



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS KYRGYZSTAN

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: KYRGYZSTAN

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.

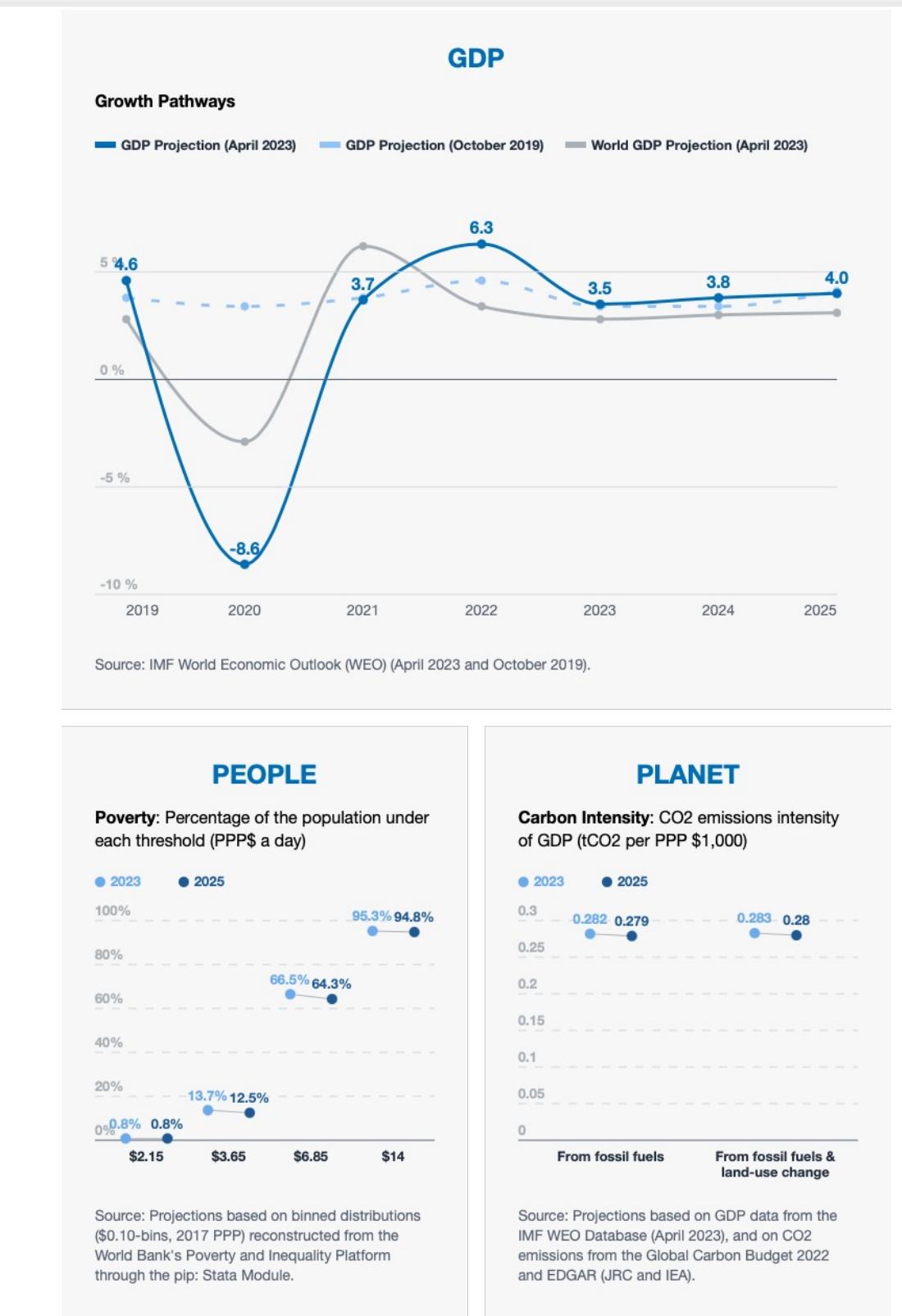
Kyrgyzstan's economy is growing moderately in 2023 but is projected to accelerate slightly in 2024-2025.¹ This pace of growth is characterized by being 28% higher, on average, than the global figure, and above the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Kyrgyzstan's national medium-term economic forecast projects growth from 4.9% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2025, which is 1%-1.5% higher than the IMF forecast. Accordingly, Kyrgyzstan's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on increasing people's well-being and accelerating progress through building an inclusive, green and digital economy.

The social and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation of women and girls. They still suffer higher rates of unemployment, rising levels of violence within the home and a sharp increase in unpaid care and domestic work, while facing barriers in access to decision-making positions and to and ownership of resources.

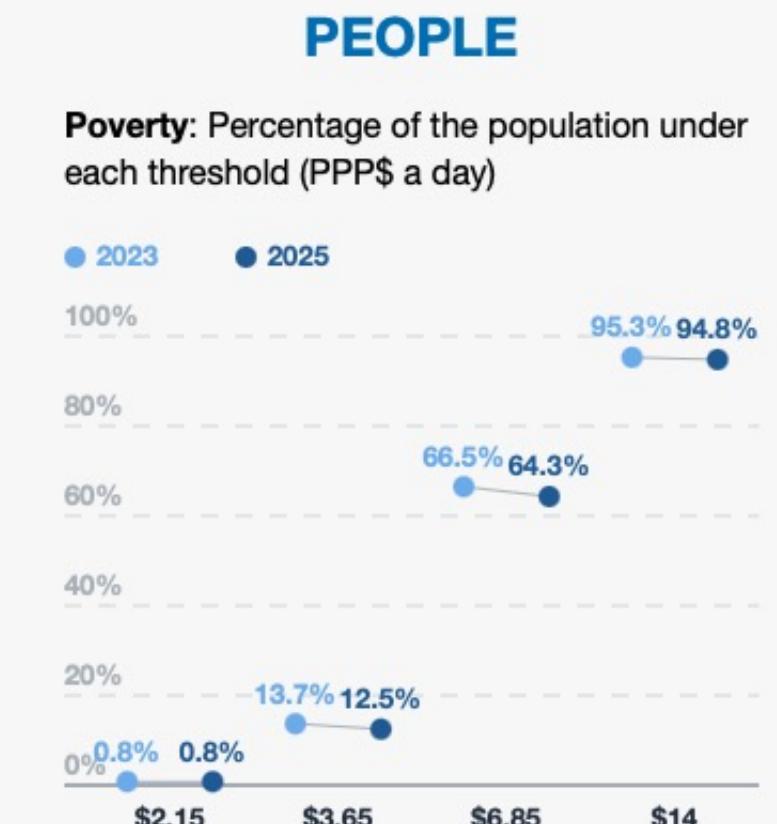
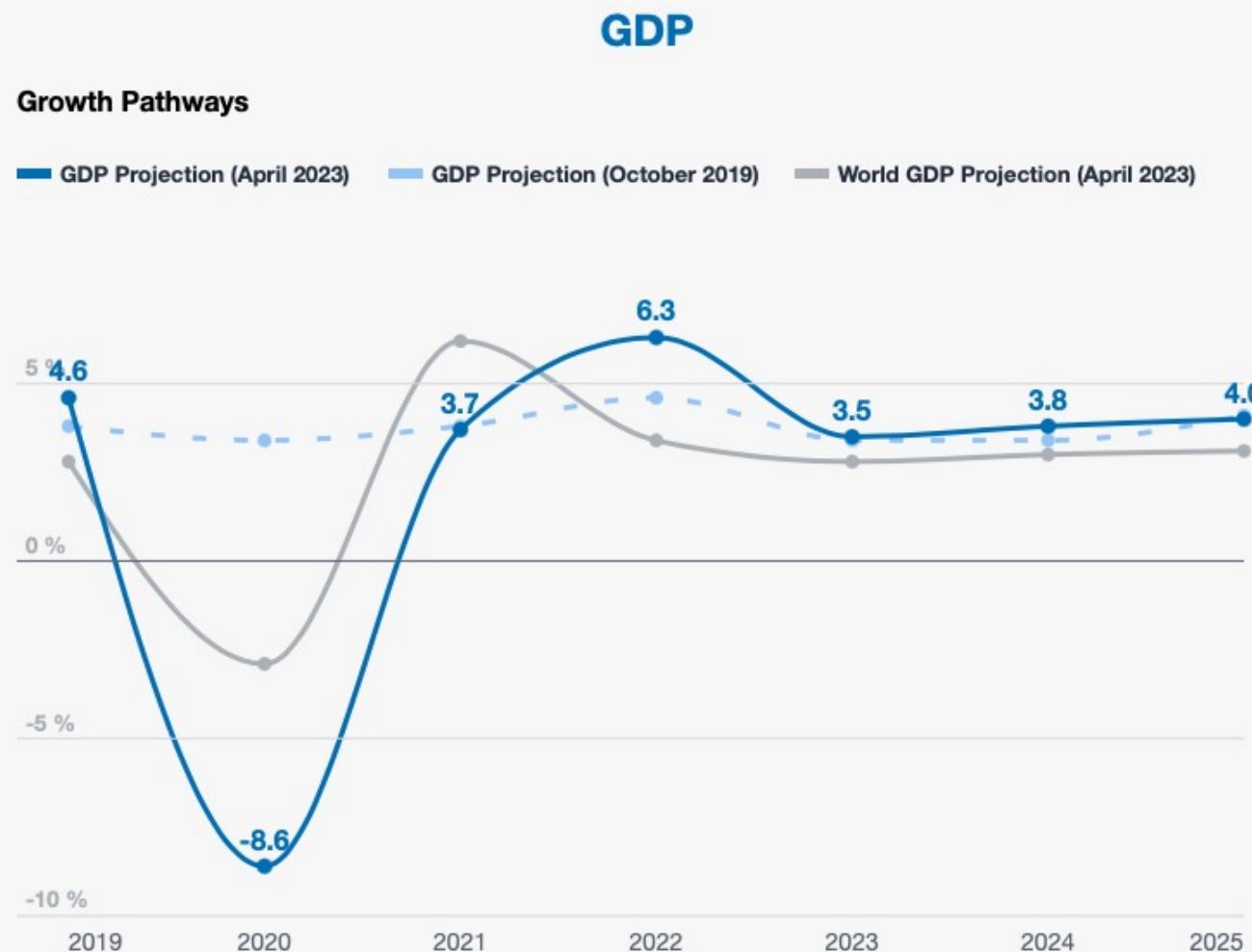
This pace of growth is expected to contribute to the reduction of poverty at \$3.65 and \$6.85 a day —though still significant challenges remain to accelerate progress, especially from the relatively high levels at the latter threshold. Gender inequalities remain pronounced, in particular in the female-to-male labour force participation rate and in seats held by women in the national parliament. Moreover, the economic expansion would be somewhat less dependent on carbon emissions as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to decline at an annual rate of 0.5%.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%.

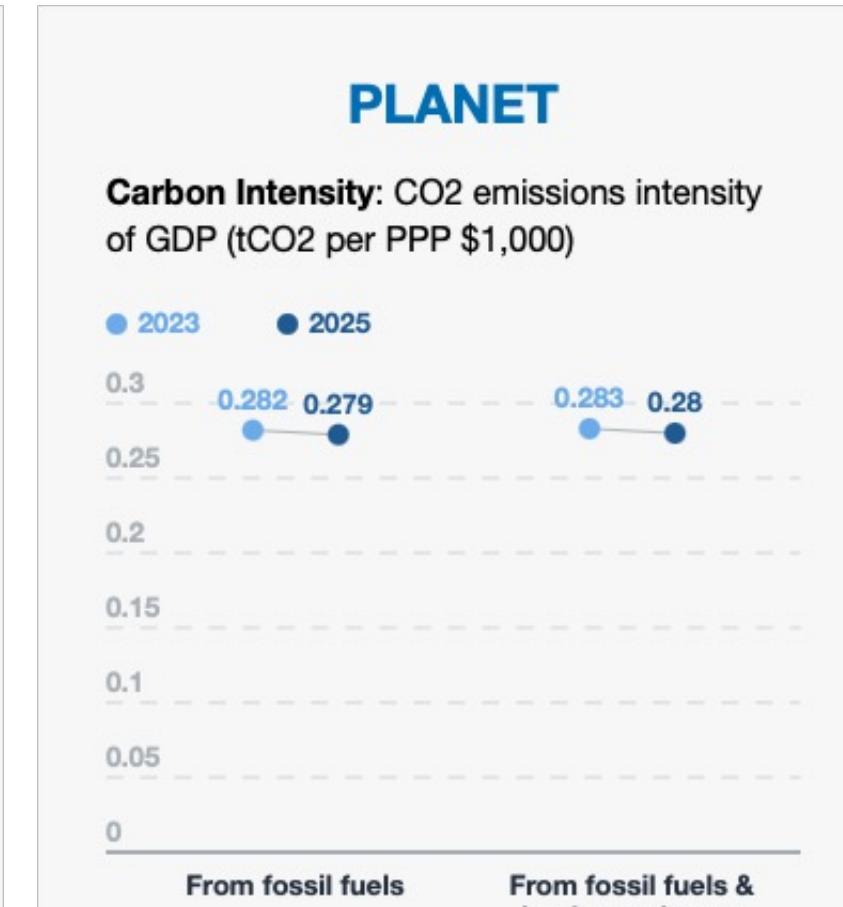
² CO2 emissions intensity of GDP is computed as tonnes of CO2 per \$1,000 (2017 PPP).



SDG MOMENT: GRAPHS



Source: Projections based on binned distributions (\$0.10-bins, 2017 PPP) reconstructed from the World Bank's Poverty and Inequality Platform through the pip: Stata Module.



Source: Projections based on GDP data from the IMF WEO Database (April 2023), and on CO2 emissions from the Global Carbon Budget 2022 and EDGAR (JRC and IEA).

SDG TRENDS

Understanding how Kyrgyzstan 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.



SDG PRIORITIES

Kyrgyzstan'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.



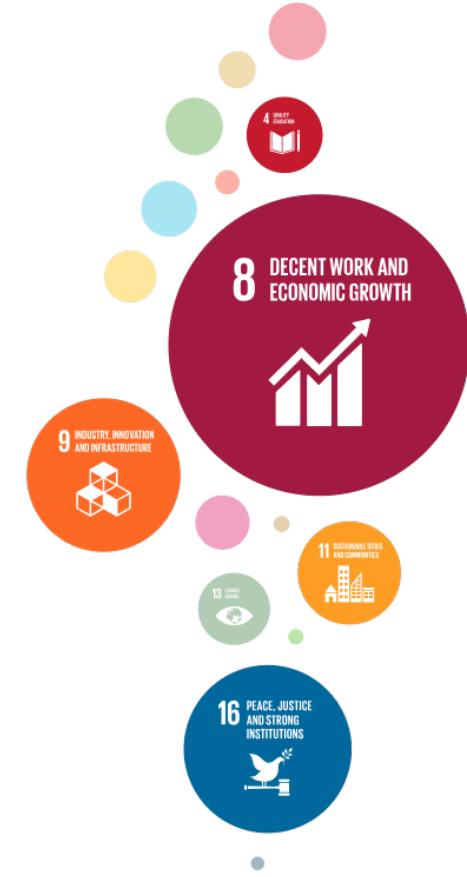
SDG PRIORITIES: STRATEGIC AND FISCAL DOCUMENTS

Kyrgyzstan's national priorities are reflected in strategic documents and in fiscal documents. Strategic documents reflect policy intentions, while fiscal documents reflect real allocations of funds. Analysis suggest differences in intentions and allocations for Kyrgyzstan, which require further attention in selection of acceleration pathways and implementation of SDG Stimulus.



Key policy documents for analysis:

1. NSDS 2040
2. Kyrgyzstan's National Development Programme until 2026
3. Kyrgyzstan's UNSDCF 2023 - 2027
4. UN CCA updated 2020
5. VNR 2020



Key fiscal documents for analysis:

1. Development Finance Assessment (DFA), 2023
2. The main directions of the fiscal policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2023 - 2027

Priorities in detail:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Kyrgyzstan'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 Kyrgyzstan starting from the following entry points:

- Target 2.2: End all forms of malnutrition and ensure food security
- Target 4.3: Equal access for all to quality education
- Target 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Target 8.6: Promote youth employment, education and training
- Target 11.1: Safe and affordable housing and basic services



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



SDG INTERLINKAGES

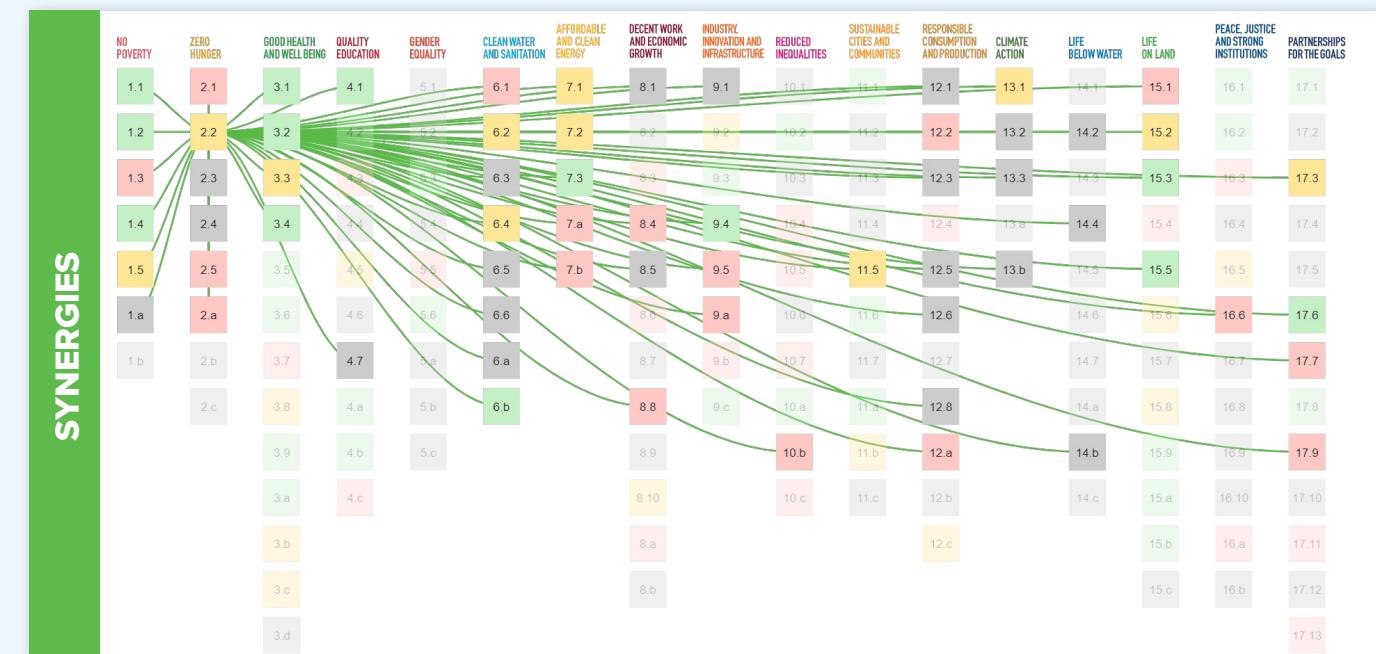
2.2: By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years by 2025 , and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Target 2.2, focusing on food security and (mal)nutrition, holds significant importance for Kyrgyzstan. None of Kyrgyzstan's SDG2 targets are on track; most are off track. Despite significant progress in reducing prevalence of stunting in children (from 18% in 2010 to 11% in 2020), the prevalence of anemia among women remains high (around 35%), reflecting the persistent prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity (Target 2.1). Access to safe and nutritious food improves health outcomes (Target 3) and benefits educational achievements (Target 4).

While irrigation is key for achieving food security, water is also central to Kyrgyzstan's energy balance, which relies heavily on hydro power. Due to drought conditions a three-year energy sector emergency has been declared. Ensuring food security links closely to SDG 8, creating employment and contributing to rural economic growth. Equal access to resources (Target 1.4), especially the guarantee of women's rights to access and control resources (Target 5.a) could contribute to accelerating progress. Target 2.1 aligns with SDG 12's emphasis on sustainable consumption and production, promoting sustainable food systems and waste reduction.

By building resilient agricultural practices (Target 2.4), Kyrgyzstan can free up more water for hydropower (Target 7), mitigate the impacts of climate change and support climate action (Target 13), while maintaining viability of ecosystems, especially in mountainous regions (Target 15). Ultimately, ensuring food security fosters social stability, reduces conflicts arising from food scarcity and promotes effective food governance (Target 16).

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

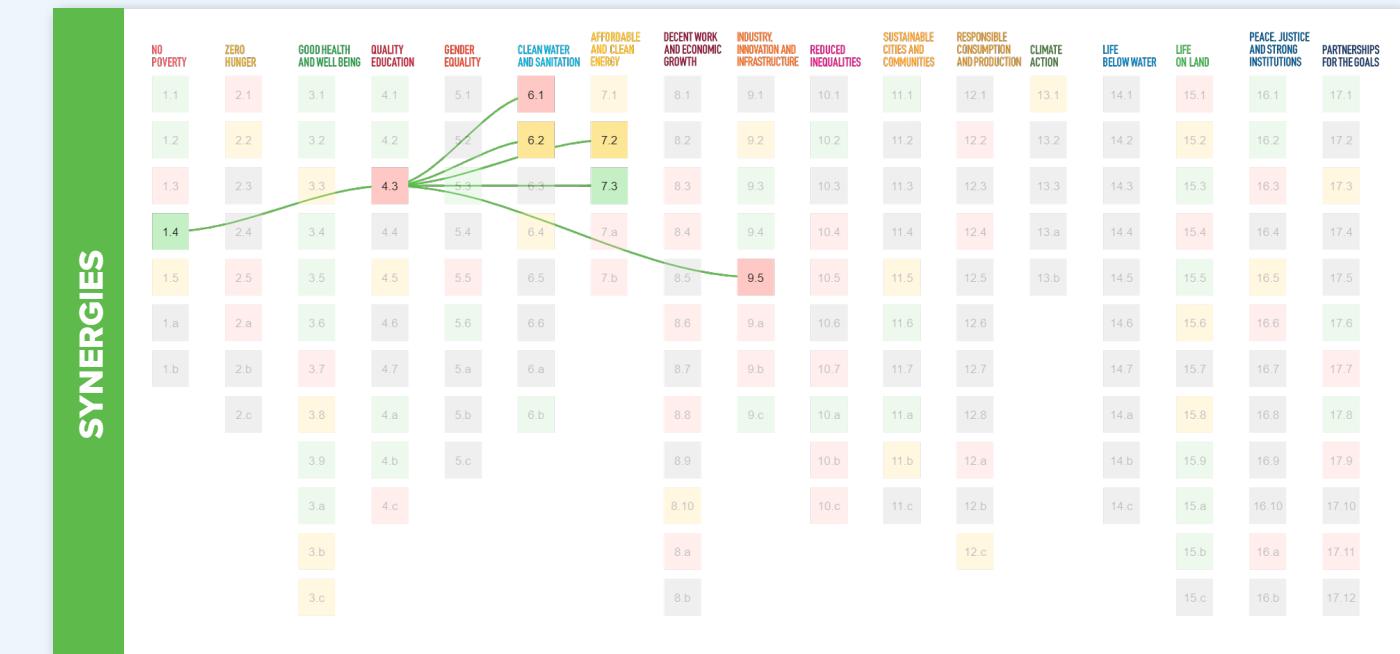
4.3: By 2030 ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

In Kyrgyzstan, SDG target 4.3 aims to ensure equal access to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education. Kyrgyzstan has a high 13.2 expected years of schooling in 2021 and a high upper secondary education completion rate of around 96% over the past decade.

However, quality of education and equal access remain concerns. SDG 4.3 has important interlinkages with other SDGs, especially Goal 8, through improving employability, reducing the skills mismatch, ensuring the future readiness of people in the workforce and ultimately reducing poverty (Target 1).

This will promote equal access to the labour market for women/girls and men and further the empowerment of women to participate in the local labour market, including by enhancing their access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and ICT education (Targets 5.5, 5.b). Quality technical education will equip individuals with skills aligned with labour market demands, fostering decent work and economic growth (Target 8). Ultimately, equal access to technical education will reduce inequalities, empowering individuals, groups and localities left behind, and promoting social inclusion (Target 10).

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SDG INTERLINKAGES

7.1, 7.2, 7.3: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

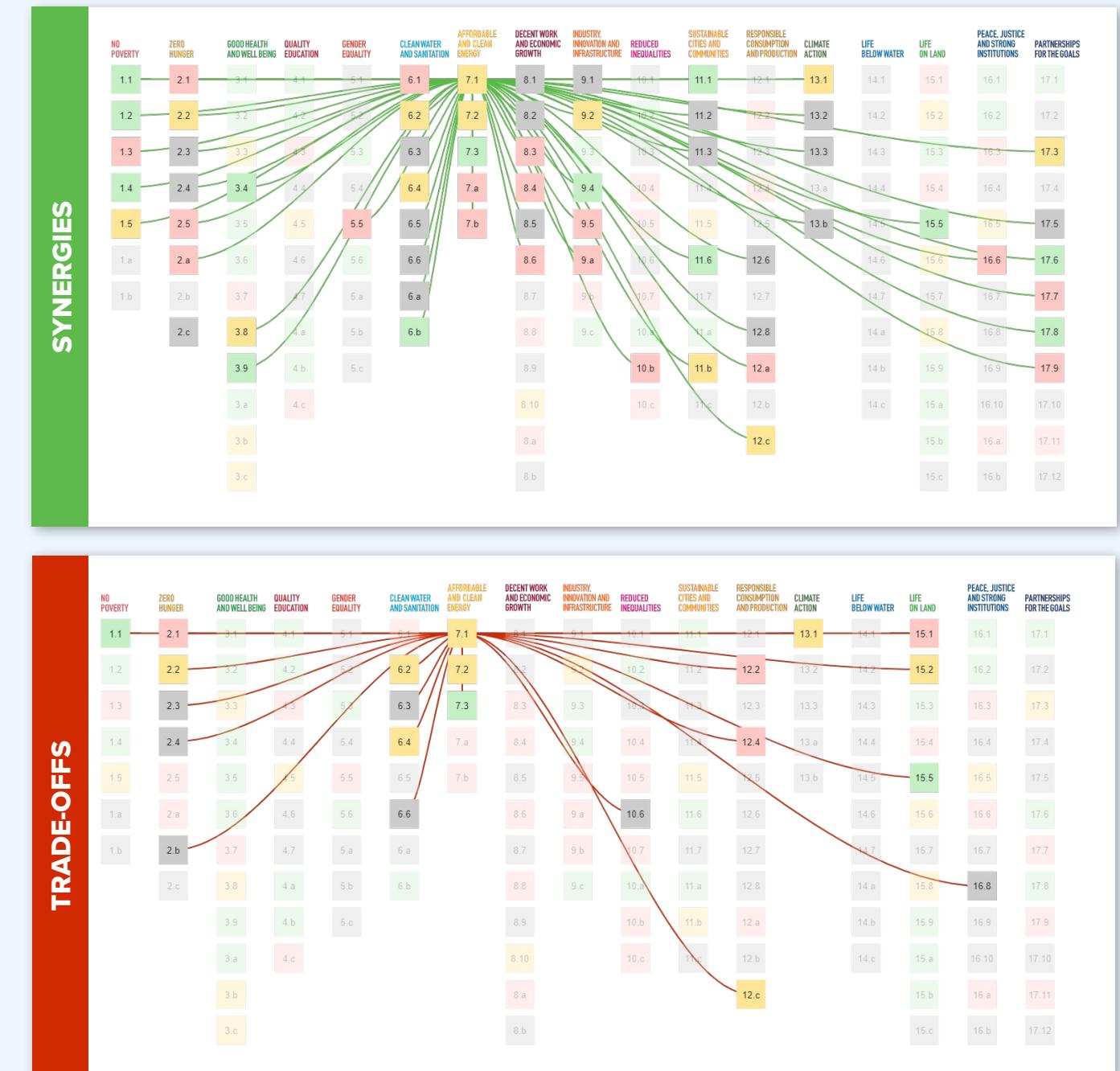
Access to affordable and sustainable energy is crucial for Kyrgyzstan's development and it is an accelerator for the whole SDG agenda. Despite universal access to electricity (Target 7.1) and high share of renewables (the renewable energy share remains relatively stable close to 30% in past decade), especially hydropower in electricity generation (Targets 7.2, 7.3), vulnerabilities and issues remain evident.

Currently the country suffers from an electricity generation deficit and a presidential decree declared a three-year emergency in the energy sector. Hydropower, a renewable energy, is a mixed blessing. It requires water, which may raise issues (Target 6.5) with downstream countries. Availability of water is increasingly affected by climate change, making the supply of hydroelectricity unpredictable.

Affordable and reliable energy drives economic growth, job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities (Target 8) and sustainable industrialization (Targets 9, 10, 11). Thus, it reduces income poverty (Target 1), including energy poverty (Target 1.4), and improves well-being.

It is vital for health care facilities (Target 3) and access to education (Target 4). Sustainable energy sources contribute to mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Target 13), by promoting renewable energy and supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy (Target 12). At the same time, industrialization (Target 9) will put a further demand on ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, and on the need for possible trade-offs between energy availability and the use of renewables.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

8.6: By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

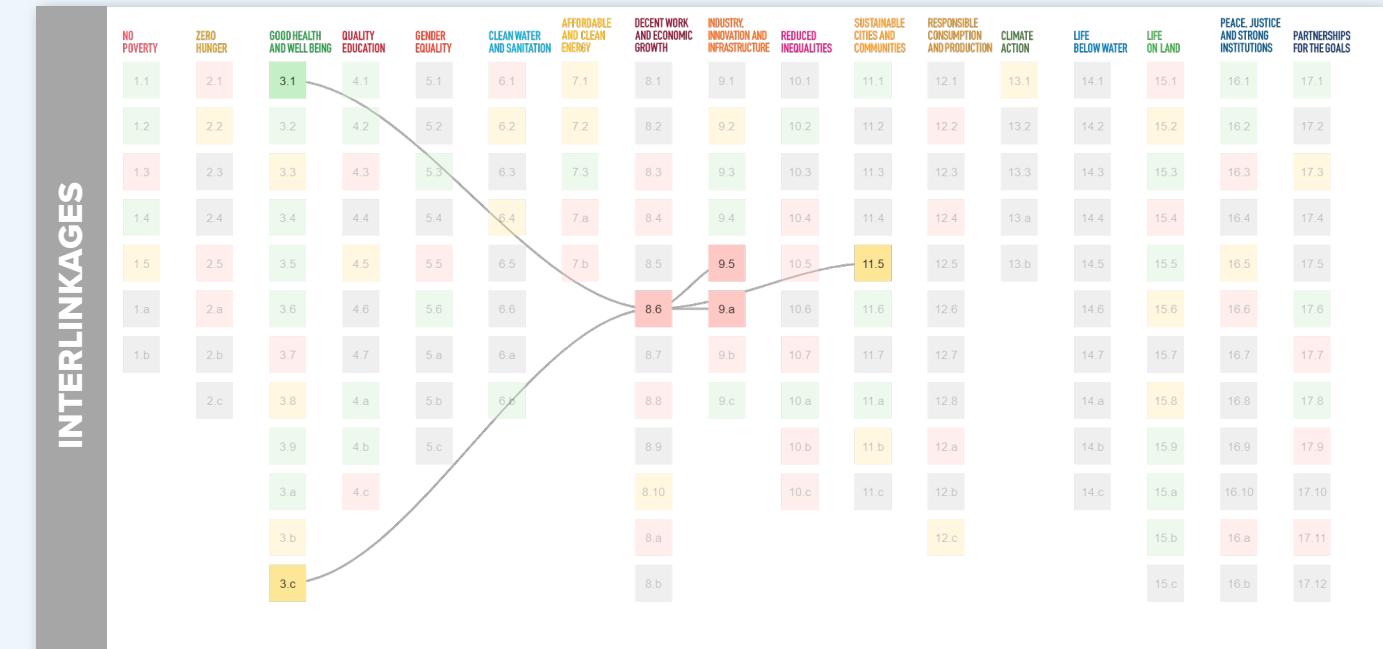
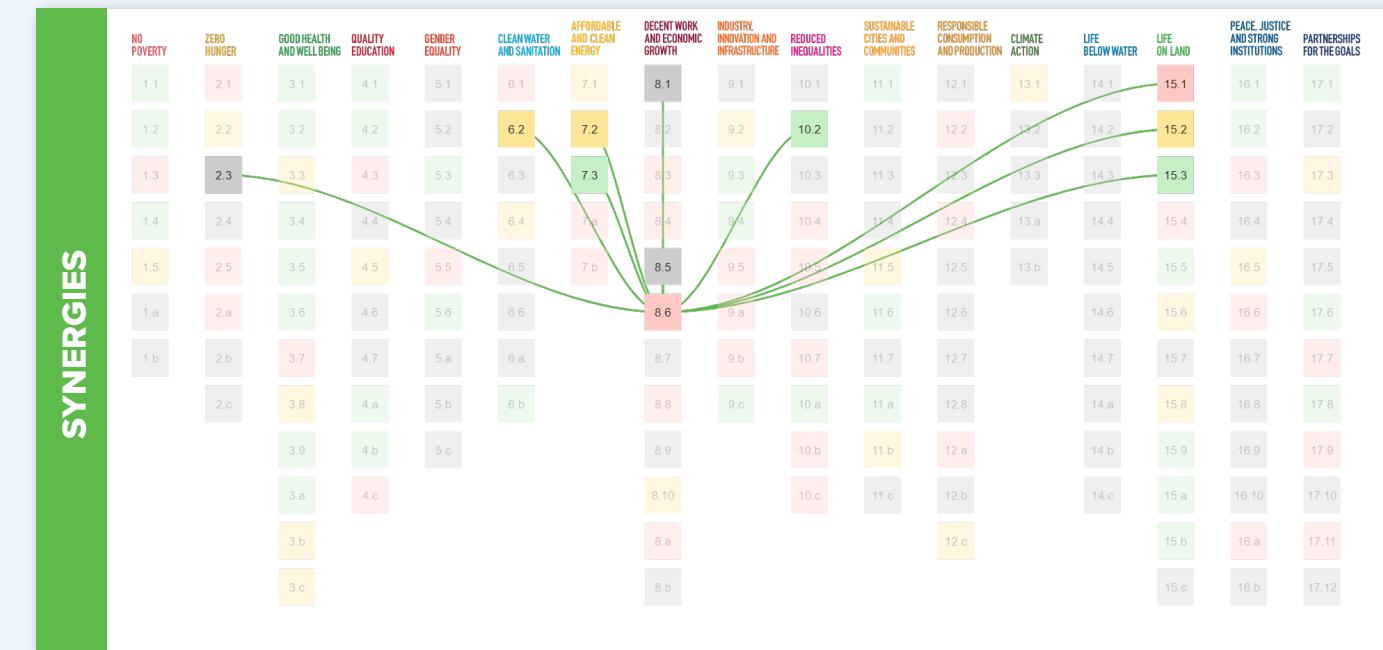
According to UN Stats, none of Kyrgyzstan's SDG8 targets are on track. In the Kyrgyzstan context SDG Target 8.6 aligns with the goal of reducing poverty (Targets 1.1, 1.2) through promoting decent work, providing individuals with opportunities for sustainable income generation and economic empowerment.

Ensuring equal access to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education (Target 4.3) and providing relevant skills (Target 4.4) is one of the key drivers of this target. Kyrgyzstan has a high 13.2 expected years of schooling in 2021 and high upper secondary education completion rate (which was around 96% over the past decade).

However, quality of education and equal access remain concerns. Promoting equal access to the labour market for women/girls and men and the further empowerment of women to participate in the local labour market, including by enhancing their access to STEM and ICT education (Targets 5.5, 5.b).

Economic policies (Target 8.3), facilitation of business development and trade (Targets 8.a, 17.10, 17.11) and building economic institutions (Target 16.6) will accelerate progress.

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

In Kyrgyzstan quality of life—in terms of affordable housing and basic services—varies significantly by regions. According to UN Stat data, only half of the rural population (57%) is using safely managed drinking water services, compared to virtually universal access in urban areas (91%). According to national data, 35% of the population have sustainable access to sanitation facilities, ranging from 98% in Bishkek city to less than 1% in the Osh region.

Despite universal access to electricity (Target 7.1) and a high share of renewable hydropower in electricity generation (Target 7.2), vulnerabilities and issues remain evident. Non-sustainable urbanization and lack of affordable fuels result in high air pollution in urban areas, affecting the health of the population (Target 3.9).

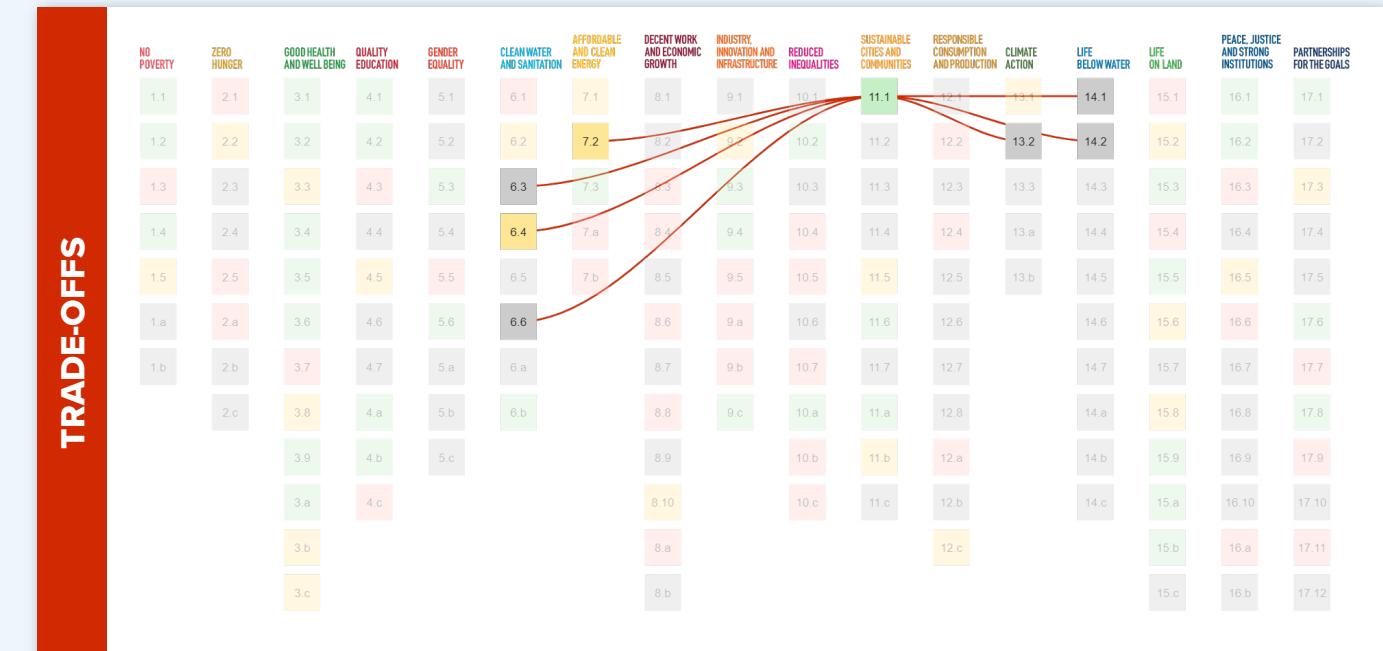
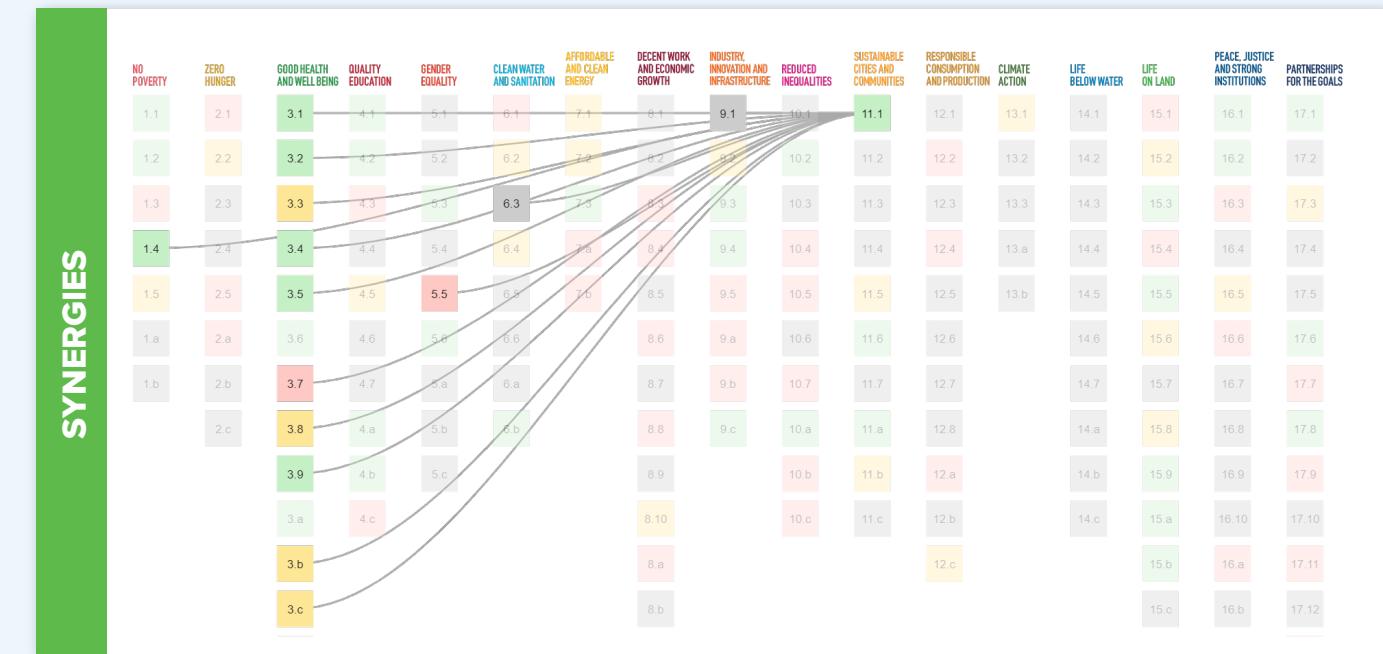
Providing universal access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services requires investments in resilient infrastructure (Target 9.1, 9.4) to prepare them for climate change and disasters (Targets 1.5, 13.2). Recognition and redistribution of unpaid care work, through social protection policies and the development of adequate care infrastructures and services (Target 5.4). It will contribute to the reduction of inequalities (Target 10) and to reducing conflicts (Target 16). It also could have a positive impact on the sustainability of ecosystems (Targets 6, 14, 15).

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

FUTURES SCENARIOS

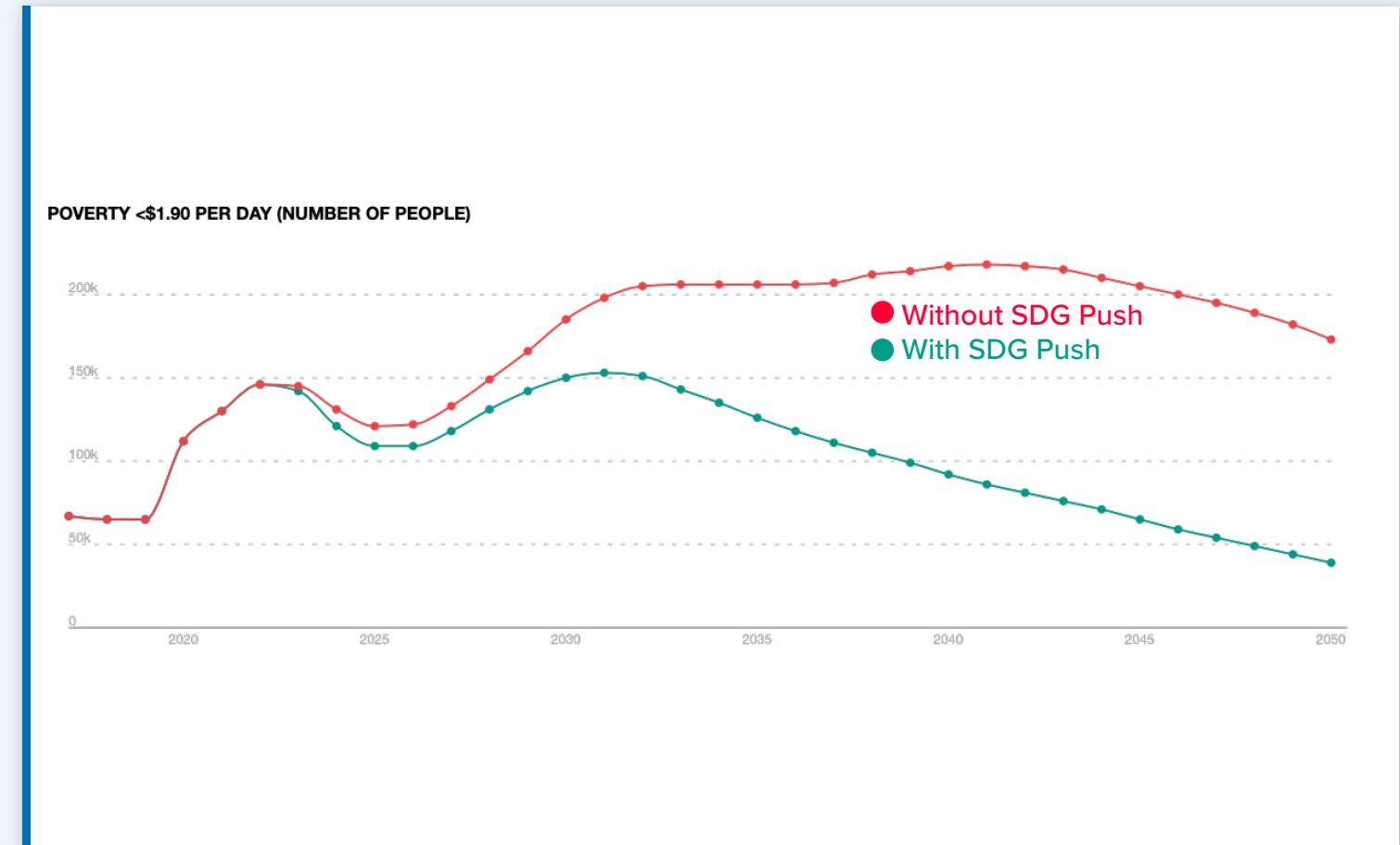
Achieving the SDGs is possible.

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

Investment in women and girls across all levels of decision-making in political and economic life, actions to shape social norms that promote gender equality, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and that prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls are crucial to accelerate SDG implementation.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	190,000	170,000
With the SDG Push	150,000	39,000



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/KGZ/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 resource 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.

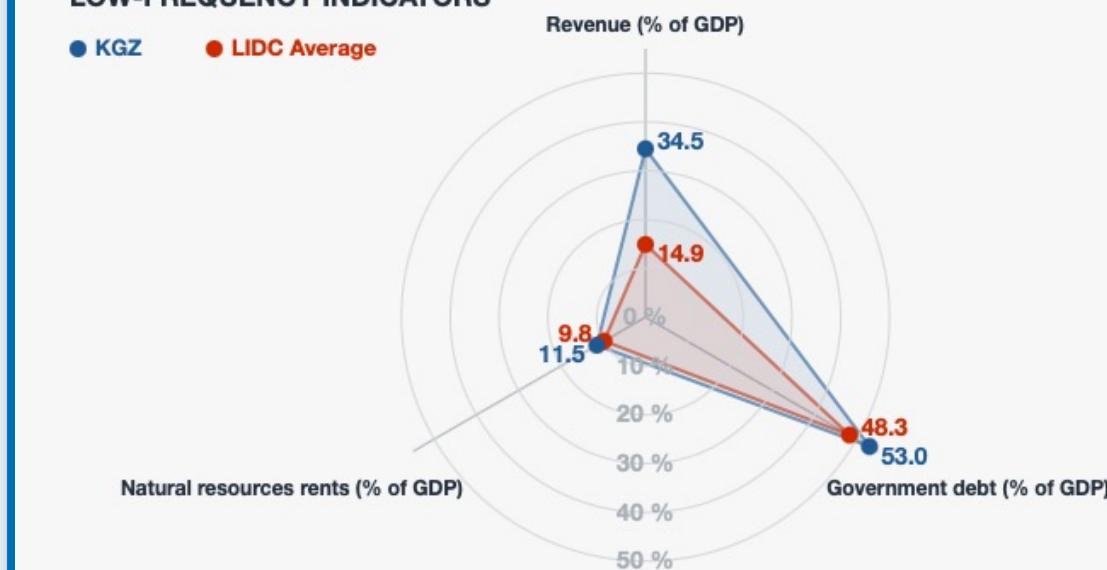
Although it has fallen sharply since the pandemic, Kyrgyzstan's gross government debt is projected at 53% of GDP in 2023, which is 4.7 percentage points (pp) above the low-income developing countries (LIDC) average of 48.3%. The country is projected to collect 34.5% of GDP in revenue this year, thus nearly 2.5 times the LIDC group of 14.9%.

Kyrgyzstan's public external debt servicing this year is projected to reach 7.4% of revenue, nearly half the LIDC average of 14.1%. Due to the pace of domestic debt accumulation, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA from February 2023 rates the country as 'moderate risk of debt distress'.

LOW-FREQUENCY INDICATORS

● KGZ

● LIDC Average



FINANCIAL INDICATORS

● KGZ

● LIDC Average

Total external debt servicing (% of revenue)

DSA Rating

● ● ● ●
MODERATE

Notes: External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt.

Sources: WDI (natural resources rents, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, data from 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), IMF/World Bank (DSA Rating as of 31 May 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 Kyrgyzstan, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Tax and revenue reform: Building on the current reforms for aligning over 5% of tax expenditures with SDGs and prioritizing future tax incentives, as per the national development agenda.
- Debt for SDGs: Debt4Nature swap mechanism to support additional investments in green/climate finance
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- Remittances
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Taxation for gender equality.

**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).