

SDG ACCELERATOR AND BOTTLENECK ASSESSMENT



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Acknowledgments

The SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment tool was developed under the overall guidance of Nik Sekhran and Babatunde Omilola from the Sustainable Development Cluster, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. Devika Iyer and Almudena Fernandez led the development of this tool. The tool builds on the COMBOS methodology developed by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UN MDG Acceleration Framework. The tool greatly benefited from the valuable comments made by the following UNDP peer-reviewers: Pedro Conceição, Rosemary Kalapurakal, Alejandro Pacheco, Kenroy Roach, Nathalie Bouche, Gonzalo Pizarro, Renata Rubian, Craig Hawke, Anne Marie Sloth Carlsen and Tasneem Mirza. Critical operational support was provided by Khin Khin Kyaw.

This is a living document that will be refined with feedback and lessons-learned from ongoing efforts to support SDG implementation.

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**SDG ACCELERATOR AND
BOTTLENECK ASSESSMENT:
INTRODUCTION**

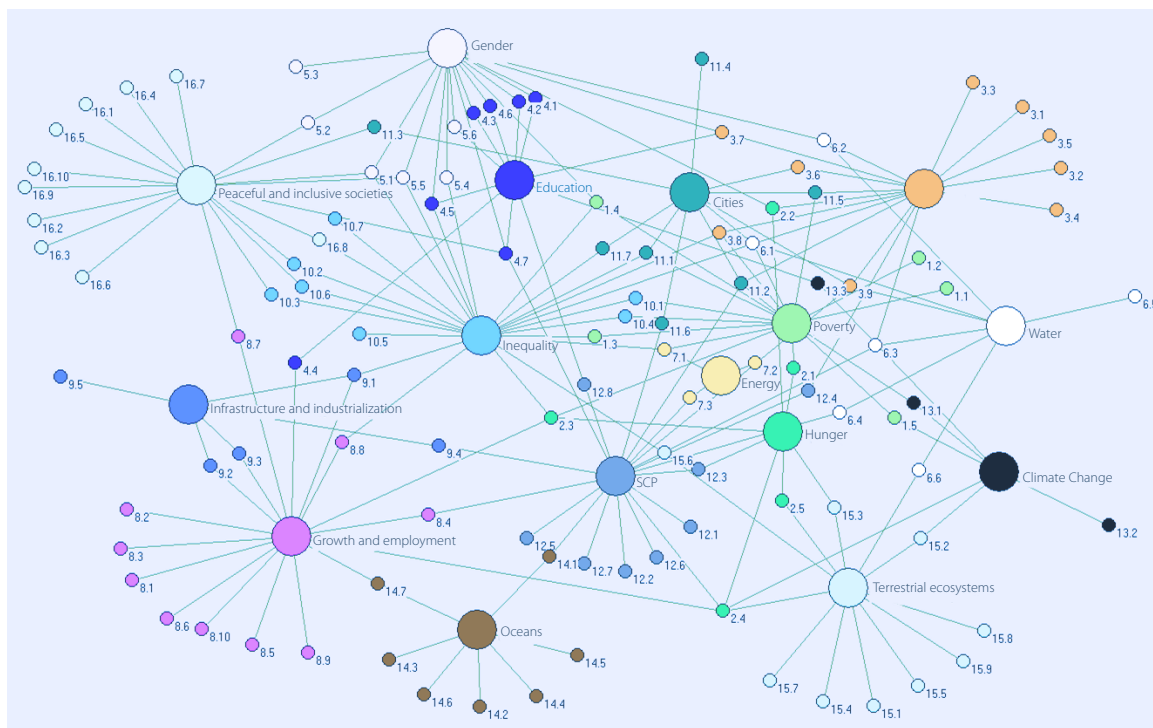


INTRODUCTION

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 was a pivotal moment in articulating a new collective vision for development. The Agenda – a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership – sets a vision for reducing poverty, achieving sustainable development and leaving no one behind. At its core is the integrated and indivisible set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental – and which apply to all countries while also seeking to build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and complete what they did not achieve.

The breadth of the 2030 Agenda implies, more than ever, a need to go beyond silos and take an integrated approach to development interventions. As stated in the closing paragraph of the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda Declaration, “The interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized.”

Interlinkages and Integrated Nature of the SDGs



Source: DESA Working Paper No. 141¹

When implementation of the MDGs was well underway, the questions were: What are the goals that are lagging the most, what are the gaps and how can we fill them? With the SDGs, the question is: What are the actions that will take us forward more quickly across a broader range of interlinked goals? Gap analysis may bring some value and sector-specific expertise on each of the goals is still required. But addressing the question requires thinking through the connections and synergies across the goals and highlighting how action in one area draws dividends in others and what the trade-offs are.

1 “The SDGs as a network of targets,” from David Le Blanc, “Towards integration at last?”, DESA Working Paper No. 141 ST/ESA/2015/DWP/141

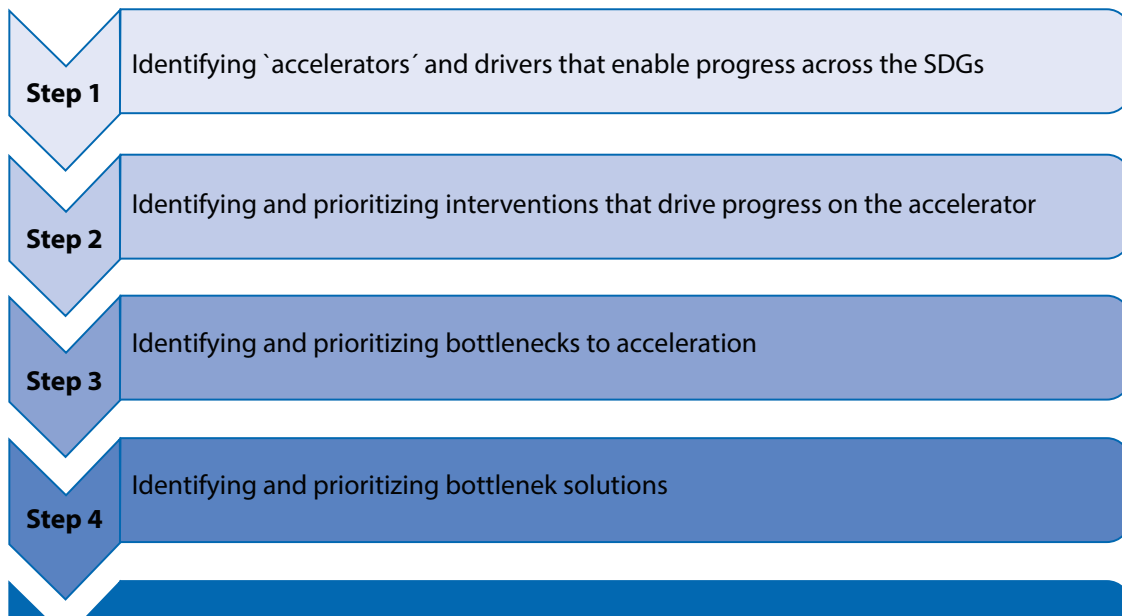
However, dividends are not always drawn despite action taken. Some factors or 'bottlenecks' may impede progress intended by the action. Countries would need to identify solutions to address these bottlenecks, which would then help accelerate progress towards national development priorities and the SDGs.

The SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment Tool

UNDP has developed the SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment tool (ABA) as a way to support countries to identify catalytic policy and/or programme areas or 'accelerators' that can trigger positive multiplier effects across the SDGs and targets, and solutions to bottlenecks that impede the optimal performance of the interventions that enable the identified accelerators.² The ABA builds on the methodology of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) and its application in 60 countries. It is also informed by the COMBOS methodology developed by UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been applied extensively to countries in the region.³

Methodology

The ABA provides a systematic process that consists of five steps:



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