



# BRIDGING NOTE | DIAGNOSTIC TO SCOPING: HOW-TO GUIDES FOR THE SDG PUSH: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ACCELERATE THE SDGS

## Overview

This document provides a [How-To Guide](#) for using the [Diagnostic](#) during the [Scoping](#) phase of the SDG Push.

The information below refers specifically to the simulator and how it can be used for scoping process and the key considerations to include at the start of the SDG Push. Before diving into the details of the Scoping exercise, refer to the resources linked below to get an overview of the initiative and its goals.

- [Concept Note](#)
- [User-friendly Website](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [SDG Accelerators](#)
- [SDG Push Flagship Report](#)

See a [Process Flow](#) for the Scoping and Dialogue in the Annex to give you a quick overview.

## STEP 1 – UNDERSTANDING SCOPING

### WHAT IS SCOPING?

Scoping is a foundational process that reviews country context, policy, evidence, and institutional mechanisms to map out SDG gaps, bottlenecks, interdependencies, and opportunities. The main objective in this phase is to bring all relevant analysis into one frame.

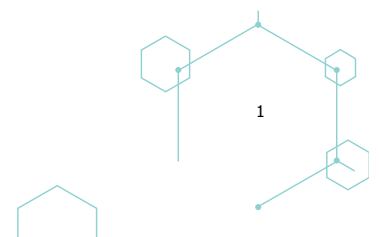
It's easy to get engulfed in this phase – its important the scoping note provides insights on a couple of key areas that need to be clearly understood, and an interlinkage map tailored to each country will help bridge the analysis of trends and current priorities with the identification of potential accelerators.


The data gathered during this phase also directly supports the modelling phase.

Government is expected to endorse the scoping note and its key elements [detail] will be the foundation for acceleration dialogues.

### WHO WILL CONDUCT THE SCOPING?

The scoping is done together with country experts to support country specific needs that clearly articulate the story of SDG progress, challenges, and opportunities. A National Policy Planning Expert is hired to lead





this work. They are expected to conduct a desk review, consult national experts and contextualise the findings from the diagnostic in the national context.

### WHAT ARE THE OUTPUTS FROM THE SCOPING PHASE?

The scoping phase should produce two documents.

1. A comprehensive report detailing all the findings. Template available [here](#).
2. A two-page insight on top level findings and priorities. Template available [here](#).

### WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING THE SCOPING?

The scoping should be completed within one month.

## STEP 2 – HOW DO I USE THE DIAGNOSTIC DURING SCOPING?

### WHAT IS THE DIAGNOSTIC?

The Diagnostic is a custom build web-application that supports the scoping process by allowing users to:

1. Easily identify which SDGs are on-track and off-track for any country.
2. Map out the synergies and trade-offs between SDGs and their targets.
3. Use an open-source text analytics tool to analyze any pdf document and map its content against the SDGs.
4. Model the SDG Future Scenarios for 2030.

### DATA AND CUSTOMIZING THE DIAGNOSTIC

The diagnostic is build using the latest data from [UNStats](#), the latest available [Voluntary National Review](#) and the global SDG interlinkages set out by the [European Commission](#). If new or additional data and information is identified in the scoping, the diagnostic can be updated using credible sources to customise the tool to meet a countries context. Email [data@undp.org](mailto:data@undp.org) to customise the diagnostic.

### GETTING STARTED WITH THE DIAGNOSTIC

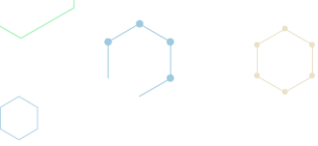
You can find the diagnostic on the Data Futures Platform at <https://data.undp.org/diagnostic-simulator/>. The four functions of the diagnostic are outlined on the Homepage from which you can navigate to the tool of interest. It is recommended to use all four tools, but these do not need to be used sequentially.

### SDG TRENDS

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This section pulls in data from [UNStats](#) and allows users to explore each of the 17 SDG and related 169 sub-targets trends through interactive, easy-to-use visualizations of the 232 unique indicators.

Once on the [SDG Trends page](#), select your country of interest. For each country, the 17 SDGs will be categorized into four categories:



- “On Track” - The country is on track to fulfill the SDG by 2030,
- “For Review” - With current progress the country will miss the SDG by 2030 by a small margin,
- “Identified Gap” - With current progress the country will miss the SDG by 2030 by a large margin,
- “Gap Unidentified” - Country doesn’t have enough data to identify the progress of the SDG.



For example, South Africa has 7 SDGs On-Track, 4 For Review, 4 Identified Gaps and 1 Gap NA.

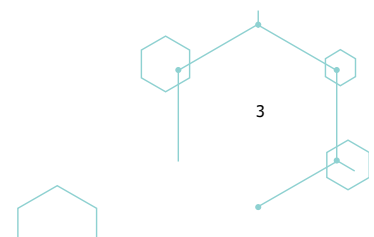
You can then dive deeper into each specific SDG and sub-targets to understand which of the indicators and targets are driving the SDG trend to be on-track or off-track. The graphs can be downloaded as an image and included in the scoping note as needed.

#### Goal Targets



#### SDG INTERLINKAGES

The SDGs do not exist in silos, understanding how the goals are interconnected, both positively and negatively, is essential to understanding the mechanisms for achieving the targets. Identifying the most interlinked and strongest SDGs is important for acceleration. Thus, important to interrogate the interlinkages at the national level.

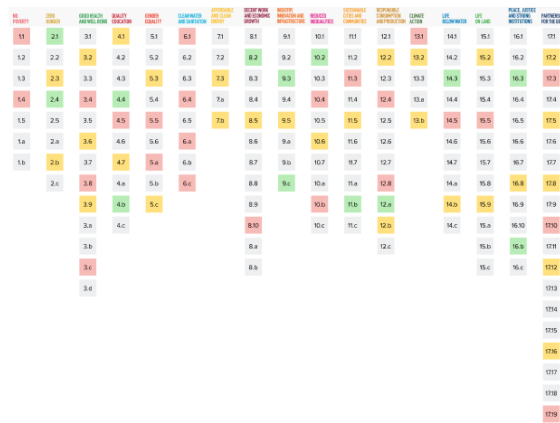




Examine how the 169 targets are interconnected and how this relates to the SDGs that are not on track to reach the 2030 goals.

### Interlinkages Visualization

Click on the target to see the interlinkages. The synergies and tradeoffs are global, which means they are the same for all countries as mapped by the European Commission. However, the traffic light colouring of the targets is customised based on each countries data on the SDGs.



South Africa Change Country Current Gaps Current Priorities SDG Push



Click on the target to see the interlinkages. The synergies and trade-offs are global, which means they are the same for all countries as mapped by the [European Commission](#). However, the traffic light colouring of the targets is customised based on each countries data on the SDGs.

Targets are greyed out because of lack of data, however, the information on interlinkages still applies.

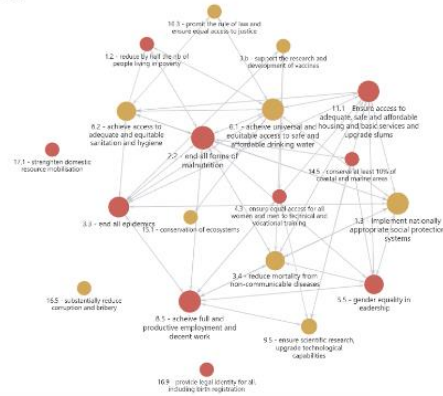
### INTERLINKAGE NETWORKS

Focus on the interlinkages that are off-track and for-review, these will be the acupuncture points for acceleration. Identifying the strongest interlinkage with the greatest potential for progress will be important to take into the dialogue phase.

Additionally, the network shows you which SDGs will need to be discussed in the dialogues, giving you a reference for which stakeholder and thematic experts need to be invited.

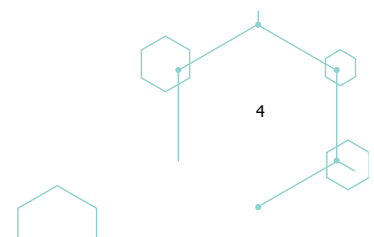
It's important to remember, as with all of the tools in the diagnostic, that this is a starting point for further contextualisation and exploration. These tools aim to get the process started.

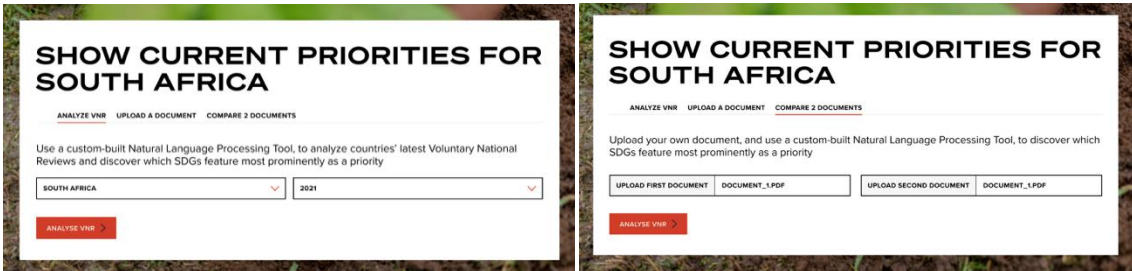
### Map of all synergies between indicators with identified gaps or under review:



### CURRENT PRIORITIES

Use a custom-built Natural Language Processing Tool, to analyze countries' latest Voluntary National Reviews and discover which SDGs feature most prominently as a priority.





Select the country and year of interest and quickly get a snapshot view of the priorities outlined in the Voluntary National Reviews for the countries against the SDGs. Or upload a pdf of your choice to analyze. You can also compare two pdfs.

The analysis uses a custom-built machine learning model for SDG classification. The model analyses the document by linking its constituent pieces to SDGs and then aggregates the statistics before presenting the results. The underlying assumption of the analysis is that the amount of text linked to each SDG defines how important each SDG is. In this context, we refer to the "importance" of an SDG as salience. Thus, the most salient SDG is the one to which most of the text pieces, e.g., paragraphs, could be linked.



The analysis provides a top-level summary of which SDGs in the document are frequently mentioned, these get classified as High Priority. The relative salience provides the scoring for high, medium, low and no mention priority categorization.

Additionally, the summary also links to the findings in SDG Trends by indicating which of the SDGs are on-track, for review or identified gap.

### High Priorities (5)

**Key terms in the document for SDG 4**

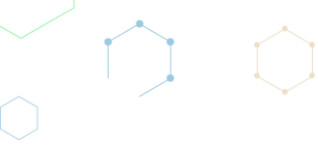
- primary school
- high education
- basic education
- tertiary education
- secondary school
- low secondary
- access education
- early childhood education
- childhood education
- early childhood
- early child
- education policy
- secondary education
- completion rate

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Current Status: **Identified Gap**

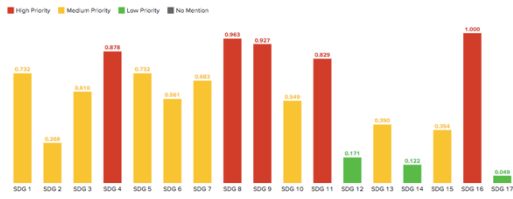
Click on the card to see the related key terms

Each SDG is matched with words from the document, these can be explored in the card-view by clicking on the card.



### Relative Salience

Relative Salience is a measure of the amount of text content listed to each SDG as compared to the Goal which is the most salient in the text. Relative Salience can help to understand which of the SDGs covered in the document receive most attention and which ones are only briefly treated.



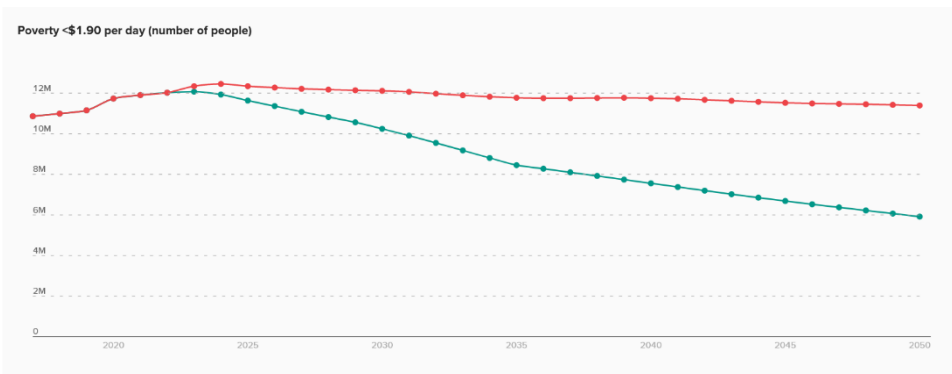
## FUTURE SCENARIOS

This section is built on UNDP's '[COVID Impact on the SDGs](#)' Flagship report, which features an ambitious yet feasible set of SDG accelerators across governance, social protection, green recovery and digitalization.

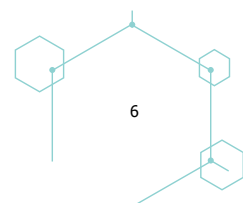
Future Scenarios, which is based on the International Futures (IFs) model used to forecast the development path and the effects of combined set of interventions in the areas of Governance, Social Protection, Green Economy and Digital Disruption across different and predefined set of scenarios. To learn more, refer to the [methodology](#).

The graphs illustrate the impact of Future Scenarios investments in five SDGs and its targets and compares it with the baseline scenario where such investments are not undertaken. The time series graphs show progress until 2050 on a yearly basis for every target related to specific SDG tab shown in the subheading. Each of these graphs provides two scenarios for each country in terms of what the gaps would look like with and without the SDG Push scenarios, color-coded in green and red, respectively.

For example, for the default country South Africa, you can see that SGD 1 tab produces three graphs, one for poverty set at under \$1.90 per day by number of people and the second by percent of population, while the third one show female poverty headcount by number of people. The top line in each of these graphs is shown as a red line is a scenario when the SDG Push scenario is not implemented; the bottom line is when the SDG Push scenario is implemented and shown as a green line. Therefore, by having these graph lines right on top of each other, you can easily identify the gaps with and without the push scenario. See an example below



## STEP 3 – USING THE SCOPING NOTE TO PLAN AND DELIVER THE DIALOGUES

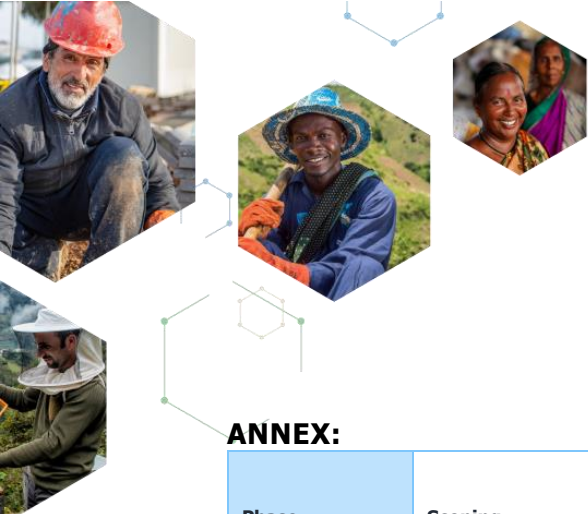


## WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED OUTPUTS OF THE SCOPING?

1. List of key sources and documents
2. A summary of the SDG status and a country-level picture
3. SDG Push Diagnostic output
4. Scoping Note, which comprises of the following parts:
  - Background – National SDG context)
  - National Policy Priorities
  - Institutional mechanisms
  - Financing for development
  - Analytics findings
  - Data availability
  - Summary diagnostics important for SDG Push Dialogue

## FORMAT:

- A comprehensive Scoping Note detailing all the findings. Template available [here](#).
- A two-page insight on top level findings and priorities. Template available [here](#).



**ANNEX:**

Phase	Scoping	Scoping	Scoping	Dialogue Phase 1	Dialogue Phase 1	Dialogue Phase 2
<b>Method</b>	Diagnostic	Diagnostic	Diagnostic			Decision making matrix
<b>Activity</b>	Identify Yellow and Red SDGs	Identify 3-5 SDGs based on strong interlinkages	Review connection: synergies and trade-offs	Go deeper into connections through dialogues phase 1	Brainstorm interventions as accelerators	Decision Making on interventions

**PROFESSIONAL PROFILE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY PLANNING EXPERT**

**Functional Competencies:**

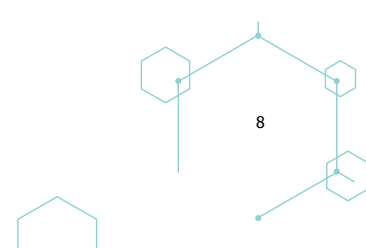
- **Professionalism**- Shows strong analytical skills and ability to synthesize research and draw conclusions on the related subject. Writes clearly and convincingly, adapting style and content to different audiences.
- **Technological Awareness**-Ability to use relevant computer technology
- **Teamwork**- Good interpersonal skills; ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.
- **Communication**- Good interpersonal skills; excellent drafting ability and communication skills, ability to present complex concepts in a concise and accurate manner, ability to prepare written reports and papers that are clear, concise and meaningful.
- **Planning and Organizing** -ability to prioritize, plan and organize own work and ability to integrate work into the work of the unit; ability to monitor and adjust plan and priorities as necessary and to work according to deadline

**Education:**

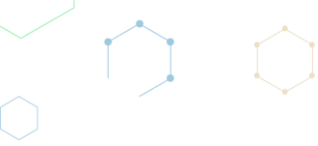
- Advanced University Degree in economics, development economics or social sciences with an emphasis on macroeconomics, Macroeconomic modelling, and Computation of CGE models.

**Experience:**

- At least 10 years' experience in applied analysis, research and economic development (required);
- Proven experience in socio-economic policy research at the national and sub-national level (required);
- Related work experience in at least one of the pilot countries (required);







- Proven intellectual and practical capacity to examine and interpret national development issues to develop reports and original analysis (required);
- Knowledge of the SDGs and their application at the national level (required);
- Experience working across developing regions (desirable);
- Professional experience with a UN agency (desirable).

**Language:**

- Fluency in [national language] (required);
- Working proficiency in English (required);
- Knowledge of another UN language or local language (desired).

