



# INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS

## COMOROS

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 the 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: THE COMOROS

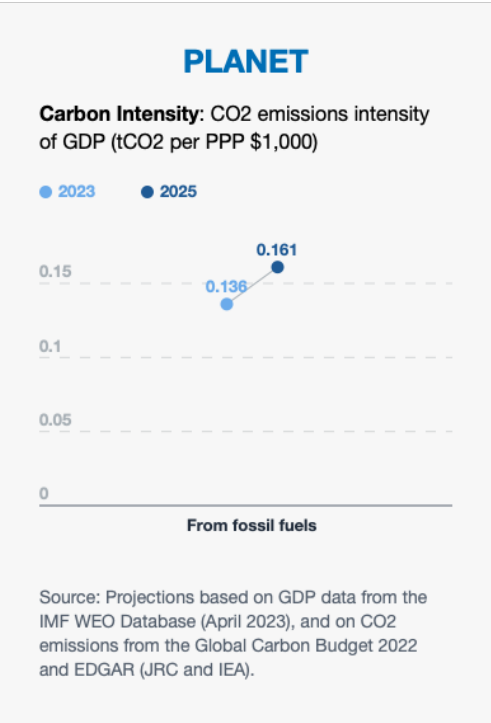
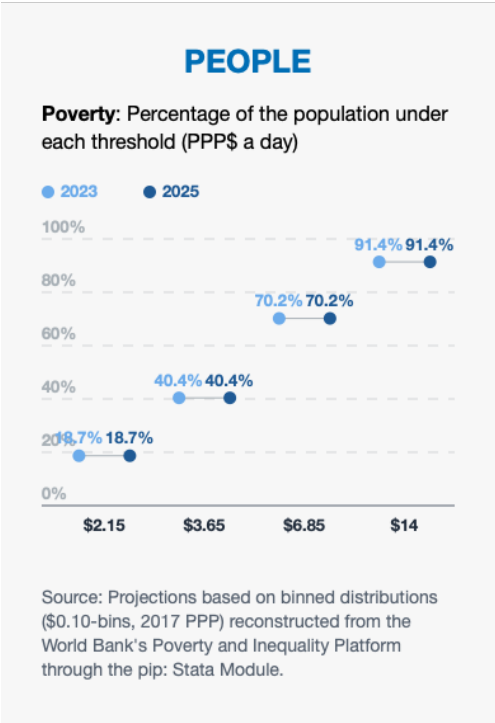
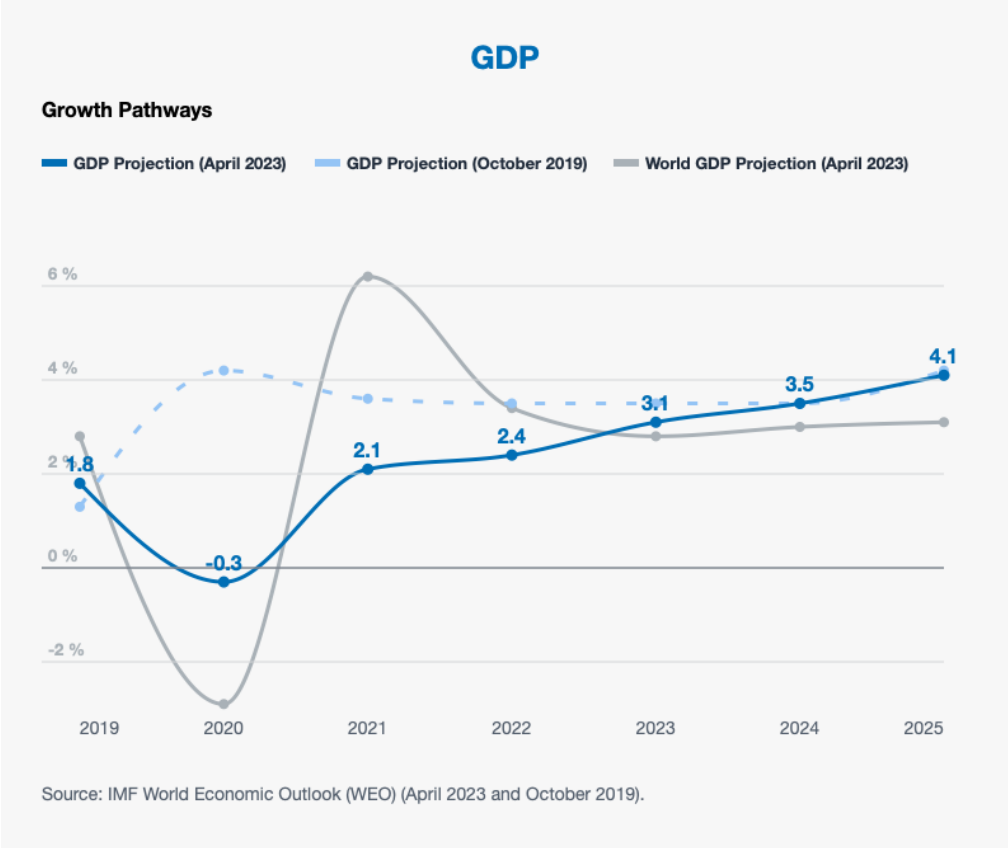
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

The economy of the Comoros is in coping mode in 2023-2024 and is projected to transition into acceleration mode by 2025.<sup>1</sup> This pace of growth is characterized by being 20% higher, on average, than the global figure and is in alignment with the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic.

This economic expansion, however, is not expected to exert any noticeable effect on lowering the incidence of poverty. Hence, the country's commitments to achieving the SDGs should focus on increasing people's well-being and overcoming economic stagnation. On the other hand, the pace of economic growth would be increasingly dependent on fossil carbon emissions, as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 9% due to fossil fuel usage.<sup>2</sup>

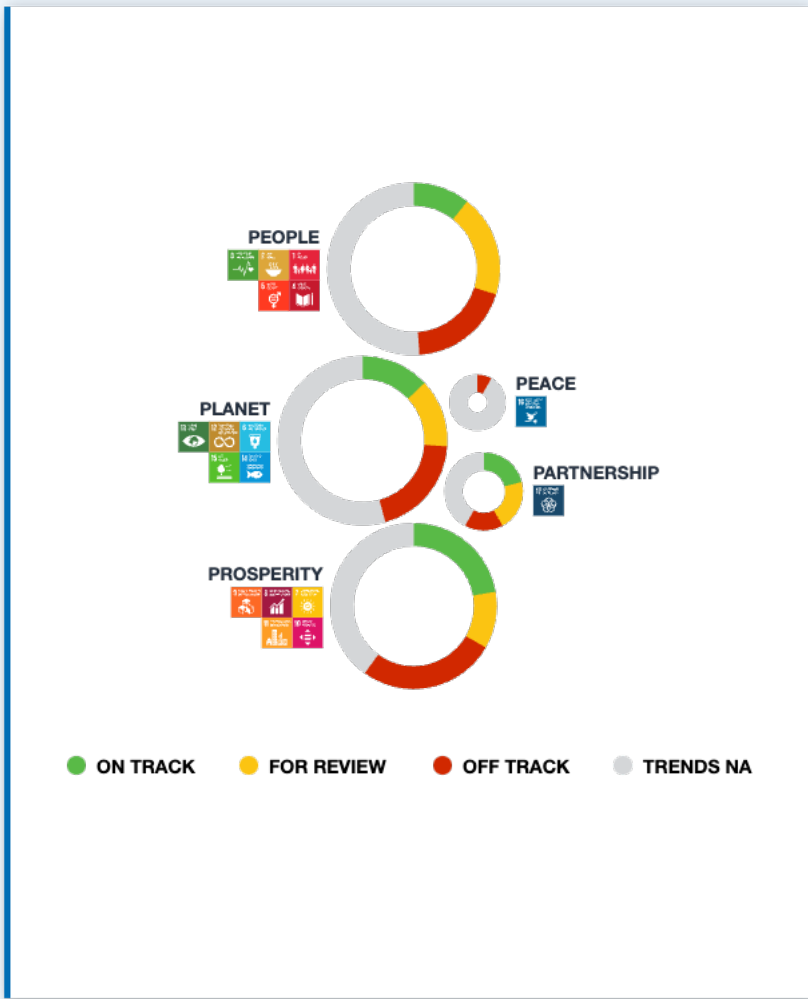
<sup>1</sup> The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation;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

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



# SDG TRENDS

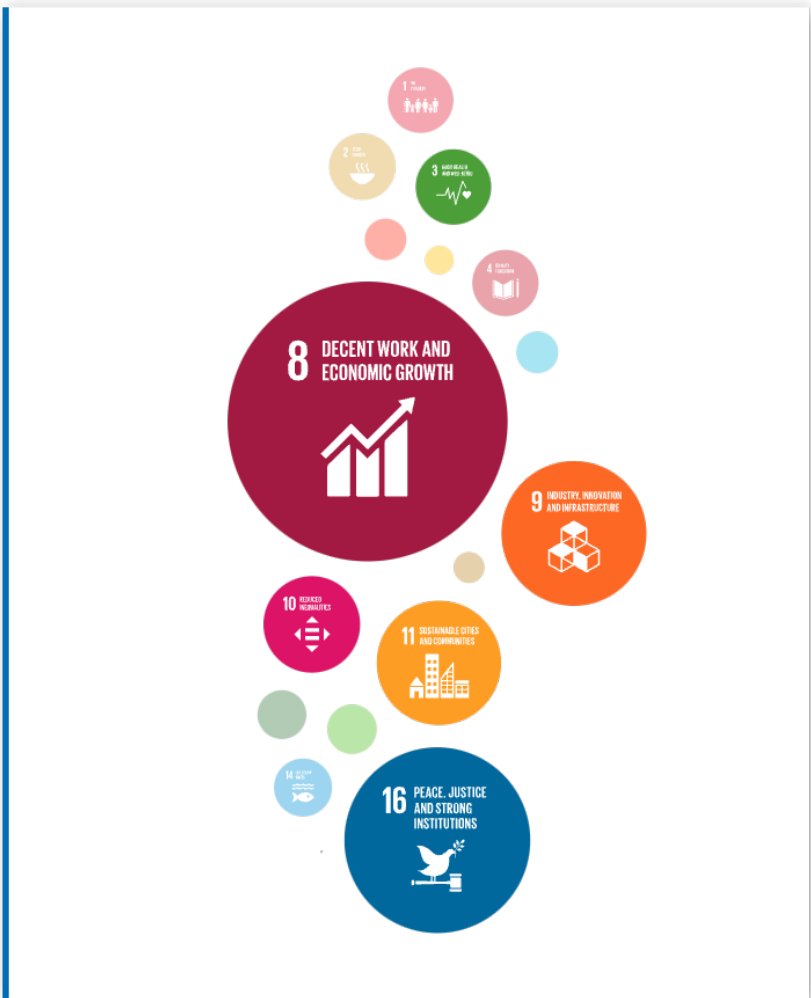
Understanding how the Comoros performs against the SDG targets provides a baseline landscape against which to build integrated SDG pathways. SDG progress tracking follows [UN Stats](#) standards and [methodology](#), and is aligned with country profiles.



**Trends in detail:**  
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/COM/sdg-trends>

# SDG PRIORITIES

The Comoros’ 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. Emerging Comoros Plan 2030
  2. Emerging Comoros Plan Summary

**Priorities in detail:**  
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/COM/current-priorities>

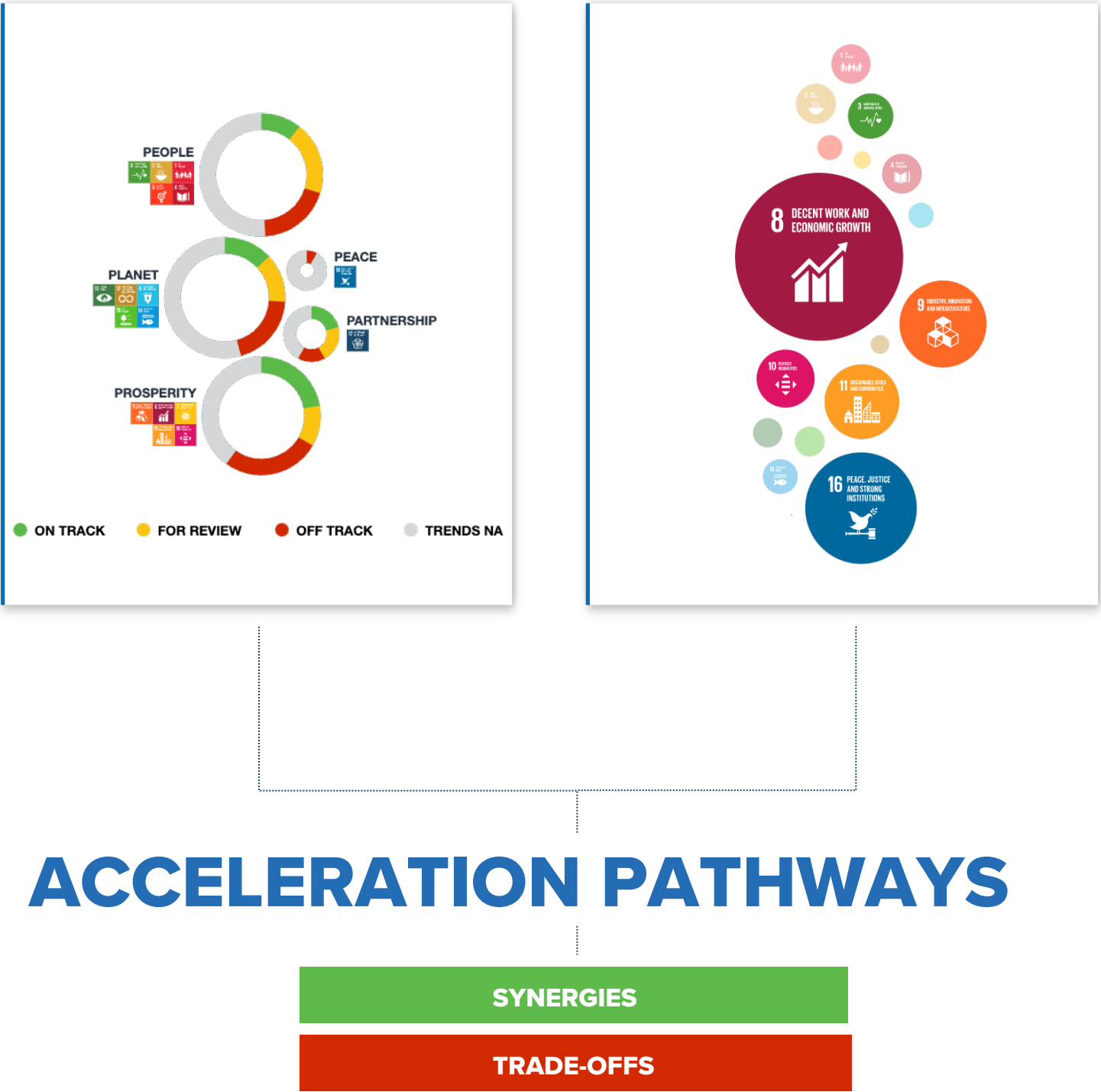
# SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, the Comoros' 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 Comoros:

- Target 8.5: Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



# SDG INTERLINKAGES

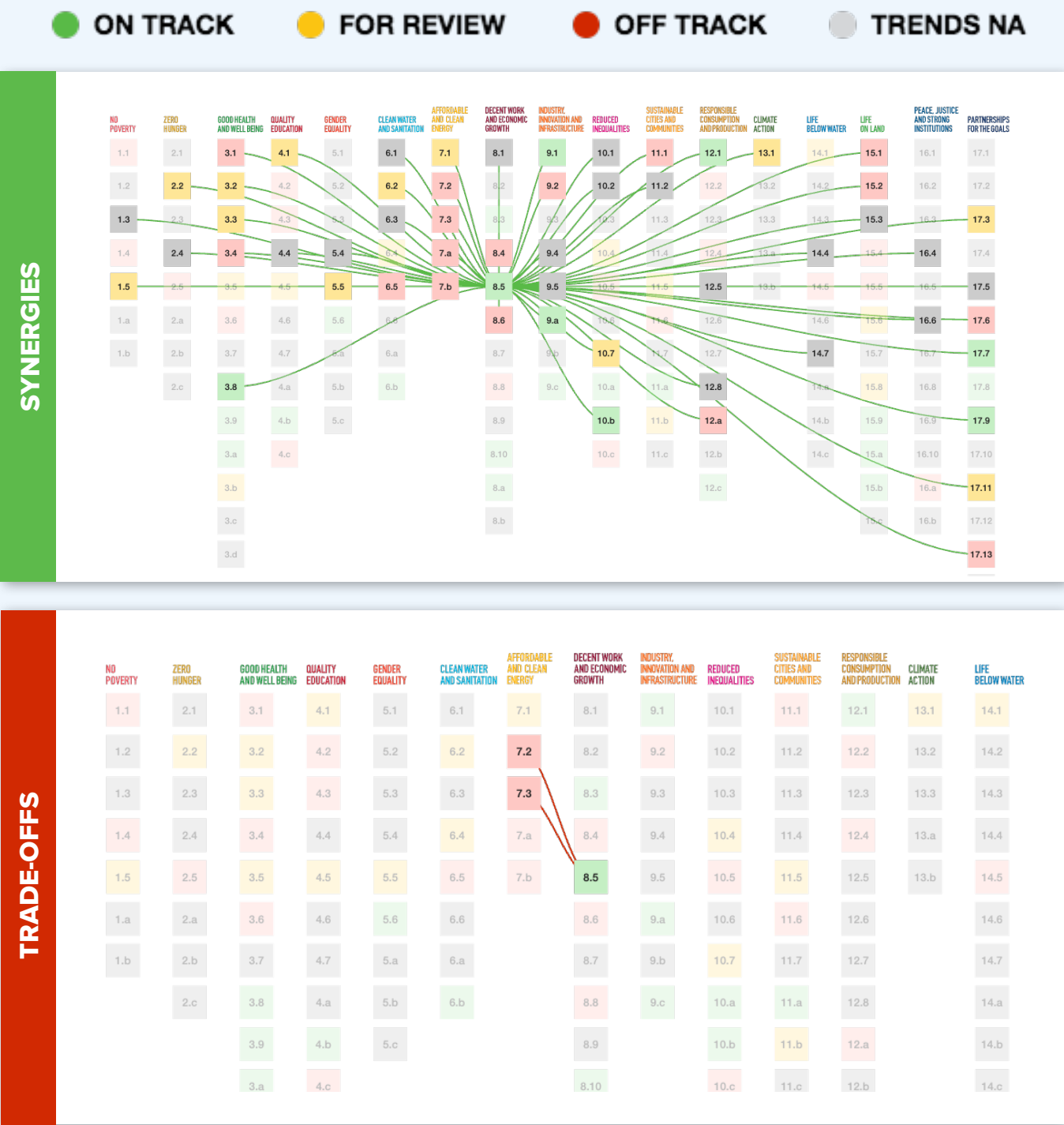
**8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.**

Poverty levels remain high, estimated at 39.0% in 2022 using the lower middle-income poverty rate (\$3.65 at 2017 PPPs) due to scarce job opportunities in the formal sector. High unemployment rates have contributed to frustration among the youth (with 53 percent of the population under the age of 20) and helped to drive outward migration and reliance on the informal sector. High rates of youth unemployment and limited opportunities also represent a social risk with respect to narcotics trafficking and extremism.

To create jobs and reduce poverty, it is essential that the Comoros increases its growth potential substantially through the accumulation of human capital and physical assets, attracting new investments in its rich natural resources, in fisheries, modern agriculture for food security, light agroindustry, tourism and crafts, the Blue Economy, financial services, information and communication technology which have a large untapped potential to support structural transformation.

By focusing on SDG target 8.5, deepening trade and value chain integration, the Comoros can expand opportunities for all groups in society, with a focus on populations that are most at risk of exclusion, including women and youth.

Progress on Target 8.5 should be supported with policies that reduce energy intensity and increase its effectiveness in mitigating the negative impact on the share of renewable energy (Target 7.2), coupled with energy efficiency (Target 7.3) and strengthening the country’s resilience to environmental and climate shocks.





# SDG INTERLINKAGES

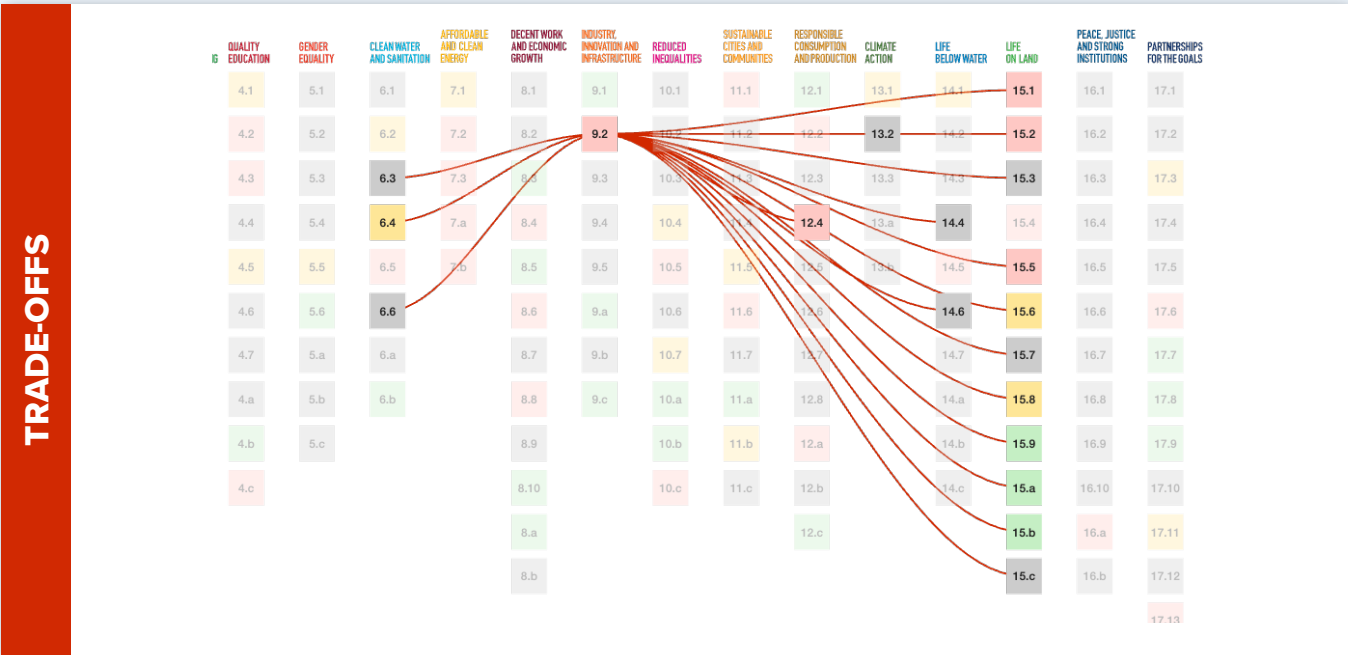
**9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.**

The agricultural and secondary sectors’ contribution to growth has remained low and at times even negative in the Comoros. Pursuing SDG target 9.2 will foster inclusive and sustainable industrialization in the Comoros while simultaneously enhancing its economic growth and employment prospects.

However, the pursuit of industrialization also entails tradeoffs. It requires careful consideration of environmental sustainability as industrial activities can have adverse ecological impacts—affecting ecosystems (SDGs 15 and 2), potable water (SDG 6), life below water (SDG 14) and life on land (SDG 15). Rapid industrialization could put pressure on energy access (Target 7.2) at the expense of energy sustainability (Targets 7.2 and 7.3). Ensuring inclusivity in this process is crucial to preventing potential social, gender and territorial inequalities (Target 10. 5)

By investing in SDG 9.2 (inclusive and sustainable industrialization), the Comoros can improve on its current employment challenges and focus on key priorities, namely poverty eradication, reducing inequality and improving the business environment and local entrepreneurship. This, complemented with policy interventions that focus on tourism and crafts; on the Blue Economy; on a financial hub for the Indian Ocean; on modern agriculture for food security; and on industrial niches for diversification to generate jobs for women and youth.

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# SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

In the Comoros approximately 58.1% of the population are satisfied with the public services they receive. By focusing on SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), and specifically Target 16.6, the Comoros can increase its ability to achieve sustained, inclusive and high economic growth needed to reduce extreme poverty. Extreme poverty reduction can be enhanced by improving governance, strengthening institutions, the rule of law, public accountability and the fight against corruption.

Investments and policy choices that strengthen institutions is recognized in Comoros as a fundamental driver for the eradication of extreme poverty (target 1.1) over the medium term with significantly higher and more inclusive growth (Target 8.1) with positive benefits to national efforts to build resilience to shocks and disasters (Target 1.5)





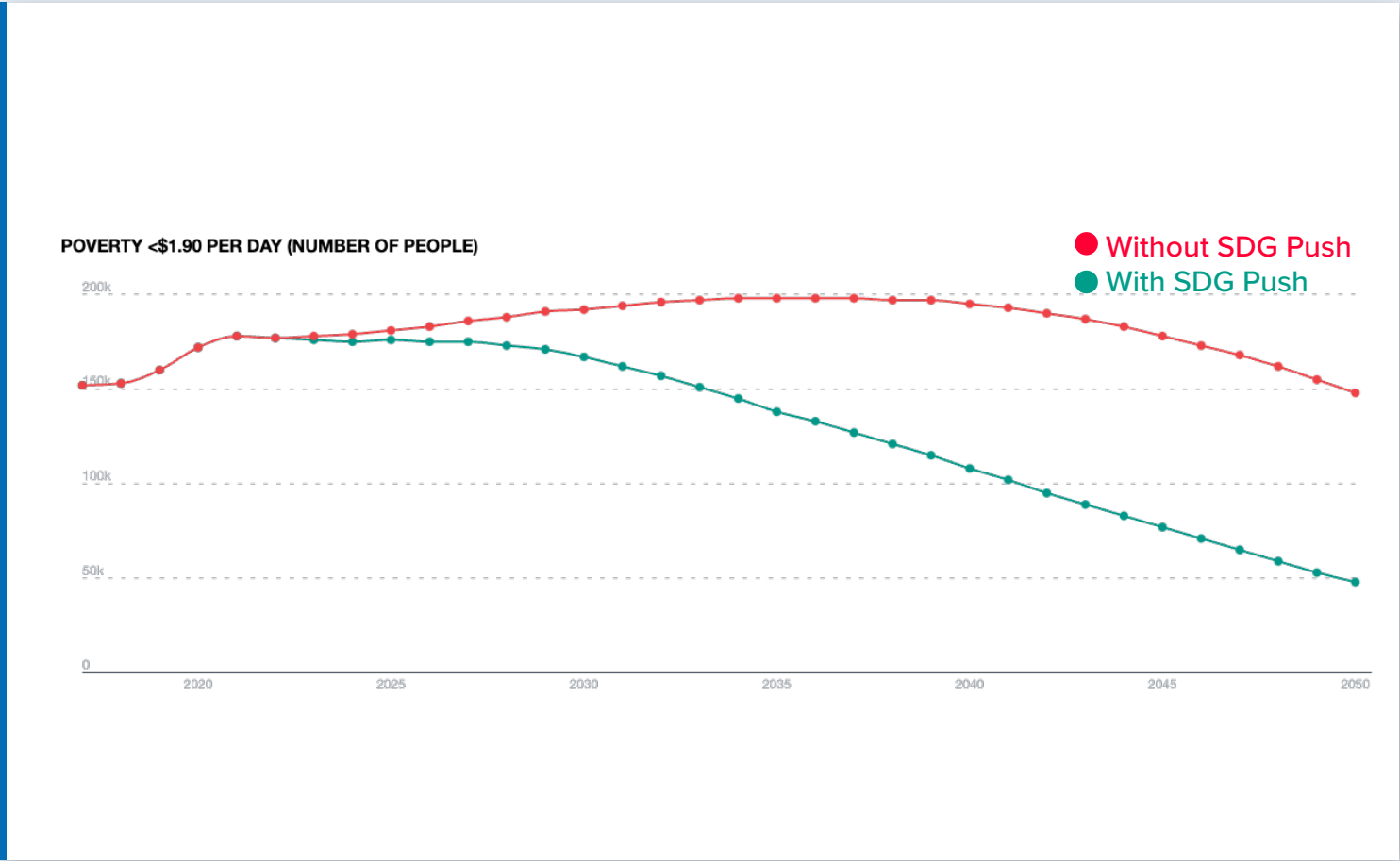
# FUTURES SCENARIOS

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

| People living in poverty | By 2030 | By 2050 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| Without the SDG Push     | 190k    | 150k    |
| With the SDG Push        | 170k    | 48k     |



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:  
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/COM/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.

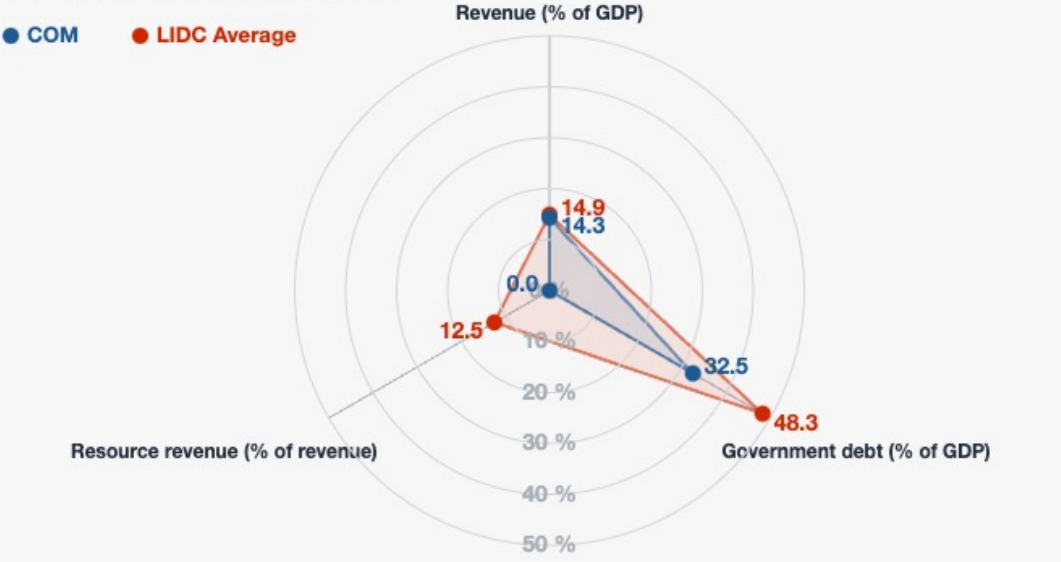
The radar diagram shows low frequency data points linked to government revenue and debt as a proportion of GDP as well as the natural resource share of total revenue. The financial indicator graphs show external debt servicing relative to revenue as well as the country’s latest Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) risk rating.

Comoros' gross government debt, expected at 32.5% of GDP in 2023, is nearly a third below the low-income developing countries (LIDC) average of 48.3%. The country is expected to collect 14.3% of GDP in revenue this year, close to the LIDC group ratio of 14.9%.

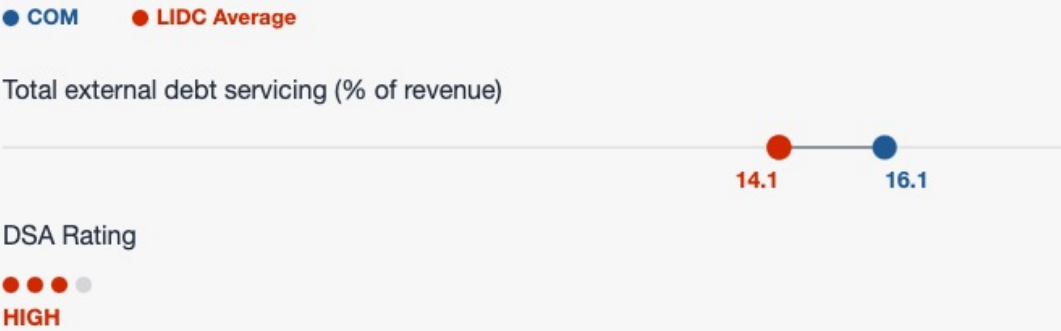
Comoros' public external debt servicing this year is expected to reach 16.1% of revenue and thus 2 percentage points (pp) above the LIDC average. Due to extensive financing gaps from funding large projects using non-concessional debt, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA rates the country as ‘in high risk of debt distress’.

Comoros is using an Integrated National Financing Framework to address key fiscal and financial constraints and build a more sustainable financial architecture at the national level. Priority actions include modernization and digitalization of tax administration, public investment management and banking services; formalization of businesses; analysis and optimization of tax incentives; the development of a multi-year debt strategy and legal framework (including debt negotiation, prior analysis, parliamentary control, selection of eligible projects, and monitoring); the integration of climate risks into financial sector risk assessment frameworks; guarantee mechanisms for enhancing MSMEs’ access to long term finance; and the reduction of transfer costs to increase diaspora long-term savings.

## LOW-FREQUENCY INDICATORS



## FINANCIAL INDICATORS



**Notes:** External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt. The LIDC average of resource revenue (% of revenue) only includes the 38 countries that reported data for that indicator.  
**Sources:** UNU-WIDER GRD (resource revenue, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, forecasts for 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), IMF/World Bank (DSA Rating as of 31 May 2023).

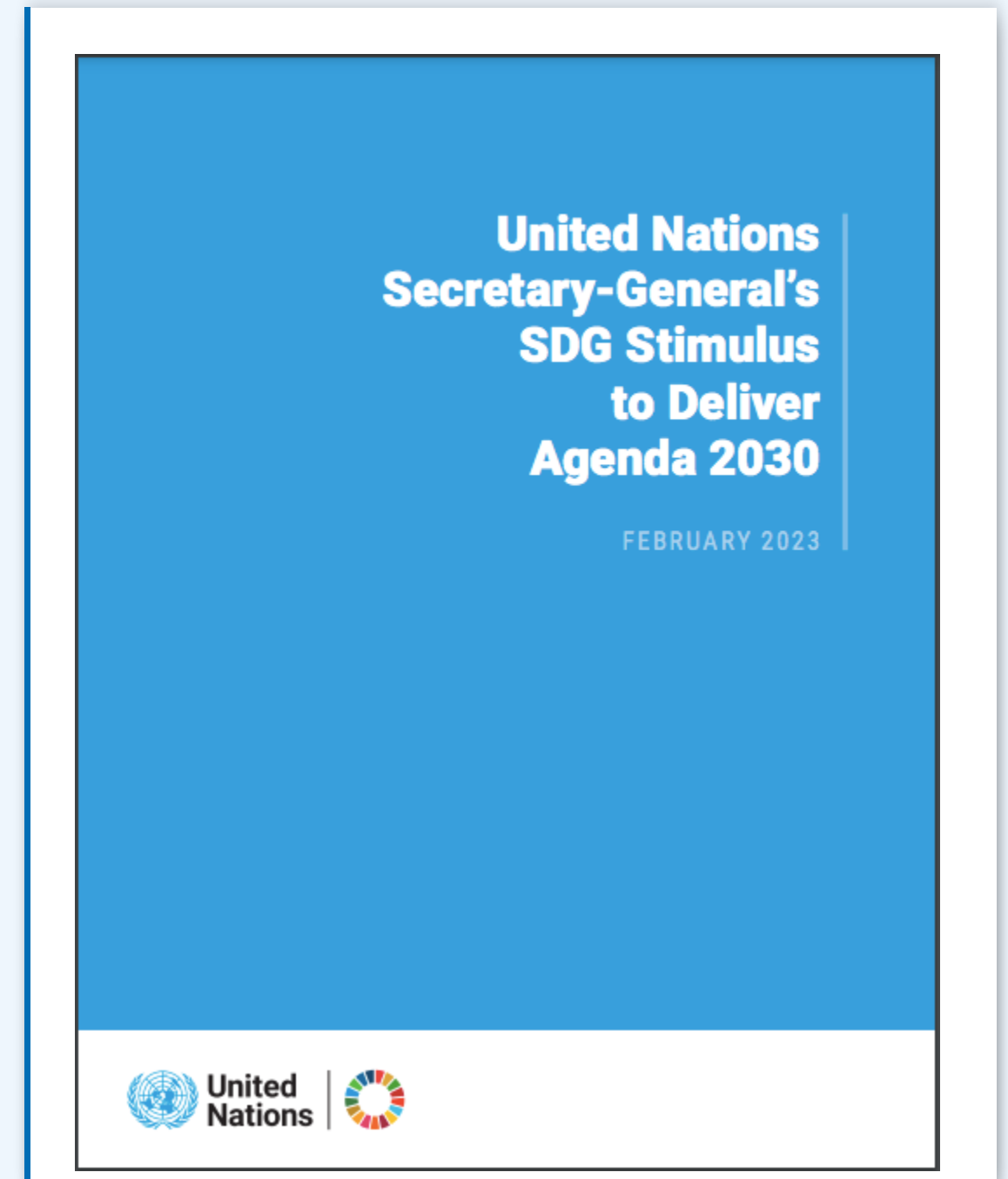
# SDG STIMULUS

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 the Comoros, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are the mechanisms identified in the SDG Stimulus and proposed by the Comoros Integrated National Financing Strategy:

- Tax and revenue reform
- Debt for SDGs
- Islamic and green finance
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- Accessing financial markets and insurance
- Diaspora investment and remittances



# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Global Carbon Budget 2022 and EDGAR (JRC and IEA).



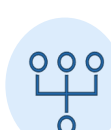
## TRENDS & PRIORITIES

### 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).