Study on SDG Accelerators

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or its senior management. The analytical basis of this publication is based on the submissions received from Governments and other stakeholders through UN DESA's online SDG Acceleration Actions platform as of September 2022. The study used the multi-label classification method for its analyses by assigning more than one SDG accelerators in classifying respective SDG acceleration actions whenever applicable. The major country groupings used in this report follow the classification of the United Nations Statistical Division. Reference to non-governmental organizations and their activities should not be construed as an endorsement by the United Nations of those entities or their activities.

Acknowledgments

Suggested citation

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The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the SDG Summit, UN DESA set up an online platform to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions.
(https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions)

SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate the SDG implementation by governments and all stakeholders –
individually or in partnership. Any new or upgraded action that builds on existing efforts aimed to achieve the SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action.

Registered actions will be highlighted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and other key global meetings, including the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and through UNDESA's Acceleration Action platform and social media channels.

Current Profile of SDG Acceleration Actions

By SDG

By Region

- North America — 14%
- Latin America and the Caribbean — 8%
- Europe — 36%
- Africa — 20%
- West Asia — 9%
- Asia and the Pacific — 13%

By Sector

- Government — 31%
- Civil Society — 30%
- UN System — 16%
- Private Sector — 12%
- Academia — 5%
- Other — 6%

By Income Status (GDP per Capita, PPP)

- High-Income — 52%
- Middle-Income — 41%
- Low-Income — 7%

By UN Country Group

- LDCs — 9%
- LLDCs — 8%
- SIDS — 1%
- Other Countries — 82%

The concept of "accelerators" for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is inherently "context-specific". What seems to accelerate the sustainable development for some countries can require expensive trade-offs in others. Similar accelerators may result in different outcomes depending on the timing and circumstances of intervention as well.

Policy-makers may define unique sets of national SDG accelerators in their distinctive development ecosystems through inclusive consultation processes. While some countries may start with identifying the bottlenecks that slow down the progress towards the achievement of national priorities, others can focus on promising areas for multiplier impacts in support of sustainable development[1] . Recent research underlines the paramount importance of basing such efforts on their own existing national development strategy, SDG country report and other vision documents of the country and of fully taking into account the needs of those left behind.[2]

Moreover, the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)[3], taking a systemic approach on SDGs, shows where and how rapid, transformational change would be possible to achieve the SDGs. The report introduced four powerful change agents called "levers" – namely, governance; economy and finance; individual and collective action; and science and technology – which accommodate the multiple, complementary roles that individual actors and entities play in bringing about changes[4]. One of the key takeaways of the 2019 GSDR is that the acceleration of the SDGs comes from the novel combinations of different levers and the innovative collaboration of actors therein[5].

Building on such findings of the 2019 GSDR, the current study intends to scan and detect some of the common "SDG accelerators" observed from the policies, programmes and initiatives published on the SDG Acceleration Actions website, DESA's premier knowledge space to capture new, ambitious SDG-responsive actions[6] . This study views the each identified "SDG accelerator" as a combination of well deployed, interfacing "levers", conceptualized in the 2019 GSDR.

The purpose of this analysis is to support governments and stakeholders to sharpen their SDG accelerating strategies and to inform the upcoming 2023 GSDR and the 2023 SDG Summit of actionable insights in comparable policy contexts where appropriate. The study is based on purposive samples available on the platform, rather than to launch large-scale trend analyses for statistically meaningful inferences.

[1] For instance, the Growth Identification and Facilitation Framework (GIFF) determines the areas which a country should specialize based on its comparative strengths, rather than weaknesses. This method is often applied to least developed countries (LDCs).
[2] UNDP (2017). SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment. New York. For more information, see:
https://www.undp.org/publications/sdg-accelerator-and-bottleneck-assessment
[3] Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development, (United Nations, New York, 2019).
[4] The upcoming 2023 GSDR will introduce an additional lever, "capacities", which has been already taken into account in the present study in its analyses.
[5] Ibid.
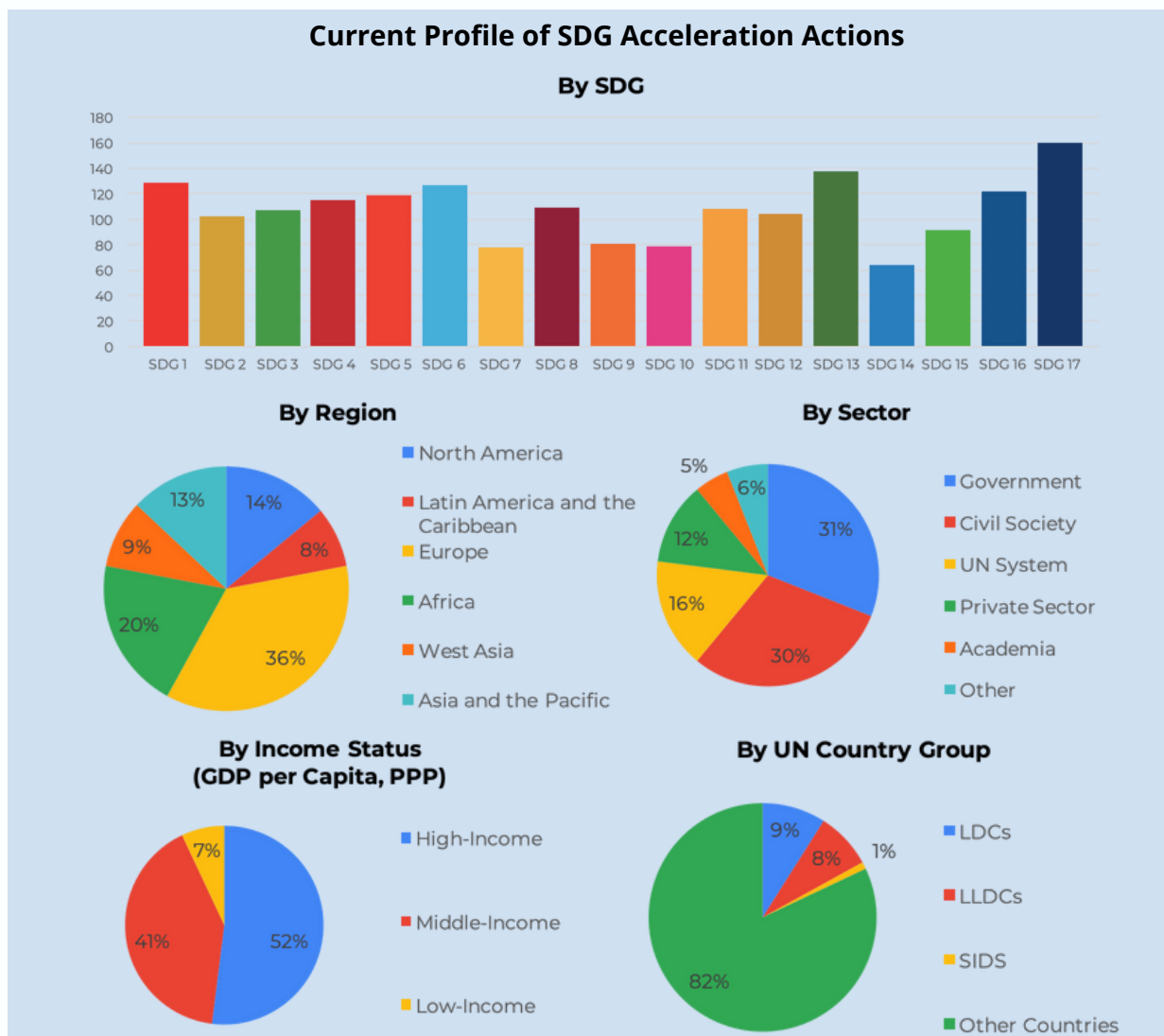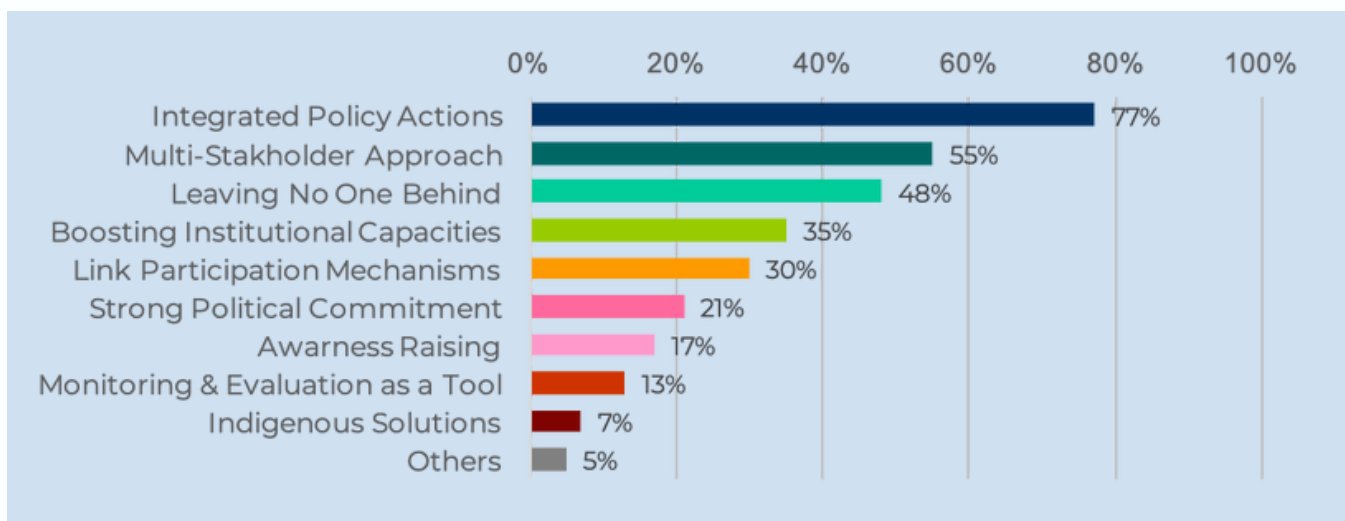[6] The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the 2019 SDG Summit, UN DESA set up an online platform to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions. For more information, please visit: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions

Based on a mapping exercise[7] of a total of 350 SDG acceleration actions on the platform, as of June 2022, the following nine attributes are most frequently seen throughout all SDG acceleration actions:

- Deliberate, **integrated policy actions** to leverage inter-linkages among SDGs (77%)
- Actions taking a joined-up, **multi-stakeholder approach** (55%)
- Actions for **leaving no one behind** (48%)
- Actions for **boosting institutional capacities** (35%)
- Actions to link input / participation mechanisms **from local to global** (30%)
- Actions charged by **strong political commitment** (21%)
- Actions for **awareness-raising** through creative strategies (17%)
- Actions to use **monitoring & evaluation** as a tool for SDG mainstreaming (13%)
- Actions based on **indigenous solutions** (7%)
- Others (5%)

Figure 1. SDG accelerators commonly observed from platform

[7] Multi-label classification method was used to assign more than one SDG accelerators to classify respective SDG acceleration actions whenever applicable.

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A number of governments and stakeholders are spearheading a wide array of reforms with a view to strengthening country ownership and a whole-of-a-society approach to address the complex, interlinked development challenges facing today. A number of such efforts focus specifically on enhancing capacities for integrated development planning, including through employing new policy frameworks.
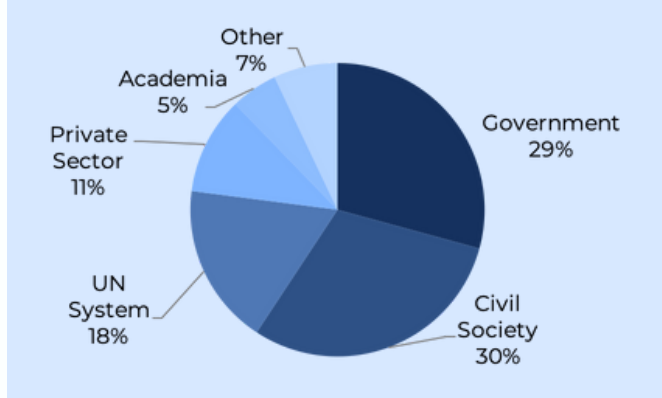
77% of policies and initiatives the SDG Acceleration Actions platform have published aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages. Such efforts are concentrated in Europe, Africa and North America, mainly initiated by civil society (30%) and national government (29.3%). In terms of income status, these policies are more often developed by high income (51.1%) and middle-income (41.5%) countries than by low-income countries (7%). Countries in special situations, including LDCs (8%), LLDCs (7%) and SIDS (1%), show a limited number of policies targeting interlinkages.

This may suggest the pressing need of developing country governments and stakeholders to strengthen capacities for making integrated policies including through technical assistance programmes. Development partners can support developing countries to enhance policy coherence among different development agendas and activities for sustainable development, promoting synergistic investment and cooperation.

By Regional Distribution

By Sector

- Other 7%
- Academia 5%
- Private Sector 11%
- UN System 18%
- Government 29%
- Civil Society 30%

By UN Country Group

Percentage against accelerator 1 actions on platform

- SIDS 1%
- LDCs 8%
- LLDCs 7%

By Income Status

- Low Income 7%
- Middle Income 42%
- High Income 51%

[8] The present brief shows how each SDG accelerator identified may relate to different "levers" for systemic changes discussed in 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report.

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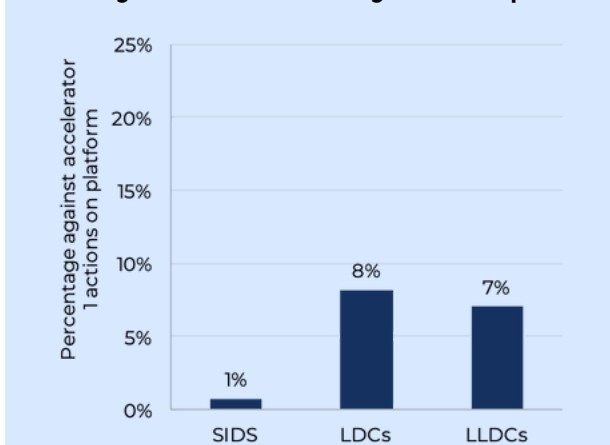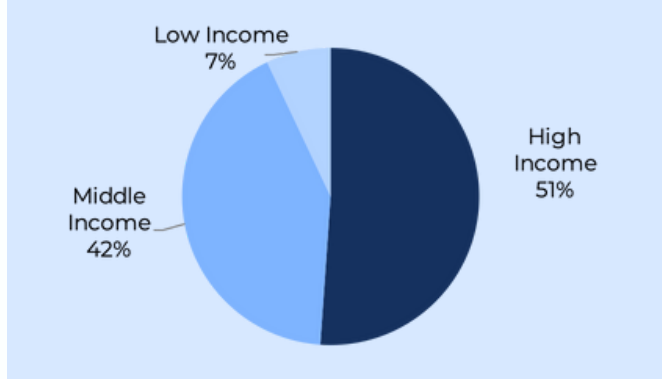
Examples of integrated policy action

1 **THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA**, through its new Roadmap for 2030 Argentinian Justice, is designing a multi-sectorial strategy to achieve the SDG 16+ (12 targets from SDG 16 and additional 24 targets from seven other SDGs directly related to SDG 16)   by developing[9] judicial public policies by 2030 through the three presidential terms.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/roadmap-2030-argentinian-justice

Photo by El Día Online

2 **WATER AND CLIMATE COALITION**, with the participation of over 100+ countries, aims to establish the mechanism for integrated water and climate stock-take running by 2025 and to launch the global water monitoring system operational by 2030.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-and-climate-coalition

Photo by Torsten Dederichs on Unsplash

3 **WEFRAH** is an initiative of American University of Beirut for leveraging energy- water - food - health nexus system in support of SDGs through the promotion of multi-disciplinary research collaboration with a number of partners and by taking cohesive systems thinking and bottom-up approaches.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-energy-food-health-nexus-research-support-sdgs

Photo by WEFRAH

4 **GREEN QUARTER**, the green consulting firm in Malaysia, launched the Honda 3S Centre project aimed at maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing water usage with time-bound benchmarks.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/first-green-and-sustainable-car-showroom-malaysia

Photo by Green Quarter

[9] SDG16+ indicates 12 targets from SDG 16 as well as additional 24 targets from seven SDGs (Goals 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17) identified by the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. SDG16+ measures an aspect of peace, inclusion or access to justic

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Accelerator 2: Actions taking effective joined-up, multi-stakeholder approach
## Relevant GSDR levers: individual and collective action; capacities

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Multi-stakeholder partnership is considered a powerful mechanism to achieve synergistic changes, as it can bring together a wide range of actors across sectors and enable the optimal use of resources. According to recent research [10], the world has been witnessing a growing number of multi-stakeholder partnerships forming up lately, both in scope and scale, in support of sustainable recovery and development. The results of a recent DESA survey[11] shows that effective multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-COVID19 contexts have already proven to contribute to enhancing the expertise and knowledge base (72% of respondents); engaging marginalized groups (57% of respondents); and providing finance and access to services (44% of respondents).

55% of actions on the platform are mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement their set objectives. Such partnerships were initiated mostly by governments (36.5%) and civil society (24.5%) in Europe, Africa and North America regions, predominantly in high-income (56.3%) and middle-income (36.5%) countries. Limited numbers of multi-stakeholder partnerships were mobilized for SDG acceleration actions in LDCs (8%), LLDCs (7%) and SIDS (1%). This again signify the capacity gaps for fostering and mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships in countries with special concerns.
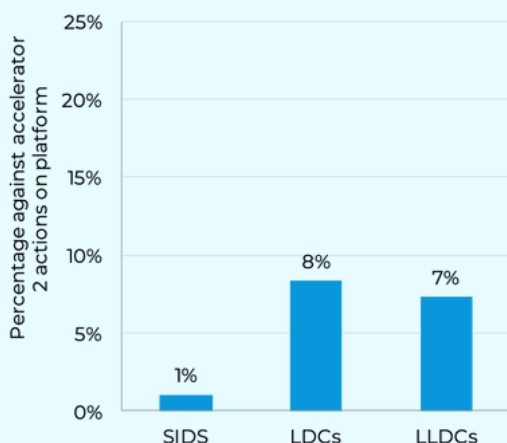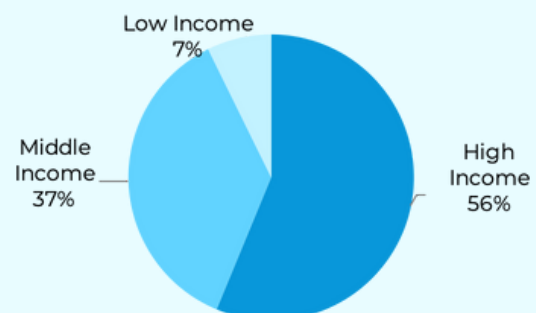
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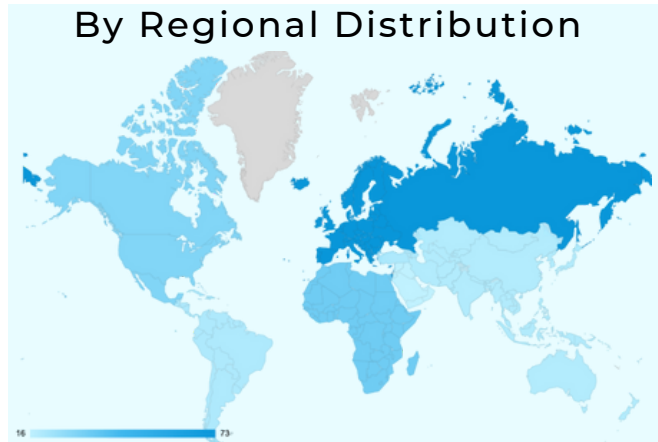
By Sector
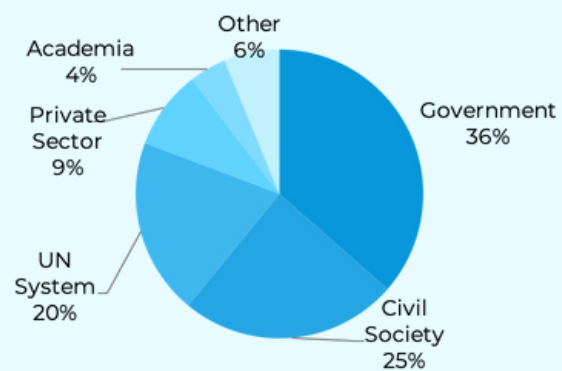
By UN Country Group

By Income Status

[10] UNDESA (2021) "Partnerships in response to COVID-19: building back better together", New York. For more information, see:
https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Partnerships%20in%20response%20to%20COVID-19%20light_0.pdf
[11] For more information, see: https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/FINAL%20Report%20COVID19%20and%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20survey_0.pdf

Examples of multi-stakeholder actions

UN Photo

1 **THE GOVERNMENTS OF LIECHTENSTEIN, THE NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRIA** have committed to reducing the number of people in modern slavery, estimated at 40.3 million, to zero by 2030, through the "Liechtenstein Initiative", a public-private partnership (PPP) aimed at putting the financial sector at the heart of global efforts to accelerate actions against human trafficking.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/liechtenstein-initiative-financial-sector-commission-modern-slavery-and-human

2 **THE UNIVERSITY OF SURREY, UK**, is collaborating with the Government of Malaysia and various energy and chemical companies as well as four academic institutions in countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to help both governmental and industrial policymakers to identify achievable emissions targets and optimal paths to achieve them through a range of technologies.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/british-council-cop26-trilateral-research-initiative-software-framework-optimal

Photo by Pixabay

Photo by WASAG

3 **WASAG** is a fast-growing multi-stakeholder partnership hosted by FAO, consisting of more than 70 partners including government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, advocacy groups and professional organizations. WASAG supports governments and stakeholders in the achievement of the water-related targets of the SDGs, including in enhancing the field capacity for the adaptation of agriculture to water scarcity.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/global-framework-water-scarcity-agriculture-wasag

4 **ASPIRE - TRANSFORM - INSPIRE FOUNDATION**, in support of the SDG 3, is collaborating with secondary schools, hotels and volunteers to stop preventable deaths from cardiac arrests in Ghana by educating all Ghanaians on CPR through a systematic training programme.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/cpr-training-schools

Photo by Freepik

The imperative for inclusion and universality is at the core of the 2030 Agenda, with its bold pledge to leave no one behind. Inclusive sustainable development strategies and business models are in great demand to level up the societies and to unleash the potential of vulnerable groups to contribute towards sustainable development.

48% of actions on the platform are targeting vulnerable groups that are left behind in various contexts as both beneficiaries and change agents. These actions are mostly concentrated in Europe, Africa [12] and North America regions, led by civil

society (38.7%) followed by governments (29.2%). The largest country group stepping up actions for the cause of leaving no one behind among platform actions are middle-income countries (45.8%), followed by high-income (44.6%) and low-income (9.5%) countries. Despite the special needs and disadvantaged situations, LDCs (11%), LLDCs (9%) are undertaking vigorous actions for the cause, while few such examples were found amongst SIDS (1%). Although the current brief is not intended to serve as a trend study based on the large size of samples, further empirical study on the possible contributing factors causing middle-income countries to host a large number of actions for leaving no one behind would be value-added.
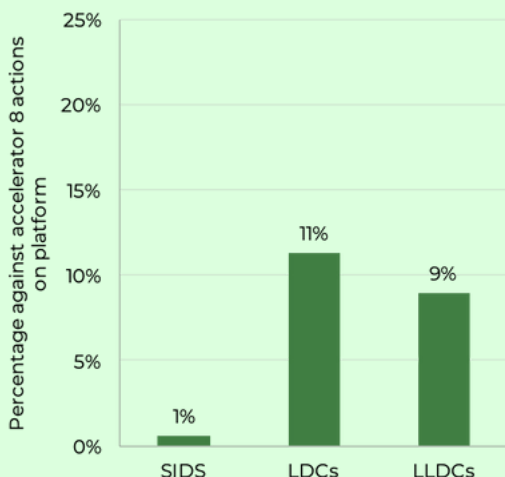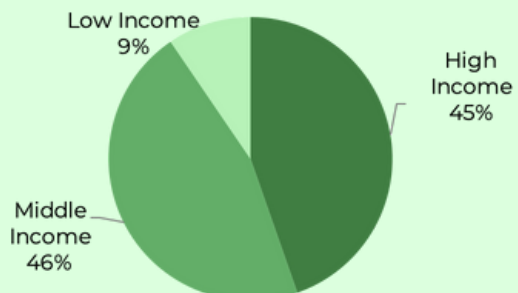
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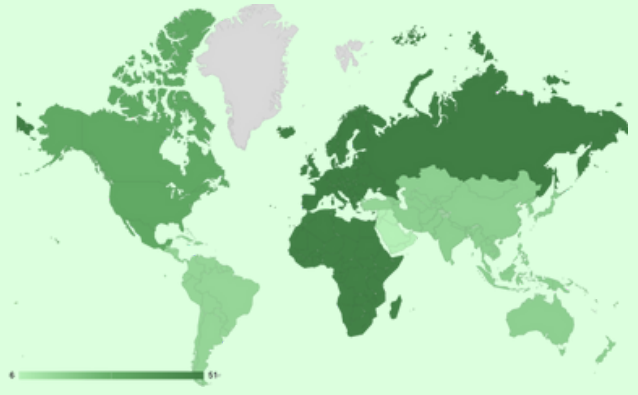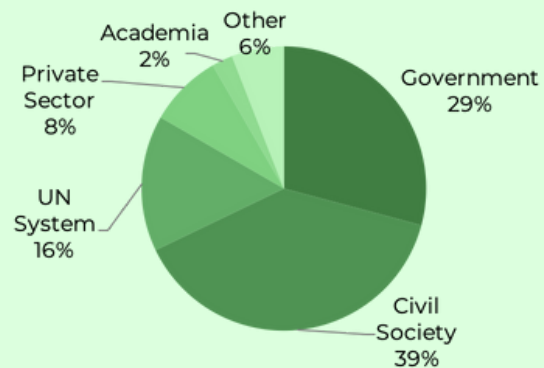
By Sector

By UN Country Group

By Income Status

Photo by Kadiwaku Family Social Media

1 **KADIWAKU FAMILY FOUNDATION IN DRC** promotes inclusive entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities through a mentorship programme coupled with technical and financial supports. The Foundation has already empowered over 600 businesses and trained 800 youths with disabilities as of 2021.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/inclusive-entrepreneurship-persons-disabilities-dr-congo

2 **HUNGER-FREE COVID RELIEF** initiative of Barefoot College in India aims to ensure the residents in 216 villages and 9 slums are hunger-free, by distributing survival kits and masks to 200,000 including migrants, daily wage workers and other vulnerable groups without ration cards.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/hunger-free-villages-tilonia-covid-relief

Photo by Barefoot

Photo by ESCWA

3 **ESCWA** has recently set up two inter-governmental networks – one for government officials responsible for disability policies; and the other for focal points for disability statistics from National Statistical Offices – to support its member states to develop a list of priority actions; to strengthen data and policy collaboration through South-South cooperation; and to organize workshops around disability-inclusion. ESCWA, jointly with UNESCO, also produced 14 modules on inclusive education for the first time to support ESCWA member states to establish inclusive policies and practices at national and local levels, with a specific focus on emergency situations.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/social-inclusion-persons-disabilities-arab-region-accelerated-inclusion-millions

4 **YOUTH ACTION HUB GUINEA OF THE UNCTAD**, based on its principle "for youth, by youth", has launched the initiative to construct smart, ecological and above-ground public latrines to improve the working conditions of the local population, especially women in informal economy in Conakry, Republic of Guinea.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/projet-de-construction-des-latrines-publiques-intelligentes-ecologiques-et-hors-sol

Photo by UNCTAD

Photo by Let There Be Light International

5 **LET THERE BE LIGHT INTERNATIONAL** launched a maternal and infant health program to serve the most vulnerable in rural communities of Uganda. The initiative aims to solar-electrify 50 health clinics and donate 10,000 solar lights to new mothers and babies for use at home by 2025.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/safe-births-healthy-homes

Capable institutions are at the heart of accelerating the planning, implementation and follow-up of national sustainable development priorities. Building institutional capacities linked cohesively to broader reform processes is a long-term process requiring adaptations to local conditions and behavioral changes over the course of time. UNDP's empirical evidence suggests that institutional arrangement represents one of the four most frequently encountered capacity issues [14] across a variety of sectors and themes.

35% of actions on the platform are working towards enhancing institutional capacities, typically focusing on strengthening technical and human resource capacities and enhancing alignment and coherence across the different line ministries, institutions and functions. Most platform actions geared toward institutional capacity building are concentrated in Europe, North America and Africa, the majority of which are led by governments (65.9%) followed by the UN system (29.3%). A large number of such efforts are undertaken by high-income (55.3%) and middle-income (39.8%) countries, whereas a very limited number of low-income countries (4.9%) submitted such actions to the platform. The actions published on the platform for institutional capacity-building in the context of the LDCs (7%), LLDCs (7%) and SIDS (1%) also constitute a relatively small proportion.

This demonstrates the inherent paradox that the developing countries in greatest needs often have the least capacities and resources to address them, which underlines the important roles of development cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation.
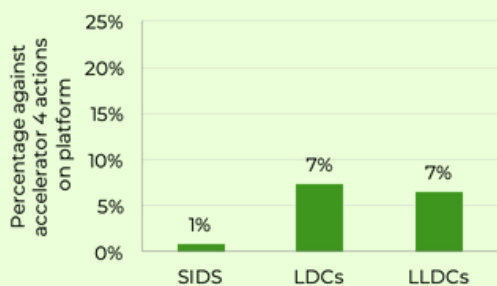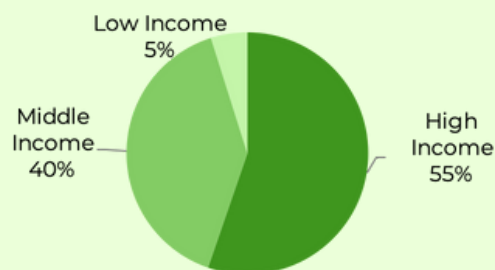
By Regional Distribution

By Sector
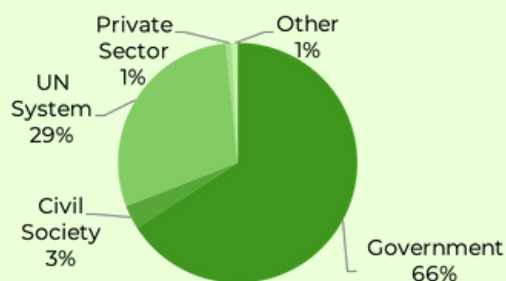
By UN Country Group

By Income Status

Examples of actions for boosting instituional capacities

1 **THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR NATIONAL SDG ADVISORY BODIES**, operated by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) with the support of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, is a new platform for national councils for sustainable development and similar multi-stakeholder bodies to share the experiences of implementing the SDGs using a whole-of-society approach.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/global-forum-national-sdg-advisory-bodies

UN Photo

2 **THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN** is developing a comprehensive legal aid system by 2022 for strengthening its institutional capacity to provide quality criminal defense services to the poor and vulnerable across Afghanistan.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/strengthening-afghanistans-legal-aid-system

Ministry of Justice in Afghanistan

3 **PERU'S 2030 MULTI - STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM** is an independent, inclusive space of engagement for civil society, academia and the private sector for the concrete phases of implementation, monitoring and advocacy processes for the localized SDGs, with a view to enhancing the institutional capacities of all actors through training programmes.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/peru-2030-multi-stakeholder-platform

Photo by Peru 2030 Social Media

The 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)[15] notes the critical importance of involving grassroots actors in processes towards inclusive, transformative governance. Institutionalizing the input or participation mechanism at local or national levels is important, yet linking them to inform the global processes is paramount for facilitating more demand-driven, people-centered sustainable development.

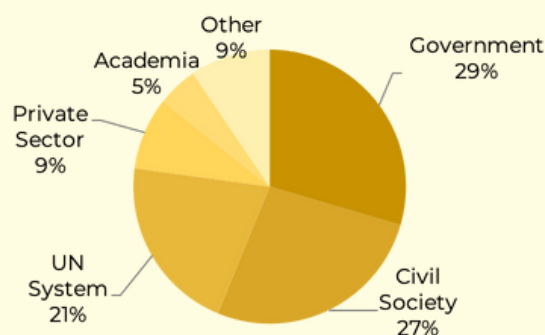30% of actions on the SDG Acceleration Actions platform are attempting to create such "from local to global" mechanisms designed for more inclusive, traceable participation systems to co-define the problems and co-design the solutions. Considerable numbers of such efforts are taking place in Europe, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, primarily led by governments (29.5%), civil society (26.7%) and the UN system (21%). The countries with high-incomes (55.2%) and middle-incomes (41%) host the majority of such actions, in comparison with low-income countries (3.8%). The actions from countries in special need, including LDCs (5%), LLDCs (3%) and SIDS (1%), remain minimal.

There is an urgent need to boost the participation and voice of developing countries and countries in disadvantaged situations throughout global decision-making processes to ensure that international-agreed development goals (IADGs) are implementable in all countries and to prevent further aggravations of asymmetric power.

By Regional Distribution

By Sector

Other 9%
Academia 5%
Private Sector 9%
UN System 21%
Government 29%
Civil Society 27%

By UN Country Group

Percentage against accelerator 5 actions on platform

SIDS 1%
LDCs 5%
LLDCs 3%

By Income Status

Low Income 4%
Middle Income 41%
High Income 55%

[15] Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN, Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development, (United Nations, New York, 2019).

Examples for actions linking participation mechanism

Photo by ActionAid Nigeria Socia media

1 **INCLUSIVE FORUM FOR ACCOUNTABLE SOCIETY (IFAS)** of ActionAid Nigeria is spearheading people-led SDGs accountability projects to link community voices on the SDGs from local to international, while concurrently aiming to reach 1500+ youths with the aim of increasing their access to data, livelihood skills and incomes by 20% by 2023.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/inclusive-forum-accountable-society-ifas

2 **YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL** in Denmark has been set up with its youth-led advisory board to inform the young people of government policies on climate change and to survey their opinions, with the aim of translating youth driven ambitions into concrete policies.

Source https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/youth-climate-councilte-coalition

Photo by Youth Climate Council Social Media

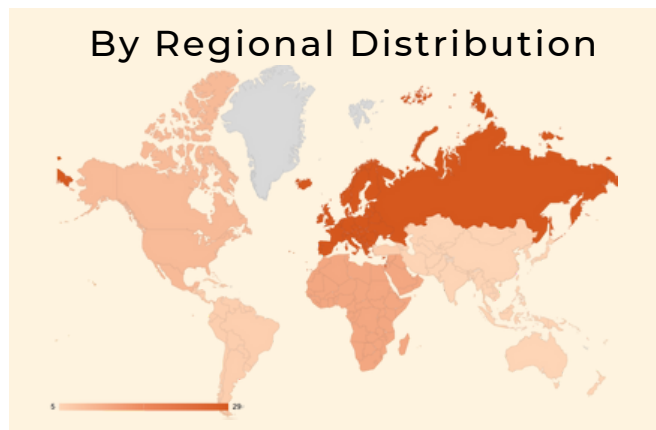# Accelerator 6: Actions charged by strong political commitment

Relevant GSDR levers: governance; individual and collective action; capacities

According to the 2019 GSDR, the six strategic entry points[16], in which focused, collaborative action by various stakeholders can accelerate progress towards the SDGs, always hinges on one determining factor – political commitment. 21% of SDG acceleration actions on the platform have been initiated by the highest level of the governments and institutions and involves multiple ministries or departments, with their explicit commitments often evidenced by large-scale financial investments.
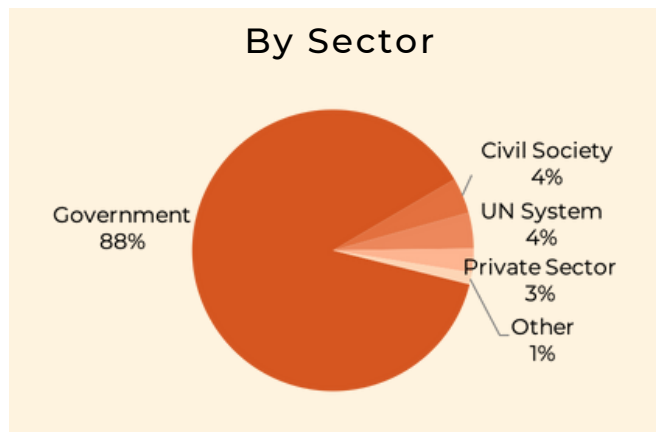
Actions driven by high political commitment seem to be mostly initiated in Europe, West Asia and Africa. Such actions are predominantly led by governments (87.7%) followed by civil society (4.1%) and the UN system (4.1%), demonstrating the due consideration of the development effectiveness principles of country ownership and government leadership. Most platform actions backed by the highest level of leadership are undertaken in high-income (60.3%) and middle-income (34.2%) countries, rather than in low-income countries (5.5%). LDCs (7%), LLDCs (8%) and SIDS (1%) also constitute smaller groups among all politically-driven SDG acceleration actions on the platform.

The under-representation of countries with low-income status or special needs may be attributed to their low participation in the SDG Acceleration Actions platform and the consequent smaller size of samples. The possible correlation between the level of political commitment and the income status of countries, therefore, warrants future studies.
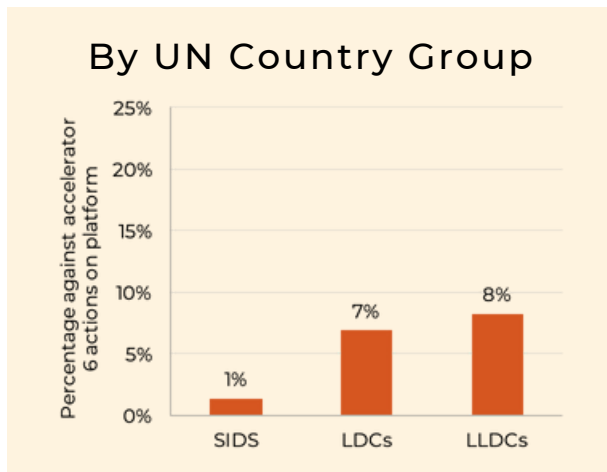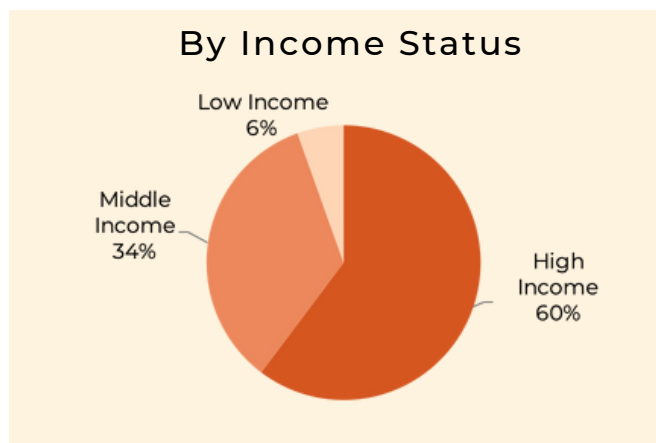
By Regional Distribution

By Sector

Government 88%
Civil Society 4%
UN System 4%
Private Sector 3%
Other 1%

By UN Country Group

Percentage against accelerator 6 actions on platform

SIDS 1%
LDCs 7%
LLDCs 8%

By Income Status

Low Income 6%
Middle Income 34%
High Income 60%

[16] Six entry points include: (i) strengthening human well-being and capabilities; (ii) shifting towards sustainable and just economies; (iii) building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns; (iv) achieving energy decarbonization and universal access to energy; (v) promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban development; and (vi) securing the global environmental commons.

Examples of actions charged by political commitment

Photo by ONU Mujeres

1 **MEXICO'S OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY** has launched a more inclusive, targeted social protection programme aiming to cover 2.5 million women, including rural women, in collaboration with UN women, FAO and ILO.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/inclusive-and-differentiated-social-protection-women-mexico

2 **THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR**, placing environmental sustainability at the forefront of country's sustainable development strategy, plans to launch the world's third-largest solar power plant through its 800 MWp Al Kharsaah project (800 MW) near Doha by 2022, in close collaboration with private sector companies and academic institutions.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/renewable-energy-strategy-framework-qatar

Photo by Jeroen Van de Water on Unsplash

UN Photo

3 **THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** is investing to level up their education system by 2023, providing equal opportunity to every child in the country to reach their full potential. The Government also announced an education package for reaching the most marginalized girls in Africa and investing in new international financing facilities for education (IFFEd) that combines guarantees and grants of development partners to leverage additional finance for girls' education in lower-middle-income countries.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/ps14-billion-funding-schools-england

4 **THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI**, led by the presidential office and through the coherent coordination among its four line ministries, is aiming to plant 3 million trees every year to protect its terrestrial ecosystems and forests.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/national-reforestation-project-ewe-burundi-urambaye
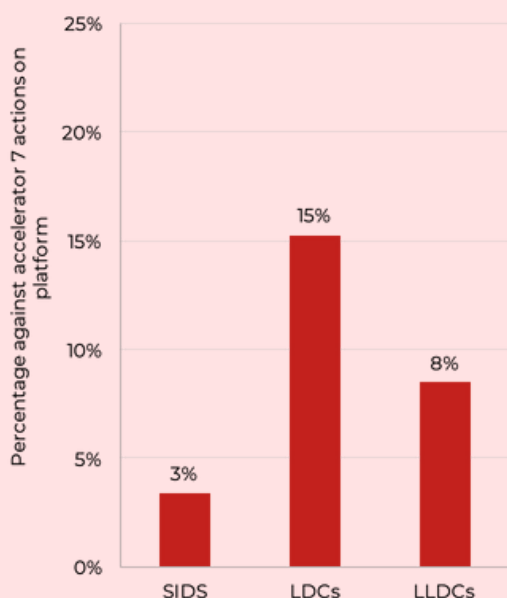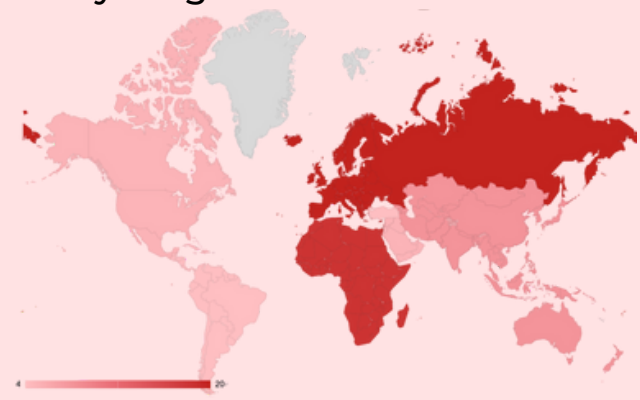

Photo by Government of Burundi

17% of the actions on the SDG Acceleration Actions platform concern efforts for awareness-raising about sustainable development. They embed the SDGs in corporate strategies, school curricula and training certificates; organize promotional events and networked civic spaces; undertake full-fledged media campaigns; and perform other novel means of advocacy.

Most awareness-raising strategies showcased on the platform are based in Europe, Africa, North America and Asia & the Pacific. Such actions are led by civil society (55.9%), governments (16.9%) and the UN system (15.3%). Based on the available sample from platform actions, these efforts are most evident in high-income (45.8%) and middle-income (42.4%) countries, rather than in low-income countries (11.9%). While LDCs (15%), LLDCs (8%) and SIDS (3%) are more engaged in advocacy efforts compared to other SDG-accelerating actions, the lesser degree of participation in advocacy efforts for sustainable development in low-income and vulnerable countries may be attributed to a number of factors, including the lack of institutional capacities and financial resources.
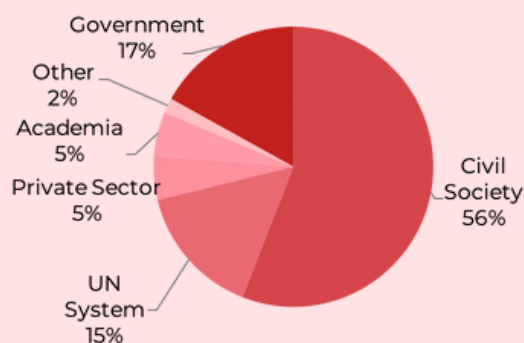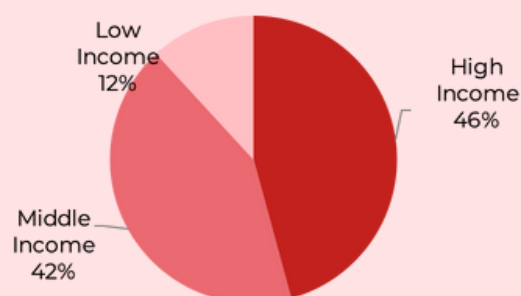
By Regional Distribution

By Sector

Government 17%
Other 2%
Academia 5%
Private Sector 5%
UN System 15%
Civil Society 56%

By UN Country Group

Percentage against accelerator 7 actions on platform

SIDS 3%
LDCs 15%
LLDCs 8%

By Income Status

Low Income 12%
High Income 46%
Middle Income 42%

Examples of awareness raising actions

Photo by BBC

1 **BBC'S 50:50 THE EQUALITY PROJECT** aims to reach 50% women on-screen, on-air and in lead roles across all genres by 2020 through monitoring media content, working with over 600 BBC teams and 60 partner organizations around the world.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/5050-equality-project

2 **CURATING TOMORROW** has developed a guideline outlining a six-step plan for the museum and heritage sector to plan activities in support of the SDGs, along with the seven key activities mapped against the 17 Goals and 169 targets.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/museums-and-sustainable-development-goals

Photo by CuratedTomorrow

Photo by Daria Nepriakhina on Unspalsh

3 **SIEMENS STIFTUNG**, a philanthropic organization in Germany, offers young learners high-quality science and technology education, employing design-thinking structured around 17 SDGs.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/design-thinking-stem-education-project-combining-stem-education-design-based-education
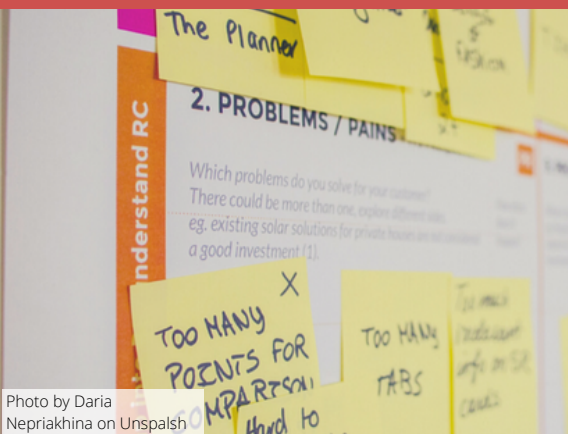
4 **INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUES FOR CHANGE (IDC)** is aimed at developing pilot actions in support of the SDGs by May 2023 with a view to promoting a network of civic spaces in each of eight Canary Islands, the autonomous community of Spain, and enhancing trust and cooperation amongst different age groups.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/dialogos-intergeneracionales-para-el-cambio-intergenerational-dialogues-change


Photo by Gobierno de Canarias

A growing number of governments and stakeholders are investing resources towards building more robust monitoring frameworks and data and statistical capacities as a smart way to mainstream the SDGs and to facilitate evidence-based policy-making. Imbedding the SDGs in the monitoring & evaluation (M&E) frameworks, however, requires careful considerations of national contexts and priorities, including through inclusive consultation and consensus-building processes. In the area of international cooperation, there is a pressing need for development partners to align their monitoring & evaluation frameworks with those of programme countries to ensure country-owned sustainable development while avoiding parallel structures.

13% of actions on the platform are employing such M&E strategies, most of which are based in Europe, Asia & the Pacific and North America – in high-income (56.5%), middle-income (39.1%) and lower-income (4.3%) countries. The M&E related actions from LDCs (9%), LLDCs (4%) and SIDS (2%) are minimal. SDG-related M&E efforts are mainly driven by the UN (37%), civil society (30.4%) and governments (15.2%); this signifies the pressing need to promote more ample policy space for governments, based on country-owned, nationally-and locally-driven sustainable development priorities, while the UN can continue to play a role of facilitator in creating enabling policy environments for sustainable development at all levels.
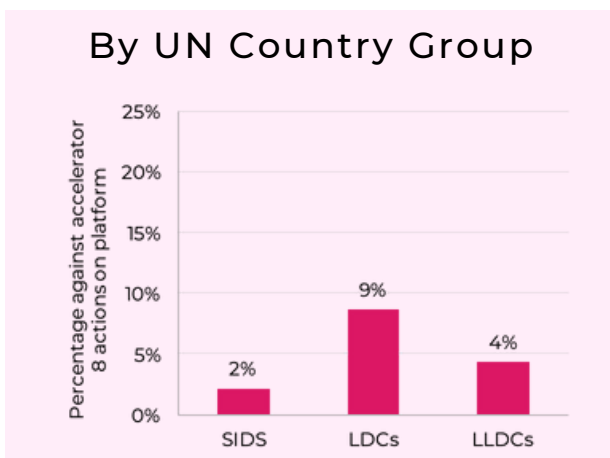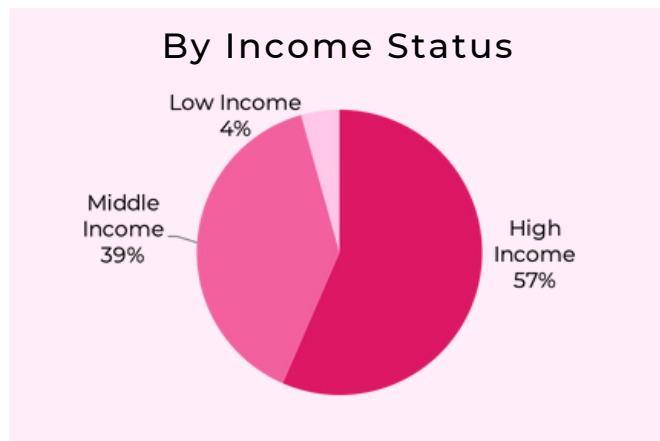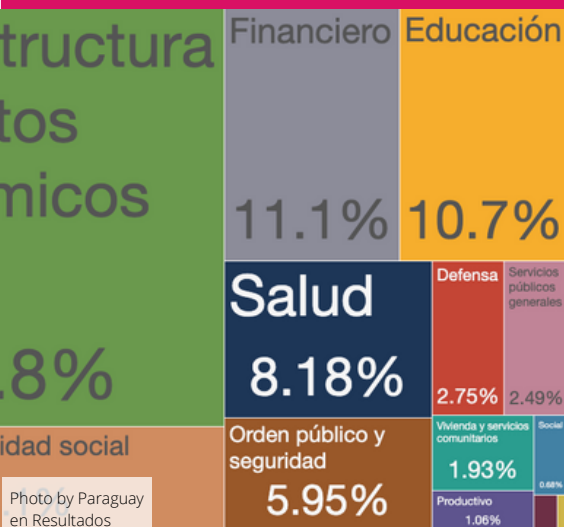
By Regional Distribution
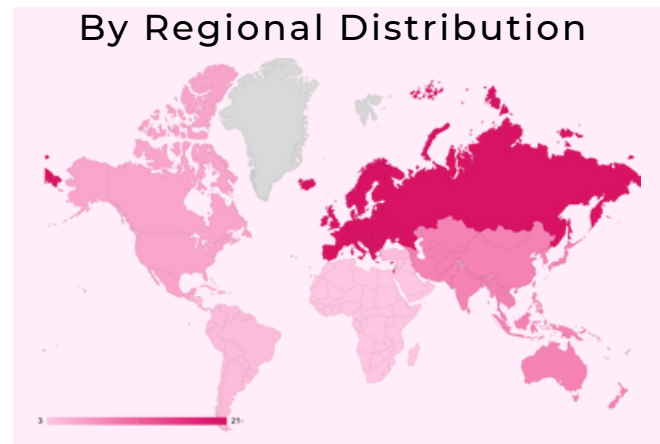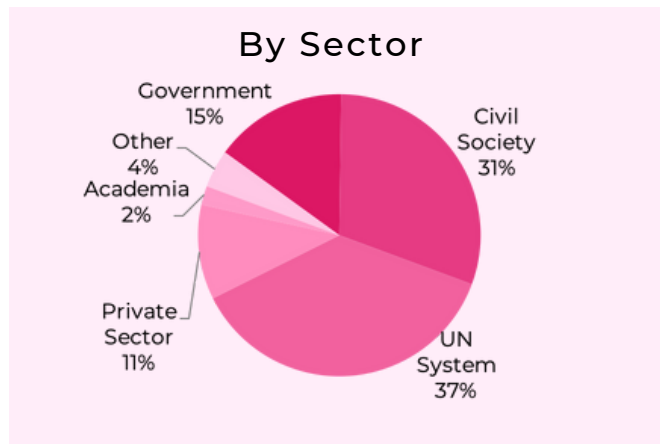
By Sector

By UN Country Group

By Income Status

Photo by Paraguay en Resultados

1 THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELIZE, COLOMBIA AND PARAGUAY, are employing SDG - responsive budgeting to align the country's monitoring of national sustainable development strategy with the SDGs.

Colombia is planning to apply the same fund allocation analysis tool to incoming international cooperation resources and subnational budgeting. In case of Belize, every subsequent national program is guided by its linkages to the achievement of national SDG priorities and targets. Using the SDG-responsive budgeting methodology, Paraguay is aiming to develop the investment mapping visualization platform (SIGOB).

Belize:https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16389Belize.pdf

Colombia:https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282902021_VNR_Report_Colombia.pdf

Paraguay: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/presupuesto-publico-vinculado-los-objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible-medicion-de-la

2 THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES INSTITUTE (ICS) in partnership with Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), launched the Sustainable Cities Development Index – Brazil (IDSC-BR) initiative as a tool to encourage and monitor the achievement of the SDGs in 770 Brazilian cities based on over 80 indicators, using the timely data available from country's national data sources.
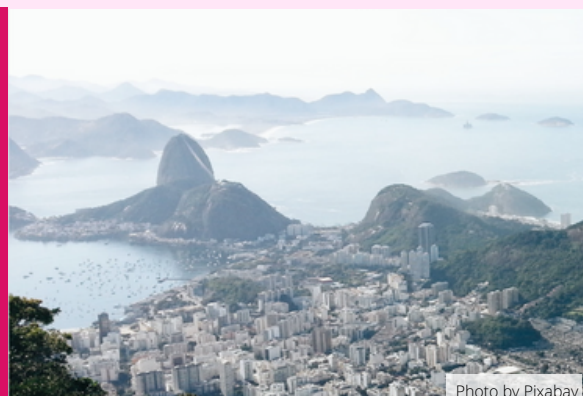
Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/sustainable-cities-development-index

Photo by Pixabay

3 THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND is using evaluation for agenda-setting to understand the relevance, coverage and coherence of national policies. The country employees an analytical SDG evaluation framework to understand what helped or hindered sustainable development progress in the past, as a first step for developing new policy directions. The Finnish SDG evaluation recommends conducting follow-up evaluations on different aspects of implementation every four years and commissioning of a public evaluation by an external institution such as OECD.

Source: https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/17739IIED.pdf

Photo by Finish Government

4 THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA AND UNDP SRI LANKA have initiated a process to introduce "SDG Budget Coding and Tagging System to the National Budgetary Process" in 2022. This is aimed at supporting the Department of National Budget (NBD) to improve the rationale of budgetary allocation and transparency and accuracy in analysis, thereby strengthening budgeting and policymaking processes

Source:https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sri%20Lanka%20Report.pdf

INCLUSIVE TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPED NATION FOR ALL

National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka

Photo by Sri Lanka 2022 VNR

More tailored approaches to sustainable development are in great demand as countries navigate through different development stages with evolving priorities and vulnerabilities. It is vital for governments, stakeholders and development partners to identify and employ locally-relevant solutions and culturally-sensitive capacity-building modalities to advance sustainable development.
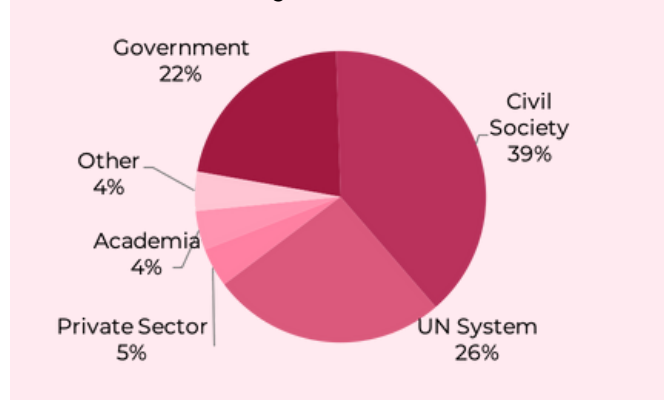
7% of SDG acceleration actions on the platform are based on indigenous solutions or a culturally-sensitive approach. They are mostly concentrated in Africa, Latin America and North America and led by civil society (39.1%), the UN system (26.1%) and governments (21.7%). It is noteworthy that middle-income countries (56.5%) host most indigenous- and culturally-competent actions, in comparison with high-income (21.7%) countries. The low-income countries (21.7%) and LDCs (26%) show more proportions for these actions, relative to other SGD-accelerating strategies identified in this brief, whereas LLDCs (13%) and SIDS (0%) present a limited number of indigenous solutions on the platform.

These analyses may indicate the potential for middle-income countries, including those dealing with middle-income trap, as well as low-income countries and countries in special needs to capitalize on culturally-relevant development strategies, including through South-South cooperation, since tailored approaches often make the smartest solutions.

By Regional Distribution

By Sector

Government 22%

Other 4%

Academia 4%

Private Sector 5%

Civil Society 39%

UN System 26%

By UN Country Group

Percentage against accelerator 9 actions on platform

- SIDS 0%
- LDCs 26%
- LLDCs 13%

By Income Status

Low Income 22%

High Income 22%

Middle Income 56%
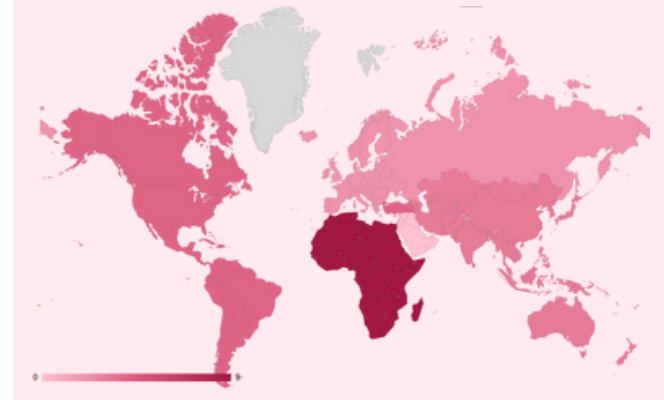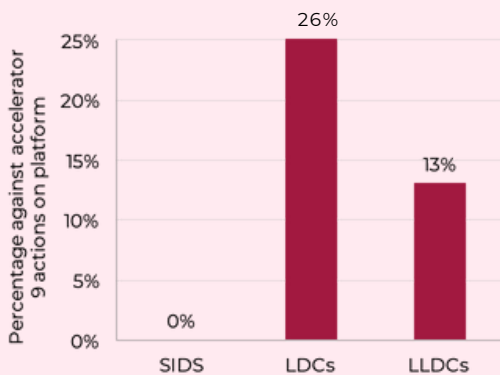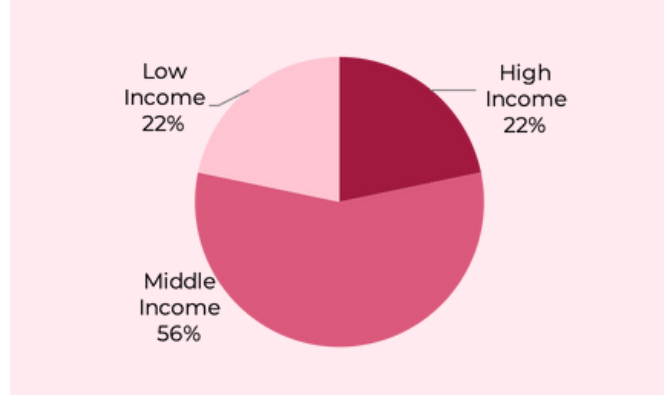
Examples of actions based on indigenous solutions

Photo by El Financiero

1 **THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO**, in collaboration with UNDP Mexico, USAID, NGO and other non-state partners, is aiming to empower the communities of beekeepers in Campeche mainly composed of indigenous peoples by strengthening their technical capacities, thus including them in the local sustainable value chain of honey.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-plan-empowerment-three-groups-beekeepers-and-their-integration-value-chain

2 **RAJPUTANA SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY IN INDIA** utilizes the indigenous conservation practice to address the challenges of climate change, water scarcity, poverty and unemployment, benefiting the populations of over fifty villages with improved ecological profiles.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/conservation-practices-sustainable-livelihood

Photo by RSNH

Photo by Matheus Ferrero on Unsplash

3 **THE CITY OF BOGOTÁ**, committed to transforming the culture of care work, came up with a novel, culturally-competent approach, a "District Care System". The strategy establishes 'blocks of care' designed to co-deliver care services engaging all family members of residents and in such a way that people will not need to walk long distances to access the service.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/bogota-district-care-system

4 **THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**, under the Philippines's new Regional Sub-committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (RSC-SDGs) system, are dedicated to examine the concerns of indigenous peoples to promote more organic, demand-driven and participatory local solutions in some regions of the country.

Source: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/06222022%20VNR%20of%20the%20Philippines.pdf

2022 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE PHILIPPINES
Rekindling Commitment and Using Innovation to Accelerate Recovery and Ensure Progress to Achieve the SDGs in 2030 and our AmBisyon Natin 2040
Photo by the Philippines 2022 VNR

The overall results of analyses point to the urgent need for the countries with low-income status and particular vulnerabilities to develop policy, institutional and financial capacities to identify their context-specific SDG accelerators and to lay out important frameworks and mechanisms in support of their own sustainable development.

The policy observations and considerations contained in this brief emerged from practical examples on the SDG Acceleration Actions platform. Further studies are welcome to build sufficient empirical bases on the positive correlations between the nine SDG accelerators identified in this brief and the accelerated rate of the implementation of the SDGs. More in- depth research will also be useful to examine the respective SDG accelerators in relation to various contexts in which they operate (e.g. geographical region, sector, income-status, special needs, etc.) and to attempt to answer the questions of how to optimize such SDG accelerators to first reach the countries and peoples farthest left behind.

Interested in sharing your SDG Acceleration Action?

Registration is open online. Submissions will be reviewed by UNDESA in accordance with a set of criteria (click here for more information).

For more information, please visit our website:

https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions