



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

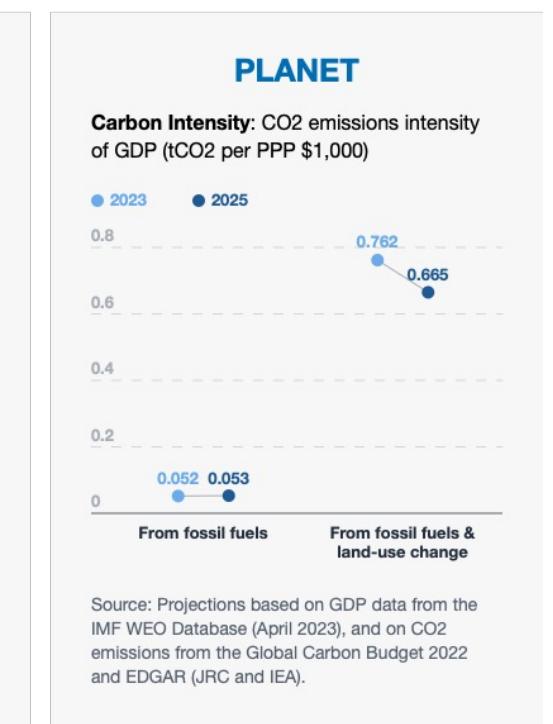
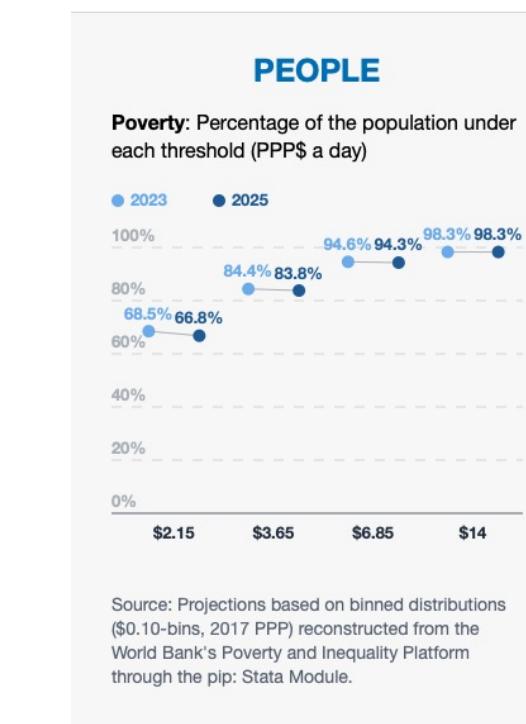
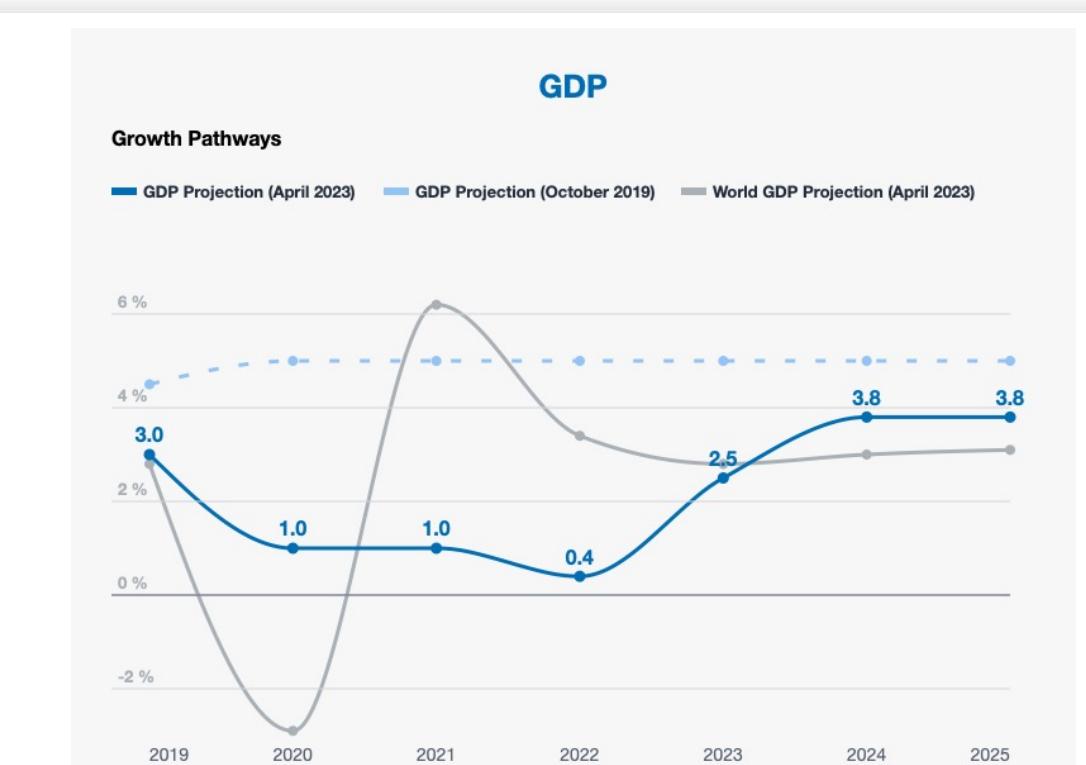
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Central Africa Republic's economy is in mitigation mode in 2023 but is projected to improve by 2024-2025.¹ This pace of growth is characterized by being 13% higher, on average, than the global rate of growth, but below the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. The country's policy focus is to develop basic infrastructure, promote green energy and raise the level of production and productivity in the agricultural sector.

This pace of growth is not expected to exert a significant effect on lowering the incidence of poverty at \$2.15 and \$3.65 a day — hence the commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on overcoming this stagnation. The economic expansion, on the other hand, would not be increasingly dependent on carbon emissions as the country's fossil carbon emissions intensity of GDP would remain unchanged — and the intensity would follow a downward trend at an annual rate of decline of 6% when also considering land-use change.²

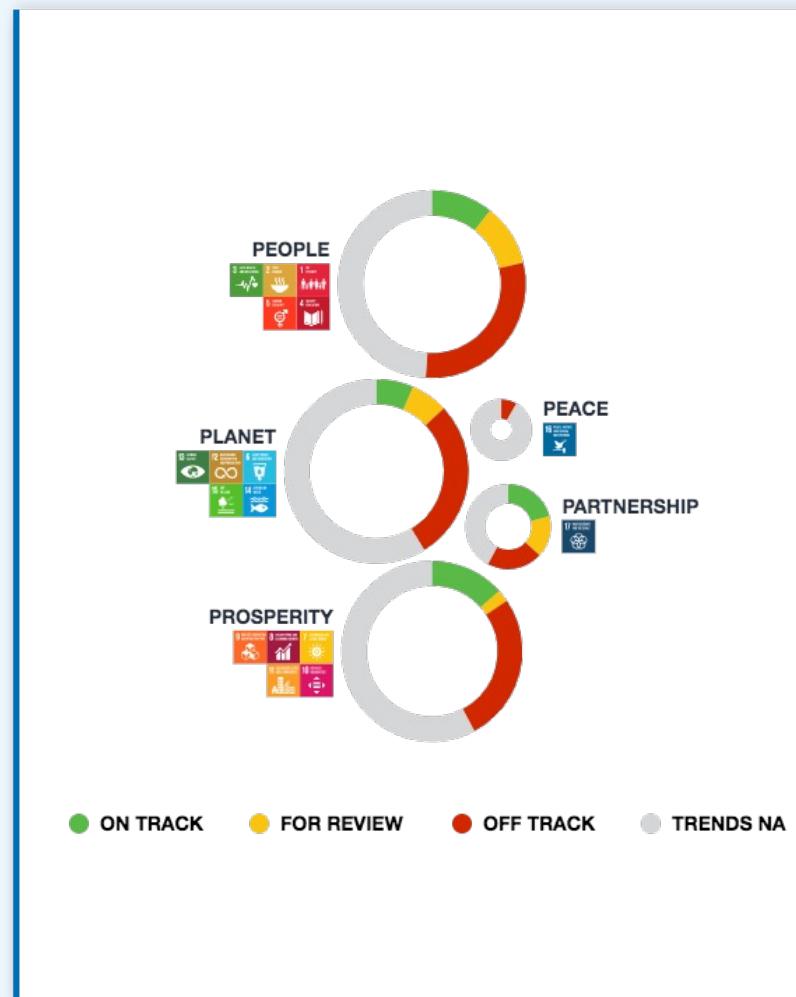
¹ The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is 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 the Central African Republic 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/CAF/sdg-trends>

SDG PRIORITIES

The Central African Republic'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. National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-23

Priorities in detail:

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

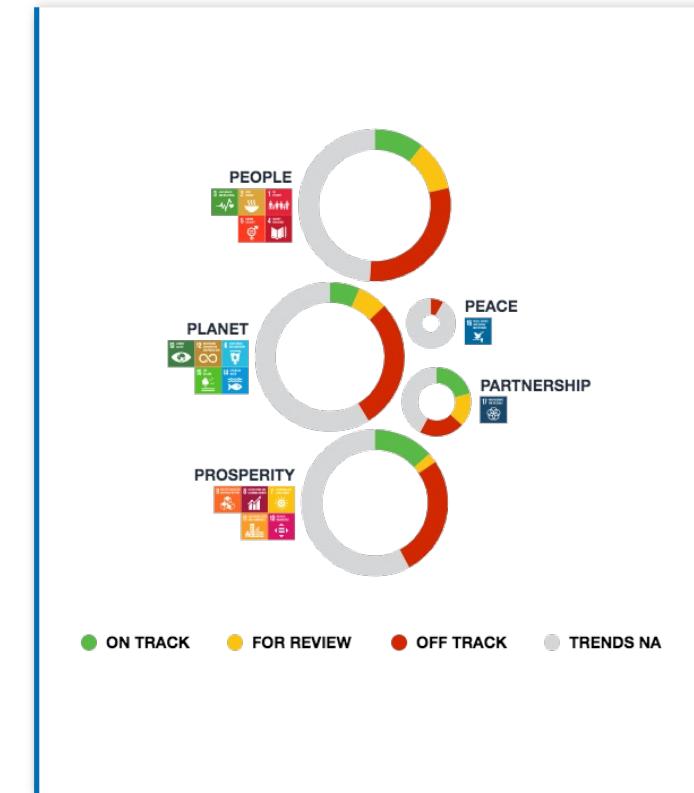
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, the Central African Republic'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 the Central African Republic:

- Target 2.4: Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices
- Target 8.2: Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
- Target 16.1: Reduce violence everywhere
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



SDG INTERLINKAGES

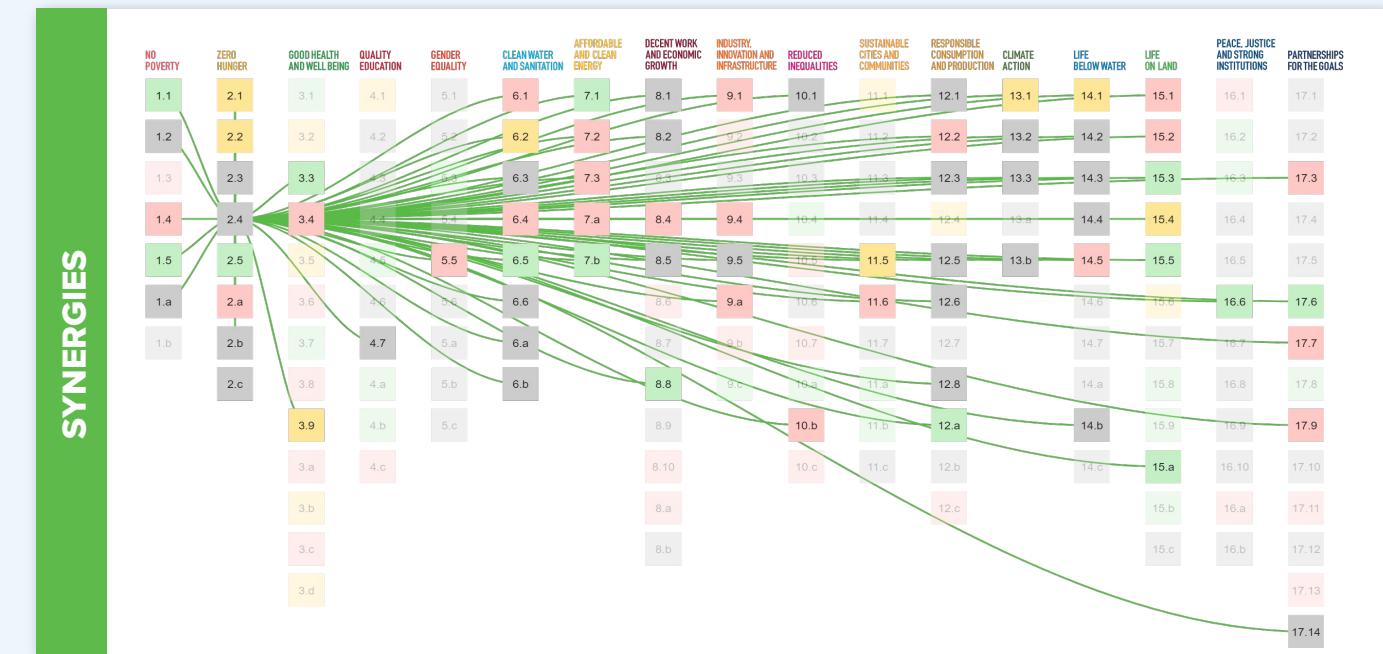
2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Ensuring sustainable food production systems and the implementation of resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production is among the top priorities of CAR's National Pact for Food and Agriculture. This initiative will not only catalyze diversification of the economy (SDG 8), but also decentralize economic activity from the capital to the regions and provinces to address rural to urban migration by creating economic and employment opportunities in rural areas.

Focusing on SDG target 2.4 can positively impact other SDGs such as poverty and hunger [SDG 1,2] good health [SDG 3], water and sanitation [SDG 6], energy [SDG 7], jobs [SDG 8], and reducing inequalities [SDG 10], including the provision of opportunities and resources to women in rural areas [SDG 5]. The synergies with renewable energy generation to provide access to low-carbon energy for rural enterprises such as agricultural processing industry - as emphasized in rural revival policy – will trigger a larger multiplier effect on all the SDGs via SDG 7.

Synergies with other SDGs will reinforce overall SDG acceleration due to interlinkages, yet trade-offs are also possible via negative impacts if action on other SDGs are not coordinated. An increase in economic activity in rural areas may trigger deterioration in health and wellbeing (SDG-3), clean water and sanitation (SDG-6), responsible consumption and production (SDG-12).

● ON TRACK ● FOR REVIEW ● OFF TRACK ● TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

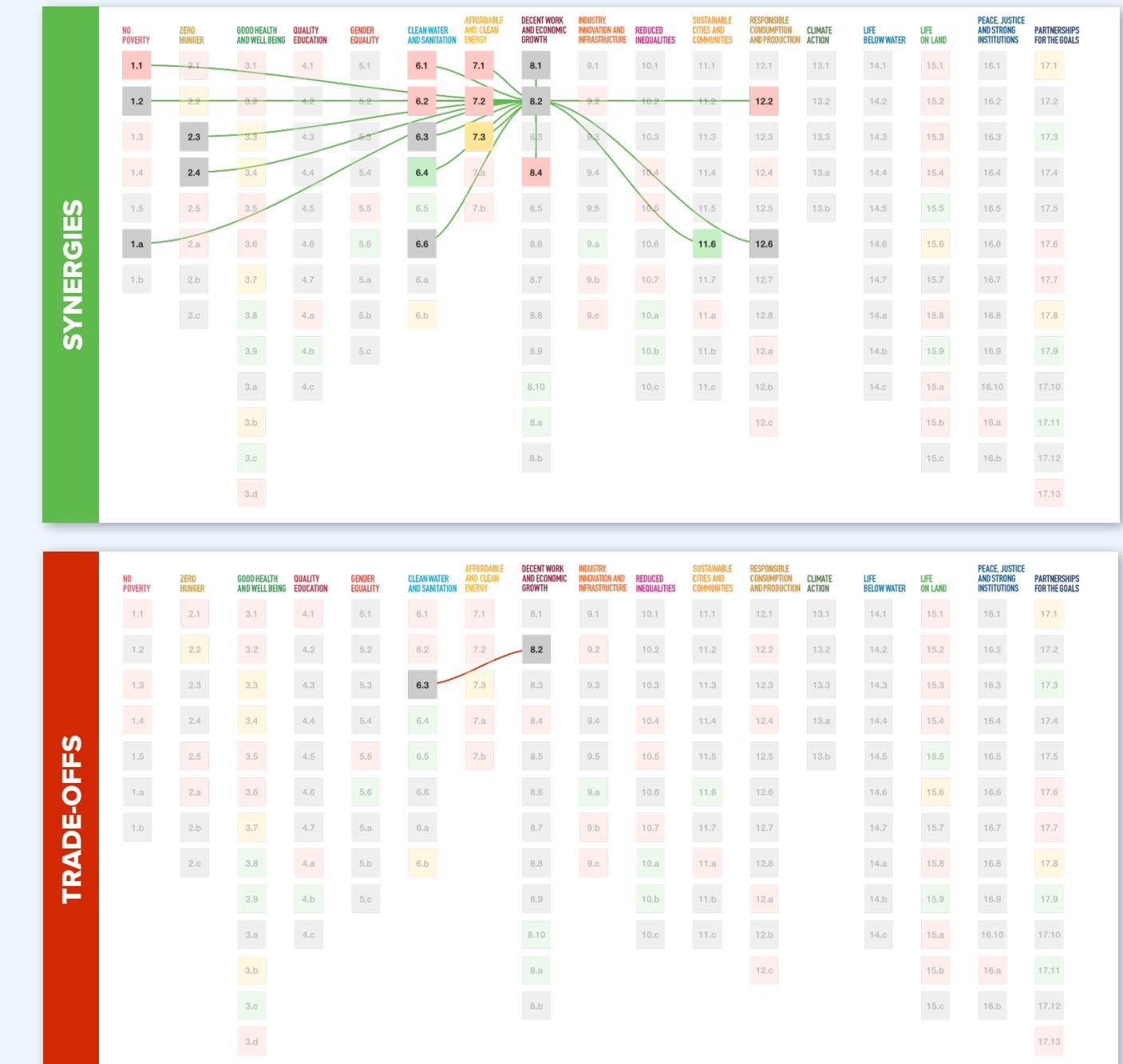
8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.

CAR's path to achieving high economic productivity hinges on a strategic blend of economic diversification, development decentralization, technological upgrading, and innovation in the agricultural and industrial sectors. By expanding beyond traditional sectors (mining) and venturing into emerging industries such as renewable energy, technology, services sector, agribusiness and agricultural and food processing,

CAR can achieve inclusive and sustainable growth while tapping into new sources of growth. Simultaneously, investments in education and skill development must empower the workforce to embrace these modern industries. Central to this endeavour should be a concerted focus on labour-intensive sectors, nurturing a robust environment for startups and SMEs, and building efficient infrastructure that binds the economy together.

For instance, investments in sustainable agriculture, food processing, tourism, transit services, infrastructure, renewable energy, health, and education related technology sectors will provide opportunities for economic diversification. It also requires placing larger emphasis on supporting women's empowerment and access to finance to optimize the gains in productivity and economic diversification. Achievements in SDG target 8.2 have the acceleration potential throughout the SDG framework, with reductions in poverty and hunger [SDG 1.2], access to clean water [SDG 6.1], water use efficiency [6.4], reduce environmental impact on cities [SDG 11. 6] and sustainable use of resources [SDGs 12.2 and 12.6].

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

CAR is at a crossroads, with overlapping crises (COVID-19, post-electoral conflict, the war in Ukraine, etc.) and critical choices to improve its people's living conditions. For CAR to realize its enormous potential, must address the root causes of fragility by creating jobs, improving the management of its natural resources, and establishing a social contract.

To achieve this, CAR must implement the three pillars of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPA) for the period 2017-2023 which focus on: (i) supporting peace, security and national reconciliation, (ii) renewing the social contract between the State and the people and (iii) ensuring economic recovery and the recovery of the productive sectors. Furthermore, to build trust, the government should involve civil society organizations and the public in decision-making.

Achieving peace could play a crucial role in accelerating economic growth, reducing extreme poverty, boosting productivity, human capital, private sector investment and improving infrastructures such as road connections, electricity and ICT in CAR., Target 16.1 can serve as an enabler to achieve several SDGs.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Past attempts to address the political crisis and instability were unsuccessful because of mistrust between the state, armed groups, and citizens, and temporary strategies that did not address the root causes of conflicts and violence.

Policymakers need to focus on accelerating development, improving the quality of governance at all levels, and increasing transparency to strongly maximize the impact of reforms on the living standards of Central Africans as outlined in the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RPCPA) for the period 2017-2023 and sectoral development strategies (PES 2020-2029, PNDS 2021-2026, National Pact for Food and Agriculture, etc.).

Building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (SDG target 16.6) will drive investment and progress across several SDGs, e.g., universal health coverage, quality education, water quality, sustainable food systems, resilient agricultural practices, job creation for youth, and resilient and sustainable infrastructure, among others.

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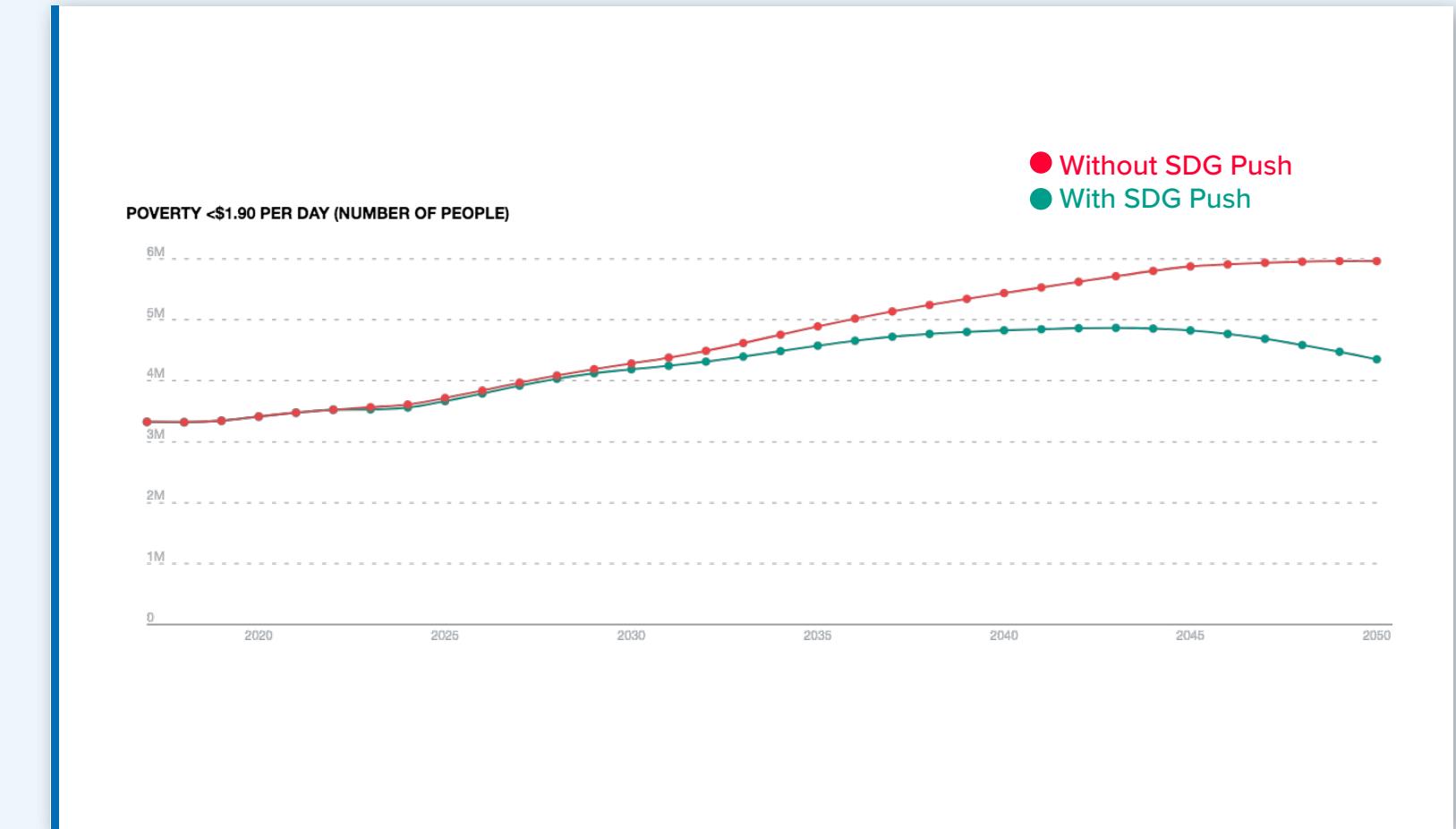
FUTURES SCENARIOS

Achieving the SDGs is possible.

The ‘SDG Push’ is a futures scenario based on 48 integrated accelerators in the areas of Governance, Social Protection, the 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 the Central African Republic can reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	4.3 mn	6 mn
With the SDG Push	4.2 mn	4.4 mn



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

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

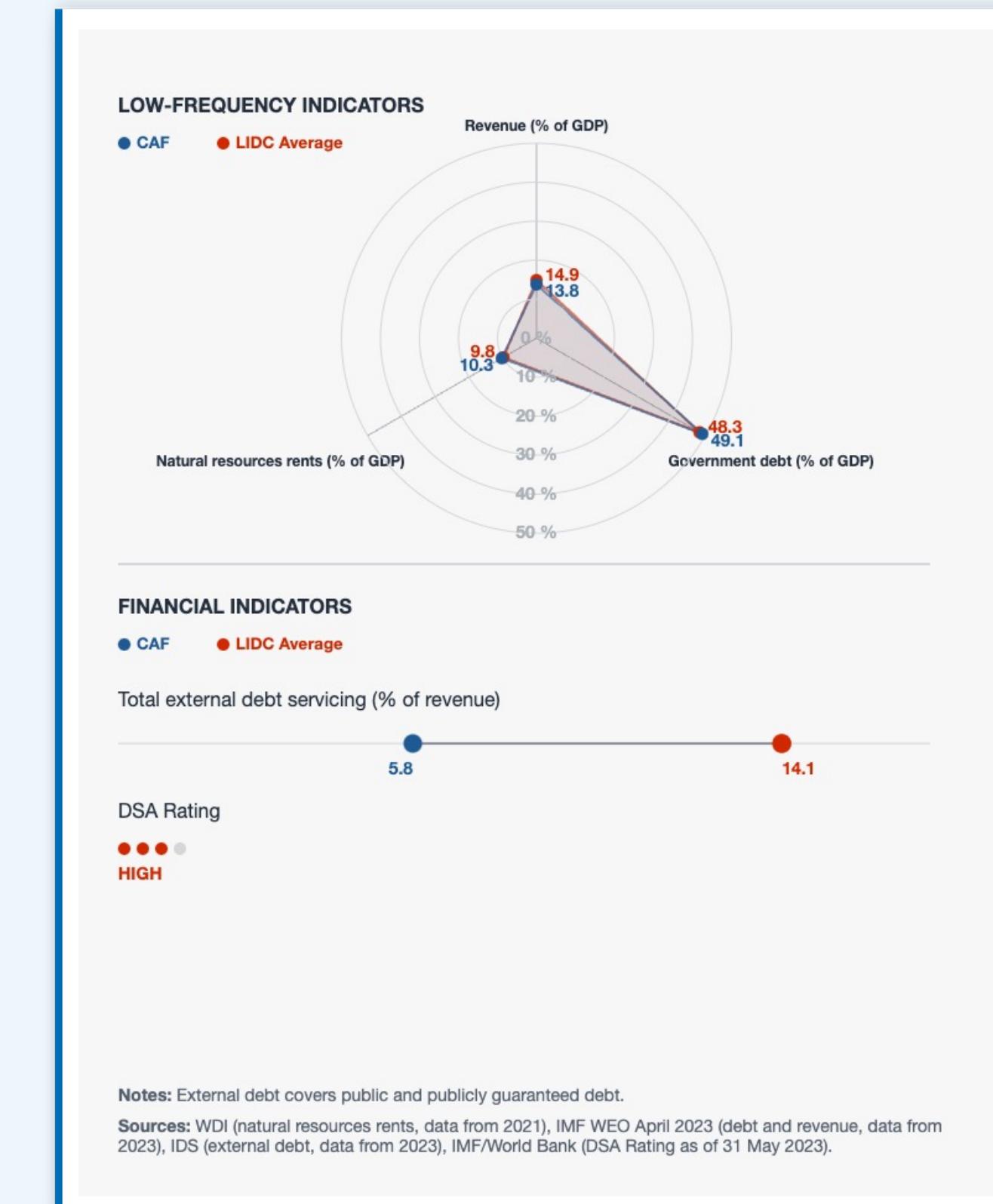
FINANCE & STIMULUS

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 country's latest Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) risk rating.

The Central African Republic's gross government debt, projected at 49.1% of GDP in 2023, is close to the low-income developing countries' (LIDC) average of 48.3%. The country is projected to collect 13.8% of GDP in revenue this year, which is slightly less than the LIDC group ratio of 14.9%.

The country's public external debt servicing this year is projected to be 5.8% of revenue, which is less than half the LIDC average of 14.1%. Due to liquidity risks spurred by potential shortages in donor support, restricted regional market access and geopolitical tensions, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA rates the country as at 'high risk of debt distress'.



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 the Central African Republic, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

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

**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).