

SDG INDICATORS

The 2025 Comprehensive Review and Lessons Learned From a Decade of SDG Monitoring

ADVANCING SDG STATISTICS IN SERBIA: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS, NATIONAL PRACTICE AND THE 2030 OUTLOOK

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Statistics Norway **150 år**

The 2025 Comprehensive Review

Important guiding principles:

- ▶ Consider investments already made
- ▶ Not significantly impose an additional burden on national statistical work
- ▶ Scope and the size of the framework should remain the same
- ▶ Agreed methodology was a prerequisite (tier III indicator proposals not considered)
- ▶ Additional indicator to be considered only in exceptional cases when a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator(s) or to address a critical or emerging new issue that is not monitored by the existing indicators

IAEG SDGs received for consideration:

- ▶ 23 proposed additions
- ▶ 3 proposed replacements
- ▶ 42 proposed revisions and adjustments.
- ▶ But 0 suggested deletions...

IAEG SDGs made its decisions in the late fall 2024, and submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for decision in March 2025 as in document [E/CN.3/2025/6](#)

Presentation of the Comprehensive Review in a UN Statistical Commission webinar on 19 February 2025:
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-side-event-UNSC56/>



2 replacement indicators:

SDG 3: 3.b.3 Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis

Replaced with:

3.b.3 Health product access index

SDG 4: 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

4.6.1 Youth/adult literacy rate



6 revisions to existing indicators

SDG 1: 1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending:	Revision of data series to the proportion of spending benefiting the poorest 20 per cent
SDG 2: 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction	New indicator text: <i>Proportion of local and transboundary breeds classified as being at risk of extinction</i>
SDG 3: 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services	Revision of metadata to modify three tracers: family planning, health workforce and management of diabetes
3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income	Revision of metadata to measure the proportion of the population with positive out-of-pocket household expenditure on health exceeding 40 per cent of household discretionary budget
SDG 4: 4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	Revision of metadata to include a “greening” component to reflect sustainability and climate education efforts
SDG 9: 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added:	New indicator text: <i>Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added, based on (a) international classification and (b) national classifications</i>



3 additions

Target

Indicator

SDG 2: 2.2.4 Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, by population group (children aged 6 to 23.9 months and non-pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years)

3.b.3 Health product access index

SDG 8: 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.9.2 Employed persons in the tourism industries

SDG 11: 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

11.c.1 Total official development assistance and other official flows in support of urban infrastructure or urban infrastructure projects, by sector



IAEG SDGs on Lessons learned from a decade of SDG monitoring

- Systematically identify, analyze, and document lessons learned from developing and implementing the SDGs monitoring framework to inform and enhance monitoring and reporting processes for future development agendas.
- Generate actionable insights to enhance data systems, national ownership, and global coordination for future monitoring efforts.
- [Report](#) from Phase I was presented to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2026

Phase 1-
Global-level
focus
(2025/26)

Phase II –
Thematic,
regional
and
national
level
(2026/27)



Phase I (2025-2026): Lessons from a decade of SDG monitoring

- **SDGs are a landmark achievement:** The global SDG indicator framework provides a comprehensive monitoring system and a global public good that supports evidence-based sustainable development.
- **Build on existing progress:** For future efforts, strengthen and simplify the SDG monitoring architecture rather than starting from scratch, preserving institutional knowledge and trust.
- **Engage statisticians early:** Systematic early involvement of the statistical community ensures targets and indicators are measurable and implementable.
- **Future-ready frameworks:** New technologies can enhance monitoring if paired with strong governance, quality standards, and sustained investment.
- **Lessons point to 8 overarching recommendations: relevant now and for future frameworks**
- Span from **developing** the framework to **operationalizing** the framework

Recommendation 1 on Goal and Target Design for Effective Measurement:

Develop measurable global development frameworks with clear, quantifiable targets, building on the strengths of the SDGs and embedding statistical expertise from the outset.



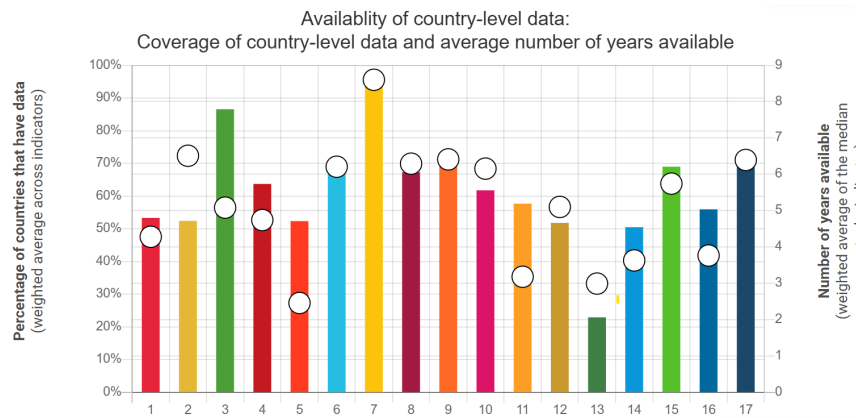
Recommendation 2 on the Processes, Structures and Procedures for Developing Global Indicator Frameworks:

Ensure a transparent and inclusive global governance structure for indicator development, based on a technical process with clear roles, responsibilities, and decision-making procedures for all Stakeholders.



Recommendation 3 on the Conceptual and Methodological Development of Global Indicator Frameworks:

Establish a transparent and resource-aware process for developing global indicators, grounded in a clear conceptual basis, methodological rigor, meaningful disaggregation, and practical feasibility.



Source of image: SDG Indicators Database extracted 10.02.2026

Recommendation 4 on Organizational Strategies for Optimizing Implementation:

Adopt a strategic, quality-focused, and collaborative approach to data production for global indicator frameworks, prioritizing targeted gap-filling, innovative data sources, technology and partnerships.



Image generated with AI Dream Lab by Canva

Recommendation 5 on Resources and Mandates:

Secure sustained investment and clear mandates to empower and support NSOs and the UN system in strengthening national and global data systems.



Image generated with AI Dream Lab by Canva

Recommendation 6 on Global Data Flows for Country-Centered Data:

Strengthen transparent, coordinated, country-centered data flows for global development monitoring by prioritizing national data, ensuring systematic country validation, and harmonizing international data collection to reduce reporting burdens.

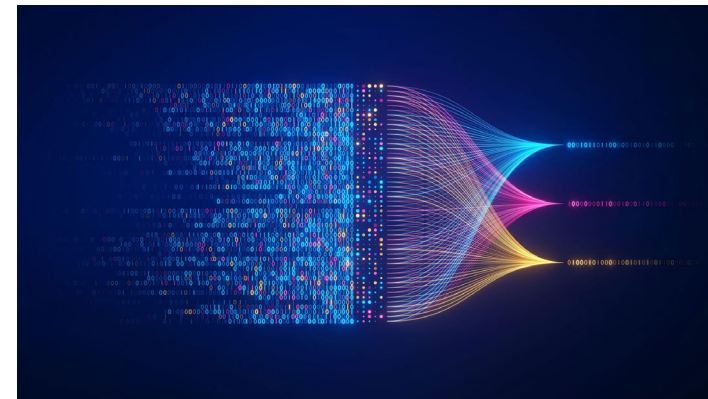


Image source: OECD Cross Border Data Flows

Recommendation 7 on Data for Decision-Making and Political Support:

Ensure quality data informs policy decisions by embedding them in national planning processes, strengthening coordination between NSOs and planning entities, and using review mechanisms to demonstrate how data drive action.



Image source: UNDP Iraq

Recommendation 8 on Communication, Transparency, and Accountability:

Build public understanding and trust in official statistics by strengthening NSO communication capacity, ensuring transparency about methods and limitations, and countering disinformation through accessible and evidence-based data presentation.



Image source: IISD, SDG Knowledge Hub

Phase II (2026-2027): Workstreams – scope

1) Thematic

- Consult custodian agencies
- Areas: gender, education, governance, environment, labour, LNOB, disability, food security
- Cross-theme linkages & trade-offs

2) Regional

- Consult UN Regional Commissions, CARICOM & Statistical Pacific Community, and others
- Regional-level SDG measurement & monitoring lessons
- Regional mechanisms & international organizations

3) National

- Consult NSOs and build on existing national reviews
- Alignment of national & global indicator frameworks
- SDG monitoring mainstreamed into planning, policies & budgeting

4) Sub-national

- Consult NSOs, sub-national government, localization entities & custodian agencies
- Localization challenges & data availability at sub-national levels

Phase II –
Thematic,
regional
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national
level
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<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

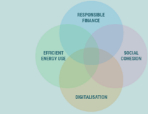
A TAXONOMY FOR INDICATORS RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FOR INDICATORS RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The taxonomy was developed with the purpose of sorting, evaluating and comparing different SDG indicators and indicator sets.

Strategic priority

Can be formulated dynamically according to the user needs, e.g.



PERSPECTIVE

Development sector

A 14-category structure (Digitalseringsdi rektoratet, Norway) which is a common glossary for categorising and describing public services and resources.



Evaluation

The 5-category typology originates from the well-known input-output model in econometrics.



Distribution

Relevant when the same indicator is needed more than once, either over time, across geographical areas or subpopulations.



INDICATOR

GOAL

QUALITY

Based on version 2.0 of "Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System".

Class 1

Standard quality framework of ESS.



Class 2

If the indicator neither belongs to class 1 nor class 3.



Class 3

If the indicator is unavailable, because one or several of the following features are missing.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Consists of 17 goals and 169 targets



Triple bottom line (TBL)

Triple bottom line accounting expands the traditional reporting framework to take into account social and environmental performance in addition to financial performance.



<https://www.ssb.no/en/natur-og-miljo/artikler-og-publikasjoner/a-taxonomy-for-indicators-related-to-the-sustainable-development-goals>

<https://unece.org/statistics/events/using-taxonomy-indicators-related-sdgs-virtual-side-event-55th-session-un>



Thank you

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