



**UN SYSTEM SDG
IMPLEMENTATION
DATABASE**



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – A snapshot of the implementation of the SDGs by the UN System

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1. Introduction

The online [United Nations System Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Database](#) was launched by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in 2018 to capture information from UN system organizations regarding strategic decisions, programmes and measures adopted by their respective governing bodies, as well as specific measures and actions initiated or planned by their Executive Heads in relation to the SDGs. Updated annually, the database currently contains inputs from more than 50 UN system organizations. And it has served as an input for reporting to intergovernmental processes, including the General Assembly (GA), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of GA and ECOSOC.

This summary aims to provide a snapshot of information received from UN system organizations, building on their responses to the questionnaire distributed in December 2021 to update the online UN System SDG Implementation Database. It contains highlights shared by 25 UN system organizations around the 2022 theme of ECOSOC and HLPF “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” as well as their activities contributing to the implementation of the ten priority areas identified in the political declaration from the 2019 SDG Summit ([A/RES/74/4](#)). It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of UN system activities. Full submissions from individual UN system organizations can be accessed online in the [UN System SDG Implementation Database](#).

2. Questionnaire on the implementation of the SDGs by the UN system entities

On 25 June 2021, in an effort to strengthen the coordination function of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the General Assembly adopted resolution [75/290A](#). Among the series of measures contained in the resolution, a new [Coordination Segment](#) has been created to replace the Integration Segment and the informal meeting of the Council with the Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies. The Coordination Segment brings together Heads of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system organizations to provide forward-looking policy guidance to the upcoming work of ECOSOC and to ensure coherence and coordination and give direction to the policies and normative work of its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the annual theme of ECOSOC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Also in the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to renew the scope and focus of its annual Partnership Forum and to hold it back-to-back with the Coordination Segment. Held in consultation with stakeholders, the Partnership Forum features interactive discussions among countries, the UN system, including international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth, and other stakeholders and focuses on the exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council cycle and HLPF held under the auspices of the Council, particularly forward-looking actions as well as innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To inform the deliberations of the new ECOSOC Coordination Segment and the renewed Partnership Forum, in December 2021, UN DESA circulated a questionnaire to member entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs as well as UN Convention secretariats and research institutions ([ECESA Plus](#)) to seek information about innovative policies and analytical work related to the 2022 annual theme of ECOSOC and HLPF “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as well as initiatives recently launched or implemented.

The questionnaire contained the following questions:



1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the priorities of your organization?



2. In 2020/2021, how has your organization endeavored to support Member States to build back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Please select up to three high-impact initiatives to highlight, especially those that address interlinkages among the SDGs. How has your organizations co-operated with other UN system organizations in those efforts to achieve coherence and synergies?



3. Has your organization published or is it planning to publish any analytical work or guidance note or toolkits to guide and support recovery efforts from COVID-19 while advancing SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels? Please select up to three high-impact resources to highlight, especially those that address inter-linkages among the SDGs.



4. How has your organization engaged with stakeholder groups to support SDG implementation and COVID-19 recovery at national, regional and global levels? Please provide main highlights, including any lessons learned. If your organization has established multi-stakeholder partnerships in this regard, please describe them and provide links to relevant websites, if applicable.



5. Following the adoption of the 2019 SDG Summit declaration (GA resolution 74/4), where Member States outlined ten priority areas for accelerated action in SDG implementation, please highlight any major integrated and innovative policies or initiatives that your organization may have adopted in the following areas:

- 5.1 leaving no one behind;
 - 5.2 mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing;
 - 5.3 enhancing national implementation;
 - 5.4 strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions;
 - 5.5 bolstering local action;
 - 5.6 reducing disaster risk and building resilience;
 - 5.7 solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership;
 - 5.8 harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development;
 - 5.9 investing in data and statistics for the SDGs; and
 - 5.10 strengthening the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
-



6. In the lead up to the 2023 HLPF to be held under the auspices of the General Assembly (or 2023 SDG Summit), please provide your organization's recommendations on how to overcome challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, taking into account the thematic reviews and voluntary national reviews conducted to date.



7. Please review your organization's information contained in the UN System SDG Implementation Database. If you wish to submit any updates, please share details below.



UN Photo/Cia Park

3. Summary of responses

The following summary has been informed by responses from 25 UN system organizations¹ received as of 1 May 2022. The database remains open to receive additional inputs throughout the year. Please visit the database online [here](#) for detailed responses from each entity or for latest updates.

¹ Including regional commissions such as Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and United Nations intergovernmental and related bodies including Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Habitat (UN-Habitat), Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations University (UNU).

3.1. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the priorities of UN system organizations (based on Question 1)

The unprecedented disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant setbacks it has caused in human development around the world have challenged the United Nations system, not only to swiftly **adapt its own methods of work**, but also to rapidly **reassess and reorientate priorities** in the delivery of respective mandates, in order to ensure continued support to governments and other stakeholders to effectively respond to the pandemic while promoting a sustainable recovery guided by the SDGs.

Despite the postponement of many in-person plans and meetings due to COVID-19 related lockdowns and travel restrictions, UN system organizations have managed to ensure overall business continuity through a **rapid shift to online and digital means of work**, to minimize risk of infection among its work force. While most organizations were able to continue

their service delivery virtually, many even with increased outreach and improved results, for others infrastructure limitations challenged their ability to provide services at the pre-pandemic level. The lockdowns and travel restrictions also limited the ability for field work, monitoring and reporting for many organizations.

“COVID-19 has been an amplifier of discrimination and inequalities.” The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

As UN system organizations strive to support the international community to sustainably recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, research and analytical capacities of relevant UN system organizations have been directed to helping countries **understand the impacts of the pandemic and providing policy recommendations and capacity building assistance** in their respective areas of expertise. Several topics have been frequently highlighted by responding organizations in their adjusted priorities:

- The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in **increased inequalities, gaps and**

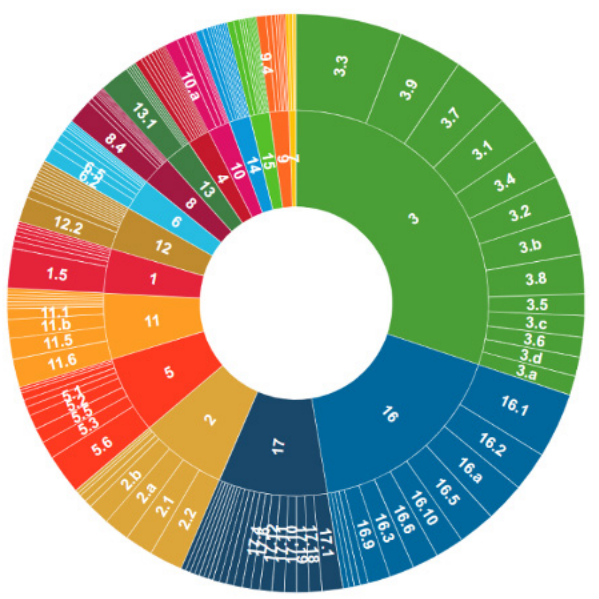


Figure 1: Reflection of linkage to most relevant SDGs based on inputs of Question 1 (created by [LinkedSDGs](#))



Figure 2: Word Cloud based on inputs of Question 1 (created by [LinkedSDGs](#))

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched its new Strategic Plan (2022-2025): Turning the tide against hunger. Aimed at combating global hunger and achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the plan focuses on helping governments address challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. The pandemic has created a more complex and volatile situation, increasing the number of people classified as chronically hungry across the globe. The plan incorporates combating hunger, increase gender equality and women's empowerment, nutrition integration and environmental sustainability to address the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs.

discrimination. Existing gaps were magnified, while new gaps were created, such as those seen in vaccine inequity. Many organizations found a renewed interest in reducing the social vulnerabilities further exposed by the pandemic. The pandemic highlighted inequalities and increased challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as: women and girls; indigenous people; people living in poverty; persons with disabilities; migrants and racial and ethnic minorities. **Organizations refocused their priorities to address those at the highest risk as well as identify the root causes of inequalities.**

•The increase in virtual work further emphasized the digital divide and the risk of leaving people behind. This exposure led to many organizations prioritizing increasing access to technology, connection and digital literacy among their missions. Furthermore, the shift to online schooling and online public services underlined the need to reduce the digital divide to continue providing services and schooling to those without the infrastructure.

“Now more than ever, the world needs to be able to rely on [information and communications technologies] and ITU's leadership in promoting universal, secure, reliable and affordable connectivity.” The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

•The COVID-19 pandemic further stressed the **interlinkages of the Sustainable Development Goals**. The pandemic highlighted the interconnectedness of each goal and the idea that they cannot be addressed in silos. Organizations worked to create an SDG-guided recovery from COVID-19, **building back better instead of a return to normalcy**. In addition, the pandemic exposed the necessity of being able to adapt plans and advance the **SDGs in differing and uncertain circumstances**. Organizations agreed that the pandemic showcased the need for an **integrated approach** to the SDGs, including increased **inter-agency partnerships**. Organizations also highlighted the positive impact **localized approaches** have in reducing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“COVID-19 has led to a greater focus on building back better in terms of green, inclusive and resilient development with an increased focus on women's economic empowerment, climate finance, biodiversity finance, clean energy finance, and food systems finance.” United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

•The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to **increase infrastructure, social protection, climate action, connectivity and trade** to avoid such devastating effects in the future. The supply chain shortages underscored the need for work in **safeguarding industries and agriculture**. The resulting economic crisis

further showcased the need for **MSMEs that are resilient and fully integrated into the global economy**. The shortages reinforced the need to focus on providing basic needs and services to all. The pandemic emphasized the need for a **greener economy**, with a focus on fairer debt management.

3.2 Initiatives, resources and partnerships highlighted by UN system organizations to support efforts at all levels to build back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda (based on Questions 2-4)

“The primary lesson of the pandemic is that the UN system would benefit from breaking siloed thinking and action to ensure that the interconnected nature of the SDGs is effectively addressed through agrifood transformations.”
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

“This, as already evidenced by the climate emergency, further demonstrates that bridging institutional silos, and coordination with different sectors and levels of government, as well as cohesive and participatory action beyond government level, are key success factors for effective risk governance.”
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

The 25 responding organizations as of 1 May 2022 have each highlighted a number of high-impact initiatives, resources, multi-stakeholder partnerships related to the 2022 annual theme of ECOSOC and HLPF, which are displayed in an interactive dashboard [accessible from here](#). The highlighted initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships have addressed longstanding challenges as well as COVID-19 related disruptions at national, regional and global levels. Resources have included analytical works, guidance notes or toolkits aimed at guiding and supporting countries' efforts to build back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

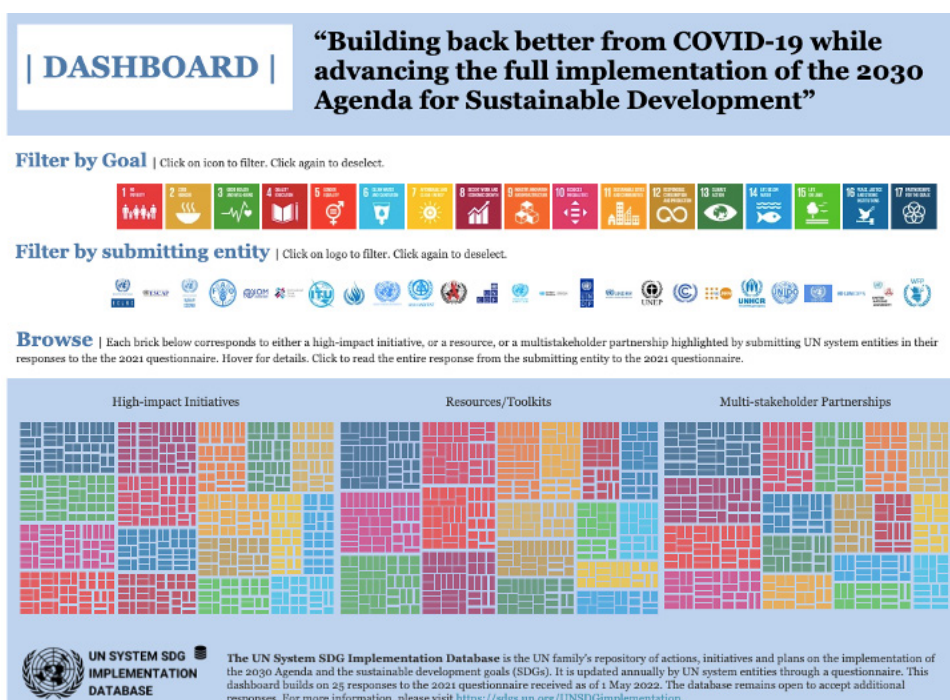


Figure 3: UN System SDG Implementation: 2022 HLPF Theme Dashboard

3.3 Integrated and innovative policies and initiatives highlighted by UN system organizations in support of the ten priority areas identified in GA resolution 74/4 from the 2019 SDG Summit declaration (based on Question 5)

3.3.1 Leaving no one behind

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had its greatest impact on those already furthest behind. It has highlighted the need for social, economic and financing policies and governance strategies that promote equity and inclusion." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

"How a displaced person fares in the future, whether in the country of asylum or origin or in a third country, depends on the skills, experiences and qualifications, mental and physical health, material assets and attitudes maintained and developed while displaced." The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the need for **inclusive and effective policy** that truly leaves no one behind. UN system organizations have committed to stressing this principle through strong measures to reduce inequalities. UN agencies **directed attention and support to the most vulnerable groups**, such as persons with

disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, youth and women, migrants and displaced people. Constant efforts were made in the fight against gender-based violence. Recognizing **women's valuable role in sustainable development**, organizations strenuously promoted female leadership in environmental protection, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and drugs use prevention. Highlighting the urgent requirement for the **empowerment of migrants and displaced people** for sustainable development, discussions centered on ways to generate income and jobs for refugees and host families. Organizations engaged in **knowledge acquisition related to older persons' needs** to deliver policy guidance and in activities to foster equity in secondary and higher education.

In light of poverty eradication, organizations dedicated many services, such as water and sanitation, to countries already facing development challenges. Moreover, they provided support to demographics heavily affected by the economic crisis, namely the **informal, self-employed, domestic and unpaid care workers**. Organizations dealt with the rise of women's unpaid domestic and care work during the COVID-19 pandemic and further proposed in some cases care society policies to guarantee the rights of the care sector workforce and beneficiaries. Huge economic inequalities prompted organizations to **promote inclusive business and finance**. As digital innovations turned out to be fundamental tools for the continuity of working activities and studies, UN agencies prioritized **internet accessibility**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) published several reports analysing the impact of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific. One particular report, "[COVID-19 and the Unpaid Care Economy in Asia and the Pacific](#)" focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the rampant unpaid care economy. The report was supplemented by an online forum for policy dialogue on ways to increase empowerment of unpaid care workers, particularly women and girls.

The Family Business for Sustainable Development Initiative, implemented by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provides family businesses worldwide with the tools and means to integrate sustainability into their conventional business models. The initiative aims to contribute to global sustainable development through inclusive growth. The deliverables of the initiative provide family businesses with the necessary tools to increase their resilience and sustainability.

advocacy and coherent policies in favor of open access to information and communication technologies (ICTs). Furthermore, they duly considered the existing gaps and risks of the digital era through providing guidance on disaggregated data and organizing cybercrime

prevention trainings with a particular focus on child sexual abuses. Finally, UN agencies emphasized the multilevel essence of 2030 Agenda implementation, encouraging adaptability of visions and practices at local level.



UN Photo/Harandane Dicko

3.3.2 Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing

"Weak fiscal positions are also severely constraining the ability of many economies in the region to address growing climate challenges and manage a green transition." United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Prepared by the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development as the main substantive input to the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, the 2021 Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR) highlighted the risk of a sharply diverging world in the near term where the gaps between rich and poor widen because some countries lack the necessary financial resources to combat the COVID-19 crisis and its socioeconomic impact. Short-term risks are compounded by growing systemic risks that threaten to further derail progress, such as climate change. The report recommended immediate actions to prevent this scenario and put forward solutions to mobilize investments in people and in infrastructure to rebuild better. It also laid out reforms for the

global financial and policy architecture to ensure that it is supportive of a sustainable and resilient recovery and aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

The COVID-19 pandemic clearly exposed the imbalances and weaknesses of the global financial framework. In this regard, UN organizations channeled efforts to **redistribute liquidity** from developed to developing countries and advocated for **debt infrastructure reforms** aimed at increasing debt repayment capacity. Organizations underpinned a wide range of projects offering opportunities for Member States to present ideas for investments, increasing access to finance for women, migrants and displaced persons and incentivizing pooled funding and partnership platforms.

A great focus concerned **transparency** in cross-border money transfers and in stock exchanges. Working in cooperation with UN Regional Country Offices, organizations provided countries with funds suitable for investments in public wealth through tax collection on imported and exported goods and curbs on illicit financial flows. To implement SDGs in cities, investments largely revolved around **affordable housing, renewable energy and health infrastructure**.

The [Global Investors for Sustainable Development \(GISD\) Alliance](#) is a group of 30 of the world's top business leaders convened by the UN Secretary-General to develop and implement solutions that scale up private finance and investment necessary to achieve the SDGs. GISD's members have worked with the UN and other partners to deliver standards, tools, and products to unlock long-term investment to advance the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. These include the Sustainable Development Investing definition, the UNDP-GISD SDG Investor Platform, a net-zero climate exchange traded fund (ETF), a set of SDG-related sector-specific metrics, etc. In a dedicated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GISD Alliance members issued a Statement of Action, which outlines a number of actions to confront the tremendous human suffering caused by the pandemic. Moreover, the GISD Alliance's Call to Action for COVID-19 bond issuance encourages companies and governments to issue innovative social bonds to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It defines the direct and indirect challenges presented by the pandemic and outlines the expectations for a COVID-19 bond issuance in alignment with the SDGs.

United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)' Governance for Sustainable Development project contributes to discussions on implementation and follow-up of the SDGs. It proposes policies and frameworks for a long-term transformation towards sustainable societies, with a strategic focus on developing multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilise knowledge, technology, and financial resources for achieving the SDGs. The project analyses national goal-/target-setting and implementation processes and explores the role and design of (sub-)national and regional science-policy interfaces and their local and global interlinkages.

3.3.3 Enhancing national implementation

"At both the government and UNCT level, UNFPA provides data and statistical capacity support in tracking and reporting on a range of SDG indicators, including those SDG indicators requiring census data for their computation. In some instances, UNFPA has leveraged data layering techniques (combining small area estimation with geospatial mapping) to support governments in mapping and identifying pockets of vulnerability at the subnational level- an important and innovative means of leveraging data to ensure that no one is left behind." United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UN system organizations increased their efforts in supporting national implementation of the SDGs, including through assistance in the preparatory processes for the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**. Organizations sought ways to improve local and regional knowledge of the SDGs, including through the creation of **knowledge hubs, partnerships and e-governance tools**.

Organizations further acknowledged the need for **increased statistical capacities at the national level**. In order to properly review, monitor and track SDG progress, there needs to be improved, accessible statistical data and information systems. Additionally, the need to map misinformation and strengthen national response to misinformation was also mentioned.

3.3.4 Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions

"Youth need to be explicitly targeted to ensure inclusive economic development that is resilient to future crises and shocks and contributes to the realization of the SDGs." Food and Agriculture (FAO)

UN system organizations strive to **create solutions that are sustainable, reliable, resilient and inclusive. A whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach** to strengthening institutions has been emphasized. Many organizations stressed the importance of **sharing knowledge and best practices** at all levels, such as through online platforms, curriculum development (such as the Curriculum on Governance for Sustainable Development Goals), or through linked governments and regional and sub-regional platforms. Organizations suggested connecting existing structures together to improve **coherence and synergy**. The need for increased civil servant training was also underscored.

Organizations acknowledged the importance of inter-agency partnerships with an integrated approach. The prioritization of **including youth** in institutions was repeatedly stressed as a necessary step. Furthermore, organizations highlighted the importance of **reducing digital divide and strengthening digital governance**.

The [Joint IOM-UNDP Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development](#) launched in 2019, continues to work towards mainstreaming migration into government policy planning and programming. With the goal of creating an integrated approach to ensure that good migration governance support sustainable development, the programme works with 11 countries to apply a whole-of-government approach to migration governance. The programme works to ensure policies and trends include migrants and hosts when planning health, employment, education, social security and human rights policies.

“Institutional and policy innovations at all levels can accelerate the implementation of SDG 16 and promote integrated approaches to tackle complex challenges including conflict, increasing inequalities, gender inequality, social and economic insecurity, climate change and rapid technological disruption.” United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

3.3.5 Bolstering local action

“The aim is to foster targeted local action towards integrity in the areas of human rights, labour standards, equal opportunity, code of conduct, health and safety, quality management and environmental management.” United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Empowering local and regional leaders to implement the SDGs has been a priority for many UN organizations. Many organizations placed particular focus on **involving youth and**

local authorities to work together to increase local resilience. Organizations showcased many ways that **local action can lead to successful implementation** of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Working in collaboration with **United Nations Country Teams and Resident Coordinator Offices**, organizations worked to further advance SDG progress at the local level, including providing support and assistance to **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**. For example, UN-Habitat created and managed several online platforms, including the Local 2030 Coalition and the [Urban Agenda Platform](#) to further increase local action towards sustainable development. The various platforms work to provide skills, tools, knowledge to local organizations while connecting them all towards a common goal of sustainable development.

Organizations further stressed the importance of **community knowledge and local strategies** as an untapped source of information. It

The [Local2030 Coalition](#), spearheaded by UN-Habitat, has been reformed into a networking platform for local and regional governments and other stakeholders to advance the localization of SDG implementation. The platform creates space for local, regional and national governments, businesses, community-based organizations, the United Nations system and other local actors to foster collaboration and share solutions, best practices, strategies and lessons learned to improve the localized implementation of the SDGs. UN-Habitat uses the platform to support the work of UN Country Teams and UN Resident Coordinators by providing guidance on urbanization dynamics.

The [District Energy in Cities Initiative](#) by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) aims to support local and national governments in understanding and implementing policies to invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient district energy systems. The goal of the programme is to double the rate of energy efficient buildings by 2030 through local action and policy change. The programme currently provides support to 14 countries.

was suggested to create a dedicated space for dialogue between local governments, stakeholders, and UN organizations to continue promoting a common vision of sustainable development and provide a space for knowledge sharing. One such example is the **Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF)**, held every year at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) as a special event. The importance of **inter-agency collaboration** and **multi-stakeholder partnerships** was also underscored as a vital tool to advance sustainable development.

3.3.6 Reducing disaster risk and building resilience

"We have mainstreamed resilience, prevention and preparedness, and emphasized the complementarity between humanitarian, development and peace-responsive efforts. We are strengthening emergency preparedness, anticipatory action and response systems so that they are more flexible and adaptable." United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNDRR provides leadership and support in accelerating global efforts in disaster risk reduction, convening and coordinating risk reduction activities towards a more resilient future that encompasses the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The [Sendai framework for Disaster Risk reduction 2015-2030](#) is being implemented through the **Sendai Framework Monitor**, which measures progress through its indicators, and the **Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework** that makes recommendations for action.

High quality risk analysis is extremely vital to inform development decisions, strengthen governance in current emergencies and preparedness for future ones. UN organizations stressed the importance of **knowledge acquisition and sharing**, including founding research centers and training institutes. Many organizations reported on relevant convening of meetings, coordination mechanisms and working groups. Many also shared **capacity building and awareness raising activities for disaster**

In cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNDRR established [Centre of Excellence for Disaster and Climate Resilience](#) in 2021. The Centre of Excellence aims at gathering climate and disaster risk thought leaders and practitioners to advance joint-research, policies and capacity-building. The Centre will perform as an information hub to achieve comprehensive disaster and climate risk management at the global, regional, nation and sub-national levels with a particular focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

Launched by UNESCAP, [Risk and Resilience Portal](#) provides information on building resilience to disasters and climate impacts to bridge the science policy gaps that currently exist. There is a vast array of scientific information on hazards, climate change, social, economic and health data and it can be used by countries to monitor climate and disaster related SDG Targets and build efficient risk informed decisions that span across multiple sectors.

risk reduction. In some cases, organizations engaged in methodology development to help countries assess economic impacts of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, and the vulnerability of displaced persons. This attempt facilitated the **consideration of displaced persons' needs and the adaptation of humanitarian and development responses.** The scientific field provided necessary information on climate change assessments of extreme events simulations, and meteorological forecasting enhancement. Many reports were published, and some organizations have disseminated guidelines to develop communication plans for emergencies. Many UN system organizations directed financial support to **humanitarian interventions after natural disasters.** Some funded activities to strengthen resilience of impacted or at-risk populations. Funds were allocated to the agricultural sector, to telecommunication networks and digital infrastructure, and to urban adaptation of vulnerable settlements. Some developed insurance schemes and disaster risk financing strategies for Pacific islanders. An **integrated approach** to DRR has been underlined, highlighting for instance, the connection between DRR and health within the fight against AIDS and all infectious diseases in general.

"It is the most vulnerable communities at the forefront of disaster which often lack resources to effect meaningful change and oftentimes carry the highest burden of HIV." The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

3.3.7 Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership

Through their respective mandates, UN system organizations supported Member-State-led deliberations to enhance **international cooperation and global solidarity.** UN system organizations also engaged in consultations with a wide range of stakeholders and encouraged national and regional partnerships with stakeholders to enable flows of know-how and expertise within and between countries. Strengthening **multi-stakeholder partnerships** has also been emphasized as an important asset to tackle common challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cooperation touched upon a wide array of issues. On the financial side, coalitions worked on **global liquidity redistribution, reforms of debt architecture, taxes revenues and resources mobilization.** With the aim of catalyzing funding for sustainable development, several UN organizations agreed upon common agendas of action. Many UN organizations worked towards **trade facilitation through the reduction of trade costs, improvement of regulatory compliance and the creation of databases on trade trends and arrangements.** Some UN agencies provided help to private sector companies in mitigating impacts of COVID-19. Many engaged the private sector towards sound policies and sustainable technologies for industrial development. Some organizations made efforts to increase **investment op-**

Framework for Organizational Decision-Making Process in Water Reuse for Smart Cities (SMART-WaterDomain) is an international project by United Nations University (UNU) with 11 partners from research institutes in Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, and Japan. It aims to develop a systematic framework to initiate the intelligent reuse of wastewater resources, and additionally will serve as an assessment mechanism for companies and industry. This project actively supports the interface between public and private stakeholders, and the cross-sectoral synergies have the potential to facilitate the effective connection of water and complementary sectors, such as energy and waste, as well as advocating water reuse.

opportunities in SDGs also by delivering a toolkit for FDI according to developmental needs and priorities of countries.

The global partnership on transparency in trade ensures that resources are most effectively used and access to trade data is available to large groupings including small and medium sized enterprises." United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

To address the health emergency, some UN organizations collaborated in the **delivery of vaccines** and for improved use of digital technologies for health services. Many coalitions emerged to reduce CO2 emissions in the transport and energy sectors. Data collecting and sharing was also crucial to address the COVID-19 pandemic related effects and digital networks were founded to exchange information also in other fields such as corruption.

3.3.8 Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development

Coordinated by UN DESA and UNCTAD, the UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (IATT) is a key component of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) mandated by the 2030 Agenda. The IATT brings together the collective, aggregate and joined-up UN system-wide effort in harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It includes 46 UN organizations and over a hundred staff members active in ten workstreams. The IATT has delivered a series of capacity building activities such as online training workshops on STI attended by policymakers from developing countries and it has published several reports among which the Inter-Agency Report on emerging

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the Global Methane Pledge, a US-EU led initiative aims at reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2020, with more than 100 countries joined.

The [Guidebook for the Preparation of Science, Technology and Innovation \(STI\) for SDGs Roadmap](#) has been developed by IATT, in cooperation with Japan and the Joint Research Centre of the EU and with coordination of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). It is the result of a great analytical and operational work on STI Roadmaps and action plans for the SDGs and it provides support to countries part of the Global Pilot Programme, in advancing the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

science, frontier technologies and the Sustainable Development Goals and “The COVID-19 pandemic: a wake-up call for better cooperation at the science-policy-society interface” can be mentioned.

“The pandemic demonstrated that people-centred technologies, essentially internet access and digital governance, must be taken as a basic right. The digital divides between and within countries and communities have to be bridged to stop depriving the half of the world’s population that remains ‘offline’ from access to services and opportunities, such as education, employment, health and mobility.”
United Nations Habitat (UN-HABITAT)

Considering that fast advances in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) have relevant impacts not only on the economy of countries, but also on societies and the environment, UN System stressed the need to collaborate with external experts on STI and to advance **digital cooperation for sustainable development**. The **digital divide** was the main challenge UN organizations committed to address enhancing

data architecture and digital ecosystems. Many UN organizations were actively involved to identify key obstacles that hinder the development of an **inclusive digital economy** and instituted advisory groups with technological expertise to enhance science-based decision making through reports publication. Their focus was primarily directed at developing countries, especially in Africa, and organizations helped states in developing innovations or in understanding and monitoring their status of digital transformation. Organizations conducted capacity building workshops and delivered guidebooks on how to attract FDI in digital economy and catalyze investments in research and innovation, also for adaptation and resilience to climate change. All organizations advocated for the **exchange of innovative practices on leveraging digital technologies for SDGs implementation**. Many organizations developed platforms for up-to-date information exchange concerning among others, e-commerce, diaspora communities and refugees’ rights. Conferences on STI and Innovation, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) such as the **Internet Governance Forum, World**

The United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU) founded [CYB4COVID](#), a comprehensive repository of cybersecurity expertise related to COVID-19, assisting countries, businesses and citizens in their response to amplified and new threats in the digital space during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summit on the Information Society Forum and STI Forum attracted thousands of participants. Some organizations founded centers bringing together innovators and entrepreneurs to develop creative solutions towards the implementation of SDGs.

Digital technology was harnessed as a springboard to create new forms of employment, to guarantee health care, to upgrade manufacturing industry and improve productivity. Some UN agencies provided **young people with technical skills** and facilitated recruitment of high skilled workforce across countries. Many organizations adapted **digital innovations to the pressing needs of women**. For instance, they created platforms supporting and connecting survivors of gender-based violence or apps to deliver sexual health education and teleconsultation services. Some organizations published guidebooks to help countries improving women's digital skills and economic opportunities. Other committed to ameliorate conditions of dwellers in rural areas often lacking connectivity infrastructure. Some agencies supported countries to keep functioning remotely during COVID-19 and provided training on electronic and mobile government services including education and remote teaching.

3.3.9 Investing in data and statistics for the SDGs

"UNEP also reached new levels of innovation, collaborating with Google, NASA and other

partners to monitor ecosystems, using remote sensing, satellite data and other technologies." United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The availability and accessibility of quality data and statistics is an essential tool in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. UN organizations increased their efforts to **improve access and availability of data** throughout the year. Organizations focused on enhancing the collection of data as a way to monitor progress towards the SDGs. Many organizations highlighted the importance of **building the capacity of Member States to collect and analyze data, as well as make it available to the public**.

"UNDP is developing a data-driven SDG acceleration simulator, to support UNCTs and Governments define context specific pathways to recover from the pandemic. This combines cutting edge work in analytics, innovation and finance." United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Furthermore, organizations aimed to **strengthen the ability to analyze and present the data collected**. Several organizations worked to provide digital and intelligence tools to support policy- and decision-makers in making sense of the statistical data. This support was provided through online training, e-learning tools as well as online databased and digital platforms. These **platforms create a space for collecting, sharing, analyzing and presenting data to strengthen policies and actions towards**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Industrial Analytics Platform features data on selected indicators of industrial development in order to provide relevant data, statistics and research to a wide range of stakeholders. The information is presented in an accessible format to assist governments, regulators and policymakers in making well informed decisions. The Platform aims to create a better of understanding of the various dimensions of industrial development.

The Global Urban Monitoring Framework, established by UN-HABITAT, brings together existing urban indices and tools to offer an agreed universal framework to track progress towards the SDGs. The framework emphasizes the inter-linkages of the SDGs and encourages a holistic approach to development. The Framework provides valuable information on progress towards the SDGs to nations developing VNRs, VLRs and for review at the HLPF.

sustainable development. Inter-agency and multistakeholder partnerships supported the work being done by organizations to boost data and statistics for the SDGs.

3.3.10 Strengthening the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

"More space should be given to the meaningful engagement of non-state actors, including civil society, academia, and the private sector, at the HLPF, including in the interactive discussions following the VNR presentations." Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is a central component in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forum gives space for an in-depth review of the progress towards the SDGs and the improvements that can be made to enhance this progress. Organizations organized many special and side events at the HLPF to showcase the work they are doing to achieve the SDGs.

In efforts to strengthen the HLPF, organizations worked in **inter-agency collaboration to encourage local and national partnerships.** Organizations worked to support countries presenting VNRs, including peer review and learning and working to connect VLRs and VNRs. To increase participation of state

actors, organizations provided comprehensive frameworks of guidelines and tools directly to countries. The goal of many organizations was to **increase participation and create a space for in-depth policy discussions.**

"The COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis demonstrate that development that is not risk-informed is not sustainable." United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Organizations further focused on the **inclusion** at the HLPF. Organizations worked to create more space for meaningful **engagement of non-state actors, including bringing diverse voices to the table.** Through capacity building and international cooperation, assistance was provided to various stakeholders to provide space for all at thematic reviews and policy discussions.

"The side event ("Crunching numbers and beyond: collaborative approaches to monitor SDG 16") showcased good practices in monitoring implementation of SDG 16 and its targets, to highlight the progress made towards the gathering of integrated, quality and reliable data through harmonized methodologies and innovative data collection tools involving cross-sectoral cooperation between governments, civil society and the private sector." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



UN Photo/Manuel Elías

3.4 Recommendations from UN system organizations on how to overcome challenges to SDG implementation in the lead up to the 2023 SDG Summit (based on Question 6)

UN organizations remain committed to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum by providing thorough recommendations on how to overcome challenges related to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Four connected topics consistently appear as top priorities across the organizations: **1) Collaboration, 2) Inclusion, 3) Technology and Innovation, and 4) Finance**. The work on interlinkages between development and the different challenges is highlighted as a key enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ensuring inclusive participation and effective stakeholder engagement are recommended as strategies for recovering from the COVID-19 crisis and getting on track to delivering on the SDGs by 2030. This includes **international cooperation and participation of all stakeholders**, including civil society, youth, the private sector, academia, local authorities, and parliaments. Organizations emphasize that **coordinated actions** are required across the globe and that there is a need for strengthening **regional cooperation and empowering local governments** in the process. The regional follow-up and review can provide a natural nexus between the national and the global levels, by supporting constraints and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level.

"International cooperation is a key enabler of sound policies, including through the exchange of knowledge, best practices and capacity-building, and transfer of technology, particularly clean and innovative technologies

from developed to developing countries on mutually agreed terms." United Nations Office Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Several organizations stress the importance of **inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups**, including women, youth, LGBTQ+, indigenous people and migrants. Recommendations underline the importance of bringing these groups into decision-making processes and putting human rights high on the agenda.

"Rights-based approaches to development are effective in empowering people and ensuring their inclusion. Therefore, it is relevant to map the rights of all stakeholders that are potentially under threat due to emerging challenges, such as climate change." United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

To Leave No One Behind, organizations call attention to the need to **increase digital inclusion, promote digital skills, and invest in digital public goods**. Strengthening science, technology and innovation are expected to accelerate the progress on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across UN System organizations. Organizations emphasize the need for increased availability of consistent, comparable, and timely **data and statistics**. This includes improved access to data and information on SDG indicators. Further recommendation includes supporting technology and innovation in developing countries and addressing skills gaps.

"The pandemic has highlighted the need for open-source digital solutions that can be deployed quickly by low- and middle-income countries, such as health information management systems, online learning solutions and e-commerce platforms for SMEs. A Regional Alliance could foster the collaborative development of such digital public goods that are people-centric and have the potential to reduce inequalities and

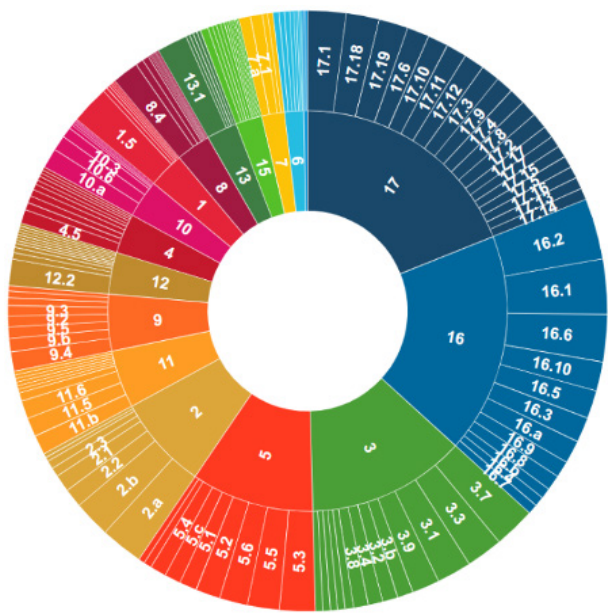


Figure 4: Reflection of linkage to most relevant SDGs based on inputs of Question 6 (created by [LinkedSDGs](#))

Figure 5: Word Cloud based on inputs of Question 6 (created by [LinkedSDGs](#))

accelerate the attainment of all SDGs.” United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

including increased participation of civil society in budget monitoring.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Efforts to promote green recovery and ensure **finance for sustainable development** are well emphasized. Continuation of **economic stimulus packages** in the post-pandemic period is stressed as a necessity to ensure that no one is left behind. Such packages should be designed to enable green investments, promote economic revitalization, create new skilled green jobs, build resilient infrastructure, and consider the pivotal role of women and youth as agents of change.

“Focusing on offering global leadership as well as providing dedicated policy support when it comes to increasing fiscal space, including faster implementation and expansion of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the redirection of Special Drawing Rights from countries with strong external positions to middle- and low-income countries faced with high levels of inflation, unemployment and reduced revenue, adoption of progressive tax policies and fiscal transparency and accountability measures,

