



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS ARGENTINA

This initiative supports the articulation of national commitments to SDG transformation, towards accelerated SDG action in the second half of the 2030 Agenda.

This report is the result of a global exercise carried out using artificial intelligence to identify SDG priorities based on 10 national government documents, together with SDG progress and SDG interlinkage analysis. The implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in Argentina should be consulted in the Country Reports and National Voluntary Reports.



HOW TO READ THIS REPORT



Integrated SDG Insights provides an overview of a country's economic growth trajectory, highlighting potential conflicts between growth, environmental concerns, and societal well-being (referred to as the **SDG Moment**).



It builds from the foundation of national SDG progress through the lens of the 5Ps and uses machine learning to analyse national development ambition with an SDG lens (**SDG Trends & Priorities**).



Combined, these insights are mapped against SDG interlinkages to define policy choices that accelerate SDG progress, tailored to national context (**SDG Interlinkages**).



These policy choices are made against fiscal constraints and opportunities for stimulus to ensure choices translate to development impact and leave no one behind (**Finance & Stimulus**).

SDG MOMENT: ARGENTINA

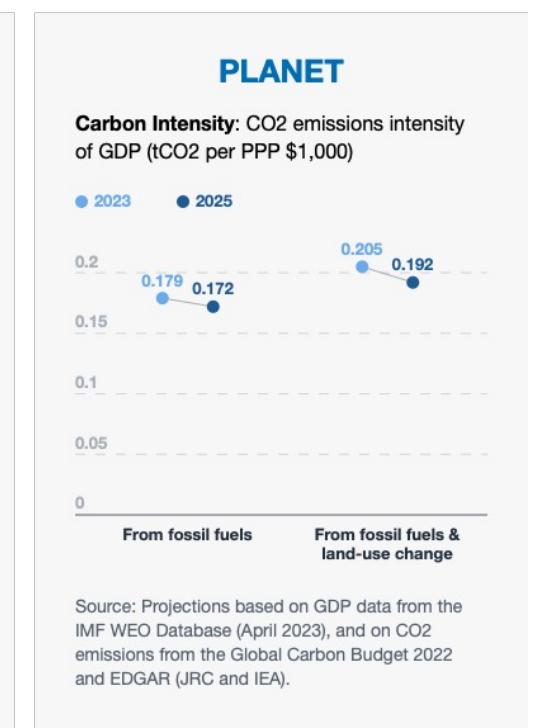
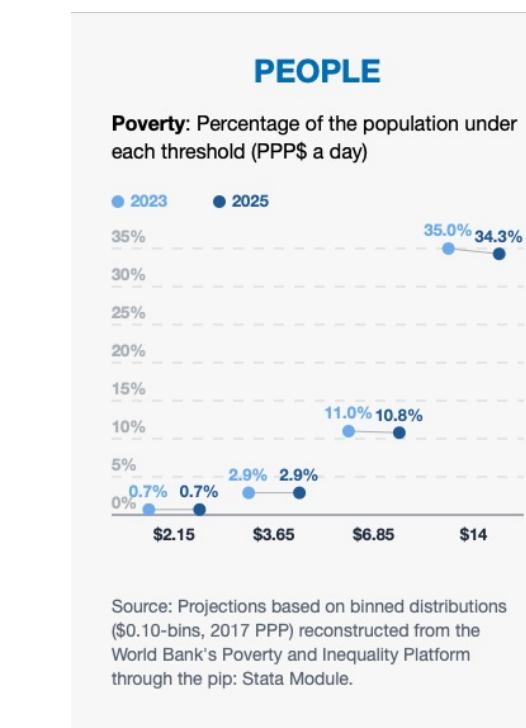
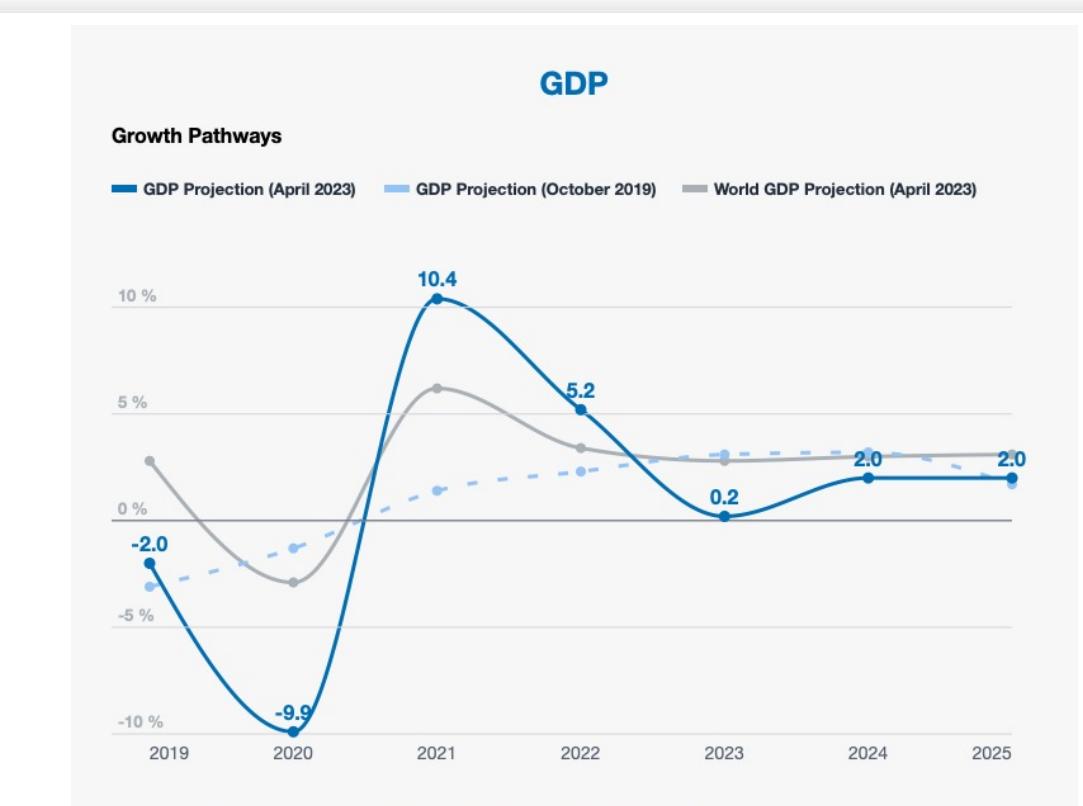
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Argentina's economy is in mitigation mode in 2023-2024 and projected to stay the same way through 2025.¹ This pace of growth is characterized by being lower, on average, than the world projection and still below the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Accordingly, Argentina's SDG policy space is restricted, and the focus is on mitigating the effects of the downturn, especially on the most vulnerable households.

The slow economic expansion is not expected to exert a significant impact on poverty reduction. This brings to the fore the urgency to address key distributional challenges to accelerate progress, especially when using more stringent thresholds. Argentina's economic growth, on the other hand, would be less dependent on carbon emissions, as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is projected to decrease at annual rates of 2-3% under current conditions.²

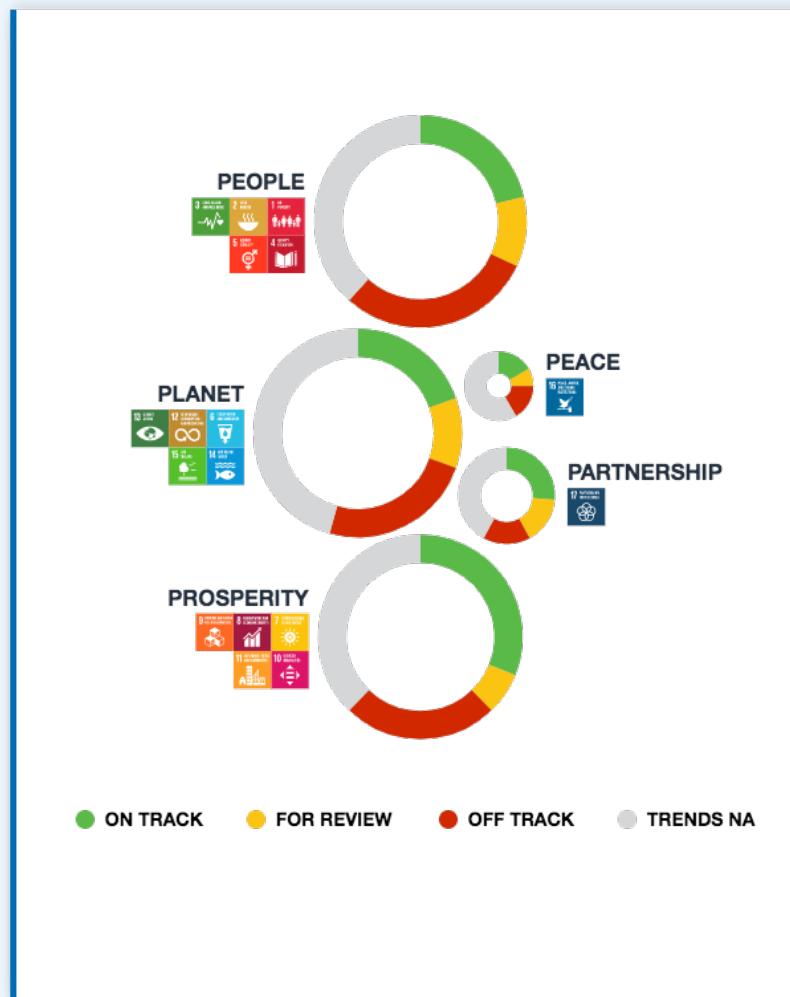
¹ The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is coping if the adjusted rates range between 2%-4%, and it is in acceleration if they are above 4%.

² CO₂ emissions intensity of GDP is computed as tonnes of CO₂ per \$1,000 (2017 PPP).



SDG TRENDS

Understanding how Argentina performs against the SDG targets provides a baseline landscape against which to build integrated SDG pathways. SDG progress tracking follows [UN Stats](#) standards and [methodology](#), and is aligned with country profiles.



Trends in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/ARG/sdg-trends>

SDG PRIORITIES

Argentina's national priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents. This analysis uses a custom-built model for SDG classification. It considers 100k+ terms, including phrases and expressions.



Key documents for analysis:

1. Speech by President Alberto Fernández: Opening of the 141st period of Ordinary Sessions of the National Congress (2023)
2. National Budget for 2023 Fiscal Year (2022)
3. Productive Argentina 2030 (2023)
4. National Voluntary Report (2022)
5. Fourth and Fifth Open Government Plan (2020 – 2022)
6. Social management axes of the Ministry of National Development (2020)
7. The gender and diversity perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Argentina 2020-2021 (2021)
8. National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (2023)
9. Strategic Guidelines for the Republic of Argentina 2022-2027 for Fair, Democratic and Quality Education (2022)
10. National Plan for Quality in Health 2021–2024 (2021)

(*) This exercise carried out using artificial intelligence is based on 10 national government documents and follows guidelines for international comparative purposes. The implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in Argentina should be consulted in the Country Reports and National Voluntary Reports.

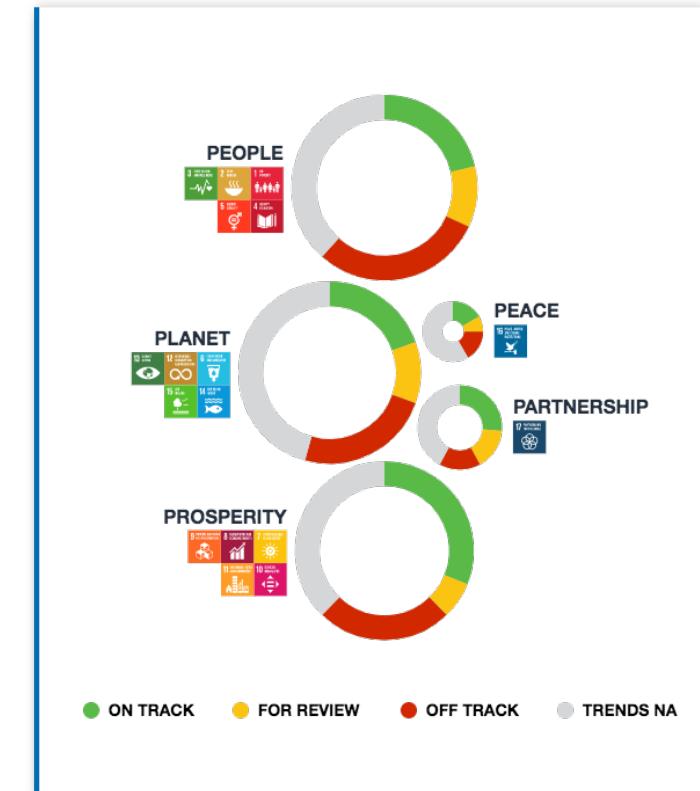
SDG INTERLINKAGES

SDG interlinkages reveal how actions directed towards one SDG can impact others. Uncovering and understanding these interactions can help Argentina to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to navigate trade-offs.

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Argentina's SDG progress is colour-coded at the target level.

Building from national trends and priorities, the following integrated SDG pathways reflect policy choices with the most potential to accelerate the SDGs for Argentina:

- Target 3.8 : Achieve universal health coverage
- Target 5.4 : Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities
- Target 8.3 : Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises
- Target 8.4 : Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
- Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS

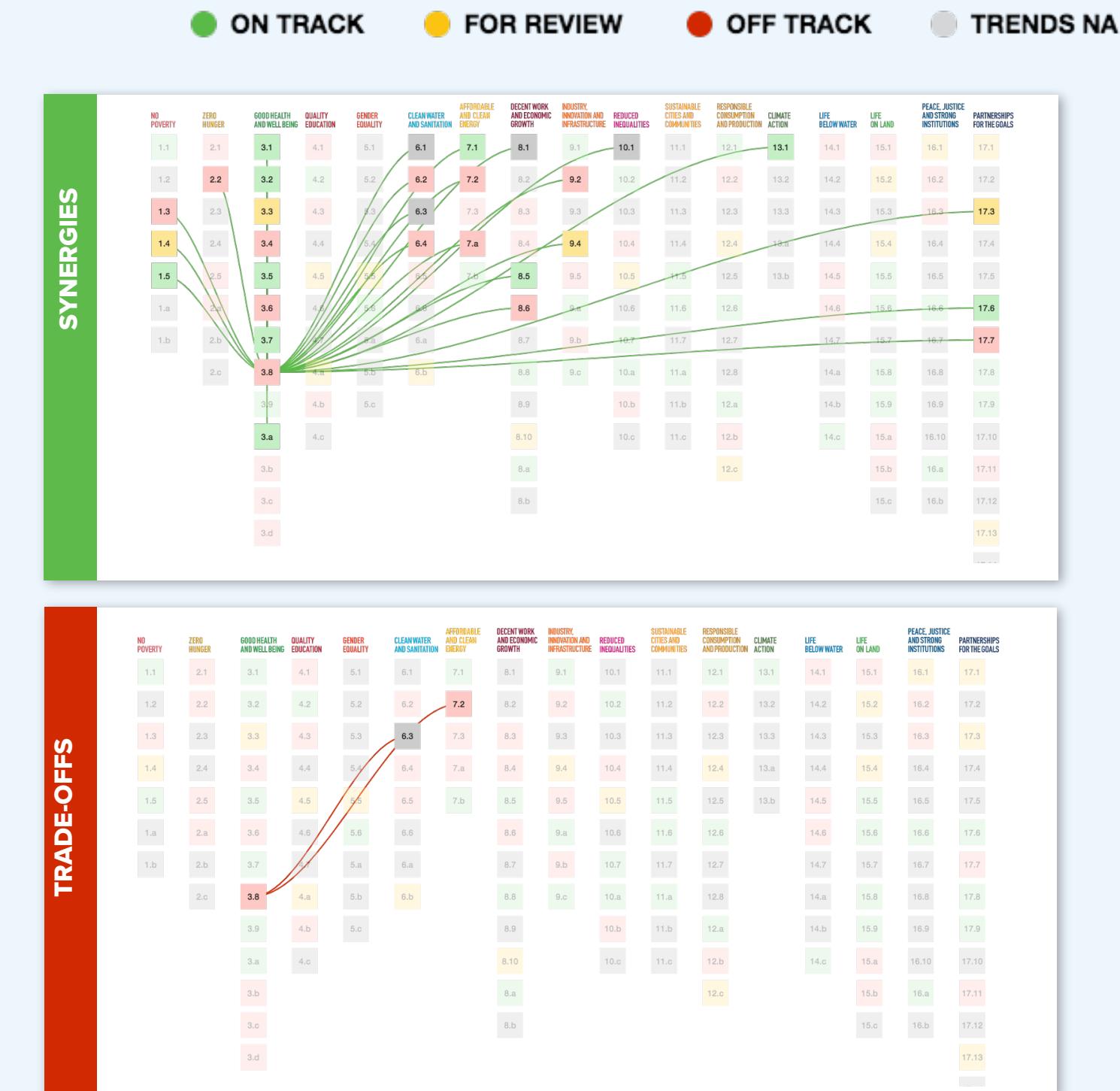


SDG INTERLINKAGES

3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Although access to public health in Argentina is universal, the system is fragmented and presents inequalities in the quality of its services among population groups and jurisdictions. Greater investment in the territorially anchored health system, such as through the expansion of primary health care centres, will have an impact on the health and well-being of the most vulnerable populations, and will promote greater equality (Target 10.1). Likewise, better health will enable higher school enrolment and will improve cognitive functions and hence learning possibilities (Target 4.1); and longevity will create greater incentives for people to invest time and resources in their education and training (Target 4.4). More education promotes better nutrition and disease prevention, and therefore, better levels of health.

In turn, better health conditions will generate greater opportunities for economic participation and expansion of the labour supply (Target 8.5). In particular, the health sector represents nearly 6% of the total employed population in Argentina and enjoys full employment, although there are special challenges in nursing and certain medical specialties, and significant challenges in the supply of resources. Investment in health will result in economic benefits by improving productivity and generating greater economic development (Target 8.3). In conclusion, improvements in health and education will make possible an increase in employability, which will have an impact on an expansion of the production frontier (Target 8.2), an increase in income and a drop in inequality.



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/ARG/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

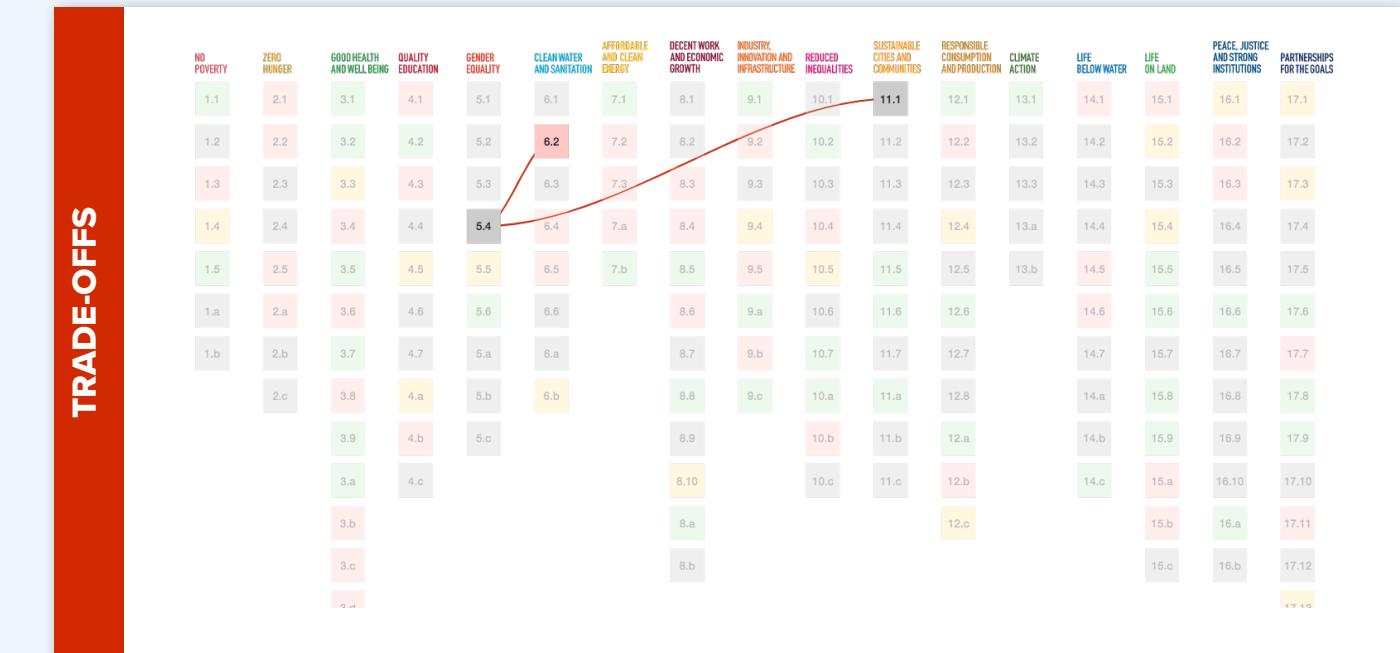
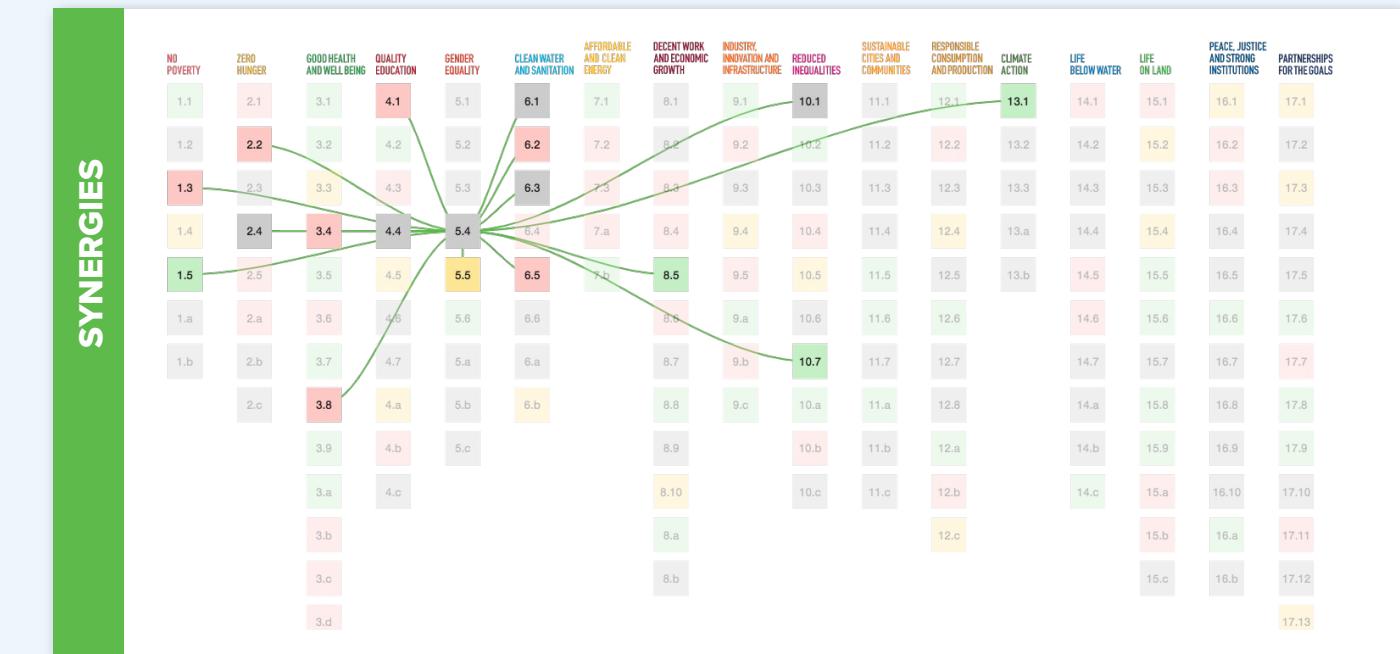
5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family, as nationally appropriate.

In Argentina, unpaid domestic and care work represents 15.9% of GDP and is the sector with the highest contribution to the economy (Ministry of Economy, 2020). About three million women work in the care sector, 9 out of 10 perform these tasks without pay, and spend twice as much time as men in this work (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2023).

Strengthening the existing social protection system (Target 1.3) and implementing comprehensive care policies that enable greater co-responsibility and the practice of activities that provide greater autonomy for women (access to quality education and digitalization) are crucial to foster access to decent employment (Target 8.5) and reducing income inequalities (Target 10.1). In particular, investments in the care economy and in early childhood programmes (Target 4.2), could generate more than 1.8 mn jobs benefiting women to a greater extent, reducing the gender gap in participation and in salaries (ILO, 2022).

Since the unfair distribution of care and domestic work is at the heart of gender inequalities, additional investments are required to balance the field, such as the development of a comprehensive care system that favours labour participation and covers the entire life cycle, from early childhood to the elderly.

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SDG INTERLINKAGES

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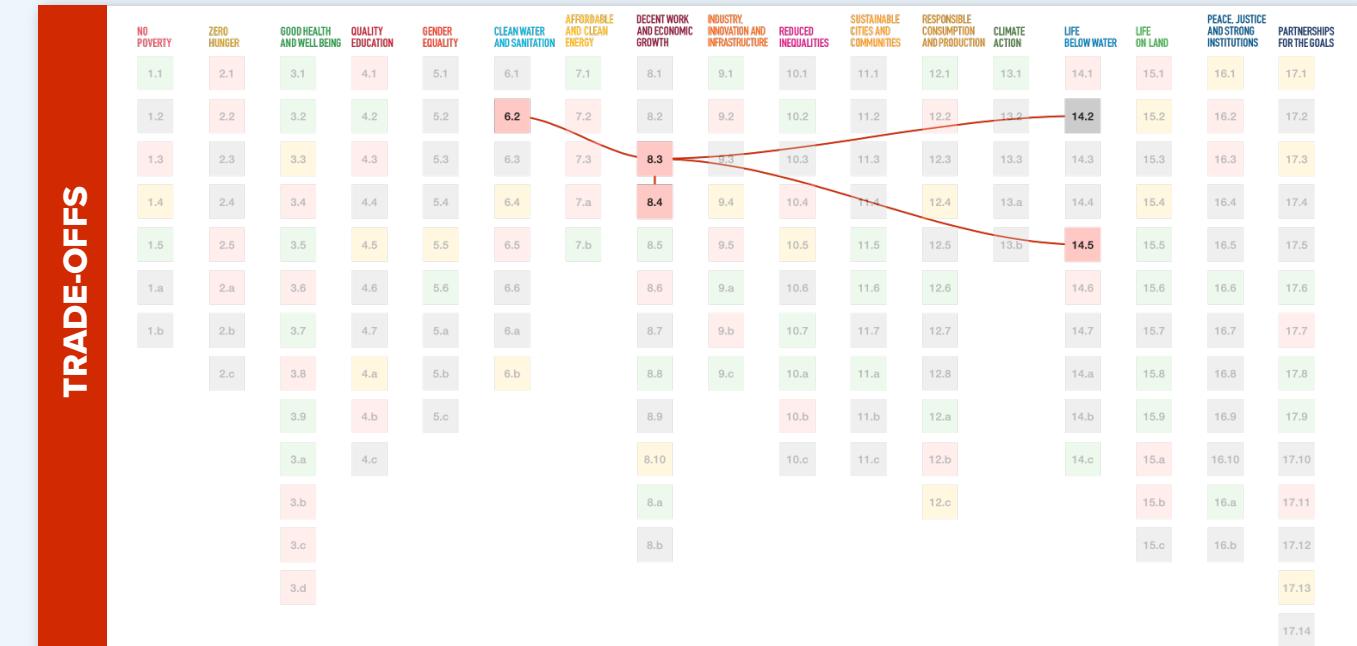
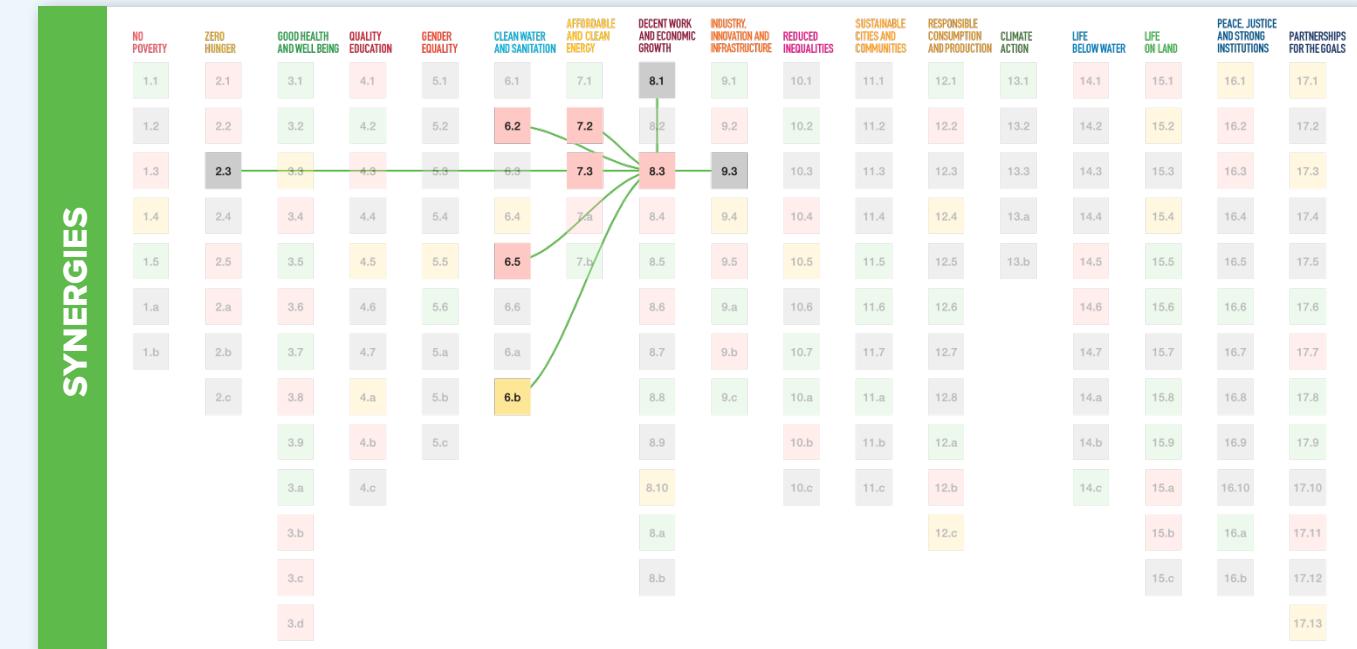
8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including through access to financial services.

Sustaining productive policies over time will help Argentina to reach its potential for sustainable and inclusive growth in the medium- and long-term (Target 8.1).

Strengthening, transforming and diversifying the production matrix will increase productivity and quality jobs, and will improve the trade balance and local capacities (which will contribute to a greater territorial balance at the federal level) (Target 8.9). To this end, activities of high technological complexity and innovation (Target 9.3) will increase MSME productivity. In turn, the MSMEs network – which represents more than 90% of the firms in the country – will promote growth with equity through its participation in job creation.

Likewise, the expansion and transformation of production must be supported by sectors, branches and links with planning that is a guide to sustainable development. MSMEs adopting energy-efficient practices can increase competitiveness and reduce their environmental impact and operating costs, enabling them to grow in a sustainable manner (Target 7.3). For its part, by empowering small-scale food producers, including women, indigenous peoples, family farmers and fishermen, Argentina can foster food production, create employment opportunities and improve access to nutritious food for all (Target 2.2 and 2.3).

Finally, strengthening the health and education systems will favour productivity (Target 3.8 and 4.1). Higher levels of education are the basis for generating the creativity necessary for the development of new technologies, and for generating the capacity to understand and adapt technologies that make sustained growth possible. Better levels of health increase the productivity of people by improving their physical and mental performance and by reducing the loss of working days due to illness. This entails the need to save for retirement, and this saving encourages investment, which contributes to growth.



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/ARG/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

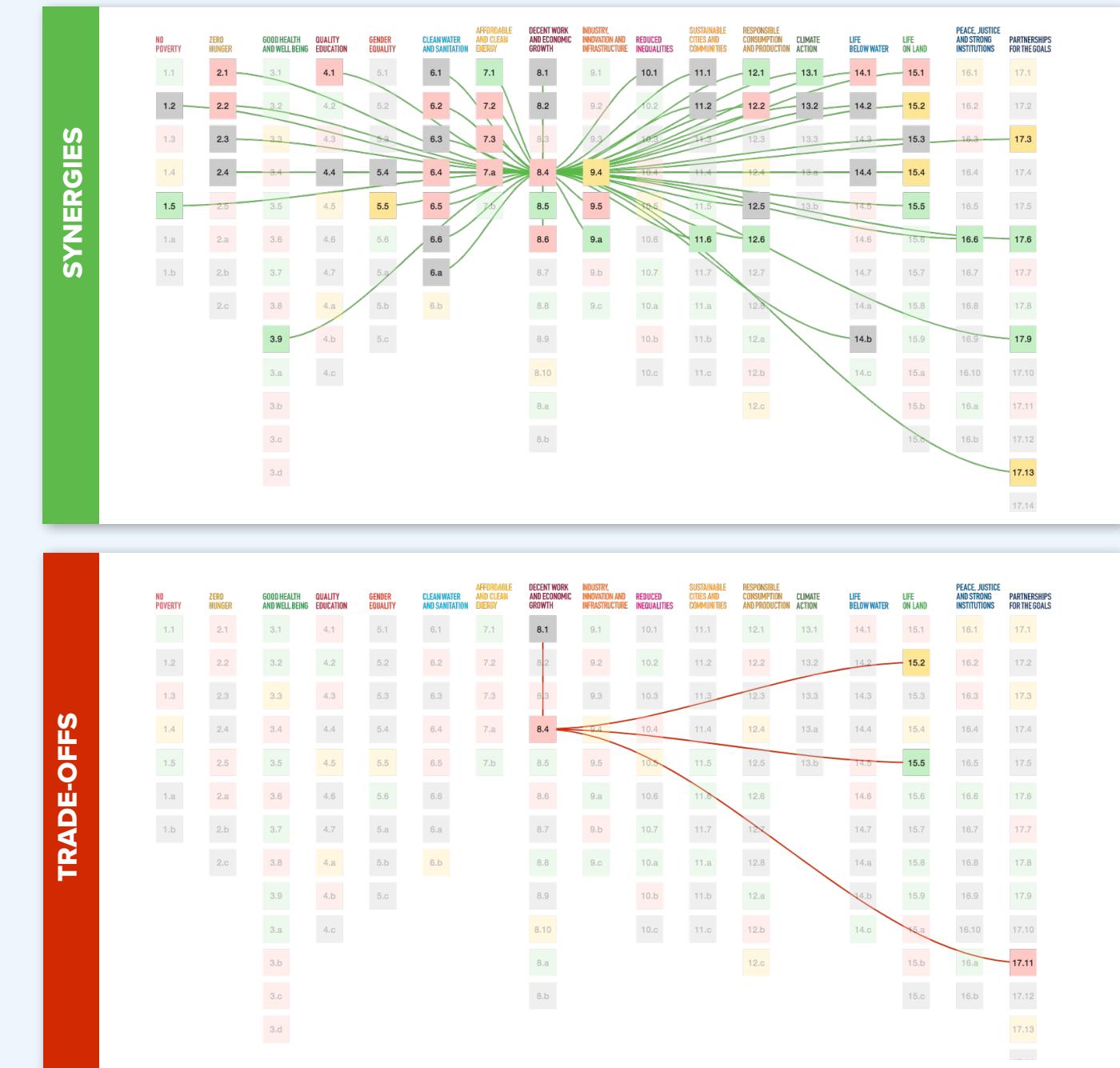
8.4: Improve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

This target is particularly relevant in Argentina so that the economic reactivation incorporates sustainable modes of production, both in traditional sectors (i.e. extractive industries), and in the promotion of new sectors (bioenergy and renewable energy, among them).

The incorporation of sustainable modes of production and consumption could de facto lead to a transition towards an economy with low carbon emissions (Target 9.4), efficient use of resources and a socially inclusive transformation (Target 10.1). Argentina has abundant availability of renewable sources for power generation. This transition will promote the creation of new jobs (Target 8.5), especially those linked to green employment, and the development of new sectors (Target 9.4), such as renewable energies, that will improve the country's productivity, and therefore reduce poverty (Target 1.2).

In Argentina, innovations implemented in agriculture are especially relevant, given that it was the second country in the region with the highest agricultural methane emissions (World Bank, 2019). Thus, investment in this area could serve to boost the use of clean energy and greenhouse gas mitigation (Target 3.9), as well as being an opportunity to generate youth and women employment (Target 8.6).

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SDG INTERLINKAGES

16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

By promoting inclusive decision-making, Target 16.7 acts as a catalyst for advancing various aspects of sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind and that policies and actions are better aligned with the needs and aspirations of people. Technology plays a crucial role in facilitating inclusive decision-making. Digital tools and platforms can enable broader citizen participation, especially in areas where physical barriers or access to traditional decision-making processes might be limited (Target 9c).

E-participation initiatives can empower citizens to contribute to policymaking and governance processes, enhancing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (Target 16.6). In particular, digital technology facilitates access to public information and contributes to greater government transparency (Target 16.10).

Citizens can obtain information on the use of public resources, on the performance of officials and on the policies implemented. This strengthens accountability and trust between citizens and their representatives. Furthermore, responsive and inclusive decision-making is closely linked to access to justice and the rule of law (Target 16.3). Effective decision-making processes leads to improved legal frameworks that uphold human rights and provide avenues for citizens to seek redress.

Also, the achievement of Target 16.7 promotes inclusive decision-making that includes the voices and perspectives of women and ensures their active participation in governance processes (Target 5.5). It is also key to formulate effective climate action plans that incorporate diverse perspectives, especially from those communities most affected by climate change (Target 13b). Finally, it can contribute to reducing inequalities by ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups have a meaningful say in policies and decisions that affect their lives (Target 10.2).

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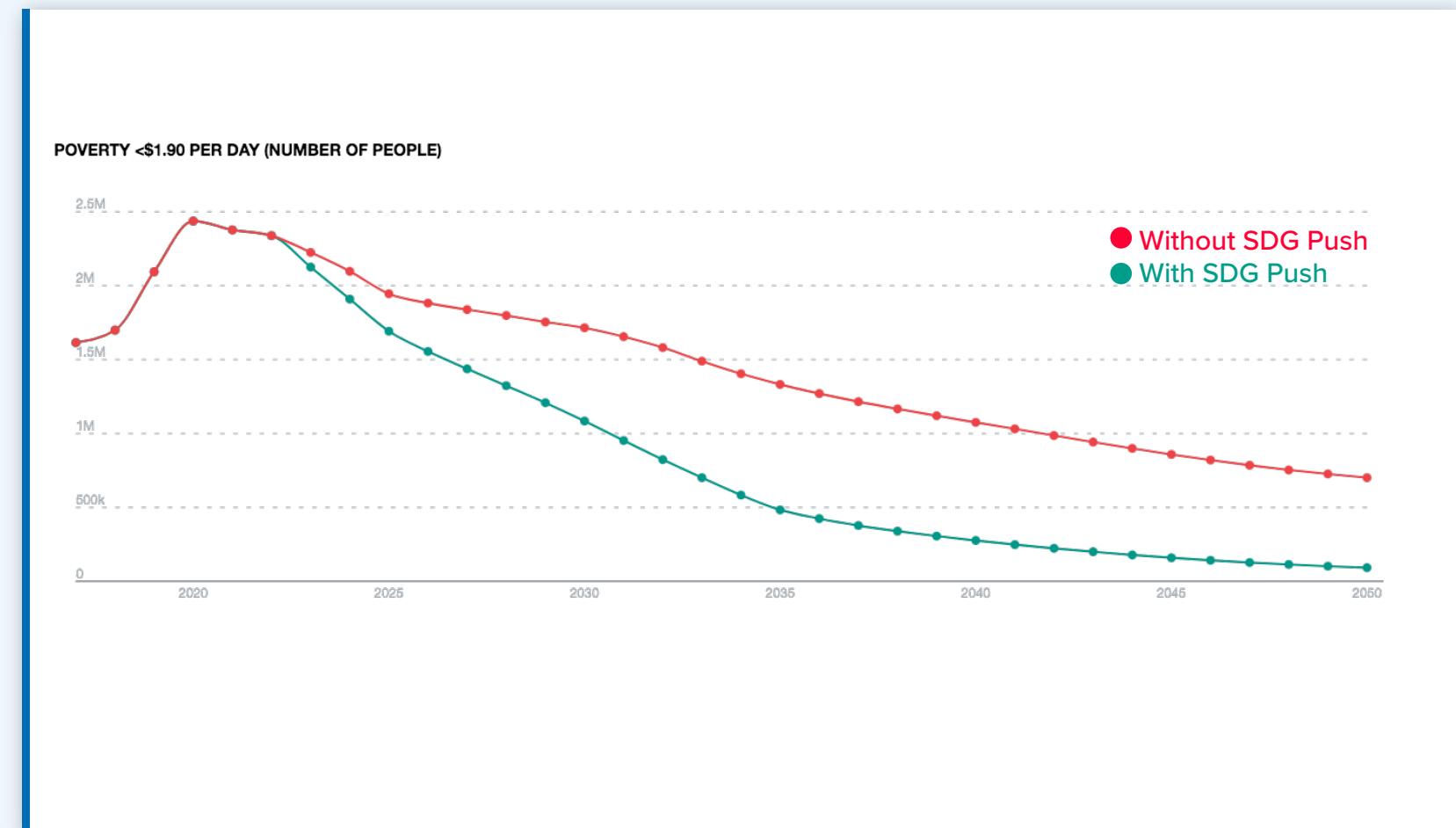
FUTURES SCENARIOS

Achieving the SDGs is possible.

The ‘SDG Push’ is a futures scenario based on 48 integrated accelerators in the areas of Governance, Social Protection, Green Economy and Digital Disruption. It uses national data to explore the impact on human development by 2030 and by 2050 across key SDG indicators.

Incorporating ‘SDG Push’ accelerators into development interventions in Argentina could reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	1.7 mn	700,000
With the SDG Push	1.1 mn	92,000



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/ARG/future-scenarios>

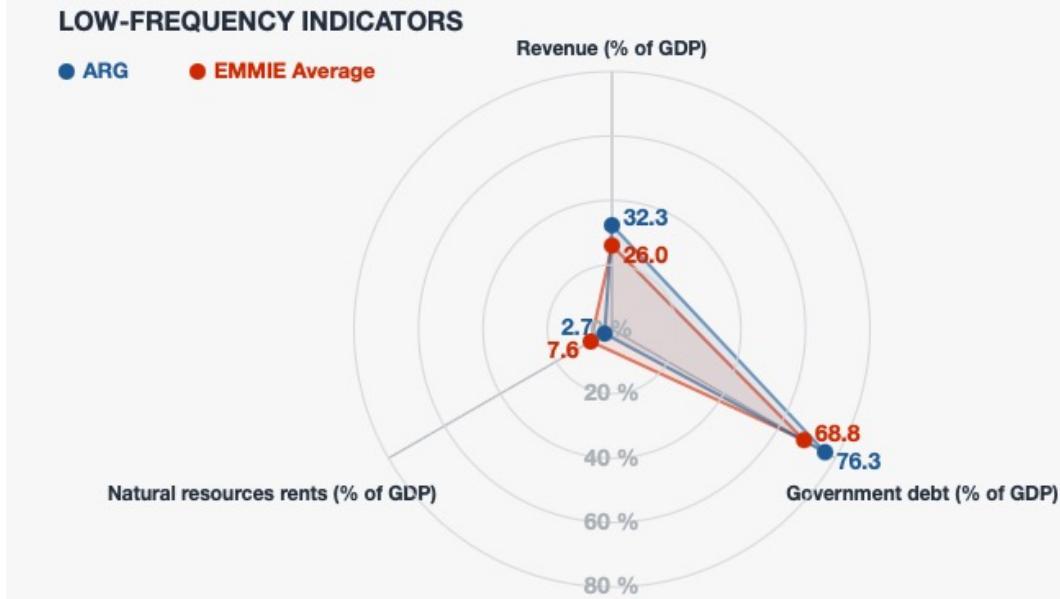
FINANCE & STIMULUS

Many countries are facing reduced fiscal space, high debt levels, rising interest rates and downgrades on credit ratings. Fiscal and financial constraints tend to slow or even reverse SDG progress.

The radar diagram shows low frequency data points linked to government revenue, debt and natural resources rents as a proportion of GDP. The financial indicator graphs show external debt servicing relative to revenue and the sovereign credit rating.

Argentina's gross government debt is projected at 76.3% of GDP in 2023 and thus 7.5 percentage points (pp) above the emerging market and middle-income economies (EMMIE) group's average of 68.8%. With a projected 32.3% of GDP this year, Argentina will collect 6.3 pp more in revenue than the average EMMIE with 26%.

Argentina's public external debt servicing relative to revenue is projected at 10.3% this year and 2 pp below the EMMIE group's 12.3%. Given its loss of access to international financial markets, it is faced by monetary challenges in containing inflation.



Notes: External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt. The credit rating shows the numerical average of S&P's, Moody's, and FITCH's ratings, expressed in S&P's scale in brackets.

Sources: WDI (natural resources rents, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, forecasts for 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), S&P, Moody's and FITCH (credit ratings, data from 2023).

SDG STIMULUS

The UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Plan lays out a blueprint for action within the existing financial architecture. It includes:

- Providing liquidity to support recovery in the near term
- Enhancing debt relief for vulnerable countries
- Expanding development financing by MDBs
- Aligning financial flows with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, according to country-level priorities and needs, for example through the roll-out of the UN Integrated National Financing Framework (INFFs).

Given the projected fiscal and financial constraints faced by Argentina, possible funding and policy options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

1. Financing Options

- Debt for SDG and climate finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment; blended and public-private finance
- Accessing financial markets and inclusive insurance

2. Policy Options

- Sustainable and sustained growth through the expansion, transformation and diversification of the productive matrix
- Social protection for access to quality basic services with a comprehensive and federal perspective covering the entire life cycle, with a focus on gender and diversity
- Digital inclusion to promote active and participatory citizenship in decision-making, in public debate and in the construction of collective solutions.

United Nations
Secretary-General's
SDG Stimulus
to Deliver
Agenda 2030

FEBRUARY 2023



METHODOLOGY

Click [here](#) to view the Methodological Note for the Integrated SDG Insights



SDG MOMENT

Methodology

Assesses challenges and opportunities in national growth trajectories with insights on environmental sustainability and inclusiveness.

Data Sources

Future trajectories to 2025 are based on IMF-WEO GDP projections, distributions of per capita income or consumption from the World Bank, and CO₂ emissions from the Global Carbon Budget 2022 and EDGAR (JRC and IEA).



TRENDS & PRIORITIES

Methodology

SDG trends tracks progress from 2015 to date for the 231 indicators. National priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents.

Data Source

Trends utilizes official [UN statistics](#) to assess [SDG progress](#), supplemented with national data when available. Priorities uses a custom-built model for SDG classification. The policy documents analyses are provided by Governments.



INTERLINKAGES

Methodology

Global target-level interlinkages are drawn from the [KnowSDGs Platform by European Commission](#). SDG interlinkages were retrieved through a structured literature review in Scopus and Google Scholar to tap both grey literature and peer-reviewed publications as a source of information.

Data Source

The exercise globally considered a total of 454 documents published from 2015 to August 2022. ([Miola et al., 2019](#) updated in [2021-2022](#))



FINANCE & STIMULUS

Methodology

Provides insight into indicators of fiscal and financial stress with options (INFF) for stimulus and other means to accelerate progress.

Data Source

Most recent resource data from UNU-WIDER GRD (between 2018 and 2021), debt and revenue from IMF WEO (between 2020 and forecasts for 2023), external debt from IDS (2023), yields from Haver Analytics (8 June 2023), credit ratings from S&P, Moodys and FITCH (2023), and DSA ratings from World Bank/IMF (31 May 2023).