

"SDGs after COVI19: Synergies versus Trade- Offs"

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- In 2015, the world leaders agreed on the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to carry forward the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- The SDGs are the most ambitious and potentially transformative global agenda ever adopted by the international community
- The SDGs encourage investments in vital public goods including:
 - Minimum levels of social protection
 - The provision of services including health care, clean water and education

SDGs

- A country progression towards an SDG is guided by a list of targets and measured against specific indicators.
- The SDGs are interconnected, and interventions aimed to achieve one goal can leverage positive synergies among other goals and have a wider reach.
- Strengthening human well-being is the entry point for maximizing progress across the SDGs.
- For example, investing in education, science and technology can help build capacities for responding to pandemics.
- Additionally , building sustainable food systems and protecting the environment can lead to positive outcomes that would cascade across many of the SDGs.

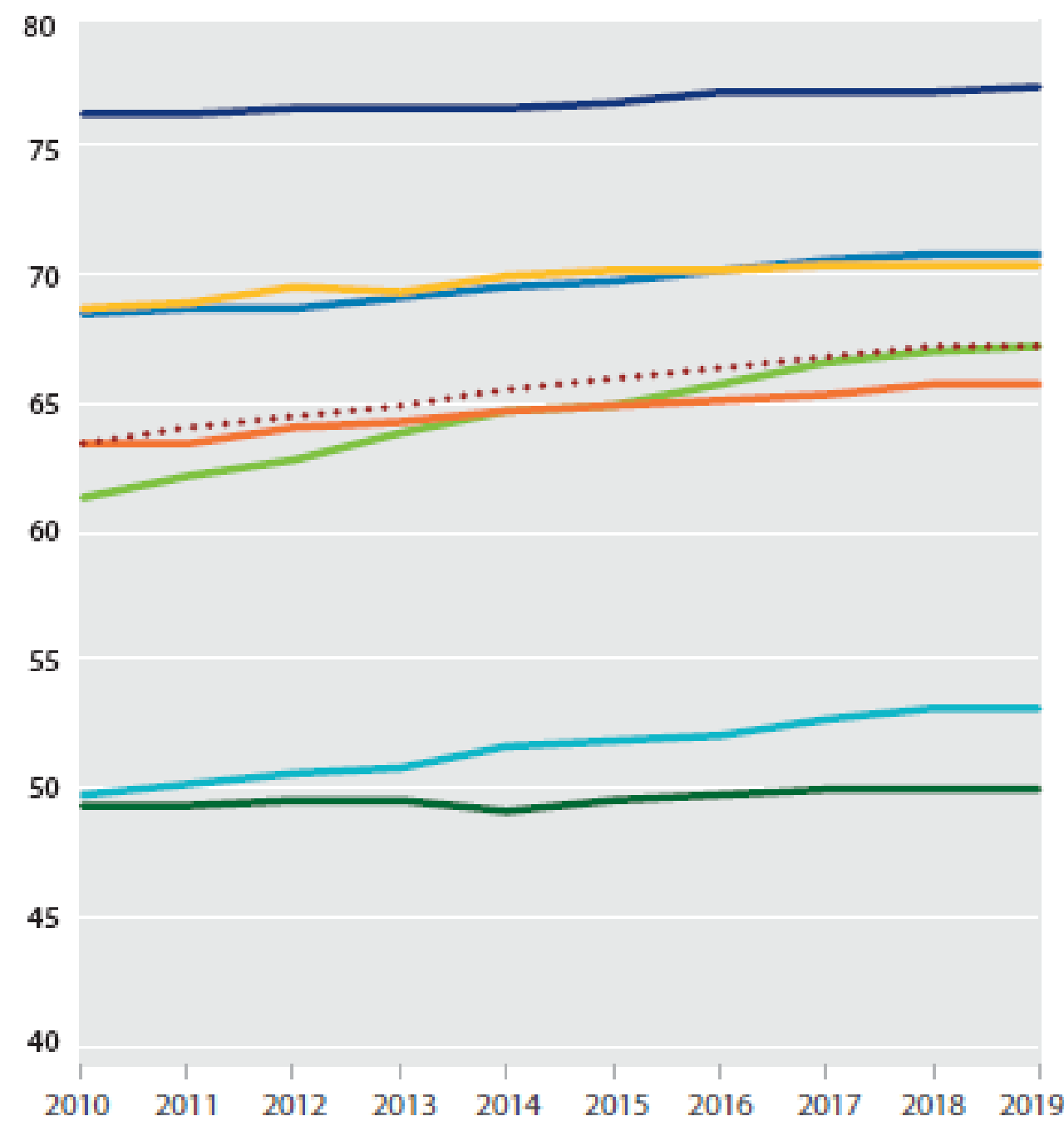
SDGs

- Of the 17 SDGs; **SDG 3** focuses on health (**Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All at All Ages**).
- SDG 3 is closely linked with, and draws complementarity from:
 - SDG 1 (Poverty)
 - SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)
 - SDG 4 (Quality Education)
 - SDG 5 (Gender Equality)
 - SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)
 - SDG 13 (Climate Action)
 - SDG 14 (Life under Water)
 - SDG 15 (Life on Land)
 - SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals)

SDGs before COVID-19

- In 2019, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Austria and Germany were the top performers worldwide, by achieving the top six highest scores on the SDG Index .
- Most of the top performers were progressing well in:
 - SDG 1 (No Poverty)
 - SDG 3 (Good Health and Well- Being),
 - SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and
 - SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
- Still substantial efforts were required to improve on SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 14 (Life below Water).

SDG Index score

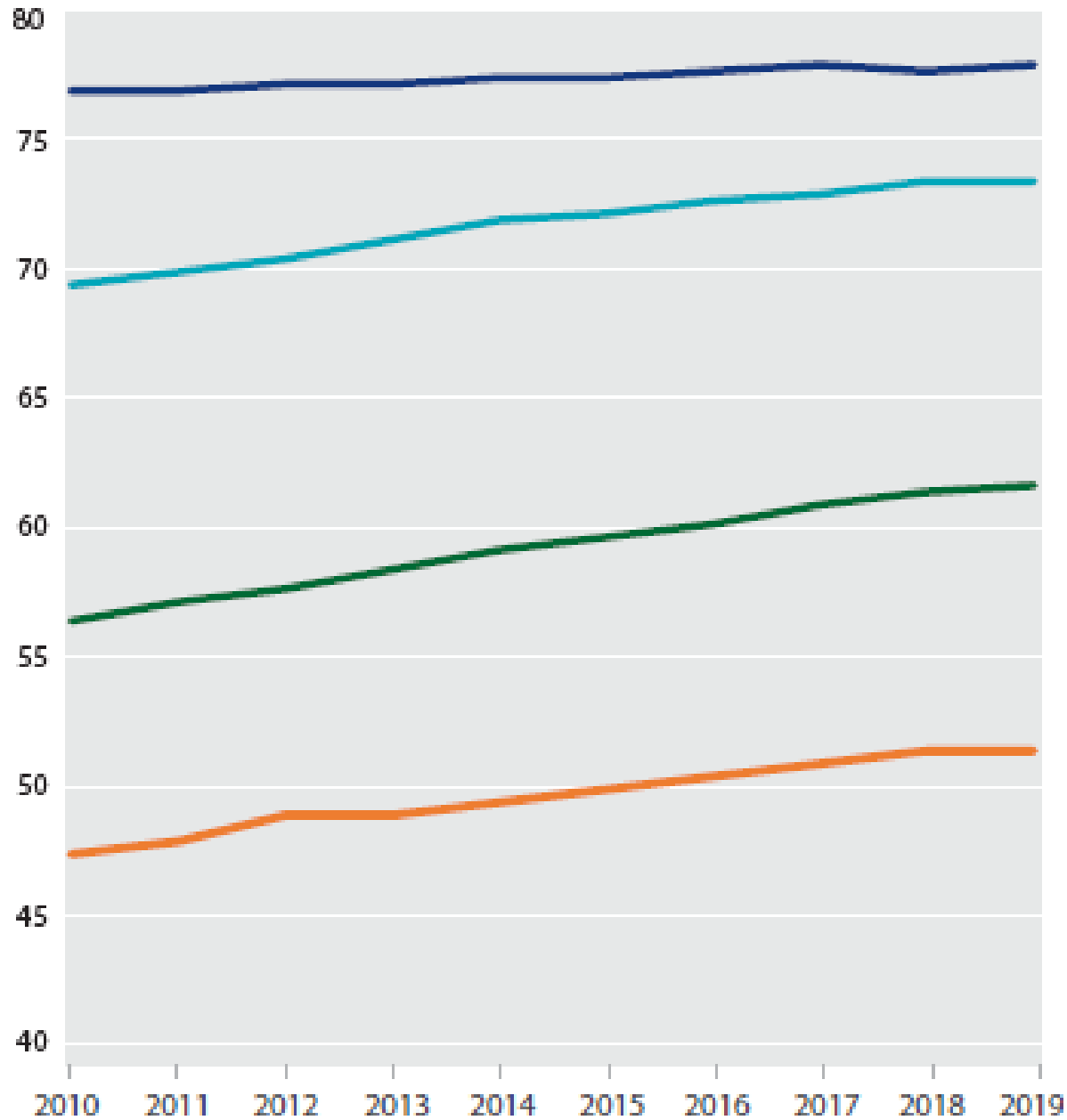


Progress on the SDG Index by regions (2010–2019)

- World
- East and South Asia
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- Oceania
- OECD countries
- Sub-Saharan Africa

Progress on the SDG Index by income group (2010–2019)

SDG Index score



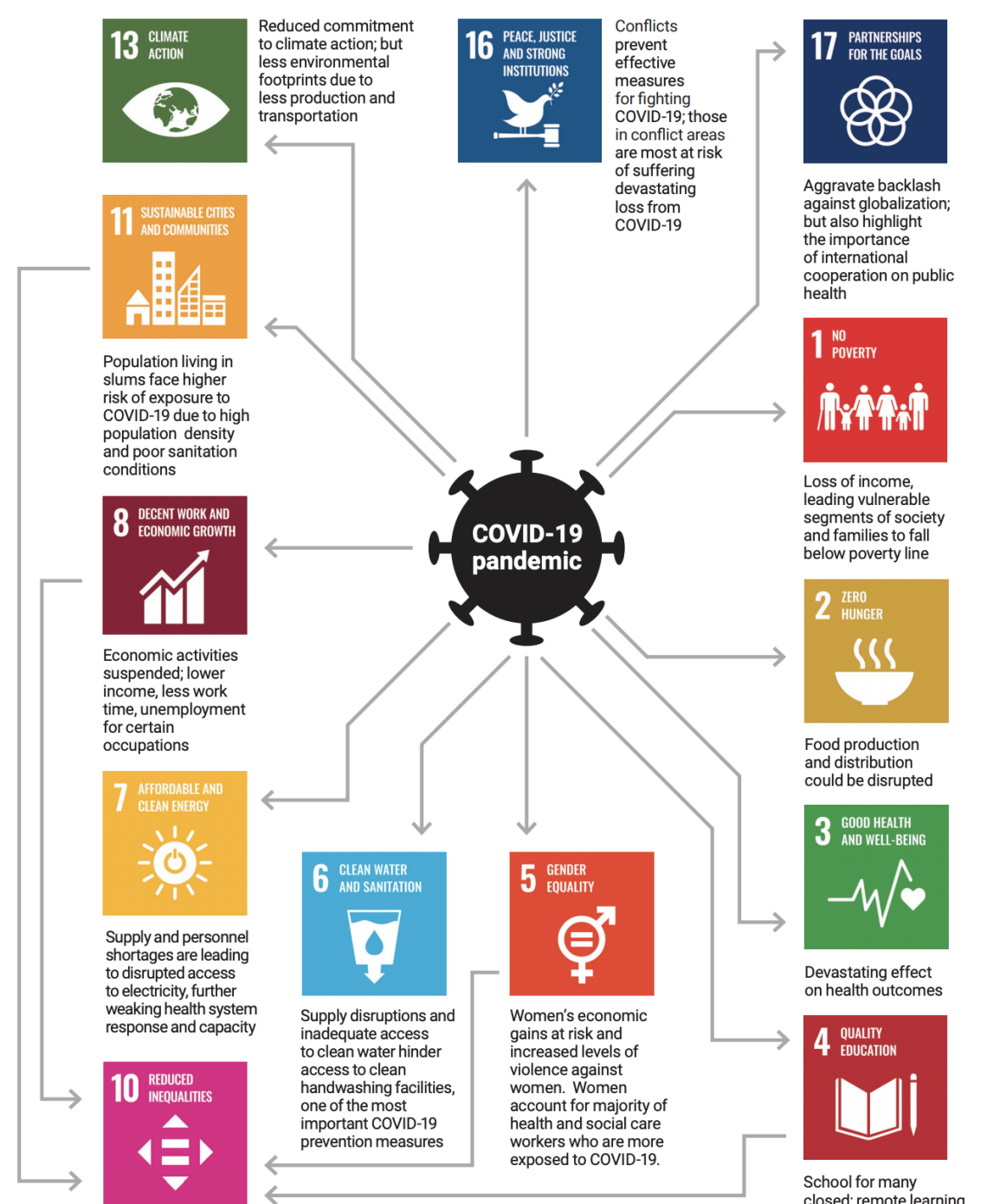
- High-income countries (HICs)
- Upper middle-income countries (UMICs)
- Lower middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Low-income countries (LICs)

COVID-19 impact on the SDGs

- Even with the aspirational nature and global commitments to achieve SDGs, the progress till date has been suboptimal. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down this process
- COVID-19 started as a health crisis but quickly snowballed into an economic crisis and humanitarian crisis as well.
- We are only just starting to truly understand the scale and scope of its impacts.
- Covid-19 restrictions impacted education, human rights, basic food security and nutrition.

COVID-19 impact on the SDGs

- COVID-19 has overshadowed developmental activities as the global political, financial and technical resources have been mobilized to contain the pandemic.
- The sudden occurrence of COVID-19 has obstructed the global collaborative efforts in progressing towards the SDGs.
- All SDGs were impacted. Given their interconnected nature, health-related SDG3 was severely hit.
- The impact of COVID-19 is long-lasting, influenced all the spheres of human lives and affect the progress towards the SDGs.



SDG 3 progress before COVID-19

- The global neonatal mortality rate declined from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 18 in 2017.
- Coverage of the three doses of the vaccine that prevents diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis increased from 72 % in 2000 to 85 per cent in 2017.
- Administration of the second dose of measles vaccine increased from 59% in 2015 to 67% in 2017.
- The rate of global HIV incidence among adults aged 15 to 49 declined overall by 22 per cent between 2010 and 2017.

SDG 3 progress before COVID-19

- In 2018, 40 % of all countries had fewer than 10 medical doctors per 10,000 people, and more than 55 % had fewer than 40 nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 people.
- Delay in addressing malaria and tuberculosis globally.
- Half of the global population did not have access to essential health services, and many ended up with financial hardship that pushed them into extreme poverty.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 3

- The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the achievements of SDG 3.
- The world has worked hard to eradicate polio. The pandemic has caused the suspension of all polio vaccination campaigns worldwide.
- Measles immunization campaigns have been suspended in 23 countries affecting almost 80 million eligible children.
- Any disruption of immunization services, even for short periods, will result in a higher incidence of vaccine preventable diseases.
- The WHO and UNICEF issued a Joint Statement calling for the implementation of routine immunization during the pandemic.
- Although the number of children affected and killed in the COVID-19 pandemic was low compared to adults and especially elderly. Children and women along with the elderly suffered the most due to economic hardships.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 3

- Infant mortality rate (IMR) is associated with family income and their nutrition status. Malnutrition predisposes children to several ailments and negatively affect their growth.
- With all schools closed indefinitely in 143 countries, 368.5 million children have been denied their daily school meals.
- There were also challenges in providing antenatal and delivery care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the priorities of the health system as the hospitals and health facilities were overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients which made it difficult for other patients with acute or chronic ailments to access standard care.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 3

- Logistics and supplies were disrupted especially imported material and equipment (ex. essential drugs). Procurement of personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests adversely affected other priorities.
- Interruptions in the intake of medicine for TB and HIV/AIDS are not only detrimental to the health of the patient but is also associated with the risk of the development of resistance.
- HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, polio that were a priority in the global health agenda took a back seat and attention was shifted towards the infectious diseases threats that could affect high-income countries.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 3

- Large number of patients with NCDs including those who need periodic regular administration of cancer therapies, monitoring and care of complications suffered from the non-availability of these products which had a negative impact on the physical and mental health of these people.
- Medical and surgical emergencies (including road traffic accidents) were neglected when the entire health system was engaged in combating the pandemic.
- Fear of contracting COVID-19 prevented patients from seeking health care in healthcare facilities

SDGs as a framework for mitigating crisis impacts

- SDGs are precisely in the areas where progress is needed to build resilience and guard against future crises.
- Progressing in SDGs help to enhance coping with the immediate and longer-term impacts of emergencies.
- The universal scope of SDGs, their interlinked nature are essential to address crisis and guide the path forward for recovery.

SDGs is the framework needed to guide the immediate post-crisis recovery and long-term strategies towards more resilient and sustainable societies. (Sachs et al., 2019)



Covid-19, the SDGs, and the Recovery

Is the SDGs 2030 deadline unrealistic considering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- It will take years, to know the impacts of the crisis with certainty.
- The initial assessments are grim with enormous losses of lives and livelihoods; and deepening of poverty and hunger.
- Countries should move towards recovery with coherent actions towards achieving the SDGs.
- Taking advantage of synergies and addressing trade-offs among the SDGs is the only way to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Is the SDGs 2030 deadline unrealistic considering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- The shifts in human activity in response to the Covid-19's government implemented guidelines led to new realizations about behavior changes that can support longer term climate action.
- There is evidence that lockdown policies and the resulting reductions in economic activity were associated with substantial decline in CO2 emissions and reduction in road traffic accidents.

Is the SDGs 2030 deadline unrealistic considering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- The pandemic was a turning point for health emergency preparedness.
- National health authorities learned to plan for the challenges related to health of its population while progressing towards the SDGs.
- COVID-19 was an opportunity to improve sanitation and hygiene, increase access to social protection, build the resilience of the health systems, improve access, quality and safety of health services, promote healthy lifestyles and all this can lead to progress in the SDGs.
- The world realized that addressing the needs of children, women, elderly with NCDs is vital to sustain the gains of MDGs and SDGs.

To achieve the SDGs in 2030, countries need to:

- Maintain past progress made towards eradicating basic deprivations
- Reinforce SDGs in the context of crisis response and recovery
- Respond to pandemics while continue to build stronger social, health and economic systems to reduce future vulnerabilities.
- Build health systems and people's resilience to cope with disasters.
- Provisions for standard health services should be continued and supported by an efficient supply chain for quality, comprehensive and sustainable essential health services delivery.
- More investment in public health, epidemiological surveillance, data management, health registries and research.

To achieve the SDGs in 2030, countries need to:

- Bridge the gaps and combat inequality is vital to leave no one behind
- Increase access to social protection as economies decline
- Collaboration of all the stakeholders in knowledge sharing and community engagement for the public good.
- Countries must go for universal health coverage and support social justice, gender equity and human rights.
- Reversing the degradation of nature.
- Creating a more sustainable world through technology and addressing the Digital divide
- Actions in the right direction must be sustainable



The World's To-Do List

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	THE GLOBAL GOALS FOR Sustainable Development

