

FACTSHEETS

Collection of SDG Factsheets

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals in a Nutshell

Developed in the Empowerment for Climate Leadership Exchange Project



Brief Summary

With the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all countries in the world have come up with a comprehensive and ambitious agenda for environmental, social and economic sustainable development in an unprecedented UN-led joint negotiation process. In the weltwärts extracurricular exchange project in the context of the Agenda 2030 "Empowerment for Climate Leadership" by Germanwatch and CAN Tanzania, the participants intensively dealt with the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and exchanged their South-North perspectives.

The result is a collection of factsheets that briefly explain each SDG and are each complemented by the participants' perspectives of the Global South and the Global North. In addition, there are practical tips and tricks that each individual and the countries that are responsible for the implementation can do for achieving the respective goal.

The collection addresses particularly multipliers in schools and extracurricular educational work. The content of the SDG Sheets was developed and written by participants of the Empowerment-for-Climate-Leadership exchange project (organised by Germanwatch e. V. and CAN Tanzania) and reflects personal Global South/North perspectives on the SDGs.

SDG 1: End Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



The first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 1) aims at fighting poverty all over the world. Before having a look at the South/North perspectives, it is necessary to clarify what poverty actually means, as there are many different concepts. Three of them, based on ideas of income, basic needs and capability,¹ will be outlined in the following paragraph:

1. The **income perspective** considers the individual's capability of self-preservation, indicating a level of income that is sufficient to maintain a certain minimum life standard that ensures physical existence. According to this understanding, the World Bank indicates an income below a certain number as extreme poverty. In 2013, this number was raised from US\$1.25 to US\$1.90 per person and day.² Still, as the costs for food, clothing, shelter, etc. differ between countries, the actual line of absolute poverty in most countries of the world is higher than the extreme poverty line.

2. The **basic needs perspective** additionally includes basic social services like access to sanitation, water, health infrastructure, education, etc... Here, poverty is defined as a lack of resources needed to reach a certain quality of life. Clearly, within this approach, basic needs are in relation to the social standard of living and therefore vary strongly between different world regions and countries, making it a relative concept of poverty. The Multidimensional Poverty Index by the United Nations builds on the basic needs approach and contains three dimensions, namely health, education and standard of living.³

3. Another concept defining poverty adds **wide-ranging personal capabilities and political freedoms and opportunities** such as freedom of speech, freedom of career choice, access to quality education and training, election rights and many others to income and social living standards. This is the most comprehensive concept of poverty. The Universal Declaration of Human

Rights⁴, proclaimed by the UN in 1948, contains a collection of rights and freedoms that reflects this concept and its importance for human well-being.

Considering the varying definitions of poverty, the word "poverty" should be used sensitively to avoid a weakening of its linguistic power for the description of absolute and extreme forms of poverty. Nevertheless, the capability approach reminds us of the existence of different forms of disadvantages that cause inequalities. SDG 10 picks up a broader concept of tackling inequalities.



Global Challenges

- ➔ 783 million people live below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day
- ➔ The overwhelming majority of people living below the poverty line belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
- ➔ High poverty rates are often found in small, fragile and conflict-affected countries

Source: UN (n.d.): Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/1Hp48B3>

¹ UNESCO (2017): Poverty, retrievable at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/poverty/>.

² The World Bank (2017): Measuring Poverty, retrievable at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/measuringpoverty>.

³ UNDP (2017): Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), retrievable at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi>.

⁴ UN (1948): Universal Declaration of Human Rights, retrievable at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf.

What does SDG 1 mean for the Global North?



Absolute poverty – according to the first definition of poverty – is more prevalent in regions of the Global South. However, concepts of relative poverty show poverty through inequalities within countries with higher living standards, which constitutes also challenges for the Global North. The monetary line of rela-

This constitutes high rates of relative poverty in countries of the Global North, which are disproportionate in relation to the amounts of wealth, which concentrates at the richest one per cent.



An elderly homeless man in the streets of Tokyo, showing the everyday contrast of poverty in one of the richest cities in the world.

To meet SDG 1, governments of many countries in the Global North are required to launch structural changes that raise the income and living standards of the low-income classes, especially by creating fair minimum wages and tax policies that relieve small businesses and people with lower income and by raising social benefits. These changes have to be accompanied by policies that lead to a fairer distribution of wealth. Further, better links are required between trade, social and environmental policies at national and global level.

In the context of a globalised world, the North should not deny their shared responsibility for the existence of poverty in countries of the Global South. Global policies should lead to economic and social exchange on eye level. Fair trade conditions for all world regions will help to direct the flow of resources more justly. At the same time, consumption and environmental pollution levels need to be cut back significantly and monitored globally, prompting a change of the notions defining human development and wealth towards a more ecologically sustainable, socially inclusive and well-being oriented model of life. As stated in SDG 1: A sufficient and reliable amount of money out of different sources should be available for fighting poverty in the least developed countries.

tive poverty is usually set at 60% of the national median income. 22% of the population in so-called “developed countries” live below this poverty line, with rising tendency.⁵ Even for those barely meeting their basic physical and social needs compared to the correspondent society, social participation is restricted.

What does SDG 1 mean for the Global South?



The way poverty is perceived by the Global North is very different from its meaning to the Global South. Concepts and measures explained in the UNDP December 2006 report on Poverty help to analyze the term ‘poverty’ in a broader context. In the report it is shown that the meaning of poverty depends on who asks the question, how it is understood, and who responds. It is pointed out, how important it is to analyse the views or observations of poor people and their versatile meanings.⁶

An indicator for poverty in sub-Saharan Africa can be seen especially by looking at how mothers’ and children’s nutrition and health are cared for or rather not cared for, especially in rural areas. It is argued that nutrition in the 1,000 days throughout a woman’s pregnancy and up to a child’s second birthday sets a foundation for all the days of life that follow⁷. But due to poverty, many women fail to get a balanced diet, which is one of many causes for the extremely high mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa.⁸ In 2015, the Maternal Mortality rate was 547



Slums built on swamp land near a garbage dump in East Cipinang, Jakarta Indonesia, bad where hygienic conditions threaten everyday survival.

⁵ Deutsche Welle (2016): Poverty in developed world on the rise, retrievable at: <http://www.dw.com/en/poverty-in-developed-world-on-the-rise/a-19267116>.

⁶ United Nations (2006): Human Development Report 2006, retrievable at: <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/267/hdr06-complete.pdf>.

⁷ UNICEF: https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_faces-of-malnutrition.html

⁸ Worldbank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?locations=RW-ZG>



deaths/100,000 live births in comparison to 8 deaths/100,000 live births in the European Union.⁹ The infant mortality rate, reported in 2016, was 53 deaths/1,000 live births in comparison to 3 deaths/1,000 live births in the European Union¹⁰. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 18.4% of all children under five are under-

weight.¹¹ And since a child with severe acute malnutrition is nine times more likely to die from common infections (e.g. malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea), a lack of food because of poverty not only has an influence on hunger but also on short-term damages exceeding health.¹²

What can be improved about SDG 1?

SDG 1 developed from the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) which aimed amongst others to half the proportion of people whose income is less than US\$1 a day. This aim was reached five years before the deadline of 2015 and sold as a big success. However, it is arguable if that aim was even ambitious enough from the start. Studies show that SDG 1.1 is not achievable in the next 100 years if the world community will act on the problem of extreme poverty as ambitionless as on MDG 1. This takes into account the fastest growing income rate the poorest 10% in the world ever experienced, so far. Lifting the baseline in SDG 1.1 to US\$1,25 a day compared to MDG 1 is also not a very ambitious goal to eradicate poverty. In fact, to meet the basic needs of the poorest on the globe, US\$5 a day would be a more accurate baseline. However, this would mean that 4.3 billion people on earth must be considered statistically as poor, which equals 60% of the world's population.¹³ To eradicate this poverty just economically based on this US\$5 poverty line, humankind would have to produce and consume 175 times more than in 2010. This would take at least 123 years and ruin our planet's climate as well as most ecosystems.

Logically, a more general critique has to point at the dominant economic indicators in Agenda 2030: It is debatable if income per capita a day and other indicators around economic growth and GDP really display poverty well enough if socio-economic inequalities are not politically addressed.¹⁴ Data shows that the poorest 62% in the world only benefited from 5% of worldwide additional income created by global GDP growth between 1999 and 2010. 95% of the additional income went to the 40% of the world's population earning more than that. This shows that other indicators should be used as well, like the Gini-coefficient, Genuine-progress-indicator or Happy-Planet-Index, because poverty is not just a materialist question of income.

Germany for example has received various proposals for better Human Rights implementation concerning also poverty from different UN Working groups. Those recommendations should be implemented.

What can I do to help achieving SDG 1?

In my private life, I can ...

- ➔ donate money to responsible charity organizations that fight poverty;
- ➔ avoid buying so-called "conflict food" that is produced under conditions that are harmful to the livelihoods of local communities;
- ➔ inform myself on the global reasons of poverty, especially on economic inequality;
- ➔ use the term poverty sensitively and try to avoid stereotyping.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ raise awareness on the global systemic reasons of poverty in educational centres and in the general public;
- ➔ ask shops and other facilities (e.g. canteens) to order fairtrade food and avoid products from conflict regions where food exports harm local communities;
- ➔ get active in organizations and projects that address decision-makers in the fight against poverty locally and globally.



More Information:

- 📄 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1>
- 📄 www.undp.org
- 📄 www.worldbank.org

What is a Hand Print?

- 📄 <http://www.handprint.in>
- 📄 <http://www.handprint.de>



⁹ Worldbank: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?name_desc=false

¹⁰ Worldbank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.JMRT.IN>

¹¹ Worldbank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MALN.ZS?locations=ZG>

¹² UNICEF: https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_sam.html

¹³ DAVID WOODWARD (2015): *Incrementum ad Absurdum: Global Growth, Inequality and Poverty Eradication in a Carbon-Constrained World*, p. 47ff

¹⁴ DAVID WOODWARD (2015): *Incrementum ad Absurdum: Global Growth, Inequality and Poverty Eradication in a Carbon-Constrained World*, p.59

The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Development Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are based on fundamental principles of the Universal Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights- based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
- SDG 16 cover all human rights and in this respect emphasizes the importance of civil and political rights.
- SDG 16 supports the implementation of all human rights on the national level as well as the right to participate and require responsible governance with respect of rights of every person: “leave no one behind”.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not jet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises

Sources:

https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/aktuell/aktuell_2_2015_Die_Nachhaltigkeitsziele_oder_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf

https://www.infoe.de/images/infoe/Projektseite_SGD_und_Indigene/Bildungseinheiten/Arbeitshilfe_SDG_13.pdf

<https://www.humanrights.ch/de/menschenrechte-schweiz/aussenpolitik/aussenpolitik-diverses/entwicklung/agenda-2030>

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet37_RtD_EN.pdf

Imprint

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www.germanwatch.org/en/15309

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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201

D-53113 Bonn

Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19

Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach

P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam

Tanzania

Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



The second global Goal for Sustainable Development (SDG 2) aims at ending global hunger and malnutrition in all its forms until the year of 2030. This resumes the path that has been started with the Millennium Development Goals, of which the first objective aimed at halving poverty by the year of 2015. The goal was narrowly missed; therefore the international community made it the second of their 17 SDGs to eliminate hunger once and for all, along with all its consequences.

Vulnerable groups are especially highlighted, e.g. adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people. One key element of eliminating hunger is to improve agriculture and the food market, which is what SDG 2 is aiming to do. Improving in this context includes the following: To double agricultural production and the income of small farmers, to ensure that farming is sustainable and resilient to the whims of nature, and to maintain genetic diversity (see Box on page 2). Especially important is the emphasis on sustainability, for it is crucial that we fight hunger and malnutrition, but at the same time we have to preserve our natural resources and the environment for future generations.

To achieve these goals, the issue has to be tackled from every angle. International institutions are requested to seek for investments in rural infrastructure, technological development, and seed quality and diversity to assure income stability for small farmers. Moreover, national governments must set the right incentives for corporations and consumers to adjust to more sustainable products, accompanied by a scientific community that creates the necessary innovations.

There are several implementation measures mentioned in the SDGs: to break down trade distortions, to abolish all forms of export subsidies and their preferential treatment, to assure the functioning of the agricultural markets and the access to market information, and to prevent extreme price fluctuations.

As you can see in the box below, the situation right now is already challenging, but climate change and its consequences are making the problem even more difficult. Thus, it is time to act now!¹

Global Challenges



- ➔ Globally, about 800 million people are undernourished, the largest share living in South-Eastern Asia, followed by sub-Saharan Africa
- ➔ Almost half of the deaths of children under five worldwide can be attributed to poor nutrition - approx. 3.1 million deaths each year
- ➔ One in four children worldwide suffers stunted growth caused by poor nutrition
- ➔ In comparison to 2006, 60% more food will be needed in 2050

Source: Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (2017): The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017, retrievable at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7695e.pdf>.

¹ Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (2017): End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, retrievable at: <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/goals/goal-2/en>.

What does SDG 2 mean for the Global North?

SDG 2 strives to eradicate hunger and is primarily aimed at small-scale farmers, who are mainly located in countries of the Global South. In the Global North, however, hunger is fortunately rare and farming is heavily concentrated on a few large companies. So at the first glance, one could assume that SDG 2 does not apply there. This would be a big fallacy; in fact, SDG 2 provides a huge challenge to the agricultural sector in the Global North.

Even though an increase in production would be more than unnecessary, there is still the enormous task of making agricultural production more sustainable. Conventional industrial farming in the Global North relies heavily on monocultures of a few varieties and, amongst others, the use of intensive synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. All of this is extremely harmful to the environment. Related policies do not seem to be heading in the right direction so far: Until now, the main focus of the European Union has been the increase of production, leading to an excess and therefore more exports, which in turn destroys agricultural

markets in the Global South, e.g. in Africa. Thus, it is crucial that the governments of the Global North take the implementation measures of SDG 2 seriously: There must not be any subsidies for agricultural exports, and there should be a lot more investment in sustainable agriculture instead of blindly expanding production.

For the everyday people, there is another SDG which is extremely relevant in this context: SDG 12 – “Sustainable Consumption”. The high meat consumption in the “industrial countries” and increasingly in the “emerging countries” as well, leads to a higher demand of animal feed. And because protein feed plants like soy grow less expensively in countries of the Global South, the EU is occupying (conservatively estimated) around 20% more agricultural land in countries abroad than there is agricultural land within the EU; land which could otherwise be used to combat hunger and malnutrition.²



Photo: www.flickr.com/photos/mpccaphotos/22962311186/m/photolist

Factory farming (here a turkey feed lot in the USA) leads to animal suffering, environmental pollution, decreasing food quality and low-price exports, among other things.

Why is genetic diversity so important?

When it comes to genetic diversity, there are different mechanisms working at once. Firstly, if there is no diversity of varieties, they are really susceptible to pests and diseases; one plaque can cause a famine for most part of the population. Secondly, if we have less variety of crops, there is less opportunity to breed new cultivars and to further develop more resilient types.

How did we lose genetic diversity? This development is based on the same reasons as big shares of the worldwide environmental damage: land degradation, deforestation, urbanization and industrial agriculture.

² Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (2015): Bodenatlas. Daten und Fakten über Acker, Land und Erde, retrievable at: https://www.boell.de/bodenatlas?dimension1=division_oen.

What does SDG 2 mean for the Global South?



It is painfully ironic that small-scale farmers, who constitute 90% of all farmers globally³, are the ones most affected by hunger and malnutrition⁴. Therefore, the SDG 2 focuses mainly on this group when laying out the objectives for a better future. To understand the issue, it is important to know that the fate of small farmers in the majority of the countries of the Global South heavily depends on a person's gender: If you are a woman, you have less access to information and resources; you are less mobile and often, you have fewer rights. Thus, SDG 2 puts an emphasis on women along with several other groups like indigenous people or family-run businesses in farming.

In general, people working in small-scale agriculture are especially affected by the effects of climate change: Even a small increase in temperature might affect the growing of basic foods like rice, maize and wheat⁵, causing crop failure or difficult conditions. Plus, among other things, the lack of resources, infrastructure, and insurances makes small farmers defenceless; they simply cannot make the investment to change the modes of production.

To improve their living conditions and incomes, there are several options; the SDGs especially refer to the access to land, financial services and education, made possible through investment. Also, because another steady income creates stability, SDG 2 aims at creating markets for non-farm employment.



Rice farming in India: living highly dependently on the whims of nature.

What can be improved about SDG 2?

In the general perspective of the SDGs, hunger is a condition whereby a person cannot eat sufficient food to meet their basic nutritional needs for a sustained period of time. This point of view excludes the issue of cultural food preferences, which might cause problems for conservative societies who will not be willing to switch to other non-traditional dishes, thus causing the consumption of limited resources just for maintaining their traditional eating habits.

Furthermore, the SDGs do not acknowledge the imbalance generated by meat production, and also do not tackle political structures like food security policies. In addition to that, the problematic concentration of trading power on a few big

corporations is not mentioned: Just four corporations control 70% of the overall trade with agricultural commodities and therefore have the power to determine the market conditions of the food sector.⁶

Besides the trade liberalization, the emphasis on foreign investment can also be harmful to the cause: Foreign investment can help domestic economies grow, but at the same time it can open the door for foreign companies to use cheap labour forces or to gain control over big parts of the agricultural process. Despite its shortcomings, however, SDG 2 points in the right direction: Zero hunger, sustainable food production and genetic diversity.

What does food price volatility mean?

Food price volatility refers to the fast, unpredictable changes in the price of food, which makes long-term planning hard. Its effect is easy to see when you look again at the life of an average small-scale farmer: Since their livelihood is dependent on the commodities they sell and they have no backup savings, their fate is tied to the fluctuations of the prices. Even poor people who don't necessar-

ily work in agriculture are highly dependent on these markets since they spend about 70% of their income on food.⁷ Food prices determine how much they can invest in other areas like housing and education. Volatility is caused by a variety of factors, like petroleum prices, the stock market, crop yields, seasonal influences, exchange rates, financial speculations and the consequences of climate change.

³ Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (2017): End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, retrievable at: <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/goals/goal-2/en>.

⁴ Report2030 (2016): Deutschland und die UN-Nachhaltigkeitagenda 2016, retrievable at: www.2030report.de/sites/default/files/bericht2030/Agenda-2030-dt_web-NEU.pdf.

⁵ Morton, J.F. (2007): The impacts of climate change on smallholder and subsistence agriculture, retrievable at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/104/50/19680.full.pdf>.

⁶ Germanwatch (2017): Konzernatlas. Daten und Fakten über die Agrar- und Lebensmittelindustrie 2017, retrievable at: <https://germanwatch.org/de/konzernatlas2017>.

⁷ Germanwatch (2017): Konzernatlas. Daten und Fakten über die Agrar- und Lebensmittelindustrie 2017, retrievable at: <https://germanwatch.org/de/konzernatlas2017>.

What can I do to help achieving SDG 2?



In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ practise sustainable consumption;
- ➔ adapt new food varieties;
- ➔ eat as little meat and other animal products as possible;
- ➔ improve traditional food storage, e.g. drying and salting.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ promote sustainable consumption in your school, university or workplace;
- ➔ promote climate-smart agriculture;
- ➔ use open spaces productively, e.g. school gardens for vegetable and not flowers;
- ➔ encourage testing new potential agro-ecological zones.

More Information:

The Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>
- ❗ www.fao.org

What has been achieved so far?

- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>

What is a Hand Print?

- ❗ <http://www.handprint.in>
- ❗ <http://www.handprint.de>



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- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
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- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have an obligation to identify the most vulnerable address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not jet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises.

Sources:

- https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/aktuell/aktuell_2_2015_Die_Nachhaltigkeitsziele_oder_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf
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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201

D-53113 Bonn

Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19

Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach

P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam

Tanzania

Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people at all ages until the year of 2030. It includes parts of the older Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): MDG 4 to reduce child mortality, MDG 5 to improve maternal health and MDG 6 to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. These old MDGs form an important part of the new SDGs for health, which, however, also address other important health problems.¹

The improvement of the health situation is fundamental for sustainable development and global prosperity. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), access to good health and well-being is a human right.² This requires a set of interlinked factors like nutritious food and available health services that are conducive to the health of all human beings. The Sustainable Development Agenda offers a new chance to ensure that not just the wealthiest but everyone on this earth can access high standard health care.

There have been great achievements in the last years regarding increased life expectancy and reduced child and maternal mortality. The international community was also successful in creating broader access to clean water and sanitation as well as in decreasing malaria, polio and tuberculosis. However, despite those steps in improving people's health and well-being in recent years, inequalities in health care and access to relief persists. Strengthening the efforts of the international community in this field are crucial for globally tackling the most important health issues.³

According to Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund, governments are required to invest in health workers and social protection to make health services affordable. In his opinion, education plays a crucial role, e.g. for teaching about a nutritious diet in school. To achieve SDG 3 it is necessary to establish a widespread political demand directed at governments to put political and economic resources where it matters most.⁴



Global Challenges

- ➔ More than five million children still die before their fifth birthday each year.
- ➔ Only half of all women in developing regions have access to the health care they need.
- ➔ HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age worldwide.
- ➔ Girls' right to privacy and bodily autonomy is often not respected.

Source: United Nations (2017):
Good Health and Well-Being. Why it matters, retrievable at:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

¹ UN (2015): Millennium Development Goals. Retrievable at:
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

² WHO (2017a): Health is a fundamental human right. Retrievable at:
<https://bit.ly/2BQOH4G>

³ UN (2017): Good Health and Well-Being. Why it matters, retrievable at:
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

⁴ UN (2015): SDGs Explained. Good Health and Well-being. Retrievable at:
<https://bit.ly/2PeTx6J>

What does SDG 3 mean for the Global North?



Clearly, SDG 3 tackles different challenges in countries of the Global North compared to the countries of the Global South. When looking at the different targets and indicators, the Global North has already achieved major successes in ensuring better health and well-being of its citizens. But there are new prob-

lems like the demographic change coming up that need to be considered as well. The increasing numbers of old people who have higher life expectancy require new ways of care. Innovative concepts need to be scaled, more caregivers need to be trained and caregiver jobs must become more attractive, e.g. in terms of salary.



Demographic change brings new needs.

Another increasing problem, not only but especially in the Global North, is overweight and obesity, which has nearly tripled in the last four decades worldwide. Today, 39% of adults are overweight and 13% are obese.⁵ Causes for this development are, among others, social trends like a higher percentage of physically inactive jobs and higher shares of sugar and fat in finished products. Overweight and obesity increase the risk of serious diseases like high blood pressure, heart strokes, diabetes and many more. The Global burden of Disease Study found, obesity-related deaths are occurring three times more than fatalities related to malnutrition and starvation.⁶ Therefore, campaigns for healthy diets and lifestyles are needed to tackle this issue.

Health 2020 policy framework

To give an overview of how a strategy to ensure good health and well-being in the Global North could look like, we selected the following strategy called “Health 2020 policy framework” by the World Health Organization (WHO). Different priority areas for policy-based action were identified:

- ➔ invest in health through a life-course approach and empower citizens;
- ➔ tackle Europe’s major disease burdens of non-communicable and communicable diseases;
- ➔ strengthen people-centred health systems and public health capacity, including preparedness and response capacity for dealing with emergencies;
- ➔ create supportive environments and resilient communities.

WHO (2013): Health 2020. A European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century, retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/2RnKkWC>

What does SDG 3 mean for the Global South?



When looking at the different targets and what still needs to be achieved, countries or regions of the Global South are mentioned more frequently than countries of the Global North. For an exemplary but detailed insight, two specific focus areas of SDG 3 in the Global South will be portrayed subsequently.

Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health: “In 2016, 78% of live births worldwide benefited from skilled care during delivery, compared to 61% in 2000. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, the rate in 2016 was only 53% of live births.”⁷ As births come along with several life-threatening risks, improving the rate of good health care during delivery should be one of the

first areas to launch actions plans in countries of the Global South. SDG 3 reflects this prioritization with its first two targets aiming at improving maternal and neonatal health, indicated through significantly decreasing rates of birth-related mortality of mothers and children.

Infectious diseases: Another health issue that primarily affects the Global South is infectious diseases. In 2015, the highest incidence of HIV infection with 1.5 new infections per 1,000 uninfected people was found in sub-Saharan Africa, while at the same time, the global risk was much lower with only 0.3 new infections per 1,000 uninfected people. In general, the spreading

⁵ WHO (2017b): Obesity and overweight. Retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/2SQfzKs>

⁶ <https://www.thelancet.com/gbd>

⁷ ECOSOC (2017): Progress towards the SDGs. Report of the Secretary-General. Retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/2PdyBx4>

of infectious diseases is strongly intensified through the lack of safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.⁸ Especially regions of the Global South like sub-Saharan Africa and Central/Southern Asia are mostly affected by this problem. The consequences of insufficient public supply are quantified e.g. in death rates owing to the lack of WASH services, which were 46 in sub-Saharan Africa and 23 in Central/Southern Asia per 100,000 people compared to 12 per 100,000 people globally in 2012.⁹

These are only two examples of how great the differences between the Global North and the Global South are when it comes to health care. Fulfilling the targets of SDG 3 appropriately will be a huge challenge for many countries of the Global South, requiring vast amounts of resources. Therefore, the budgets to achieve the goals have to be taken into account. There is no doubt that the implementation of the new goals will be very expensive and that the countries of the Global South cannot afford these high investments on their own, considering their limited financial means.¹⁰ Therefore, the countries of the Global

South need support from the international community in terms of health financing and education and training of health workers. In addition, drug development should focus on diseases that especially affect countries of the Global South to reduce the gap of health and well-being between the Global South and the Global North.



Mobile devices support health care in the Global South.

Photo by Elmvh on Wikimedia Commons

What can be improved about SDG 3?

According to Gabriel Seidman, a researcher at Harvard University, SDG 3 covers a widespread area of diseases and their influence on human health, strongly exceeding the health aspects of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹¹ Still, SDG 3's approach to improving health care is limited, having a blind spot when it comes to issues such as primary health care inputs, financial risk protection, or user satisfaction with the health system. Furthermore, a comprehensive strategy for the prevention, diagnostics, treatment, and management of specific diseases is missing.¹²

Addressing SDG 3, there are two other SDGs that should always be considered as important determinants for health and well-being, namely no poverty (SDG 1) and access to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6). These aspects have to be included in every action plan for a sustainable development in health care systems.



What can I do to help achieving SDG 3?

In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ treat my body well;
- ➔ protect my health and the health of those around me;
- ➔ consume fewer products which harm the health of others (e.g. bleached jeans);
- ➔ live a healthy lifestyle;
- ➔ make well-informed choices;
- ➔ practise safe sex.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ take action through schools, clubs, teams, and organizations;
- ➔ raise awareness on health issues in my community;
- ➔ talk openly to my friends and family about the topic.

More Information:

📌 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>

What is a Hand Print?

📌 <http://www.handprint.in>
 📌 <http://www.handprint.de>



⁸ ECOSOC(2017): Progress towards the SDGs. Report of the Secretary-General. Retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/2PdYBx4>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Penfold, E. (2015): New development goals on health need more work to be realistic, retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/2RDIdCEf>.

¹¹ Seidman, G. (2017): Does SDG 3 have an adequate theory of change for improving health systems performance?, retrieval at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5441444/>.

¹² Ibid.

The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Development Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are based on fundamental principles of the Universal Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights- based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
- SDG 16 cover all human rights and in this respect emphasizes the importance of civil and political rights.
- SDG 16 supports the implementation of all human rights on the national level as well as the right to participate and require responsible governance with respect of rights of every person: “leave no one behind”.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not yet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises

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<https://www.humanrights.ch/de/menschenrechte-schweiz/aussenpolitik/aussenpolitik-diverses/entwicklung/agenda-2030>

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet37_RtD_EN.pdf

Imprint

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www.germanwatch.org/en/15309

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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201

D-53113 Bonn

Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19

Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach

P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam

Tanzania

Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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Federal Ministry
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SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



In 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations, the right to education was already included.¹ In 2000, more than 50 years later, the right to education was still a pressing issue in many parts of the world. This might be a reason why the achievement of universal primary education became the second goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).² Fifteen years later in 2015, when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect, education remains a very relevant topic worldwide.

Therefore, SDG 4 is about ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. It has been formulated richer in detail than its predecessor from the MDGs. It does not only cover primary and secondary education, but also differentiates between formal, informal, and non-formal education. SDG 4 states that no difference shall be made between woman and men, gender disparities are to be eliminated in order to ensure equal access to education. Even learning environments, scholarships, and qualified teachers for developing countries are covered in this SDG.

Having all these strong sub-goals listed in only one of seventeen SDGs shows the high ambition to reach this goal. It expresses the understanding that education is one of the most important tools in order to realise sustainable development. It also shows that all SDGs can only be reached through ESD (Education for Sustainable Development). In fact, the strong and quite detailed message of SDG 4 is a very good basis for further political steps, argumentation and money distribution. As good basic education has already been achieved in many countries of the Global North, Therefore, the core of SDG 4 seems not to be directed to most of the countries in the Global North, but to many countries in the Global South, as the following pages will try to explain. Nevertheless, especially in gender equality in tertiary and technical education, also global north countries still have a long way to go.³

As the Global North will most likely provide many of the finances that are needed for implementing the SDGs, it will be very interesting to see how much influence and ideology will be necessary for the fulfilment of the SDGs, especially SDG 4. Free and quality education is vital for a sustainable future for all of us and should therefore be supported without conditions.

What is quality education exactly and how to reach it?

Quality education contains the wellbeing of the learners, adequate learning environments and resources, as well as meaningful contents that lead to the acquisition of basic skills. Further important factors are progressive teaching approaches and, of course, comparable good outcomes.

Students have to feel well and live in safe and secure environments in order to be able to concentrate. If they are able to attend classes on a regular basis, their learning progress will increase. Parents also are a vital factor of support: depending on the parent's educational background the support may be better or worse.

Source: UNICEF (2000): DEFINING QUALITY IN EDUCATION, retrievable at <https://uni.cf/2kcx632>

¹ UNITED NATIONS (1948) : UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, retrievable at <https://bit.ly/1kYiZcO>

² UNITED NATIONS (2000): MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, retrievable at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

³ UNITED NATIONS (2015): SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – 4 QUALITY EDUCATION, retrievable at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

What does SDG 4 mean for the Global North?

The Global North comprises the industrialized and many of the emerging countries. The industrialized countries have a long history of education. In many of them, the aims of SDG 4 have been fulfilled already. Basic quality education is a reality and there are many opportunities for tertiary and vocational trainings. Even though the situation is very good and people may live a privileged life in the Global North, there are still many things to improve. Privatisation does not stop at the educational sector, which leads to a class system of people with better, and people with standard education. In some countries, what school one goes to or up to which level of education one gets is highly dependent on one's parents. Therefore, many people are not able to leave the social class they are born in and will not be able to lead a better, educated and maybe more prosperous life than their parents.

These and more insights have been used to criticise traditional educational systems and have led to many alternative paths of education. Democratic schools for example have emerged which promote "education in which young people have the

freedom to organize their daily activities, and in which there is equality and democratic decision-making among young people and adults."⁴ As the given source demonstrates, these educational concepts, once they work out well, can spread all over the globe and reach countries in the Global South.



LGBTI activist Kasha Nabagesera speaking to an international audience at TU Ilmenau, Germany.

What does SDG 4 mean for the Global South?

Quality education is still a dream to learners in some countries of the Global South, in which education systems leave few people educated and some not educated at all. The education system in Tanzania e.g. is divided in a private and governmental sector. Both systems provide education for primary and secondary level. A high share of the population can only afford the free governmental education while only few are able to pay for private schools or to proceed to the university levels. The Government of Tanzania has worked hard to make sure that every child is at least able to join primary school in order to acquire basic education. New educational programmes, which are free of charge, have been started especially in rural areas, but the statistics still show that a large number of children drop out from school before they complete their primary education. Most

dropouts happen because there are no schools in the students' geographical locations, because of poverty, and because some just think education is less important than work.

A large number of girls drop out of school due to early pregnancies. Some traditionalist still believe that education is not a basic right for a girl. Therefore, many girls have to pursue domestic activities, take care of their families and give birth themselves. On the other hand, there is also a number of boys dropping out. The situation at governmental secondary level is complicated because there is a lack of qualified teachers and poor learning facilities. The teaching curriculums keep on changing every year. This leaves students with poor backgrounds behind on a certain level of knowledge and hinders them from going to more advanced levels like high school and university. This has created a big gap between students from governmental and those from private schools where the teachers and learning facilities are at a generally higher level.

Furthermore, the governments are required to invest more in the education sector: There is still a large number of students unable to join good schools and universities since these institutions cannot enrol all the applicants into their systems. In the years 2016-2017 a good number has failed to join colleges and universities due to shortages of these institutions. They were required to wait for another year until the next enrolment. This automatically creates another group of students who are not able to start their studies.



The inauguration of the new University of Dar es Salaam Library together with the president of the Republic of Tanzania. UDSM is the most important higher education institution in Tanzania.

⁴ ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION RESOURCE ORGANIZATION (2018): DEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS. Retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/1cysilGf>.

Global Challenges

- ➔ World poverty could be cut in half if all adults completed secondary education;
- ➔ nearly 60 million people could escape poverty if all adults had just two more years of schooling;
- ➔ 264 million children & youth are out of school;
- ➔ 57 million children in primary education in developing countries are out of school;
- ➔ An estimated 50 % of out-of-school children of primary school age live in conflict-affected areas;
- ➔ 17 million children will never to set foot in a classroom if current trends continue.

Source: UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR STATISTIC (2017): WORLD POVERTY COULD BE CUT IN HALF IF ALL ADULTS COMPLETED SECONDARY EDUCATION; retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/2tcByCP>

What can be improved about SDG 4?

SDG 4 says a lot about numbers in education. It does, however, not say so much about how a good and qualitative education could look like and how disparities between genders or the private and governmental sector could be overcome. "Relevant and effective learning outcomes" e.g. is a very debatable indicator. Goal 4.7. is pointing out the necessity of an education which promotes sustainable development and the skills that are needed for this purpose. This should help implement sustainable development in multiple areas like human rights, peace, gender equality or global citizenship.⁵ Nevertheless, just promoting sustainable development is not really doing the job. SDG 4 should set transformative quality education as a standard, which empowers people to take action. The UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development

summarizes the goal on education as follows: "ESD empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity."⁶

Most ESD approaches use the ecological footprint as a measure of sustainability. Its message is to reduce every impact in your life that could harm the social-ecological system. This is not a very motivating story to induce a sustainable transformation. The Hand Print concept considers this and instead shows the clear link between your engagement and a sustainable great transformation of the social-ecological system.⁷

What can I do to help achieving SDG 4?

In my private life, I can ...

- ➔ be a lifelong learner myself;
- ➔ discuss with my teachers topics of education for sustainable development;
- ➔ mentor other people to get active in the area of education for sustainable development.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ promote transformative education in my school, university etc. and educate the educators;
- ➔ address politicians to make transformative education the standard education in every learning environment.



More Information:

- 📌 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4>
- 📌 www.undp.org
- 📌 www.worldbank.org

What is a Hand Print?

- 📌 <http://www.handprint.in>
- 📌 <http://www.handprint.de>



⁵ UN (2015): SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4. Retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4>

⁶ UNESCO (2018): Policy Brief on Advancing ESD Policy. Education for Sustainable Development and the SDGs at: https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/gap_pn1_-_esd_and_the_sdgs_policy_brief_4_page_version.pdf

⁷ REIF, A. & M. HEITFELD (2015): WANDEL MIT HAND UND FUß, Bonn 2015.

The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
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- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights- based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201
D-53113 Bonn
Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19
Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach
P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



This Sustainable Development Goal (SDG5) acknowledges that women and girls are still suffering from discrimination and violence all over the world. “1 in 5 women and girls under the age of 50 will have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months.”¹ According to UNESCO, among 774 million illiterate people in the world, two-thirds are women and “[almost] a quarter of young women aged 15-24 today (116 million) in developing countries have never completed primary school and so lack skills for work”². In the Global North, where education of women is generally no longer a problem, however, they are still underrepresented in leadership positions and face wage inequalities. Therefore, SDG 5 aims at achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls to lead a self-determined life worldwide until 2030. SDG 5 includes ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls everywhere as well as eliminating all harmful practices such as forced child marriages and female genital mutilations. Also ensuring women’s equal participation and equal labour and decision-making opportunities are meant to be addressed. Like wise, universal access to sexual health care and reproductive autonomy shall be ensured³. SDG 5 is ambitious and its achievement will be challenging, due to patriarchal structures. The lack of reliable and comparable data makes it difficult to monitor progress and effectiveness of implementation measures.⁴ This problem arises, inter alia, due to the lack of political will to invest in research on gender issues, disre-

garding the importance and interconnectedness of SDG 5 to all other SDGs. Hence, there is a need to push the consideration of gender aspects on an international, national and local level, mainstreaming the issue of gender equality and ensuring the generation of reliable and comparable data. Only under this condition, a comprehensive implementation of the Agenda 2030 seems possible.

What does feminism mean?

Feminism is a social movement that fights for gender equality, women’s rights and against sexism, meaning discrimination related to sex and gender. Often feminism includes striving for a basic social transformation. There is no standardized definition of feminism as there are many forms, depending on local circumstances and culture.

¹ UN Women (2012): <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality>

² UNESCO (2013): <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/girls-factsheet-en.pdf>

³ UN Women (2012): <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality>

⁴ UN (2014): <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/gender/using-data-to-measure-gender-equality.html>

What does SDG 5 mean for the Global North?

In the Global North child marriages and female genital mutilations are generally less a problem than in countries of the Global South. Nonetheless, women and girls are still threatened by discrimination and violence. Current figures show that in the European Union (EU) one in three women have reported some form of physical or sexual abuse since the age of 15 and one in 20 women has been raped since the age of 15.⁵ Though society becomes more and more sensitized about it, it is still necessary to intensify preventive action and further strengthen social awareness about discrimination and violence against women. A lack of comprehensive data in the field of gender equality remains also across EU Member states.

Especially important for the achievement of SDG Goal 5 in the Global North are the targets, which dedicate recognition and appreciation of unpaid care and domestic work, as women are still mostly responsible for caring for children and care-dependent relatives as well as doing the housework. In several countries of the Global North most frequently, women nowadays are doing paid work on top, which means an immense workload and burden if unpaid care and domestic work is not as estimated as an allegedly “proper” job. Progress is made, meaning that more and more men are taking responsibility for their children and politics as well as employers provide opportunities for them to take pa-

rental leave and work part-time. Nevertheless, immense effort is still required to increase social awareness about the necessity of equal responsibilities at home for domestic and unpaid care work. Likewise, in jobs of paid employment it is still a huge problem that women earn significantly less for doing the same work⁶. Additionally, jobs that are traditionally done by women, especially in the social sector are overall low paying while jobs in sciences or engineering which are still dominated by men are paid well⁷. It is remarkable that the private and public sector



Example for fostering stereotypes in marketing and media.

still has less women in leadership or decision-making positions. According to Catalyst, especially within businesses women make up a minority: only five percent of CEOs of Standard and Poor's 500 companies are women.⁸

What does SDG 5 mean for the Global South?

This goal is similarly vital to the Global North and South. The Global South part needs very serious attention though, since the situation is critical. Sexual harassment, which can be put into forms of early marriages, forced marriages and genital mutilations, are still big problems. It is estimated that every year around three million girls under 15 years undergo the dangerous procedure of cutting some or all of the external female genitalia. Especially in countries in Africa but also in Asia and the Middle East, the practice is still widespread.⁹ The unequal distribution of assets, economic resources that includes land, property and financial services are also problems in the Global South and call for more urgent action compared to the Global North.¹⁰

Sex and gender

The terms sex and gender are often used synonymously. Nonetheless, it can be differentiated in the sense of biological sex and socially constructed gender. Thus, the former (sex) relates to individual anatomic characteristics whereby the latter (gender) means the social role and identity connected to the sex of a person.

⁵ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014): Violence against women: An EU-wide survey - Results at a glance. <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-results-glance> (01.10.2017)

⁶ Eurostat (2018): <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8718272/3-07032018-BP-EN.pdf/fb402341-e7fd-42b8-a7cc-4e33587d79aa>

⁷ UN Women (2017): <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

⁸ Catalyst (2018), Women CEOs of the S&P 500 (August 6, 2018). <http://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-ceos-sp-500>

⁹ WHO (2006): http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/progress72_fgm.pdf

¹⁰ FAO (2011): <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/am317e/am317e00.pdf>

In offices, men occupy most of the high-level positions. Even the number of women in parliaments is very small. Further, women do more of unpaid care and domestic chores (see info box on page 1). One key issue facilitating the status quo in the Global South are different learning opportunities for boys and girls. Educating women has a huge impact on of the whole society. It helps to overcome many problems e.g. gender pay gap, sanitary issues, and it even improves decisions in the day to day life of households for example concerning nutrition, - hence improves health care. This means that inter alia the achievement of Goal 4 (Education) goes hand in hand with achieving Goal 5 (Gender) and Goal 3 (Health). As it is for the Global North, also the Global South should work on achieving all the targets under this goal. That needs awareness raising projects as much as possible in order to unfold peoples minds towards gender equality and civil engagement.

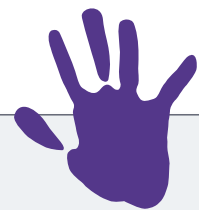


In many Latin American countries abortion is still a crime. The photo shows a woman on a demonstration in Lima, Peru, holding a sign that reads, "Rich women have abortions, the poor ones die," on Aug. 8, 2018.

What can be improved about SDG 5?

One of the issues to be improved is the recognition and consideration of LGBTI* (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transsexual/Transgender and Intersexual), which are not mentioned anywhere in the SDGs. LGBTI* do not feel related to heterosexual normative due to their sexual orientation, gender identity or physical variations of sexes and are often marginalized in societies. Recognizing their rights and raising awareness about alter-

native lifestyles to the heterosexual norm would be important. The topic is controversially discussed and there is no consensus among UN countries about it. While in some western countries it is by now allowed to homosexual people to marry and adopt children, in other countries being homosexual is still prosecutable.



What can I do to help achieving SDG 5?

In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ be alert and sensitive towards discrimination and violence against women/girls in daily life;
- ➔ support affected women/girls when they have become victims of discrimination and/or violence;
- ➔ practice gender equality ideas and mentalities and introduce them to my friends and family and avoid to reproduce gender stereotypes;
- ➔ teach my children that there is no difference in what a man can do in comparison of to what a woman can do;
- ➔ provide my children equal chances of education.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ launch seminars and workshops for gender equality education targeting the local community members as part of the beginning.
- ➔ promote gender equality as part of the "whole institution approach" (UNESCO) in my school/university/working environment.

More Information:

- 📌 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>
- 📌 sdg5www.undp.org
- 📌 www.worldbank.org

What is a Hand Print?

- 📌 <http://www.handprint.in>
- 📌 <http://www.handprint.de>



The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Development Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are based on fundamental principles of the Universal Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights- based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
- SDG 16 cover all human rights and in this respect emphasizes the importance of civil and political rights.
- SDG 16 supports the implementation of all human rights on the national level as well as the right to participate and require responsible governance with respect of rights of every person: “leave no one behind”.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not jet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises

Sources:

https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/aktuell/aktuell_2_2015_Die_Nachhaltigkeitsziele_oder_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf
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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

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CAN Tanzania

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SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Water is one of the top supporting services to biological diversity on the earth and covers about 75% of the planet of which less than 3% constitute fresh water while most of this negligible amount is not directly accessible. It supports the lives of both terrestrial and aquatic organisms. While 2.1 billion people lack safe drinking water¹ at home, from a global perspective especially people with high income are wasting, exploiting and soiling this precious resource, even if it is depending on it like all terrestrial beings. Clean water and sanitation is crucial for humanity in so many ways.

SDG 6 is therefore one of the most important goals for humankind. It has strong relations to issues of health, well-being and economy. The volume of water required to trade, agricultural and industrial productions from 1996 to 2005 reached an average of 2.3 trillion m³ annually. Studies show that despite the income variability across economies, both high and low per capital income countries depend on water for their economic development.² SDG 6 is quite ambitious for exactly this reason. It is central for this goal to achieve access to adequate as well as equitable sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030. Sub-Goals pay special attention to the needs of elder people, children and other vulnerable groups. To improve water quality globally SDG 6 sub-goals also point out that globally has to change its use of this precious resource: The dumping as well as the release of hazardous chemicals, materials and garbage into any water resource has to stop. In addition, the proportion of existing untreated wastewater has to decrease substantially. Furthermore, recycling and safe reuse of water has to increase globally and all water-using sectors have to ensure substantial increase of water-use efficiency. Water withdrawals and supply of freshwater have to be thoughtful and sustainable. This is necessary to

address water scarcity and reduce the number of people suffering from water. Therefore, a good public water management is crucial and it should be organized across borders if necessary. International capacity building and cooperation of the public water management is also one way to address water problems. Besides the direct connection to human needs, water is also an essential part of all our planet's ecosystems. The protection and restoration of ecosystems is also addressed in SDG 6, including mountains, forests wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes. SDG 6 has strong links to SDG 14 (Life below water).³

The United Nations have recognized water resources as one of the critical resources on earth which need immediate attention to make it sustainable. SDG 6 and other goals are ought to be addressed using the bottom up approach and indicate the local ownership of these initiatives. In addition, water purification has been given a special attention because it improves the public health in most urban and some of rural communities. For example, studies reported that global improvement programs have improved clean and safe water access to about 91% of the world population and this has been associated with more than 68% of the population with improved sewage treatment and disposal services. However, these overall global statistics underscore the proportion of these services in under developed countries, which is not the same with reference developed, and middle-income countries.⁴

¹ WHO (2017): 2.1 billion people lack safe drinking water at home, more than twice as many lack safe sanitation. Retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/2JJhlo6>

² JUNIPER, T. (2016): What is really happening to our planet, London 2016, pp 82-83

³ UN (2015): Sustainable Development Goal 6. Retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>

⁴ WHO (2015): Lack of sanitation for 2.4 billion people is undermining health improvements. Retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/1Jt44iu>

What does SDG 6 mean for the Global North?

Citizens of Global North countries often take access to clean, drinkable water and sanitation for granted: In Germany 99.3% of private households are connected to public fresh- and wastewater system.⁵ Legislation and quality standards ensure that tap water is drinkable.⁶ You also have access to working sanitation for women, men and disabled in many public spaces. Nevertheless, the perceived abundance of water happens to be a problem as well, because many people are not aware of the preciousness of freshwater. The average withdrawal of water per capita is consequently very high: In the USA it was annually 1543 m³ per capita. Germany is better by using just 410.5 m³ but

compared to Tanzania withdrawing just 144.7m³ this is still a lot.⁷ However, Global North countries like Germany rarely experience water shortages or loss, because of good water resources, infrastructure and purification, a good water management to save water for dry spells. With climate change bringing more extreme water scarcity but also more floods from heavy rainfalls in the future, the infrastructure has to adapt as good as possible. In the growing cities, sewers have to work in both conditions: They should include rainwater saving reservoirs, which can be used to cool down the city by fountains, watering park areas and protect the sewers from collapsing when extreme rainfall happens.



Spontaneous water battle in Frankfurt.

In Germany, agriculture is putting another challenge on the water resources. Nitrogen is one of the elements, which is part of fertilizers and it is polluting increasingly the ground water resources. Agricultural plants use only 50 percent of the nitrogen input via fertilisers⁸. The rest is diffusing through deeper layer of soil into ground water resources or released as climate polluting gases. Because the fertiliser law in Germany allowed that the limit values for nitrate in groundwater are exceeded, the European Commission refers the federal government of Germany to the Court of Justice of the EU.⁹

What does SDG 6 mean for the Global South?

Clean water and sanitation in the global south is still a challenge, which calls for immediate attention to attain sustainable development. Water shortages, sanitation challenges that associate with water borne diseases has been reported severally in the global south. According to 2017 UN water report, in Sub-Saharan Africa, out of more than billion people, about 319 million people have no access to improved drinking water while 695 million people lack basic sanitation. In Tanzania, up to one third of deaths in children, under-five years are related to poor hygiene and this includes almost 20% due to preventable diarrhoea which accounts for about five children per hour¹⁰. The attainment of this SDG in the global south therefore will contribute to reduced children mortality associated with water borne diseases and other associated water challenges especially in the health sectors. Awareness on sanitation should therefore be promoted from elementary schools to higher level of education, working places and households.



A man carrying fresh water in Kolkata, India.

⁵ DESTATIS (2015): Abwasser und Klärschlamm in Deutschland. Darmstadt, Bonn 2015. Retrieval at: bit.ly/2CAz8kY

⁶ BMJV (2001): Verordnung über die Qualität von Wasser für den menschlichen Gebrauch. Retrieval at: bit.ly/2A2GUmk

⁷ FAO (2016): AQUASTAT. Retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/2z0dDqr>

⁸ BMEL (2013): Kurzstellungnahme vom 23.8.2013: Novellierung der Düngeverordnung - Nährstoffüberschüsse wirksam begrenzen. <https://bit.ly/2PdVArL>

⁹ EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2016): Water: Commission refers GERMANY to the Court of Justice of the EU over water pollution caused by nitrates. Retrieval at: bit.ly/1T7385a

¹⁰ UNICEF (n.d.): Tanzania. Water, sanitation and hygiene. Retrieval at: www.unicef.org/tanzania/6907.html

What can be improved about SDG 6?

A couple of things could be done to improve the efficiency of the SDG 6. These are inter alia increasing awareness to elementary schools, secondary schools, and higher learning institutions as well as working places about sanitation. Campaigns are helpful especially in water stress regions: Comprehensive sanitation infrastructures in underprivileged rural areas can help to improve connected health issues. It is helpful to promote sustainable use of water as well as technical backstopping to officials in rural and urban areas. Awareness and action towards the contaminating effects of the producing industry, mass farming and

agriculture (Nitrate, Antibiotics and Microplastics) should be emphasised. This could mean to develop action plans to monitor water use and encourage water treatment and recycling. To support these efforts, humankind needs to share the best practices across the globe for improved clean water and sanitation. It needs to adapt existing freshwater and wastewater infrastructure to climate change events like drought and extreme rainfall. Slow down water runoff from rooftops by grassing is proven a good idea. This also cools down human settlements through increasing evaporation.

Global Challenges on water security associate with several factors, which can include:

- ➔ On shore salt water intrusion due to sea level rise;
- ➔ Deepening of water tables due to prolonged droughts and desertification;
- ➔ Population increase which call for food and water security;
- ➔ Climate change and variability with multiplier effects;
- ➔ Transboundary water bodies;
- ➔ Increase in global trade and industrialization.

What can I do to help achieving SDG 6?

In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ reduce my water consumption;
- ➔ consume alternative products with a smaller water footprint;
- ➔ promote drinking tap water if possible;
- ➔ encourage rain water harvest;
- ➔ replant water friendly plants.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ Request public clean water access;
- ➔ lobby for stronger regulations for agricultural and industrial water users;
- ➔ appeal for water recycling and closed water cycles;
- ➔ promote efficient and sustainable irrigation eg. Drip irrigation than flood irrigation;
- ➔ encourage building of water reservoirs;
- ➔ demand clean, open and suitable sanitation for everyone e.g. in schools or city centers;
- ➔ demand education for Sanitation.



More Information:

! <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>

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Water footprint

There are two different concepts you can work with, when you are talking about water use: water withdrawal and water footprint. Water withdrawal uses only surface and groundwater to measure use of water. Furthermore, it can just measure direct use.

The water footprint is a more complex concept in this regard and calculates the consumer products' use of water. It consists of three different kinds of footprint for blue, green and grey water. Blue water are all ground and surface water resources, which are used along the supply chain. Green water refers to the use of rainwater as long as it is not becoming run-off in any way. Grey water symbolizes the degree of fresh water pollution, taking into account the water needed to return the grey water into natural blue water with ambient water quality standard. Thus, the water footprint has some advantages to measuring water withdrawal: Indirect water use can be measured as well. It takes more water resources and water pollution into account and it is not influenced by blue water run-off.

Source : HOEKSTRA, A.Y. et al. (2011): The Water Footprint Assessment Manual, London & Washington 2011, pp 2-5

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SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) raises high ambitions to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all until 2030. This is an essential condition for sustainable development. Many sectors such as economy, education, agriculture and healthcare depend on reliable energy. Therefore, the issue is highly interlinked with other SDGs, which are not reachable without the energy problem being solved. Even though the number of people who have access to electricity has increased to 1.7 billion, the global population growth challenges the energy sector as the demand for (cheap) energy rises in line with it.¹

In the past, the debate within the United Nations (UN) around this topic was stuck as interests of the Global South and North differed a lot. Also, the group of the so-called developing countries was split between oil producing countries and the ones who are mainly affected by climate change, e.g. small island states.² As a result, Ban Ki Moon started the initiative “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4All) in 2011. The initiative formulated three goals concerning access to energy, efficiency and renewable energy. It was almost completely adopted in the formulation of SDG 7. Sadly, the proposal to double the share of renewable energy worldwide was rejected by some governments. In the end, the formulation of target 7.2 was weakened: “By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix”.

The energy sector is a big contributor to climate change. Accounting for big shares of the total global greenhouse gas emissions, the energy sector was responsible for 41% of the global CO₂-emission in 2010³. Still, from 2012 to 2014, the share of renewable energy grew only a little bit from 17.9% to 18.3%. This is why it is necessary to speed up the transition by means of smart policies and technological advances. The heating and

transport sector provide the biggest challenges, as their collective share of the global energy consumption accounts for 80% with nearly no reductions.⁴

Looking at SDG 7, one can observe conflicting objectives, as the provision of affordable and reliable energy may clash with ecological standards and the abstinence from fossil power. One solution is the increase of energy efficiency, which is part of SDG 7.3. Nevertheless, the transition towards renewable energies is inevitable to reach a substantial reduction of global CO₂-emissions.



Global Challenges

- ➔ Around one billion people worldwide, predominantly rural dwellers, have no access to electricity; half of them are living in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ➔ The assurance and enabling of affordable and reliable access to electricity might counteract efforts of reducing CO₂ emissions if they are not designed sustainably.

Source: UN (2017): Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>.

¹ UNDP (2017): Goal 7. Affordable and Clean Energy, retrievable at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-7-affordable-and-clean-energy.html>.

² Martens, J./Obenland, W. (2017): Die 2030-Agenda. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung, retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf. Page 76, 78.

³ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/873091468155720710/pdf/851260BRIOLive00Box382147B00PUBLIC0.pdf>

⁴ UN (2017): Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>.

What does SDG 7 mean for the Global North?



One of the outstanding characteristics of the Sustainable Development Goals is their unique applicability for all nations around the world. SDG 7 is one of the key goals the Global North must focus on, financially and politically. Looking at the different targets of SDG 7, especially the aspects of energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy are of high importance for the Global North.

Even if the total share of renewable energy rises within the OECD countries, fossil fuels and nuclear energy still hold around 80% of total energy consumption worldwide. To advance the energy transition, additional investments with an estimated amount of 1 to 1.2 trillion US-Dollars per year are necessary. This money could be obtained by reducing the international subsidies for fossil fuels. Estimations of the International Energy Agency show that the subsidies for fossil fuels in 2013 amounted to a total of US\$493 billion and were 4 times higher than the subsidies for renewable energy.⁵

For estimating energy efficiency, the proxy mostly used is primary energy intensity. This is the ratio between total primary energy supply and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Looking at the OECD countries, Ireland, Switzerland and The United Kingdom have the most efficient energy sectors, which shows that energy efficiency and economic growth can go hand in

hand.⁶ Related to energy efficiency, the Global North can take action on two different levels: First, immediate policy changes to promote energy saving with the usage of necessary existing measures. Second, those policies should be accompanied by long-term efforts to improve infrastructure, making the energy-efficient option the more attractive one. Besides, these policies need to be explained and promoted through public campaigns to avoid dangerous rebound effects that counteract energy saving efforts.



Construction workers attach a solar panel to a stand in California.

What does SDG 7 mean for the Global South?



For countries from the Global South, the implementation of reliable and affordable renewable energy services is the most urgent aspect of SDG 7. Vulnerable countries need a well-organized energy system that supports all sectors from medicine

and education to agriculture, infrastructure, communications and high-technology. Access to energy is an absolute necessity to provide conditions for economic and social development. But these urgencies should not lead to the kind of exhaustive development patterns that have evolved in the Global North, relying on energy-dense fossil fuels.

The Global South faces the major task of implementing available and reliable clean energy infrastructures that can reorient development along a more sustainable trajectory. In this context, the targets 7.A and 7.B are of special relevance as they underline the importance of international cooperation to countries of the Global South. They need technical and financial support from the global community to reach the targets of SDG 7. One way of support could be to increase affordable international credits for sustainable investments in the Global South.⁷

Regarding investment frameworks, SDG 7 provides a solid foundation for diversified businesses to accelerate the transition to



Source: Patrick Bentley / SolarAid (CC BY 2.0)

Construction workers attach a solar panel to a stand in California.

⁵ Martens, J./ Obenland, W. (2017): Die 2030-Agenda. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung, retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf. Page 81.

⁶ Bertelsmannstiftung (2015) : Sustainable Development Goals. Are the rich countries ready?, retrievable at: https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/fileadmin/files/BSt/Publikationen/GrauePublikationen/Studie_NW_Sustainable-Development-Goals_Are-the-rich-countries-ready_2015.pdf.

⁷ Martens, J./ Obenland, W. (2017): Die 2030-Agenda. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung, retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf. Page 79.

an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system by investing in renewable energy sources, prioritizing energy efficient practices, and adopting clean energy technologies and infrastructure. If the necessary financial means can be generated,

businesses will be able to modernize and pioneer new technologies that change the status quo of the global energy system, making the Global South the focal point of climate change solutions.

75% of the 20 countries who are the largest energy-consumers in the world had reduced their energy intensity between 2012 and 2014, with energy intensity defined as the ratio of energy used per unit of GDP. The main drivers of this reduction were the industry and transport

sectors which were able to improve their efficiencies. Nevertheless, the reality is still far from the target to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Therefore, additional efforts are needed.

UN (2017): Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>.

What can be improved about SDG 7?

Looking at the indicators of the targets of SDG 7, there might be positive development even though the total amount of energy consumption increases. This is because the indicators regarding the share of renewables and energy efficiency are based on relative figures. As long as the expansion of renewable energies grows faster than the expansion of fossil fuels and as long as the gross domestic product grows faster than the energy consumption, SDG 7 will always indicate a positive trend. Therefore, it would have been necessary to add an indicator for monitoring absolute changes in the consumption of non-renewable energy sources.

Moreover, the formulation of target 7.2 to substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030 is very vague, leaving it up to the countries themselves to specify

the term “substantially”. Hopefully, in translating the SDGs to national levels, countries will fill it with more ambition than the global community did in the formulation process. There are tools which can be implemented to decrease the emission and to help transform the energy sector. For example feed-in tariffs, lower taxes on renewable energy, subsidies and investment in public transport.

In the end, as hinted at in the beginning, the well below 2°C-target of the Paris Agreement cannot be reached without the decarbonisation of the global energy sector. Further, decarbonisation will not be possible without an immense increase of the share of renewable energies in global energy production and consumption.

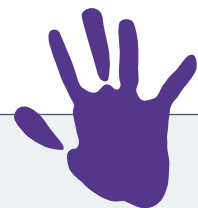
What can I do to help achieving SDG 7?

In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ receive green energy from renewable sources;
- ➔ use a bicycle instead of motorized vehicles;
- ➔ use electronic devices as little as possible;
- ➔ heat sparingly;
- ➔ install solar panels on the roof of my house;
- ➔ invest in green energy.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ be an ambassador of change in my work place and my community towards responsible energy usage;
- ➔ promote production and use of clean energy within my community;
- ➔ promote gender mainstreaming in sustainable production and use of energy;
- ➔ promote leadership to the youth on the topic.



More Information:

- 📄 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>
- 📄 www.cleanenergywire.org

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<https://www.humanrights.ch/de/menschenrechte-schweiz/aussenpolitik/aussenpolitik-diverses/entwicklung/agenda-2030>

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Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

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Tanzania

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SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 9 addresses industry, innovation and infrastructure, which provides the foundation for an adequate public good system and the distribution of electricity to every part of the world to foster progress in business and private life. Industry can have a strong impact on the development of a country. The income of the nation increases through additional taxes, the industrialization creates new workspaces and the salary enables workers to push other branches by consumption. The infrastructure of transport is linking different cities, different regions up to different countries and continents. It enables trade, exchange of goods and passenger transport. Thereby interregional and international cooperation get strengthened. SDG 9 aims to significantly rise industry's share of the Gross Domestic Product and to double its share in Least Developed Countries (LDC). To also integrate small-scale industries and enterprises into the economic infrastructure they need to have access to financial services so that they can manage their transactions, save their money for investments and to simplify the paying of taxes. A strong industrial sector can be crucial for the development status of a nation.

Most of the so-called developed countries got resilient economies through industrialization. But the industrialization process also comes with a lot of challenges. Evidently, global warming began with the industrialization of the western countries.¹ To avoid an intensification of these negative effects, it is necessary to find ways to enable sustainable transformations of production branches that respects planetary boundaries. By doing so, we can avoid challenges we face in the Global North due to industrialization, such as a heavy pollution of the environment, to be repeated by other countries in the Global South. In the Global North, countries need to invest a lot of efforts and funding in changing their current system and replacing old technologies with new climate technologies. Even though we already came

far with our latest innovations, there is especially in the sector of mobility infrastructure a lack of eco-friendly alternatives, which are affordable for everybody regardless of their income, their place of domicile and their destination. If policy makers and consumers could find a way to foster mobility by a fraction of the pollution it causes now or reduce the necessity to move around goods, people and services overall, it would unburden the climate a lot.²



Global Challenges

- ➔ Inadequate infrastructure leads to a lack of access to markets, jobs, information and training, creating a major barrier for doing business.
- ➔ Basic infrastructure like roads, access to information and communication technologies, sanitation, electrical power and water remains scarce in many developing countries.
- ➔ Undeveloped infrastructure is connected to other goals by e.g. limiting access to health care and education.
- ➔ Find alternative solutions for clean means of transportation.

Source: United Nations (2017): Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, retrievable at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization>

¹ UNESCO (2017): Good Urban Practices for Migrants' Inclusion, retrievable at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/urban-development/migrants-inclusion-in-cities/good-practices>.

² Martens, J./Obenland, W. (2017): Die Agenda 2030. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung. Global Policy Forum, Bonn. Retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf. Page 94.

What does SDG 9 mean for the Global North?

A lot of the countries in the Global North already underwent industrialization, even though, ways to achieve industrialization differed for example between western and eastern Europe. While less industrialized regions exist, enough one-time investments into local branches from outside may help to expand in order to achieve a better integration into the European single market. Furthermore, the Global North has a responsibility to stop importing cash crops such as coffee without integrating the local producers into the value chain and stop to negatively interfere with local markets when exporting subsidized agricul-



Industry means development but in most of the cases is still accompanied by environmental pollution.

tural products. Their exclusion hinders the achievement of Goal 9. Therefore, the Global North should instead support the establishment of local processing and refinement industry by providing technology transfer and know-how where needed. Another issue for the Global North is the infrastructure of transport. Most of the people often use the affordable public transport, but nevertheless the status quo still needs improvement regarding the high emissions from the transport sector. Cars, busses and especially planes highly pollute the environment and damage the climate. Unfortunately, the shares of transportation via trains and shipping are not increasing substantially. Through a

combination of innovation of more eco-friendly technologies, an expanded public transport system which is better adapted to the people's needs and investments to make e-mobility more affordable holds a lot of progress potential. The industry needs a transformation towards environmentally friendly production processes. Many machines use fossil fuel and most goods are transported using petrol. Connected to this, the decarbonisation in the energy-sector needs to proceed quickly. Data shows that in the US the electricity generation by burning coal is the most-polluting factor, producing about two billion tons of CO₂ every year.⁴ The country's second-largest source of carbon emission is the transportation sector, generating about 1.7 billion tons of CO₂ emissions yearly.⁵ Another challenge is the transition towards digitalization and industry 4.0, that differs from the goal of mainly increasing economic growth.⁶ For enhancing scientific research and encouraging innovations, the funding for science should be increased. Furthermore, many countries need to work on access to the public good of internet infrastructure. Nowadays the network is an important precondition for business, public and private services as well as education. Problems with connection or slow data transfer especially in the rural areas should therefore be eliminated as fast as possible.

Industrialization

is the process by which an economy is transformed from primarily agricultural to one based on the manufacturing of goods. Individual manual labour is often replaced by mechanized mass production. Characteristics of industrialization include economic growth, more efficient division of labour, and the use of technological innovation to solve problems as opposed to dependency on conditions outside of human control.

Source: Investopedia (2017) : Industrialization, retrievable at : <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/industrialization.asp#ixzz4ta1pjPjR>

What does SDG 9 mean for the Global South?

The process of industrialization is not yet greatly advanced in the Global South. Industrialization will improve the living standard of many people in developing countries by generating employment and wealth. It will also reduce the import of products from so-called developed countries and increase the exportation of value-added products and semi processed goods instead of raw material. Reinvestment and innovation on industrial technology is needed as well as the development of a sustainable infrastructure which will guarantee the contribution of GDP by 2030.

In the Global South a big challenge lies in establishing a sustainable utilization of natural resources. This can happen through innovation, technological upgrades and management training for the workers, so that the added wealth benefits their own country's economy. Also, the renewable energy sector and a sustainable and high-quality infrastructure has to be developed. In transition towards industrialization, many so-called developing countries can benefit from leapfrogging to renewable energy technologies. This will trigger environmentally friendly economic

³ Martens, J./ Obenland, W. (2017): Die Agenda 2030. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung. Global Policy Forum, Bonn. Retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf. Page 94.

⁴ MacMillan, A. (2016): Global Warming 101. Natural Resources Defense Council. Retrievable at: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-warming-101>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Martens, J./ Obenland, W. (2017): Die Agenda 2030. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung. Global Policy Forum, Bonn. Retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf. Page 93.



Industrial tailoring in the Global South.

growth and together with resilient infrastructure provide accessibility of social services like health care and education.

Most of the workers in the agricultural sector are poor. They face challenges of climate change impacts and high workload as well as additional barriers for their kids such as high school fees, which create path dependencies for future generations. Now, only 30% of the agriculture production in the Global South is mechanized.⁷ Technology transfer would be a sustainable way to realize change. It is crucial, that the services reach the low-grade peasants and are not only a chance for wealthy farmers and big

landowners, which would increase inequality by leaving others behind.

Other sectors like communication are developing fast. In 2016 a mobile-cellular network covered 85% of the populated areas in the less developed countries.⁸ Another challenge remains the financing of infrastructure projects. For the countries of the Global South alone, the final document of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, estimates the global financial needs at \$1 to \$1.5 trillion per year.⁹

Infrastructure resilience

is the ability to reduce the magnitude and/or duration of disruptive events. The effectiveness of a resilient infrastructure or enterprise depends upon its ability to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and/or rapidly recover from a potentially disruptive event.

Source: National Infrastructure Advisory Council (2010): A Framework for Establishing Critical Infrastructure Resilience Goals, retrievable at: <https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/niac/niac-a-framework-for-establishing-critical-infrastructure-resilience-goals-2010-10-19.pdf>.

What can be improved about SDG 9?

Industrialization was the root of development in the Global North. Without the establishment of industrial production, it is difficult to assemble a resilient infrastructure which again is linked to further industrial development, production and trade. But also, one of the most urgent challenges of our times, the global warming, was triggered by the process of industrialization. Thus, the protection of the environment should play a bigger role within the targets of improving infrastructure such as transport and general industrialization. Of course, the Global North had an advantage because they didn't care about their industrialization's impact on the ecosystem. Now, it is up to the global society to compensate this disadvantage for the least

developed countries, who must find new ways to transition towards industrialization. Ways to cooperate can include support by providing know-how and technologies for a sustainable transformation but also increase financial investments to trigger development. The second target includes the significant rise of industry's share of employment and gross domestic product by 2030. It may be beneficial to add that this raise shall only happen when it's sure that the transformation to a sustainable economy already took place. This way, an intensification of the polluting impact of traditional industries can be avoided.



What can I do to help achieving SDG 9?

In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ use the public transport;
- ➔ use the bicycle;
- ➔ avoid flights;
- ➔ choose eco-friendly energy.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ try to convince my working place, university, etc. to invest into new technologies or to support science and research on the topic.

⁷ United Nations (2017): Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Retrievable at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/>.

⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017): Sustainable Development Goal 9, retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9>.

⁹ United Nations (2015): Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. New York. (A/RES/69/313), retrievable at: www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf.

More Information:

- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9>
- ❗ <https://www.2030-watch.de/sdg/energie/>

What is a Hand Print?

- ❗ <http://www.handprint.in>
- ❗ <http://www.handprint.de>



The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Development Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are based on fundamental principles of the Universal Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights-based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
- SDG 16 cover all human rights and in this respect emphasizes the importance of civil and political rights.
- SDG 16 supports the implementation of all human rights on the national level as well as the right to participate and require responsible governance with respect of rights of every person: “leave no one behind”.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not yet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises

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- https://www.infoe.de/images/infoe/Projektseite_SGD_und_Indigene/Bildungseinheiten/Arbeitshilfe_SDG_13.pdf
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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201
D-53113 Bonn
Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19
Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach
P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries



Goal 10 for Sustainable Development (SDG 10) aims at reducing inequality within and among countries until the year of 2030. Its admission into the SDGs is a big achievement, as the issue of inequality was not part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the predecessors of the SDGs. The elimination of inequalities needs a multi-dimensional approach to achieve the same rights and opportunities for all in every part of life. Therefore, SDG 10 encourages to empower and to promote social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Social inclusion means full participation in social life and a fair share of the social prosperity, economic inclusion means full education and working rights and the access to financial services and political inclusion means active and passive voting and participation rights.¹ This way, Goal 10 seeks to end discrimination and to adopt policies to achieve greater equality.

To address inequality among countries, SDG 10 aims at decreasing inequality in the representation of all countries in global international economic and financial institutions. One measure is to increase voting rights for the Global South in order to make the institutions more accountable and legitimate and to shift the dominantly “western view” on the world to a more differentiated, diverse perspective. On an economic level, as the Global North is financially better off than the Global South, a reduction of global inequality requires more financial flows from the North to the South. This implies for example more development assistance, more direct investments and also more trade with countries from the Global South. The process can be encouraged by national zero-tariffs on products from the Global South, leading to increased imports from these countries. Additionally, a better regulation and monitoring of the global financial markets is needed to foster equality and fair access.

All in all, inequality is a major global issue. The growth of middle classes in China and India reduces the overall income inequalities among countries, but economic growth does not necessarily equal a reduction of inequality, because the richer parts of society often profit more than the poorer parts. The most pressing global challenges on reducing inequality can be seen in the box below.



Global Challenges

- ➔ Inequality exists worldwide based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity access.
- ➔ On a worldwide level, the richest 1% have more wealth than the other 99% combined.^a
- ➔ People living in the world’s richest country are 134 times richer than the ones in the poorest.^b
- ➔ Worldwide, inequality between countries decreases but increases within countries.^c
- ➔ Economic growth does not necessarily benefit all groups of society to the same extend.

^a Oxfam (2016): Oxfam says wealth of richest 1% equal to other 99%, retrievable at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35339475>.

^b Hicker, J. (2016): Global inequality may be much worse than we think, retrievable at: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/apr/08/global-inequality-may-be-much-worse-than-we-think>.

^c UN (2017): Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries, retrievable at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/>.

¹ UNESCO (2017): Good Urban Practices for Migrants’ Inclusion, retrievable at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/urban-development/migrants-inclusion-in-cities/good-practices>.

What does SDG 10 mean for the Global North?



Depending on the degree of inequality and discrimination within their society, countries from the Global North are facing different challenges. There is an urgent need to eliminate any kind of discriminatory laws, policies and practices. But even if all people have equal rights and duties, discriminating dynamics are still built into the structures of every society. Thus, acceptance and tolerance towards all must be supported and promoted by education and national policies to reduce discrimination and prejudices of all kinds. This includes issues such as unequal payment of women versus men, discrimination of homosexuals and disabled and other minorities or fewer opportunities for poor people.

To decrease the income gap between rich and poor, policies should be implemented that raise the income of the poorer population and redistributes from the rich to the poor. To address income inequality and thereby social inequalities, the target is to achieve an income growth of the bottom 40% of a country that is higher than the national average. This implies increasing wages, e.g. guaranteed by a minimum wage, and increasing social securities, both of which should maintain or rather exceed the subsistence level. In addition, new tax policies

could be a strong tool to relieve low income groups and increase redistribution from the rich to the poor.

Furthermore, as worldwide migration increases and leads steadily from the Global South to the Global North,² the purpose of SDG 10 to facilitate safe and responsible migration by implementing well-managed migration policies addresses countries of the Global North, in the first place. Once affiliated in a country, migrants should be treated equal to the local population.



You can find homelessness everywhere in the world.

Different ways of looking at inequality

Inequality is a term that is not easy to quantify. Looking at financial inequality, there are many different possibilities: how wealthy is someone (e.g. savings on bank account), or how much income does someone have (absolute monthly income), or how much can a person consume and buy with the income he or she gets (purchasing power). As there are different currencies and different prices for goods in all

countries, this makes the assessment of inequality challenging. A common measurement is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), reflecting the economic performance of a country or region. Other indexes, for example the world happiness report, also include social dimensions for a more differentiated picture.

Source: Helliwell, J. F./Layard, R./Sachs, J. D. (2017): World Happiness Report 2017, retrievable at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/happiness-report/2017/HR17.pdf>.

What does SDG 10 mean for the Global South?



A poorly constructed house for the financially poorer people.

Within countries, SDG 10 means quite the same for the Global South as for the Global North. As well as in the North, many countries in the South experience inequalities within their societies such as income inequalities, weak women rights, discrimination among social and religious groups. Governments should work on reducing any forms of discrimination, making it possible for everyone to have the same opportunities and participation rights in their respective society. This includes equal access to education and healthcare for all, which is still a great challenge for many countries of the Global South. As some countries are emerging economies, a careful governance of the

² OECD (2017): International Migration Outlook 2017, retrievable at: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2017/summary/english_f3a4fe3e-en#page1.

development towards an equal society is necessary, avoiding for example huge income gaps within society right from the start.

Moreover, inequality is one of many causes of unstable situations and armed or unarmed conflicts within societies. This instability, in turn, inhibits foreign trade well as direct foreign

investments in emerging economies. Those countries of the Global South that have to fight with instability need to break this vicious cycle to have better access to international business e.g. the global economy and to benefit on many levels from a process towards equality and peace.

No such thing as one solution to achieve equality

To address inequality in a country, one always has to look at the country's context. Looking at the African continent, countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which are ranked among the most equal countries in the world, face different challenges than countries such as South Africa, Namibia and the Central African Republic, which are ranked as some of the most unequal nations. In general, poverty reduction must not be equal to the reduction of

inequality. Key actions in reaching a more equal society are equal distributions of assets such as education, land and healthcare, as well as increasing direct taxation and redistribution by social state expenses. Nevertheless, the implementation of structural changes in the economic sector might be a challenge due to diverse interests of different societal groups and elites.

Source: UNDP (2017): UNDP launches study on income inequality in sub-Saharan Africa, retrievable at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/09/21/undp-launches-study-on-income-inequality-in-sub-saharan-africa.html>.

What can be improved about SDG 10?

SDG 10 raises the ambition of reducing inequality within, and especially among countries. It sends a key message to every state to fight inequality and discrimination within each country and region. However, the goals' targets remain weak and unambitious, including few measurable indicators and target numbers, which gives much room for interpretation and makes it difficult to measure whether SDG 10 and its targets will be met in 2030 or not. As reducing inequality is a cross-cutting issue, countries must apply a lot of political will to successfully translate SDG 10 into their national agenda.

Furthermore, Goal 10 misses a vision on how exactly an equal world should look like. What kind of trade system between the Global North and Global South do we want to establish? The targets are guidelines towards a higher influence and representation of the Global South and intensified trade with the poorest countries. Nevertheless, zero-tariffs on products from the Global South to increase trade are only one side of the coin; the other side includes the right of countries of the Global South to set higher import tariffs on products from the Global North to strengthen their domestic economic sectors. Also, one can ►

What can I do to help achieving SDG 10?

In my private live, I can ...

- ➔ become aware of my opportunities and privileges, my social and economic state and the ones of the people around me;
- ➔ actively empower and encourage people with less opportunities than I have;
- ➔ train and educate myself on privileges and discrimination to increase my tools for action;
- ➔ stand and speak up against discrimination;
- ➔ support fair working conditions towards equality by buying fair trade certified products.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ promote tolerance and equality in my school, university or workplace;
- ➔ engage in an organization that promotes equality;
- ➔ encourage people in my life to speak up against discrimination of any kind in public and private life;
- ➔ lobby towards fair contracts by joining a workers union or talking to colleagues about the topic of equality in the workplace.



criticize the target to increase foreign direct investment. Many investment deals include conditions and influence national policies to foster interests of the investing state or private sector stakeholders. An example of this are infrastructure projects, that sometimes lead to short-time benefits but long-term debt for the recipients.³ As seen in trade negotiations between the EU and various African states, countries of the Global South are sometimes (through dependencies and weaker negotia-

tion positions within the global system) forced into free trade agreements.⁴ Is the Global North actually willing to reduce these persisting inequalities, which might mean a reduction in power, wealth and growth? This seems unlikely so far. To reach the goal until 2030, more ambition is needed as well as more ambitious targets and indicators.

More Information:

- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg10>
- ❗ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-10-reduced-inequalities.html>
- ❗ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/sustainable-development-goals.htm>

What is a Hand Print?

- ❗ <http://www.handprint.in>
- ❗ <http://www.handprint.de>



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- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not jet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises.

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³ Corkin, L./ Burke, C./ Davies, M. (2008): China's Role in the Development of Africa's Infrastructure. SAIS Working Papers in African Studies. African Studies Program. The John Hopkins University, Washington DC.

⁴ Sarmadi, D. (2014): EU-Africa free trade agreement 'destroys' development policy, says Merkel advisor, retrievable at: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/eu-africa-free-trade-agreement-destroys-development-policy-says-merkel-advisor/>.

Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201
 D-53113 Bonn
 Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19
 Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach
 P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam
 Tanzania
 Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



For achieving the Agenda 2030 in a whole, especially cities are a key element, because estimations show that in 2030 more than 66% of the world's population will live in cities (2015: 54%). On the one hand, today's world's cities need just 2% of the earth's landmass. On the other hand, they are emitting 75% of all CO₂-emissions and consume 60-80% of all energy produced. If the world's population is more likely to concentrate in bigger cities in the future, this means also more challenges for urban planning. Even if other human settlements like communities and villages have to play their part as well, focussing on cities will be crucial.¹ They become some kind of socio-ecological change and innovation laboratories, because mostly all 17 SDGs affect the future and well-being of their inhabitants. This is why SDG 11 is focusing entirely on the transformation of our cities into inclusive, resilient and sustainable places. It refines this general demand by means of 10 sub-goals and proposed 15 indicators:² Affordable and adequate housing for all is highlighted as well as affordable and safe public transport with an extensive network. Moreover, access to safe public and green spaces, clean air, working public waste management are important areas to achieve SDG 11, as well as protecting on-site natural and cultural heritage. This is only possible with a deliberate land use planning also to protect the cities from hazardous events of extreme weather like flooding. To foster the acceptance of all the decisions urban planners and authorities have to make, the public has to be integrated in the decision processes.³

Global Challenges



- ➔ Managed improperly, cities generate huge amounts of waste, consume large volumes of energy and can be sites of great inequality.
- ➔ 828 million people live in slums today and the number keeps rising.
- ➔ Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health.
- ➔ High density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation while reducing resource and energy consumption.

Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

¹ http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Factsheet_Summit.pdf

² <http://archive.citiscopes.org//story/2017/explainer-challenges-measuring-cities-progress-sustainable-development-goals>

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

What does SDG 11 mean for the Global North?



The targets of SDG 11 mean for the Global North to improve sustainability and quality of people's life in all domiciles.

The pressure on northern housing market is increasing because of the move to cities. The rising demand causes higher leases, which lowers the access to affordable housing especially for lower social classes. At the same time the rising prices give tempt city administrations to sell public spaces, which are important for public health and well-being, to be transformed into living space – very often to the luxury segment. To implement the targets of the eleventh SDG settlements and public spaces need to be upgraded.

Furthermore, transportation and mobility need to be more sustainable and affordable. One important obstacle for many people to use public transport is that public transportation often is more expensive than driving their own car in many countries also more reliable and flexible. As public transportation is much more efficient and therefore more sustainable (this advantage can even be enlarged using renewable energy sources for example to run electric buses or trains), promotion of public transportation is the preferred method of choice. Hereby the air quality will be improved especially in big cities although ever-tightening environmental regulations already resulted in a relatively good air quality. Nevertheless, the diesel emissions scandal attracted the attention of the media in the whole world.

Another factor of air pollution is waste incineration, which is still widely spread in the global north even though the waste treatment has made some great strides the last decades in the Global North. Many people practice waste separation but the urban life style lead to unsustainable behaviours like an enormous amount of coffee cups for take away, which cannot be recycled because of their material.



Affordable sustainable public transport is crucial.

Diesel emissions scandal with NO_x – Sickening air in town

In 2014 first discrepancies in the emissions from diesel engines between European and US models of vehicles were measured by the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT).

Volkswagen for example had programmed turbocharged direct injection (TDI) diesel engines to activate their emissions controls only during laboratory emissions testing, but emit up to 40 times more NO_x in real-world driving.^a

It turned out that a wide range of carmakers (Renault, Nissan, Hyundai, Citroen, Fiat, Volvo and other manufacturers) built diesel vehicles with massive levels of NO_x

pollution. Legal European car emission pollutants were found to be exceeded by more than 10 times in many cars.

Children, elderly people or people with lung diseases, and people who work or exercise outside are particularly susceptible to damage to lung tissue and reduction in lung function.^a

Especially diesel cars of Volkswagen were highly discussed because the company had intentionally manipulated emissions testing.^b Due to the deception of more than eleven million cars worldwide VW had to pay US\$4.3 billion in penalties.^c

Sources:

^a „Health and Environmental Impacts of NO_x“. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved 2007-12-26.

^b ICCT (2017): VW defeat devices: A comparison of U.S. and EU required fixes. Retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/2DtaW5x>

^c US DOJ (2017): Volkswagen AG Agrees to Plead Guilty and Pay \$4.3 Billion in Criminal and Civil Penalties; Six Volkswagen Executives and Employees are Indicted in Connection with Conspiracy to Cheat U.S. Emissions Tests. Retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/2j7mT5M>



What does SDG 11 mean for the Global South?

For the Global South SDG 11 is an ambitious goal, because many people still lack the basic needs connected to this SDG.

To meet them, is in most places more urgent, rather than constructing sustainable flagship projects.

This means at first, it is necessary to reduce the number of people who are homeless. Therefore, many other problems have to be addressed: The affordability of housing has to improve which means to address the scarcity of financial resources and building material. Nevertheless, new housing sides (especially when constructed for a high concentration of population) need to be planned with appropriate infrastructure for water, waste and traffic. This will also reduce problems with environmental pollution. Townsfolk has to demand good and sustainable planning for their cities. Since the urban population keeps growing, housing is becoming more expensive; cities



Urban blight in Zanzibar City.

should create holistic plans including all involved institutions to integrate new citizens.

The transport system is harder to access. The high traffic load and the high, growing number of private cars do not fit to the capacity of the roads. Especially in a fast growing city like Dar es Salaam. People spend a lot of their time driving to their working places and back home because of lacking infrastructure. Public transport is much cheaper and more affordable compared to private transport, but mostly depending on the same roads. Communication systems in the Global South are no longer an issue. The advancement of science and technology has made it easier for people to be connected to each other. Communication systems and social networks make it easier for people even to conduct their business online.

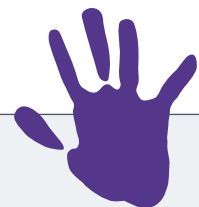
What can be improved about SDG 11?

With SDG 11, all member states of the United Nations have agreed on a common vision and objectives for sustainable urban areas within a global development framework for the first time in the history. This is an important sign since the world becomes more urbanized and networked than ever before.

As more than half of the global population is already living in cities, lifestyle and resource consumption of the people will determine the standing and future of the world. The behaviour of current residents form supply systems and production chains. However, it is hard to convince people to invest in sustainable options and alternatives, even if they positive external effects.

Nevertheless, they are more expensive and the positive effects the consumer cannot directly experienced or measure.

Still, most of the sustainability issues are at the municipal level and need to be solved by municipal administrations, citizen and businesses. This requires new approaches, strengthening municipal responsibilities and finances as well as a prudent selection of overarching goals and indicators for progress monitoring. Municipalities need necessarily a degree of independence as well as support from higher administrative levels in order to ensure that their handling options are applied quickly and effectively.



What can I do to help achieving SDG 11?

In my private life, I can ...

- ➔ Use more public transport and go by bike if possible;
- ➔ Volunteer in local initiatives for sustainability and integration;
- ➔ Vote politicians who want to foster sustainable development in my town.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ Start an initiative to make my quarter more sustainable and connect with initiatives alike;
- ➔ Organize a critical mass bike demonstration to raise awareness for sustainable transport;
- ➔ Address local authorities directly to fulfil SDG11 or engage in local politics.

More Information:

- ! <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>
- ! <https://iclei.org>

What is a Hand Print?

- ! <http://www.handprint.in>
- ! <http://www.handprint.de>



The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Development Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are based on fundamental principles of the Universal Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights-based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
- SDG 16 cover all human rights and in this respect emphasizes the importance of civil and political rights.
- SDG 16 supports the implementation of all human rights on the national level as well as the right to participate and require responsible governance with respect of rights of every person: “leave no one behind”.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not yet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises

Sources:

- https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/aktuell/aktuell_2_2015_Die_Nachhaltigkeitsziele_oder_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf
- https://www.infoe.de/images/infoe/Projektseite_SGD_und_Indigene/Bildungseinheiten/Arbeitshilfe_SDG_13.pdf
- <https://www.humanrights.ch/de/menschenrechte-schweiz/aussenpolitik/aussenpolitik-diverses/entwicklung/agenda-2030>
- https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet37_RtD_EN.pdf

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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201
D-53113 Bonn
Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19
Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach
P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 13: Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



The thirteenth global Goal for Sustainable Development (SDG 13) is especially important because the impacts of the anthropogenic climate change make it harder to achieve the targets of all other SDGs. Even before the initiation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, climate change and its effects had been discussed increasingly on scientific, political, and civic levels, leading to the first IPCC report in 1990¹. The seventh MDG, named “Ensure environmental sustainability”, included the demand for new policies, a decrease in the loss of environmental resources and biodiversity, the access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and strong improvements in the lives of slum residents². Although the targets on water, sanitation, and slum dwellers could be achieved, global greenhouse gas emissions, exploitation of marine fish stocks, species extinction, and deforestation rose immensely from 1990 on².

The only silver lining during the last decades has been the almost complete reduction of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) through the Montreal Protocol, leading to a turnaround in ozone layer damage³. Therefore, the targets of SDG 13 can guide governments, economies, and citizens to strengthen the resilience for climate change hazards and natural disasters, to support poor and small countries in planning and running actions to fight climate change, and to create and implement new national action policies on education on climate change. Those policies should raise awareness of the mitigation of climate change, the adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and early warning systems of the consequential damages of climate change⁴.

Since action on climate change is an extremely pressing issue in our world today, it is regulated in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, but also international exchange forums such as G7 or G20 are helpful for climate dynamics. Without achievements on the implementation of the targets and agreements of international conventions as the Paris Agreement in 2015, even the accomplishments in climate protection of the past are endangered. Moreover, other SDGs might

not be accomplished because of their strong interconnections with the impacts of climate change.

If we do not want a deterioration of the situation of the poorest in the countries of the Global South, e.g. caused by the rising of the sea level, we have to enhance our actions right away!



- ➔ **Name:** Earth
- ➔ **Age:** 4.56 billion years
- ➔ **How we know each other:** you have been living on me since the Pleistocene
- ➔ **Favorite color:** blue (as 70% of my surface)
- ➔ **Favorite plant:** Ginkgo tree (one of the oldest living fossils, it has not changed in approx. 280 million years)
- ➔ **Favorite movies:** Tomorrow, An Inconvenient Truth, Chasing Ice, Beasts of the Southern Wild
- ➔ **Favorite buddy:** Moon
- ➔ **Favorite song:** rainforest or jungle sounds
- ➔ **Favorite activity:** watching the slow thermohaline circulation that drives the ocean's water masses
- ➔ **Biggest wish:** no war or violence on my surface, no extinction of species, no pollution of my soils, waters, ice landscapes, and atmosphere

¹ IPCC (1992): Climate Change. The IPCC 1990 and 1992 Assessments, retrievable at: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_ipcc_90_92_assessments_far.shtml.

² UN (2013): We can end poverty – Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015, Fact Sheet Goal 7, retrievable at: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_7_fs.pdf.

³ UNEP (2017): Still fresh at 30. Ozone healing. Montreal Protocol takes on climate change, retrievable at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/still-fresh-30-ozone-hole-healing-montreal-protocol-takes-climate-change>.

⁴ IAEI-SDGs (2016): Official list of global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, retrievable at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework_A.RES.71.313%20Annex.pdf.



What does SDG 13 mean for the Global North?

Climate change is one of the most unequally caused and at the same time, most unfairly distributed issues on our planet today. Therefore, the term climate justice has been playing an increasing role in international conventions. The Global North has built his wealth on using fossil fuels for 150 years, with "emerging countries" catching up. By signing the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, all countries obligated to adjust their development to sustainable models of prosperity. Here applies the CBDR-RC principal: common but differentiated responsibilities, taking into consideration the respective capabilities. Assessing the balance of individual countries, it is important to note that outsourced emissions distort the picture: China produces (and emits) for "industrial countries" and increases its wealth while "industrial countries" keep or even decrease their emission rates.

Thus, it needs better national and international frameworks, e.g. a price for carbon dioxide, and/or the fulfilment of the existing environmental regulations to strengthen the economic sectors with low emissions and pollutions and to implement strategies for climate and environmental protection. The energy sector needs to be transformed by strongly increasing the shares of renewable energies and the simultaneous decreasing of fossil energies. The continued existence of wetlands and forests needs to be secured, buildings have to be modernized, construction activities have to be minimized and a change of mind towards more recycling and upcycling has to be promoted. Furthermore, investments and subventions have to be redirected to sustainable sectors, innovative projects, and climate protection actions. Especially governments and companies need to act immediately and strongly for an economic, social, and political change, going along with good education on our climate system. And as

the countries of the Global North were the biggest perpetrators of climate change, using and damaging much more resources than it would have been their share of the common good, they have to keep and even exceed the targets of the SDGs and of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, all countries need to strengthen



One of the most climat-damaging fossil fuels: brown coal (pictured: Brown coal open-pit mining in Garzweiler, Germany)

their national resiliencies and disaster protection systems and technically and financially support the global community. The money is available; it just needs to be spent on the right projects. But we do not only need to fight the present results of climate change, we also need to prevent future damages. A comprehensive sustainable transformation towards 100% renewable energies and a closed cycle of materials is a chance for a global world with more respect, protection, and support for all human beings and the environment and fair economic, ecological, social, and political shares. It is a chance for participation, transparency, and accountability!⁵

What does SDG 13 mean for the Global South?



Growing economies of the Global South, such as China, India, Brazil, or Indonesia have a growing demand for consumption and thereby, an increasing need for resources and rising green-



Sustainability right from the start: The installation of solar panels in Bhutan

house gas emissions. As these countries and their companies would like to keep on growing, one important aim of the Agenda 2030 consists in a fast transformation to innovative and sustainable economies, skipping the era of high pollutions and emissions. Giving it a try, the countries of the Global South could create a faster and much more sustainable development than those of the Global North. Some projects have already proved it: there are better ways of economic growth than the ones shown by the richest states and companies.

Many regions of the Global South are more strongly affected by climate change than e.g. Europe, not only due to their low resilience. Thus, governments need to act right now and come up with sustainable solutions against climate-related hazards. A solid start could be made with more and improved water reservoirs, regional and local food strategies, and a renewable energy system that reaches even rural areas. Moreover, the under-

⁵ The text of the Global North is inspired by 2030report (2017): Deutschland und die globale Nachhaltigkeitsagenda 2017: https://www.2030report.de/sites/default/files/grossbaustelle/Schattenbericht_2017_170807_web.pdf

standing of climate change, the adaptation to climate change, and the mitigation of its impacts need to become a substantial part of all forms of school and informal learning and education and training. The responsibility for the transformation to a better protection of life and nature, new technology sectors, new policy processes, and new solutions of economic challenges should not be passed on to future generations. Not only young people have to be informed but also adults like rural farmers, civil servants, or slum residents need to know more about cli-

mate change, environmental protection, and security strategies; especially if they believe in higher forces, e.g. in regard to increased or ceased rains or declining crop yields.

Effective and sustainable management strategies, proactive policies, innovative economic models, a good education system, early warning systems, clean energies and products, and more allow a sustainable development. Any country and any project have the chance to become a best practice example.

Who or what forces climate change?

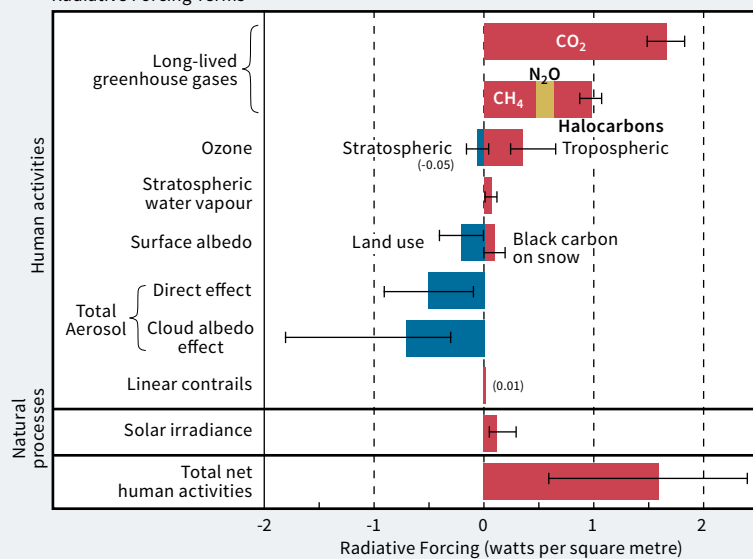
Next to the basis of the Earth's climate, which is set by the radiation of the sun and the protective shield of the atmosphere, most of the additional energy, the radiative forcing (see explanation below), is contributed through human activities. Especially greenhouse gases that are emitted steadily by us lead to the warming-up of our planet. Only some of our actions, e.g. bright particles (aerosols) that we extrude into the atmosphere, result in the reflection of solar energy.

“Radiative forcing is usually quantified as the rate of energy change per unit area of the globe as measured at the top of the atmosphere, and is expressed in units of watts per square metre.”

IPCC(2007): Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg1/ar4-wg1-chapter2.pdf>.

Radiative forcing of climate between 1750 and 2005

Radiative Forcing Terms



What can be improved about SDG 13?

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time and the SDGs, coupled with the Paris Agreement and hopefully, ambitious national implementation strategies are good frameworks for policymakers to tackle this challenge. Additionally, each government, company, and any citizen are meant to do their bit. However, governments will be likely not to reach the agreed reductions. The missing of punishments for neglected promises is frequently being criticised, disregarding its necessity for the successful conclusion of this agreement because many countries would not have signed it otherwise. Moreover, there are informal sanction possibilities like exerting political pressure by which the countries can control each other.

In addition, the targets of SDG 13 are too weak. Several issues are excluded completely or softened through paraphrases. For example, the decarbonisation is not named as such. From the wording, some rather unspecified plans, strategies or policies for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions are supposed to be sufficient to succeed in climate action. There should have been

a stronger focus on a complete adjustment from high-emission energy to renewable energy with strategies of financial, technical and structural support for different countries, or at least a percent value of how much reduction should be achieved. Furthermore, the restrictions of SDG 13 are mostly ignoring the development status of the countries except for the commitment of financial support, which indeed is an important statement concerning climate change. Nevertheless, the mentioning of respect, fair shares, protection, support, transparency, accountability, and participation would have been an important addition.

Next to higher objectives that might not have been approved by all states, another problem of the SDGs is that some targets are contradictory, depending on how countries understand and implement the demands. The here presented global goal of the Agenda 2030 might be for instance in discrepancy with an expansion of infrastructure and industrialization projects, which are likely at the expense of natural habitats. Nevertheless, a lot can be achieved with the agreed goals.

What can I do to help achieving SDG 13?



In my private life, I can...

- ➔ use renewable energies and try to save energy by turning off electric devices;
- ➔ consume fewer and/or emission-free or low emission products;
- ➔ support local companies and re-/upcycle products to reduce transport emissions and the use of resources;
- ➔ use low emission transport (bike, public transport);
- ➔ try to understand the Earth's climate system and how you affect it.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ inform people about the impacts of climate change and about adaptation and mitigation possibilities;
- ➔ get active for environmental protection;
- ➔ remind policymakers and companies of international agreements and environmental guidelines, e.g. through demonstrations, educational projects, or open letters;
- ➔ grow trees that take up carbon dioxide;
- ➔ connect with people locally and globally to learn more about the effects of climate change.

More Information:

Facts about the Earth's climate system and climate change ⓘ www.ipcc.ch

News on the Paris Agreement, COPs, and other conferences and conventions ⓘ www.unfccc.int

Information on regional actions of governments and non-governmental organizations on climate change and sustainable development

ⓘ www.climatenetwork.org ⓘ www.2030report.de
ⓘ www.germanwatch.org ⓘ www.southernvoice.org

What is a Hand Print?

ⓘ <http://www.handprint.in>



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Sources: https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/aktuell/aktuell_2_2015_Die_Nachhaltigkeitsziele_oder_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf
https://www.infoe.de/images/infoe/Projektseite_SGD_und_Indigene/Bildungseinheiten/Arbeitshilfe_SDG_13.pdf
<https://www.humanrights.ch/de/menschenrechte-schweiz/aussenpolitik/aussenpolitik-diverses/entwicklung/agenda-2030>
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet37_RtD_EN.pdf

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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201
D-53113 Bonn
Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19
Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach
P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 14: Life below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



The Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) acknowledges that oceans and seas play a key role in our global ecosystems and environmental balance. They provide a habitat for more than one million species and absorb around 30% of worldwide CO₂-Emissions, buffering the impacts of global warming. According to the United Nations, over three billion people directly or indirectly depend both, on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods and on the oceans as their primary source of protein.¹ Yet life below water is increasingly threatened by human activity. Today, overfishing by large-scale fisheries, the pollution of oceans, and acidification caused by increasing carbon dioxide emissions are the most challenging threats to the marine ecosystems (see box).²

The aim of SDG 14 is hence to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by 2030. Until now, the international community had given little attention to marine conservation. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) did not contain any precise guidelines concerning marine ecosystems. Only at the Rio Conference 2012, the UN Member States officially recognized the ocean as crucial contributor to achieve international sustainable development goals like eradicating poverty and hunger or combating climate change. Moreover, as oceans and global water flows are largely unaffected by national boundaries, marine protection is a challenge that especially requires international conventions. Hence, the international community defined a separate target for life below water.³

To protect life under water, the UN hence formulates the aim to more strictly regulate international fishing to stop illegal and unannounced fishery as well as destructive fishing practices. Moreover, the abolishment of all kinds of subsidies for industrial fisheries is necessary to end overfishing and to attain recovery of global fish stocks. Apart from this, marine access and livelihood shall be supported and improved for people living on

small island developing states and in least developed countries and for small-scale fisheries. Therefore, an institution protecting the rights of small-scale fisheries needs to be established. Finally, it is important to constantly improve and expand research on marine technology and marine ecosystems.



Global Challenges

- ➔ It's estimated that global oceans contain between 100 and 142 million tons of rubbish, whereof 60-80% are plastic pieces. Around 10 million tons are added each year.^a
- ➔ About one quarter of all assessed fish stocks are being overfished and even more are still recovering from past overfishing, jeopardizing long term food security.
- ➔ Excessive nutrient inputs mainly from fertilizers heavily threaten marine ecosystems and can lead to so-called dead zones as for example in the Gulf of Mexico.
- ➔ Due to the massive uptake of CO₂, the ocean acidification has increased by 26% since the Industrial Revolution, putting shelled animals like corals at risk.

Source: United Nations (2016). Summary of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment in A Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects (Regular Process). Retrieved at: http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RPROC/Summary.pdf

^a UBA (2017): Welche Abfallmengen befinden sich in den Meeren?, retrievable at: <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/service/uba-fragen/welche-abfallmengen-befinden-sich-in-den-meeren>.

¹ United Nations: retrievable at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

² Martens, J./Obenland, W. (2017): Die 2030-Agenda. Globale Zukunftsziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung, retrievable at: https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Agenda_2030_online.pdf, Page 137 f.

³ UN (2013): General Assembly Resolution 67/78. Oceans and the law of the sea, retrievable at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/483/28/PDF/N1248328.pdf?OpenElement>.

What does SDG 14 mean for the Global North?



The four main challenges of pollution, overfishing, eutrophication and acidification concern countries in the Global North in various aspects. Oceans are the final destination of all rubbish and chemicals that enter rivers and groundwater, making them particularly vulnerable to pollution. The five “ocean garbage patches”, accumulating solid waste in the centre of the big five ocean currents, illustrate the dramatic debris pollution of the oceans. The largest one is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, located between Hawaii and California. Wealthy, industrialized economies generate the highest amount of plastic waste per capita. Due to usually well-established waste management systems, the generated litter is mostly prevented from entering the oceans via the national rivers. Nevertheless, as comprehensive data on waste trade between industrialized and developing economies is missing, the share of plastic waste from the global north ending up in the oceans might be larger than currently confirmable.⁴ The consequentially also increasing amount of microplastics in the oceans (see box below) concerns sea product consumption and human health, as microplastics were found in the stomachs of fish all over the world - the toxic particles hence enter the food chain and eventually end up on our plates.⁵

Besides plastics, other pollutants like phosphor and nitrate used in industrial agriculture end up as run-off in rivers and eventually in the seas (see SDG 15 Land on Earth). It leads to eutrophication, algae bloom, in coastal regions, eventually producing oxygen depleted dead zones. The Gulf of Mexico (Mississippi delta) and the Baltic Sea are especially known for their annual dead zones, as a result of the heavy use of animal manure and industrial fertilizer in agriculture.⁶ Additionally, there are extreme events of marine pollution, such as accidents on off-shore oil refineries disrupting entire ecosystems.⁷ As mentioned above, increasing CO₂ emissions lead to an acidification

of the oceans, as they take up great shares of the CO₂ masses in our air. In consequence, underwater organisms that react sensitively on changes of acidity, e.g. corals and mangroves, lose their natural habitat. Industry, traffic, and power generation of the Global North constitute a major part of past and present CO₂ emissions. It ties into goal 13, climate action, addressing the responsibility of strongly emitting countries to act immediately mitigating climate change and ocean acidification.⁸ Lastly, studies in 2018 have revealed that wealthy countries dominate industrial fishing at the expense of poorer nations. Just five countries – China, Japan, Spain, South Korea and Taiwan – account for 85% of all high seas fishing. They often overexploit the fish stocks, endangering the livelihood of millions of people all over the world. It’s estimated that 53% of fish stocks caught commercially are used to the maximum and 32% are depleted.⁹ Fishery by-catch even exacerbates pressures on fish stocks. International cooperation and transparency on fishing practices are necessary to ensure equitable and sustainable sharing of fisheries in the currently vast, remote and lawless seas.¹⁰



Industrial Fishing in the open sea.

What are microplastics and how do they enter the marine environment?

Microplastics are tiny granulates or microspheres that stem from decomposed plastic pieces, synthetic cloths, cosmetics and cleaners. Microplastics are usually too small to be filtered by treatment plants. Once in the ocean, the particles can not be removed and start acting as toxin carriers. They adsorb and concentrate chemicals present in

the environment that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, known as PBT compounds. The toxically “charged” microplastics then enter the food chain and climb up the trophic levels until we eat the sea products and store the microplastic in our fatty tissue. Studies have shown that it can lead to cancer, inflammation, and other toxic effects.

Source: BUND (2017): Mikroplastik- kleine Gifttransporter aus dem Abflussrohr, retrievable at: <https://www.bund.net/meere/mikroplastik/hintergrund/>

⁴ Lebreton (2019). Where Mismanaged Plastic Waste is Generated and Possible Paths of Change. Retrieved from: <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/updates/where-mismanaged-plastic-waste-is-generated-and-possible-paths-of-change/>

⁵ NABU (2017): Plastikmüll und seine Folgen, retrievable at: <https://www.nabu.de/natur-und-landschaft/meere/muellkippe-meer/muellkippe-meer.html>.

⁶ <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/dead-zone/>

⁷ Deutschlandfunk (2015): Die vergessene Katastrophe, retrievable at: https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/oelunfall-im-golf-von-mexiko-die-vergessene-katastrophe.724.de.html?dram:article_id=317478

⁸ Deutsche Welle (2015): Meere versauern dauerhaft durch CO₂, retrievable at: <https://www.dw.com/de/meere-versauern-dauerhaft-durch-co2/a-18624100>.

⁹ Greenpeace (2012): Die Jagd auf den letzten Fisch, retrievable at: <https://www.greenpeace.de/sites/www.greenpeace.de/files/20120701-Ueberfischung-Kurzinfo.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://globalfishingwatch.org/data/global-fishing-watch-2018-the-year-in-transparency/>



What does SDG 14 mean for the Global South?

Countries of the Global South are especially challenged by ocean pollution and overfishing. In populous countries, such as China and India, a lower use of plastic per capita coupled with a high population density yields large volumes of plastic waste. Combined with inappropriate waste management infrastructures it results in significant volumes of plastic waste leaking into the environment. Currently, the global geography of mismanaged plastic waste generation is disproportionately higher on the Asian and African continent, whereas 86% of the global plastic input in oceans stems from Asian rivers.¹¹ Similarly, untreated wastewater from sewage and industry mainly contribute to eutrophication of lakes and coastal regions.¹² It is therefore crucial to determinedly work on waste management and waste water treatment in countries of the global south to protect water bodies. In this case the Global South can learn from the Global North, e.g. on how to conserve water quality and to locate industries far from water bodies as a tool to protect oceans, seas, and marine resources. In general, there should be a continuing dialogue between the Global South and Global North on the protection of water bodies, paying tribute to their importance for human life and the non-existence of boundaries in the oceans which makes water pollution a global issue.

Especially for people living in countries of the Global South, the ocean constitutes a major source of food, employment and income. About 3.2 billion people depend on fish for protein and millions of artisanal coastal fishers rely on sea products for their livelihood. Due to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing often with a high amount of by-catch and significantly executed by large trawlers of high-income countries, fish stocks and other aquatic organisms have severely decreased.

Collaboration between governmental, non-governmental and international organisations in the fight against IUU is necessary to uphold food security and income for billions of people.¹³ In the same time, also countries of the Global South face serious problems with destructive fishing methods by local fishers, such as using bombs, dynamite, and poison. Comprehensive regulations of fishing practices in combination with the strict execution of protection laws are necessary to counteract these practices. Moreover, many African countries and other parts of the Global South are currently establishing oil explorations in water bodies, contributing to the destruction of aquatics and the change of the sea surface.¹⁴ Although those activities have positive social and political effects, e.g. creating jobs, encouraging businesses and providing vital infrastructure for remote communities, the negative impacts on nature und unsustainably practices come at a price, for nature and future generations.



Selling fish by small-scale fishers on a local fish market.

What can be improved about SDG 14?

The targets of SDG 14 are ambitious and should partly be even implemented before 2030. However, some goals do not go far enough: for example, environmental organizations call for the extension of protection areas to at least 20%, instead of 10% of maritime and coastal regions.¹⁵ A central issue insufficiently addressed by Goal 14 is the international exploitation of fish stock which benefits large companies, affects mainly the poor and thereby manifests global hierarchies. Particularly at the West African coast, fish stocks have been exploited by European and Asian industrial trawlers.¹⁶ These activities must be regulated towards sustainable ocean management and the protection of life under water, its ecosystems and people that depend on

it. Another problem is the ongoing privatization of marine resources of fishing grounds and beaches. States thus shift their responsibility: Marine protection is left to environmental organizations and the (over)use of the oceans to large companies.¹⁷ Lastly, the formulated need for research should acknowledge the current global distribution of knowledge (which parts of the world are researched on?), of knowledge generation (who is researching?) and knowledge distribution (who gets informed?). There is hence the need for inclusive and comprehensive research in all countries in collaboration with researchers from all countries of the world to achieve sustainable development of the life below water.

¹¹ <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/>

¹² <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/dead-zone/>

¹³ <https://globalfishingwatch.org/data/global-fishing-watch-2018-the-year-in-transparency/>

¹⁴ Deutsche Rohstoffagentur (2011): Erdölförderung aus großen Wassertiefen, retrievable at: https://www.bgr.bund.de/DE/Gemeinsames/Produkte/Downloads/Commodity_Top_News/Energie/35_Erdolfoerderung.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3.

¹⁵ Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung (2013): Die ökologische Dimension in der Post-2015-Agenda für nachhaltige Entwicklung. Eine Positionsbestimmung der deutschen Umwelt- und Entwicklungsverbände. Hintergrundpapier. Berlin, retrievable at: <http://forumue.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Forum-Umwelt-und-Entwicklung-Post-2015-ZieleHintergrundpapier.pdf>. Page 8.

¹⁶ <https://globalfishingwatch.org/>

¹⁷ Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung (2017): UN-Meereskonferenz in New York: Partnerschaften mit Industrie statt Achtung der Rechte von Kleinfischern und Küstenbewohnern, retrievable at: <https://www.forumue.de/pm-un-meereskonferenz-in-new-york-partnerschaften-mit-industrie-statt-achtung-der-rechte-von-kleinfischern-und-kuestebewohnern/>.

What can I do to help achieving SDG 14?



In my private live, I can...

- ➔ refuse cosmetic products that contain micro-plastics;
- ➔ avoid synthetic clothes that dispense micro-plastics during the washing process;
- ➔ discard using one-way plastic products;
- ➔ minimize my carbon footprint;
- ➔ follow a vegetarian diet, especially reducing fish and seafood consumption.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ convince my family to stop eating fish;
- ➔ help create plastic free supermarkets;
- ➔ get restaurants and cafes to ditch single-use plastics;
- ➔ translate different laws into local languages so local people can understand their rights and duties;
- ➔ policy advocacy & lobbying on proper waste disposal and recycling in my community;
- ➔ do a media tour and sensitization on the protection.

More Information:

- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>
- ❗ www.greenpeace.org/international/act/lets-end-the-age-of-plastic/

What is a Hand Print?

- ❗ <http://www.handprint.in>
- ❗ <http://www.handprint.de>



The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have an obligation to identify the most vulnerable address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not jet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises.

Sources:
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https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet37_RtD_EN.pdf

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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201
D-53113 Bonn
Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19
Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach
P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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SDG 15: Life on Land



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 15 – Life on land is part of the planetary boundaries and depicts an SDG that needs urgent action. On the one hand human kind is heavily depending on land for its own survival, but on the other hand we exploit and destroy it in so many ways. Since the 1990s, 75% of the biodiversity of plants and livestock used in agriculture has been lost¹. This is a heavy threat for food security worldwide, making plants and cattle vulnerable for diseases and parasites. Additionally, industrial agriculture destroys many natural ecosystems. More than half of the world's rainforests are irrecoverable because they had been cleared for the production of animal feedstuff, biofuels, palm oil and meat. Overall, 60% of ecosystems worldwide are either not used in a sustainable way or in a bad condition.²

Consequently, there is a lot to do for humankind, expressing the high ambition of implementing SDG 15. It contains among others the following strategies and actions: Direct action to stop the degradation of wildlife habitats; sustainable use of ecosystems on land especially forests, mountains, dryland, and fresh water until 2020; stopping the vast loss of biodiversity, including the immediate end of poaching and trade with endangered species; halting desertification, land sealing and degradation of soil until 2030; rehabilitation of already aggrieved areas; stopping the introduction of invasive flora and fauna.³



Global Challenges

- ➔ Prevent extinction of flora and fauna on the planet caused by direct effects like destroying habitats for profit and indirect effects like climate change (see SDG 13).
- ➔ Increase biodiversity by reintroducing ancestral regional species of flora and fauna as well as minimizing monocultures in agriculture and forestry.
- ➔ Reduce impact and insertion of alien species.
- ➔ Ensure the protection of all endangered species financially.
- ➔ Create a global understanding how much humankind's survival depends on sustainable use and protection of the planet's ecosystems.
- ➔ Create alternative income for people who depend on the exploitation of land-ecosystems.

¹ ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL (2018): 17 Ziele – Ziel 15: Leben an Land. Retrievable at: <https://17ziele.de/ziele/15.html>

² ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL (2018): 17 Ziele – Ziel 15: Leben an Land. Retrievable at: <https://17ziele.de/ziele/15.html>

³ UN (2016): Sustainable Development Goal 15. Retrievable at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>

What does SDG 15 mean for the Global North?

In most of the countries in the Global North only few places are still untouched wilderness, as most ecosystems are used for food production and the extraction of resources. Paradoxically, the highest biodiversity is found in urban gardens and most encounters with big predators happen in zoos. Especially urban residents experience a growing disconnection from wilderness, leading to bizarre effects. Even though urban citizens are concerned about messages on the extinction of important insect species, on wildfires and storms that destroy forests and on vast degradation of fertile soil, they usually struggle to realize the connection to their lifestyle and a growing rate of environmental

degradation. Moreover, people are scared hearing about the wolves' comeback in rural areas or about growing numbers of racoons, foxes and boars living in their urban neighbourhood. These new urban animals trigger odd situations and challenge the perception of nature in the Global North. Despite the age of growing urbanisation and biodiversity crisis, nature is still conceptualized as a romantic place that people long for.⁴ This conception can be helpful as in Germany people feel strongly about nature conservation and expect their government to act. 69% of German citizens strongly agree that nature is important for a good life. They also feel closely tied with the nature of their region. While 51% do not feel threatened by the destruction of nature in Germany, 65% fear that there will not be any intact nature left for their children or grandchildren.⁵



Photo: Jacek Dylag on Unsplash

Mass extinction of insects especially of bees is a real problem.

Against this background, the German government acknowledges in its "German National Strategy for Sustainable Development" that intact ecosystems are crucial for a sustainable development and human existence on earth. Politicians have introduced agendas to protect biodiversity and to enlarge nature conservation areas and created measures for the sustainable cultivation of German forests and rank soil. However, the limits of the governmental consistency become evident in the practical implementation, as for example once the aim to reduce soil sealing appeared to fail, it was shortly prolonged for 10 years from 2020 to 2030.⁶

What does SDG 15 mean for the Global South?

Many countries of the Global South are known for their rich biodiversity in plants and wildlife. Some countries are home for big mammals like gorillas, elephants, rhinos or several species of big cats. In some cases, they are national symbols. Lush and biodiverse tropical rainforests cover the area of many equatorial countries in the Global South. Economically seen, this high level of biodiversity is a precious resource. From an ecological perspective, it is crucial for the planet and its ecosystems to survive.⁷ However, the intensified extraction of natural resources to satisfy the constantly increasing global demand often leads to the destruction, pollution and contamination of precious natural habitat, not to mention the labour conditions and dependency relations that are thereby often uphold. The export of these natural resources, however, is also crucial to enhance economic development, fight poverty and hunger and tackle economical, educational and health issues. This sustainability dilemma of natural resource extraction is complemented by the agricultural sector. Farming methods are intensified and

land use expanded in order to enhance economic development, leading to massive stress for many ecosystems.⁸ Many more



Photo: Rick Handabura on Unsplash

Massai are used to live with wildlife.

⁴ LOUV, R. (2010): Last child in the woods. Saving our children from nature deficit disorder. Atlantic Book, London.

⁵ BFN (2016): 2015 Nature awareness study. Population survey on nature and biological diversity: pp. 61-65. BMUB, PR-division, Berlin

⁶ GERMAN GOVERNMENT (2016): Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie. Neuauflage 2016. Retrieval at: <https://bit.ly/2QyE1CJ>

⁷ UNEP (2016). Enhancing Synergies across Global Biodiversity Conventions - Experiences from the Global South. Workshop Proceedings and Country Reports. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.

⁸ acet (2014). Extractives and Sustainable Development. West Africa Trends Newsletter, Issue 11.



people than in the Global North are directly depending on a healthy environment for their income and are often already experiencing uncertainty because of changing weather patterns related to climate change. Poaching depicts another serious

ecological issue, which is especially spread in poor rural areas depicting an additional source of income. Many of these points also are true for Tanzania. Nevertheless, the country is famous for its national parks attracting many tourists.

Are we experiencing a new wave of wildlife mass extinction on our planet?

The current loss of biodiversity is a very serious and alarming issue. However, the scientific proof of the extent shows to be highly complex, leading to a variety of methods analysing biodiversity loss. In any case, scientists seem to agree that we experienced a dramatic loss rate of species and/or individuals in the last decades. In its long history our planet faced five big events that caused mass extinction of wildlife, triggered by volcanic events, global

cooling and meteor strikes. Will human activity cause the next big event? Many scientists conclude: The evidence is incontrovertible that recent extinction rates are unprecedented in human history. This could be the initiation of the 6th mass extinction, whose dramatic consequences though could still be avoided through immediate strong conservation efforts.

Source: Ceballos et al (2015). Accelerated modern human-induced species losses: Entering the sixth mass extinction. *Science Advanced* 1 (5). DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1400253

What can be improved about SDG 15?

All countries have to strengthen their efforts to protect life on land. This means, we have to remodel the human thinking about nature to understand ourselves again as an essential part of it. Humans have gained a formative influence and responsibility for the well-being of all beings on this planet. Nevertheless, most humans live alienated from nature, know little about eco-

systems and are not aware of their everyday influence on nature. Therefore, SDG 15 also has to implement measures and goals for environmental education. Indigenous people are a very good source concerning this knowledge and their experience with nature should be valued.⁹



What can I do to help achieving SDG 15?

In my private life, I can ...

- ➔ Volunteer in a garden initiative to improve biodiversity in my surroundings;
- ➔ Donate money to wildlife organisations;
- ➔ Plant trees and use ecosia instead of google as my search engine;
- ➔ Reconnect with nature and promote its values;
- ➔ Buy organic food from local farmers.

To increase my Hand Print, I can...

- ➔ Start an urban gardening initiative in my area;
- ➔ Promote sustainable agriculture in my community;
- ➔ Address companies and demand from them to support and establish sustainability programs for wildlife;
- ➔ Engage in politics and start lobbying for nature conservation.

More Information:

- ❗ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>
- ❗ <https://www.iucn.org>

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- ❗ <http://www.handprint.in>
- ❗ <http://www.handprint.de>



⁹ INFOE (2017): Arbeitshilfe für die entwicklungspolitische Bildungsarbeit zu den Zusammenhängen zwischen SDG 15 und indigenen Völkern, retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/2D3RM4F>

The Human Rights aspects of Development – Dignity is key in SDG implementation

- All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Development Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are based on fundamental principles of the Universal Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- SDG implementation is based on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights – individual rights as well as collective rights. All countries agreed in Rio 2012 that the new Sustainability Goals should be based on international law – so also including all human rights.
- To improve the lives of all while meeting the individual human rights “[t]here is a critical need to ensure human rights- based policy coherence in the global partnerships for development and mainstream all human rights [...] into the work of the United Nations system”. (UNHR, 2016, p. 25)
- To realize the explicitly required inclusion of all humans – “leave no one behind”. The states (and the international community) as duty bearers have the obligation to identify the most vulnerable, address them first and ensure legal rights and give access to remedy and redress.
- SDG cover all human rights and in this respect they are based in economic, social and cultural human rights, they go beyond MDGs and target access, they cover affordability and quality of social services for all.
- SDG 16 cover all human rights and in this respect emphasizes the importance of civil and political rights.
- SDG 16 supports the implementation of all human rights on the national level as well as the right to participate and require responsible governance with respect of rights of every person: “leave no one behind”.
- The SDGs are strong on extra-territorial human rights obligations but not jet strong enough on obligations for multinational enterprises

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Germanwatch e.V. • Office Bonn

Kaiserstr. 201

D-53113 Bonn

Phone +49 (0)228 / 60 492-0, Fax -19

Website: www.germanwatch.org

CAN Tanzania

Mbezi Juu Kilimani Street, Mbezi Beach

P.O. Box 32900, Dar es Salaam

Tanzania

Website: www.cantz.or.tz

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For further information, please contact one of our offices

Germanwatch – Bonn Office

Kaiserstr. 201
D-53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)228 / 60492-0
Fax: +49 (0)228 / 60492-19

Germanwatch – Berlin Office

Stresemannstr. 72
D-10963 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)30 / 2888 356-0
Fax: +49 (0)30 / 2888 356-1

E-mail: info@germanwatch.org

or visit our website:

www.germanwatch.org

