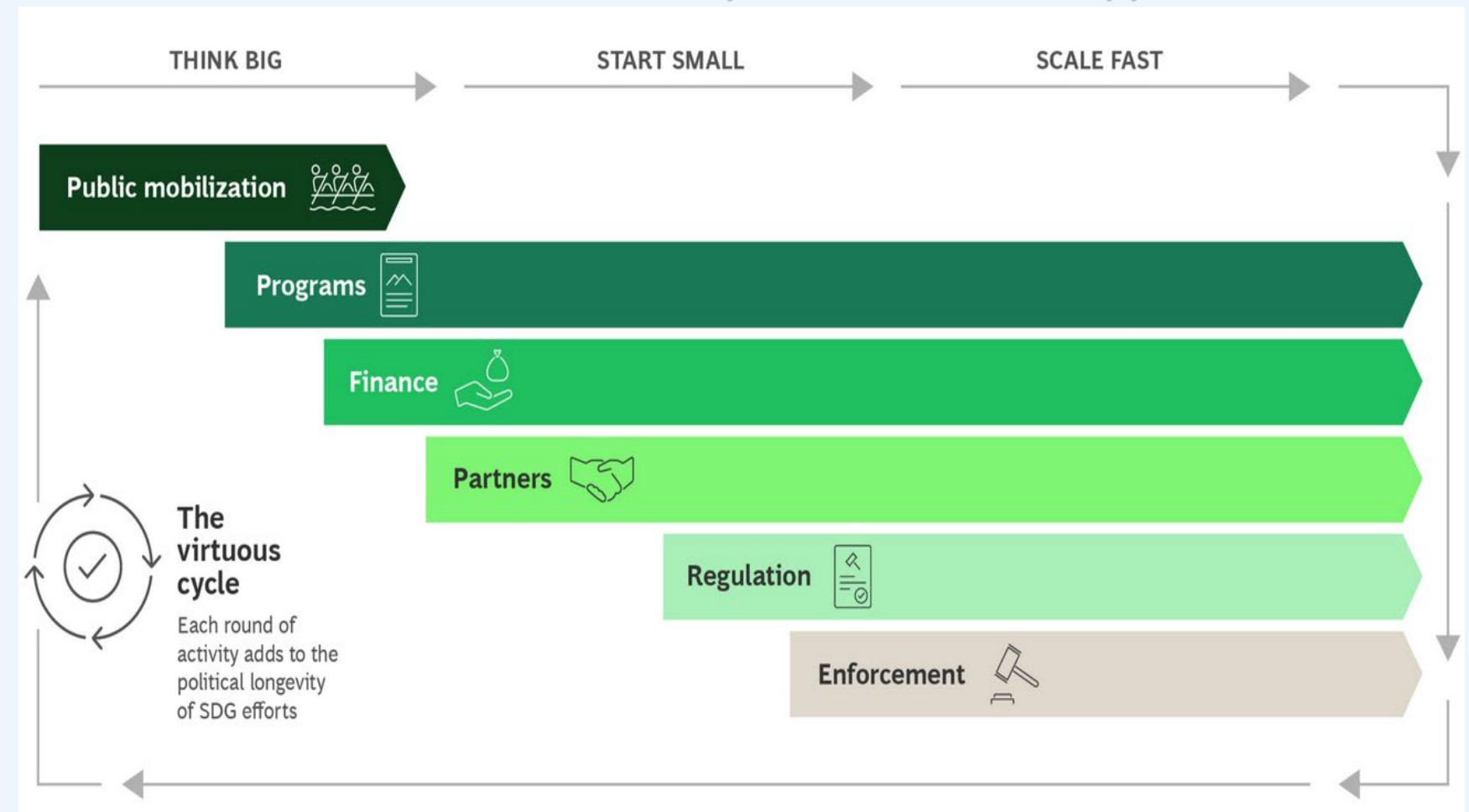
The challenge countries face is to bring all these elements together in a way that achieves results as this does not happen simply by assembling task forces and putting people in charge. Instead, it involves accelerating planned changes over time to reinforce progress, make the most of a country's resources, however limited, and invite dedicated commitment from a wide group of participants

Accelerated Actions Based on Leverage

Governments are recognized for what they can do, and the path for SDGs is no exception. Governments can use six major drivers as they follow the virtuous cycle of the impact acceleration approach.

- **Public Mobilization:** Develop an SDG strategy and agenda, mapping top national priorities to the SDGs. Craft a clear public narrative rooted in listening and responding to voices in the country, and openly commit resources to sustainable development objectives, chosen by the country, tied to an ambitious but achievable time frame.
- **Programs:** Design transformative, high-visibility programs that address high-priority challenges over a long-term period such as ten years. These programs should include robust monitoring and evaluation systems, grounded in measurable outcomes and key responsibility areas.
- **Finance:** Ambitious programs typically require intensive funding. During the “think big” phase, create a broad, comprehensive financing strategy to support impact acceleration. Put every possible source of income—including taxation, debt refinancing, and access to reserves—on the table. Coordinate innovative finance efforts with more conventional funding sources to ensure that the spending goes toward the SDGs and is not diverted to other uses.
- **Partners:** Governments cannot achieve the SDG goals on their own. They need to build and mobilize a robust multistakeholder ecosystem, with incentives for businesses to engage with government and civil society. In addition to the private sector, partnerships should include nonprofits, community groups, and global entities such as multilateral development banks (MDBs), bilateral funders, and international philanthropies.
- **Regulation:** Establish social and environmental regulations that encourage businesses to pursue SDG inclusive policies. These might include incentives to adopt inclusive hiring practices and reduce inequality (SDG 10) or to make more efficient use of water and energy (SDGs 6 and 7), among others.
- **Enforcement.** Governments should support publicly accessible reporting and auditing mechanisms to ensure SDG alignment.

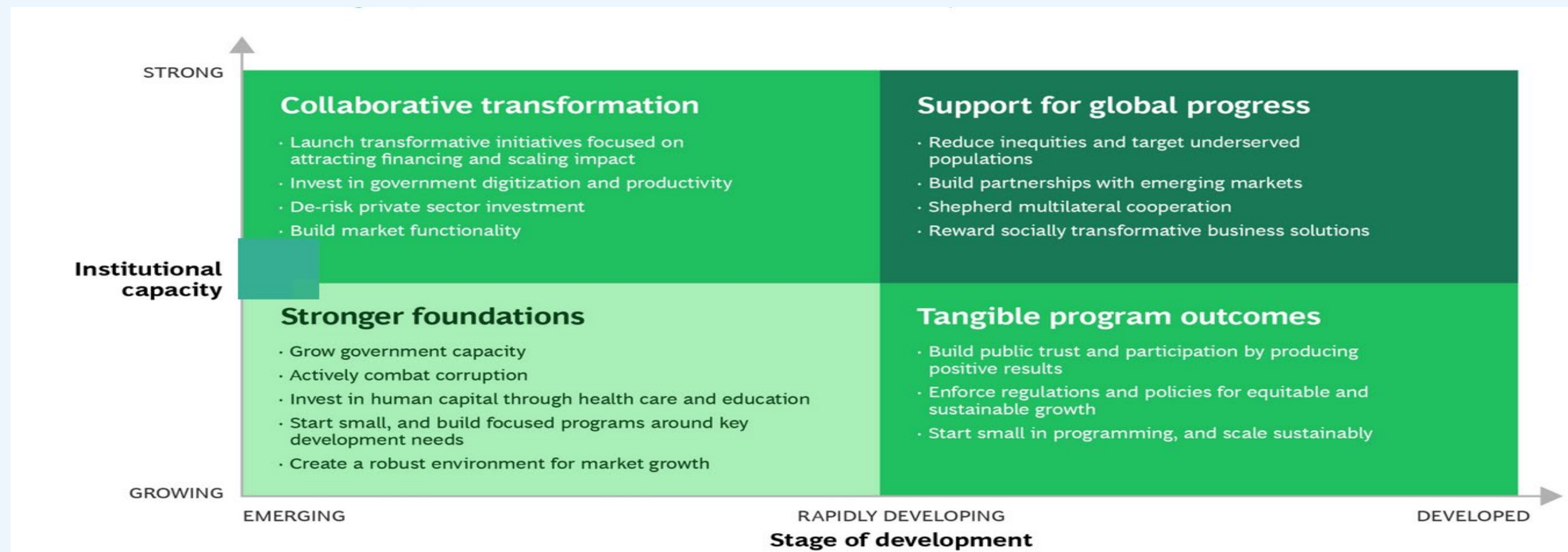
The 6 Drivers of Impact Acceleration Approach



Defining the SDG Transformation Accelerated Actions Pathway

- Governments face several choices as they initiate their own acceleration pathway, and they should select their priorities carefully—identifying the SDGs with the highest potential impact, based on their goals, national priorities, and geographical context.
- The acceleration pathway might vary from one country to another, depending on the country's national income level and its institutional capacity for transformative change.
- Emerging economies may need to build stronger institutions, for example, while mature economies may be able to focus on improving conditions for the underserved in their own countries—an important aspect of the SDGs—and on establishing partnerships with other countries and contributing to multilateral efforts as shown below:

Scaling up Activities for Different Countries Typologies



GSDR 2023 Calls to Action

- Establish an SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Action
 - Member states should set national plans prioritizing key SDGs and addressing bottlenecks
 - Business and local government roadmaps
 - Provide finance and integrate SDGs in budgeting
- Build capacities for transformation
 - Training, foresight, public engagement, negotiation skills
- Drive transformation through its phases and manage interlinkages
 - Identify interventions for six entry points, use science to assess interlinkages and international spill-overs
- Improve critical, underlying conditions for SDG implementation
 - Prevent conflict, ensure fiscal space, focus on marginalized groups
- Work with science
 - Invest in evaluation research, global South R&D, mechanisms for knowledge sharing

In Closing.....

Empowering local governments to take a proactive role in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals can lead to more effective and inclusive development. Strategies for enhancing local government engagement include:

- **Decentralized Planning:** Implementing decentralized planning processes that involve local communities in decision-making can ensure that development efforts are tailored to the specific needs of the region.
- **Capacity Building.** Providing training and support to local government officials in project management and data analysis. Sustainable Development Goals 2030 practices can enhance their ability to lead successful SDG initiatives.

The greater awareness and uptake of the SDG framework will enable stakeholders to align their efforts, resources, and policies with the global development agenda. By fostering commitment, building partnerships, and empowering local actors, we can catalyze transformative action towards a sustainable and inclusive future.



EXPLORE FURTHER
SDGPUSH.UNDP.ORG

<https://sdgs.un.org/gsdr/gsdr2023>

data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/

