

INFORMATION BRIEF ON SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

9 July 2020

BACKGROUND

More than ever, people and countries everywhere rely on the United Nations to rise to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic – a human crisis. The Secretary-General has emphasized that the creativity of the response must match the unique nature of the crisis – and the magnitude of the response must match its scale.

Moving ahead on the Decade of Action for SDG implementation¹, the recovery from the COVID-19 is an opportunity for governments and stakeholders alike to Build Back Better their societies. The SDG Acceleration Actions online database is a tool to help inspire and mobilize actions around the world to promote the implementation of the SDGs, as well as build resilience and bring inclusive recovery in the context of new realities post COVID-19, so that the global economy, planet and people we serve could emerge stronger together from the crisis.

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 7 July 2020, a total of 171 Acceleration Actions have been published, including major commitments from United Kingdom, India and Mexico. Actions submitted by a significant number of countries (78%) aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages, while 22% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 171 registered actions, SDGs 16 and 17 have mobilized the largest number of actions, followed by SDGs 13, 8, 5 and 1. With regard to geographical location of initiatives, 39% of registered actions come from Europe; 19% from Latin American and the Caribbean; 14% from Africa; 12% from Asia and the Pacific; 11% from North America; and 4% from West Asia (Middle East).

WHAT IS AN SDG ACCELERATION ACTION?

The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the SDG Summit, UN DESA set up an online platform to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions.

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>)

SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate the SDG implementation by governments and any other non-state actors - individually or in partnership. Any new action or action that builds on existing efforts (scaling up, new phase, etc.) related to the achievement of one or more of the 17 SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action.

IMPACT?

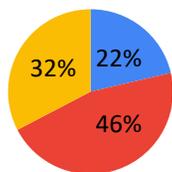
Registered actions will be highlighted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and other key global meetings, including the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and through UNDESA's Acceleration Action platform and social media channels.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Registration is [open](#) online. Submissions will be reviewed by UNDESA in accordance with a set of criteria (click [here](#) for more information).

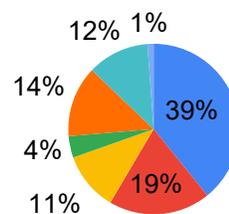
Number of SDGs Addressed

- 1
- 2-5
- 5+

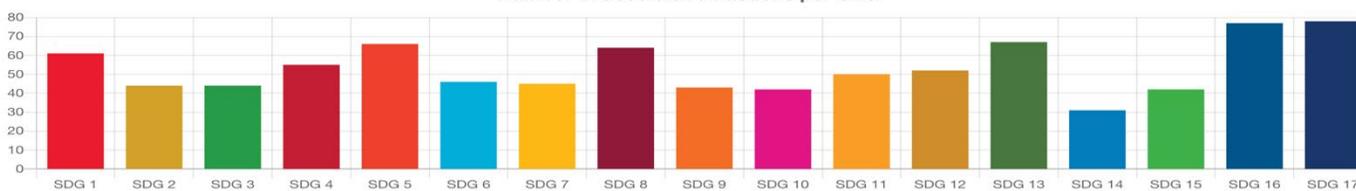


Regions

- Europe
- Latin America and Caribbean
- North America
- West Asia
- Africa
- Asia and Pacific
- South Asia



Number of acceleration actions per SDG

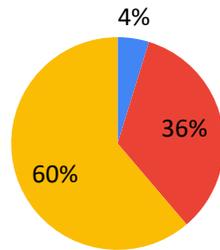


¹ For more information, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>

In terms of country breakdown by GDP (ppp), 60% of submissions are from high-income countries, while 36% from middle-income countries and 4% from low-income countries. There is a scope for mobilizing more SDG Acceleration Actions from the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) as they account for only 5% and 3% of total actions published. Civil society organizations have submitted the majority of SDG Acceleration Actions (33%), followed by Governments (30%), UN entities (18%) and the private sector (9%).

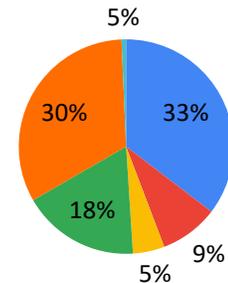
Income Status

- Low Income
- Middle Income
- High Income



Sectors

- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Academia
- UN System
- Government



EXAMPLES OF SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

- ⌚ The [Government of Egypt](#) is launching the new phase of its housing plan for all, which has seen the EGP 10 billion investment, to alleviate housing inequality and to provide decent housing for slum dwellers to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- ⌚ The [Government of Panama](#) is accelerating sustainable development through a new generation of local governance system, promoting territorial planning, multi-sectoral alliances and citizen participation with the engagement of Multisectoral Commission and its line ministries.
- ⌚ The [United Kingdom](#) announced a £515 million education package for reaching the most marginalized girls in Africa and investing in new international financing facility for education (IFFEd) that combines guarantees and grants of donors to leverage additional finance for girls' education in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).
- ⌚ The [Government of India](#) has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.
- ⌚ [Mexico's](#) Office of Presidency has launched more inclusive, differentiated social protection programme aiming to cover 2.5 million women including rural women, in collaboration with UN women, FAO and ILO.
- ⌚ The Governments of [Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Australia](#) have committed to reducing the number of people in modern slavery, estimated at 40.3 million, to near zero by 2030, through the "Liechtenstein Initiative", a public-private partnership aimed to put the financial sector at the heart of global efforts to accelerate actions against human trafficking.
- ⌚ To build resilience of educational system in response to COVID-19 crisis, the [Government of Senegal](#) has developed a new education strategy to ensure that learning continues through "Learn at Home" programme and by providing practical food and health assistance.
- ⌚ With participatory budgeting, the residents of [City of Helsinki](#) are able to co-create urban development ideas and have a direct impact on how money is used in their own area, community or the entire city.
- ⌚ [Siemens Stiftung](#), a philanthropic organization in Germany, offers young learners high-quality science and technology education, employing design-thinking structured around 17 SDGs.
- ⌚ [Fish Forward](#) is a pan-European project aimed at engaging 60 million consumers to raise the awareness of sustainable seafood consumption as well as 20 companies committed to improve their seafood portfolio in consideration of climate change, ethical supply chains and SDGs.
- ⌚ [BBC's 50:50 The Equality](#) project aims to reach 50% women on-screen, on-air and in lead roles across all genres by 2020 through monitoring media content, working with over 600 BBC teams and 60 partner organizations around the world.
- ⌚ [SDGs for Haiti](#) is a student-led initiative led by State University of Haiti aiming to establish 4 community pharmacies in Port-au-Prince and reach 60 % of Haitian population via public health awareness campaigns including on COVID-19 pandemic by 2021.
- ⌚ [Let There Be Light International](#) launched a maternal and infant health program to serve vulnerable, rural communities in Uganda. The initiative aims to solar-electrify 50 health clinics and donate 10,000 solar lights to new mother/baby pairs for use at home by 2025.
- ⌚ [Hunger-free Villages - Tilonia COVID Relief](#) of Barefoot College in India aims to ensure 216 villages and 9 slums are hunger-free in the midst of COVID-19 epidemic and lockdown, by distributing survival kits and masks to 200,000 including migrant labourers, daily wage workers and men and women without ration cards.