



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS SEYCHELLES

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



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: SEYCHELLES

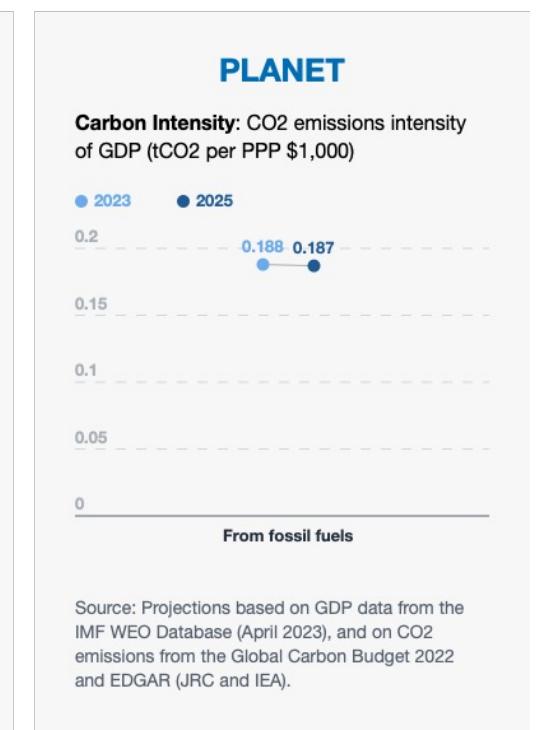
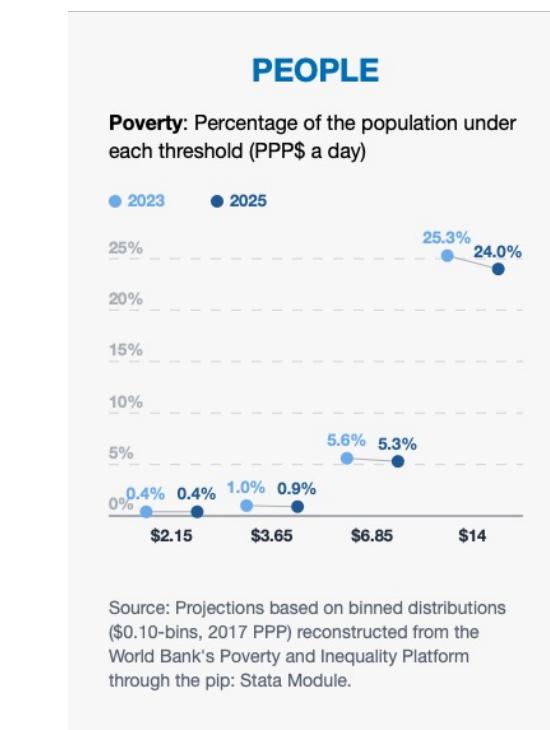
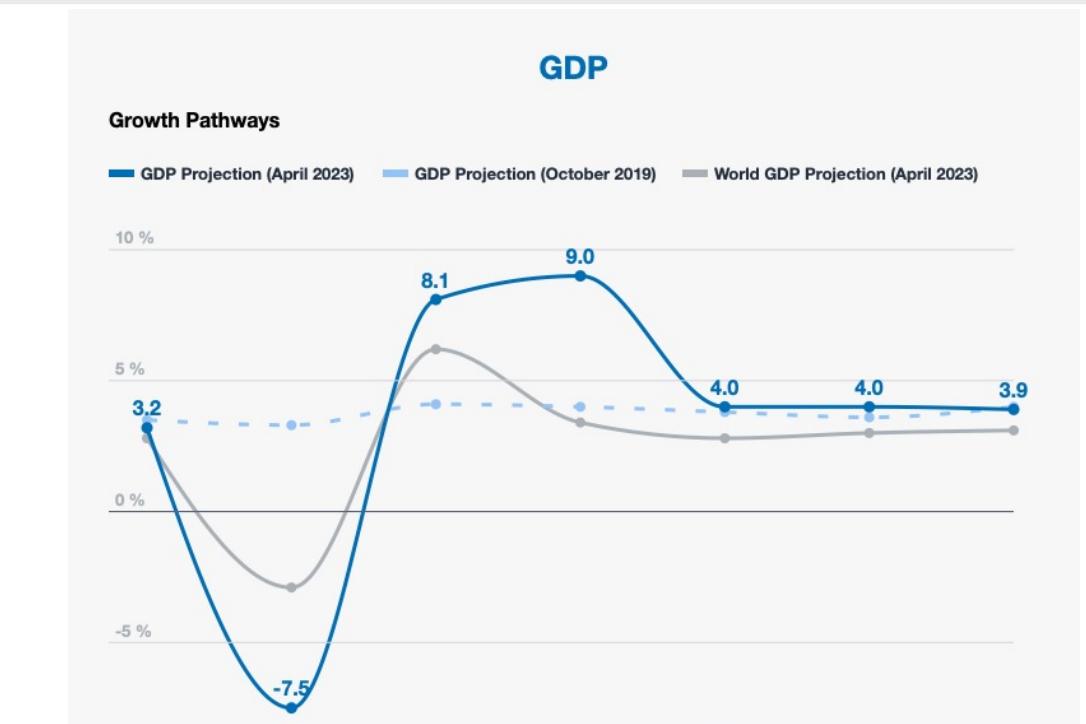
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Seychelles' economic growth cycle in 2023-2024 is in acceleration, but is expected to transition to a slower growth phase by 2025.¹ This pace of growth is characterized by being 34% higher, on average, than the global rate, and by being aligned to the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Accordingly, Seychelles' commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on increasing people's well-being.

This pace of economic growth would exert a moderate positive impact on reducing poverty and would be somewhat less dependent on carbon emissions, as the country's fossil emissions intensity of GDP is projected to decrease at an annual rate of 0.4%.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 Seychelles performs against the SDG targets provides a baseline landscape against which 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/SYC/sdg-trends>

SDG PRIORITIES

Seychelles' 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. Seychelles Voluntary National Review Report 2020
2. SDG Technical Report
3. Seychelles National Development Strategy 2019 – 2023
4. Seychelles Vision 2033
5. Government of Seychelles Strategy 2024 – 2028
6. Common Country Analysis Seychelles 2022
7. Budget 2022
8. Government of Seychelles Digital Economy Agenda: Action Plan

Priorities in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SYC/current-priorities>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Seychelles' 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 Seychelles:

- Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage
- Target 8.2: Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
- Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



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

Seychelles recognizes that beyond health and well-being, investment in health also contributes to social inclusion, gender equality, poverty eradication, economic growth and human dignity. The country's broad strategic priorities for health in the National Development Strategy include pursuing effective health protection; promoting empowerment and personal and societal responsibility for holistic health; and building a high-quality integrated health care system with a focus on people-centred care.

The government is the principal investor in the Seychelles health system providing free access to primary health care for all its citizens. The country's health spending as a share of GDP increased from 4.8% in 2018 to 6.4% in 2020 which is expected to increase, due to several factors, including the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases, an ageing population and the high cost of technologies.

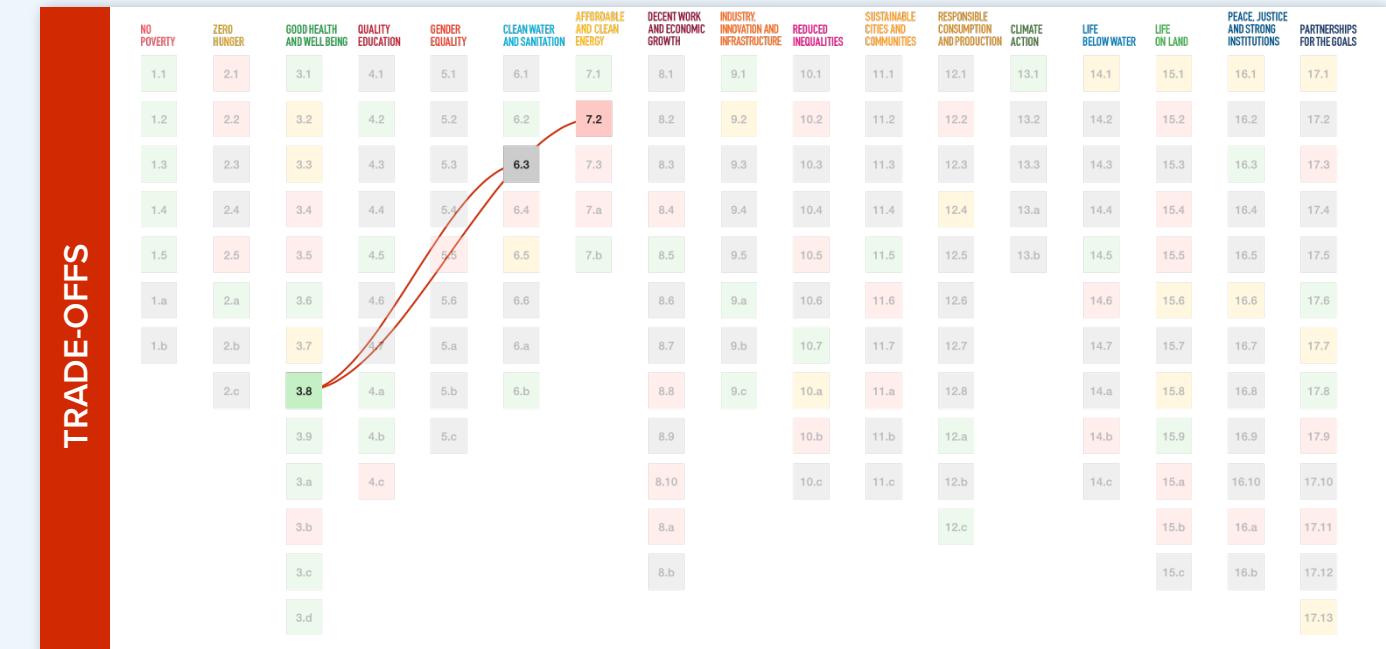
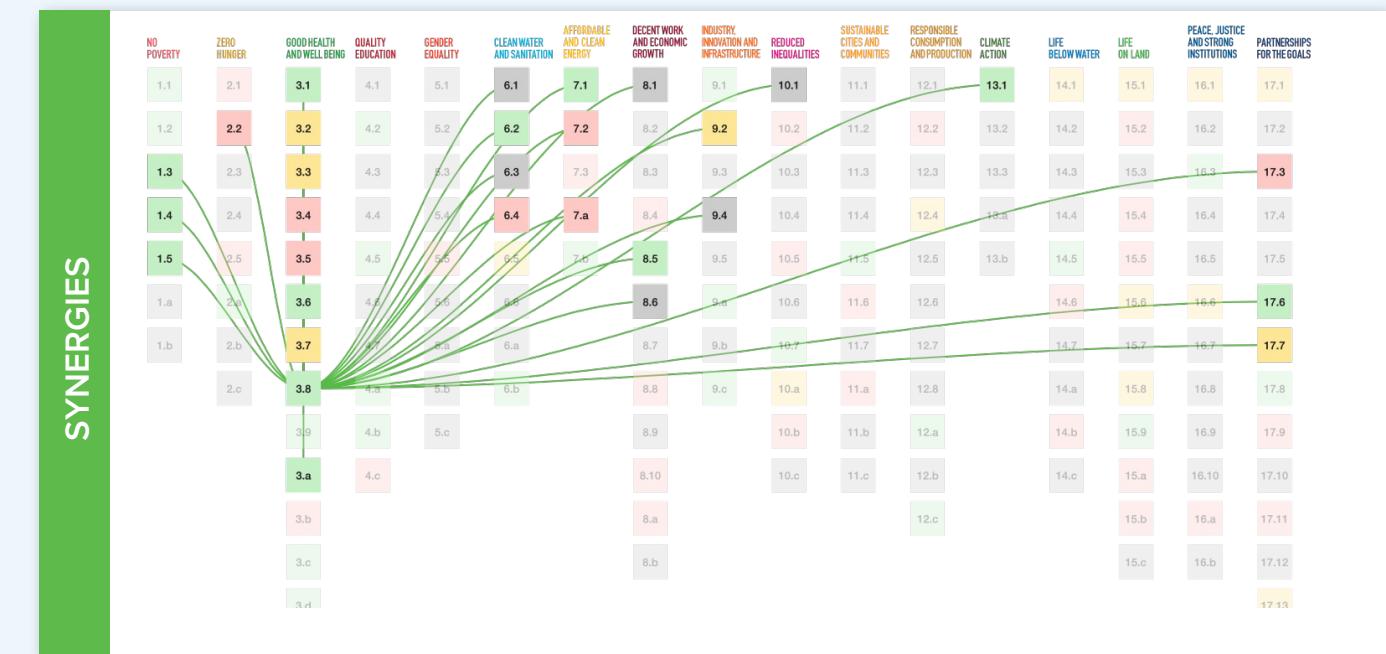
By increasing government investments in digital health technology there is potential to extend health care services to the ageing population at reduced cost and, as indicated by synergies, to enhance investments in energy, to create decent jobs, to improve nutrition and to reduce inequalities.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

The economy of the Seychelles has undergone structural transformation, but most of the change has occurred between the primary and the secondary sectors, while keeping the share of the service sector at around 66 percent of GDP. The share of the service sector has always been high due to overreliance on revenues from tourism. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced a widely held concern about the high vulnerability of the economy due to the dominance of this sector, justifying the Government's current efforts to advance the economic diversification agenda.

To promote economic diversification, it is essential to prioritize investments in core infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, transport and logistics that would support diversification into non-service activities, such as manufacturing and financial services, ICT, as well as cut delays and improve market access.

Acknowledging the increasing importance of services in supporting countries' diversification efforts would be beneficial for Seychelles to develop new "deep trade agreements", including the broad category of services and digital services (e.g. eservices, ecommerce). Such services trade policies could lead to higher labour, overall productivity positive multiplier effects on 7 SDGs (SDGs 1, 2 ,6, 7, 8, 11 and 12) and 18 associated targets, and one trade-off on water treatment (SDG target 6.3). While there are numerous benefits, there is one trade-off concerning water treatment. When undertaking these investments, it is vital to incorporate safeguards to address the trade-offs.

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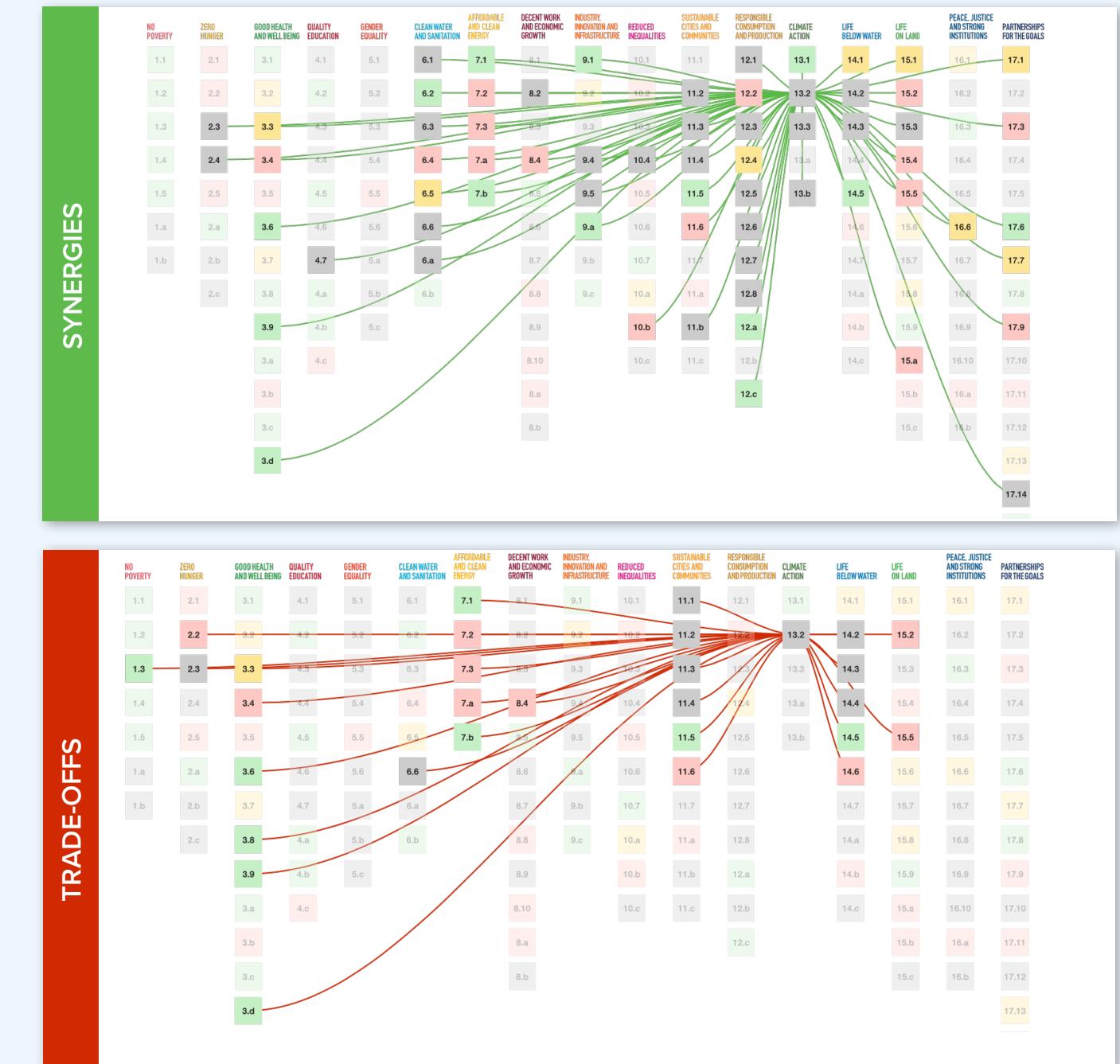
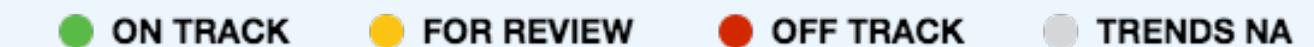
SDG INTERLINKAGES

13.2: Number of countries with nationally determined contributions long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Seychelles faces significant vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. In response, the Government of Seychelles has maintained a strong commitment to aligning its development strategies with global initiatives aimed at limiting global warming. The country's revised Nationally Determined Contribution sets forth ambitious targets aiming to reduce economy-wide emissions by 26.4% by 2030 compared to business-as-usual scenarios. Furthermore, Seychelles aspires to achieve a decarbonized, net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

To pursue sustainable growth, Seychelles will not only continue to invest in safeguarding the Blue Economy, but also seek to harmonize climate action and development efforts. This approach ensures that the country's progress towards climate resilience and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change goes hand in hand with fostering sustainable economic growth to sustain the foundation of a high-income status.

Investing in target 13.2 has positive synergies with 64 SDG targets spread across 10 goals, but with 29 negative trade-offs with SDGs 14, 15 and 6, among others. It is essential to navigate the complexities of these negative trade-offs while ensuring that policy implementation addresses competing interests and safeguards the ecosystem's integrity.



Explore the interlinkages at

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

In Seychelles 68.5% of the population is satisfied with the public services they receive. By focusing on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and specifically Target 16.6, measures can be implemented to cut across all goals and pillars outlined in the Seychelles National Development Strategy 2019 – 2023 and the Government of Seychelles Strategy 2024 – 2028, where public services are provided.

This offers Seychelles the opportunity to set a higher goal, for example towards the percentage of the population satisfied with public services received. This increase will have a positive multiplier effect on the progress of other SDGs.

However, it is crucial to ensure that this objective is accompanied by safeguards to prevent the deepening of inequalities.

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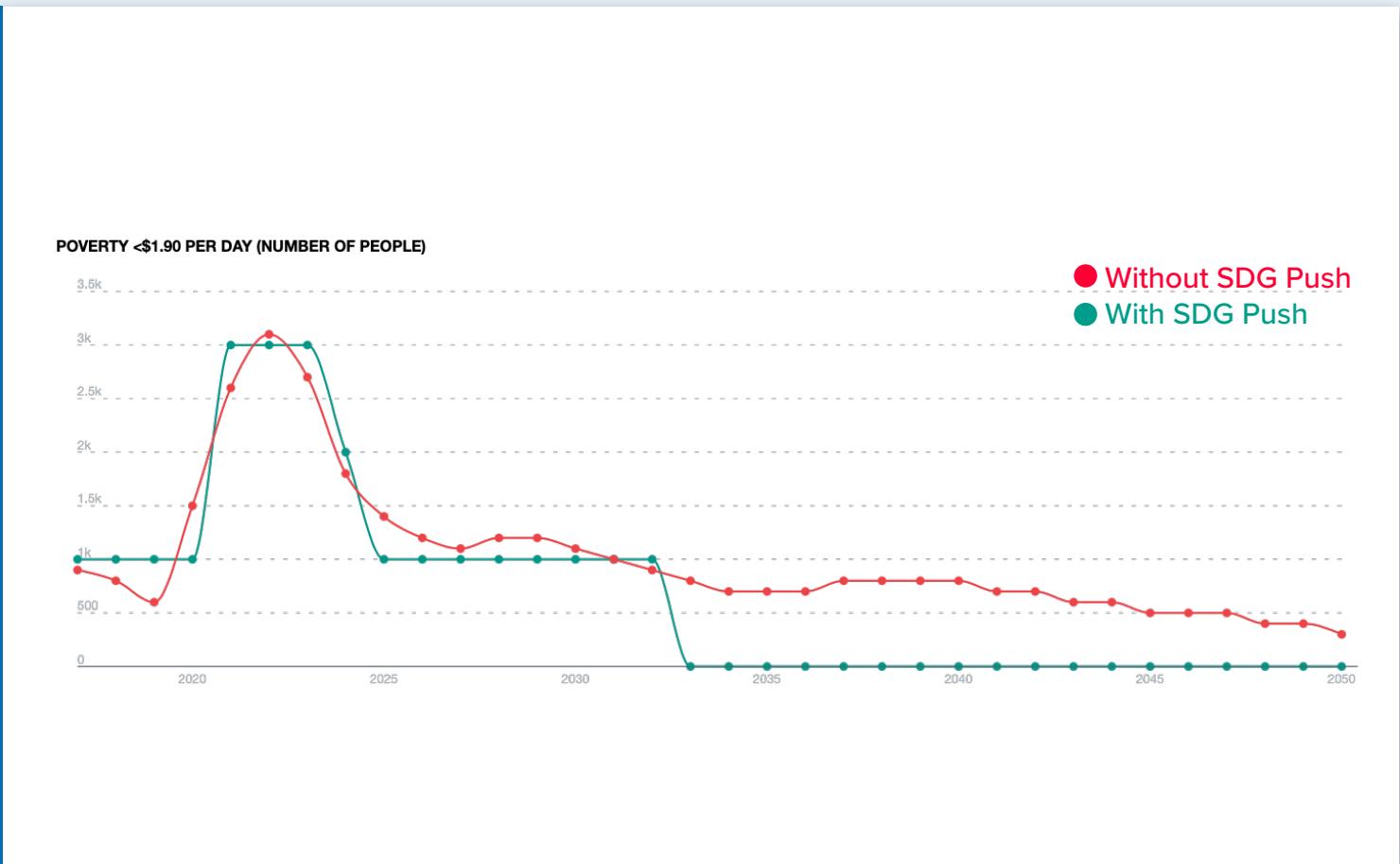
FUTURES SCENARIOS

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 Seychelles can reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	1,100	300
With the SDG Push	1000	0



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/SYC/future-scenarios>

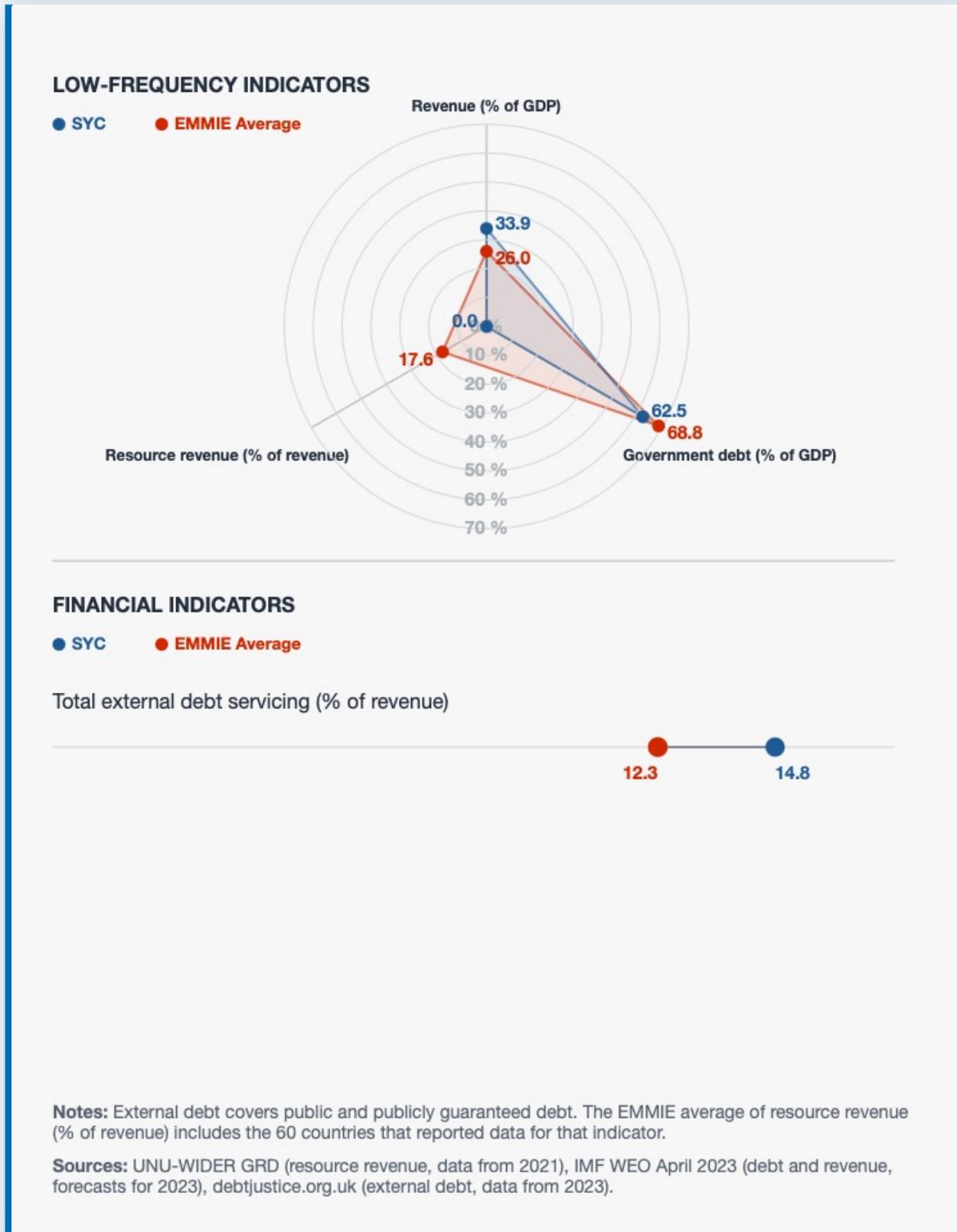
FINANCE & STIMULUS

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 and debt as a proportion of GDP and the natural resource share of total revenue. The financial indicator graph shows external debt servicing relative to revenue.

Seychelles' gross government debt, projected at 62.5% of GDP in 2023, is 6.3 percentage points (pp) below the emerging market and middle-income economies (EMMIE) group of 68.8%. The country is expected to collect 33.9% of GDP in government revenue this year, thus 7.9 pp above the EMMIE group at 26%.

Seychelles' external debt servicing relative to revenue at a projected 14.8% this year, is 2.5 pp above the average EMMIE country with 12.3%.



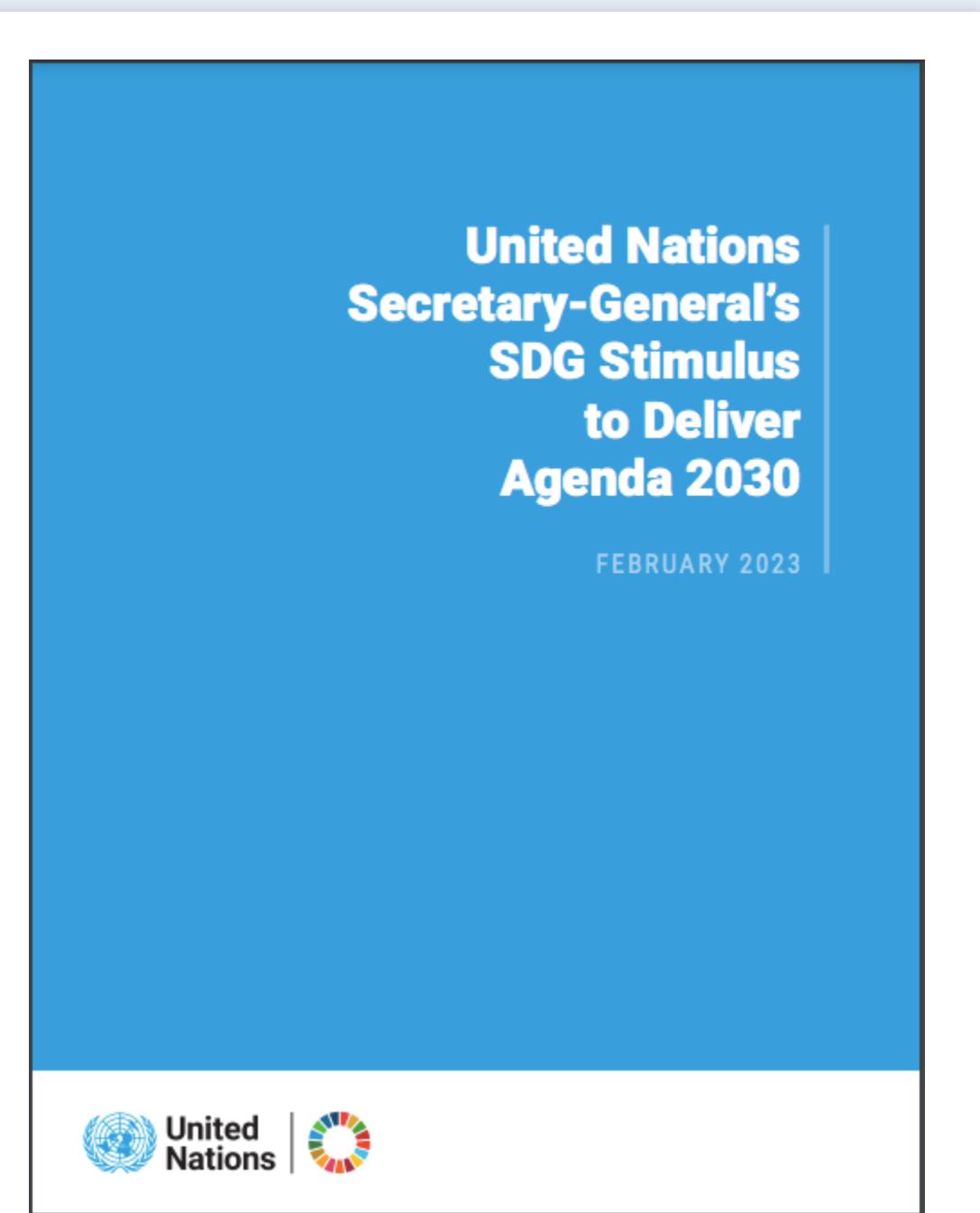
SDG STIMULUS

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 Seychelles, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are mechanisms identified in the SDG Stimulus relevant to Seychelles:

- Tax and revenue reform
- Tax for the SDGs
- Debt for SDGs
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- Accessing financial markets and insurance
- Remittances, philanthropy and faith-based financing



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).