INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS

MAURITIUS

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:
MAURITIUS

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.

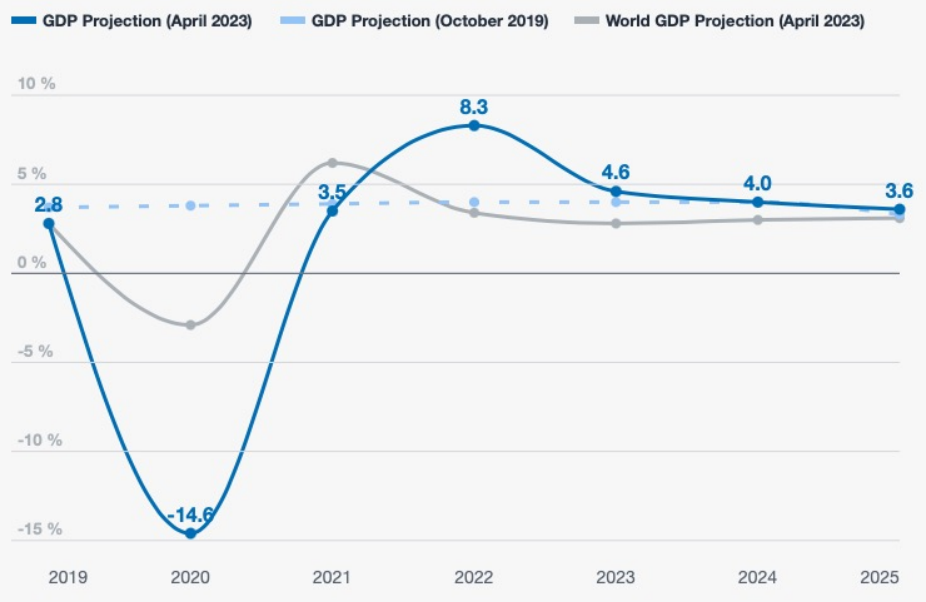
Mauritius' economic growth cycle in 2023-2024 is in acceleration, but it is projected to slow by 2025.[1] This pace of growth is characterized by being 39% higher, on average, than the global figure, and it is aligned with the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Accordingly, the country's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on increasing people's well-being and strengthening the ecosystem's resilience.

This pace of growth would have a moderately positive impact on reducing poverty, and it 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 1.6%, and of 1.7% when also considering land-use change.[2] This is partly due to the country's goal to increase its renewable energy mix from 23% to 60% by 2030, higher than the global target of 30-36%

[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] CO_2 emissions intensity of GDP is computed as tonnes of CO_2 per $1,000 (2017 PPP).

GDP

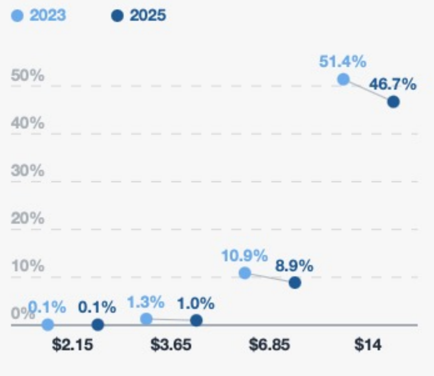
Growth Pathways



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) (April 2023 and October 2019).

PEOPLE

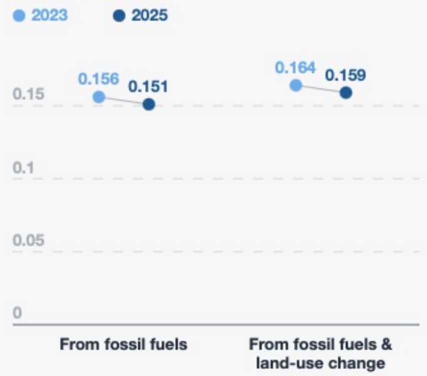
Poverty: Percentage of the population under each threshold (PPP$ a day)



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.

PLANET

Carbon Intensity: CO_2 emissions intensity of GDP (tCO_2 per PPP $1,000)



Source: Projections based on GDP data from the IMF WEO Database (April 2023), and on CO_2 emissions from the Global Carbon Budget 2022 and EDGAR (JRC and IEA).

SDG TRENDS

Understanding how Mauritius 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/MUS/sdg-trends

SDG PRIORITIES

Mauritius'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 classifications. It considers 100k+ terms, including phrases and expressions.

Key documents for analysis:

1. Budget 2023 –2024
2. UN Common Country Analysis, Mauritius, 2022
3. Mauritius Government Programme 2020-2024
4. SDG Investor Map Mauritius
5. Voluntary National Review 2019, Mauritius

Priorities in detail:

https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MUS/current-priorities

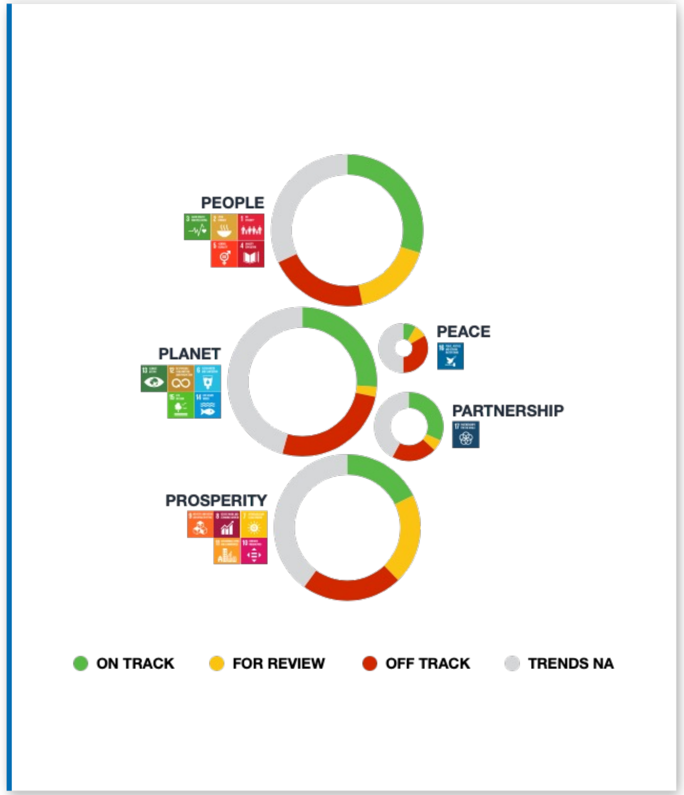
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

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

- 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

SYNERGIES

TRADE-OFFS

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

Mauritius is renowned for its highly acclaimed health care system in Africa, which provide free access to health care for all citizens and residents. In the 2023/2024 budget, the government introduced several noteworthy measures. These include the implementation of the e-health system in 2023, which will digitalize health care services, the establishment of a modern health infrastructure and the coverage of specialized treatments, even in private facilities.

Investing in health, in particular SDG Target 3.8, has a multiplier effect across 29 targets spanning 9 SDGs. The strongest spillover effects are observed in the areas of good health (SDG 3), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), poverty eradication (SDG 1) and affordable and clean energy (SDG 7). It is worth noting that trade-offs are minimal and observed in only two targets: 6.3, pertaining to water treatment, and 7.2, focusing on the share of renewable energy. It is essential to navigate the complexities of these negative trade-offs while ensuring that policy implementation addresses competing interests and safeguards the integrity of the ecosystem.

Explore the interlinkages at:
https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MUS/synergies-and-tradeoffs

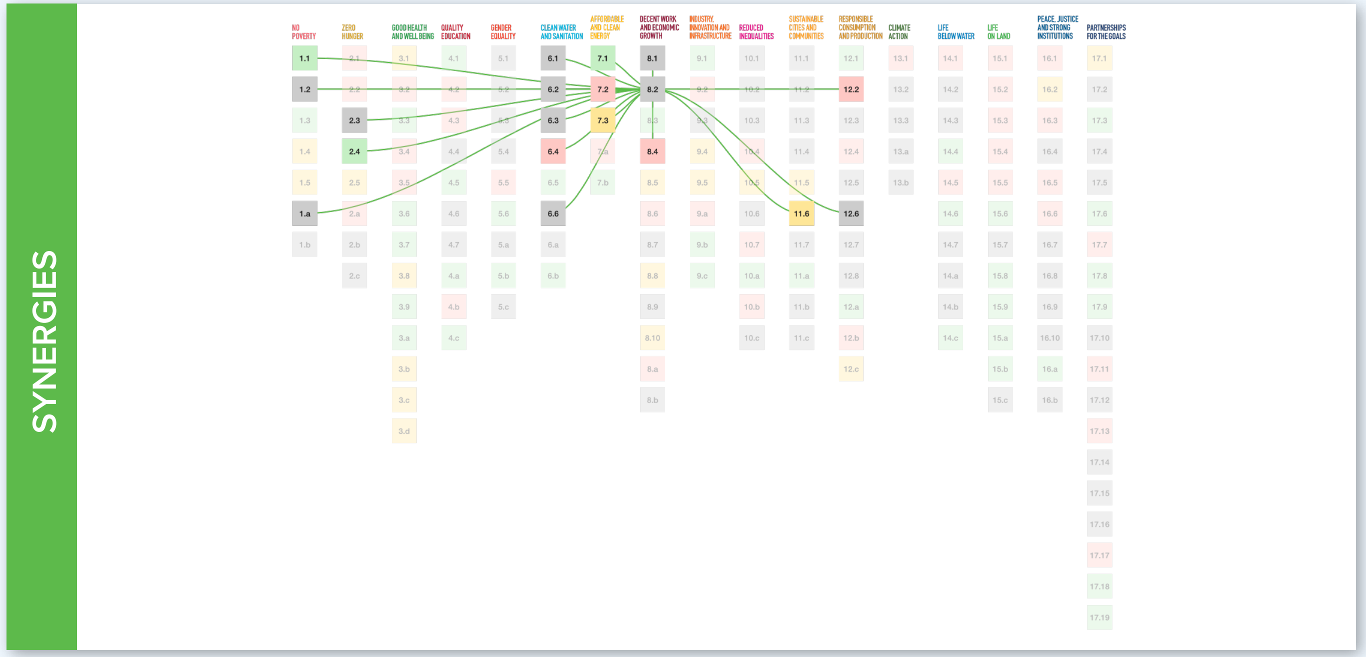
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Mauritius strives to upgrade its mainstay economics sectors, such as tourism and manufacturing, finance and ICT, but also to develop new productive economic sectors, such as biotechnology. This development path will be indispensable for the country's return to a sustainable growth path and to develop the economy, in line with its aspiration of a technology- and innovation-driven high-income economy. Public investment in the enabling environment, including human and institutional capacities, for sustainable growth and job creation increased by 23.8% between the 2020-2021 and the 20232-2024 state budgets.

Investing in SDG target 8.2 has positive synergies with 7 SDGs and 18 associated targets. These include SDG 1 on Poverty (3 targets), SDG 2 on zero hunger (2 targets), SDG 6 on clean water (4 targets), 7 on energy (1 target), 8 on Decent work (2 targets), 11 on sustainable cities (1 target) and 12 on responsible consumption (2 targets). 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.

ON TRACK FOR REVIEW OFF TRACK TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:
https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MUS/synergies-and-tradeoffs

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

Mauritius' most pressing environmental issues are climate change and disasters, environmental pollution – including waste disposal and transboundary plastic waste – and coastal degradation. Temperatures and sea levels in Mauritius are rising at a faster rate than global averages, and the country is also facing accelerated coastal erosion and coral bleaching. According to the World Risk Report 2021, Mauritius was classified as the 51st most exposed country to natural hazards. The UN report, *SIDS in Numbers 2017* projects that Mauritius will become a water-stressed country by 2025, barely three years from now. The rapid economic development and growth over the past years, and many key sectors, like transport, manufacturing and construction, have placed additional pressure on the island's limited resources Furthermore, the planetary crisis is threatening the country's development, impacting sustainable development and weakening its ability to effectively respond to emerging environmental challenges.

Anchored on the country's aspiration to become "an inclusive, high-income and green Mauritius, forging ahead together," the government has designed new strategic measures that will leapfrog the country into a cleaner, greener, environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-emission and circular economy – a 10-year policy and strategy which defines a new mindset and approach to business, strategic partnerships, and governmental cooperation through holistic policies for the environment. It includes an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 instead of the initial NDC target of 30%.

By committing to strengthening the country's resilience to the climate crisis, by embarking on a low-emission pathway and by completely phasing out coal in electricity generation before 2030, Mauritius will sustain the foundation of high-income status. Investing in Target 13.2 has positive synergies with 64 SDG targets spread across 10 goals, but 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 policy implementation that addresses competing interests and safeguards the integrity of the ecosystem.

Explore the interlinkages at:
https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MUS/synergies-and-tradeoffs

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

In Mauritius 78.2% of the population are satisfied with the public services they receive. By focusing on SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), specifically Target 16.6, measures can be implemented to cut across all goals and pillars outlined in the Mauritius Government Programme 2020-2024, where public services are provided.

This gives Mauritius the opportunity to set a more ambitious goal, for example increasing 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.

Explore the interlinkages at:
https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MUS/synergies-and-tradeoffs

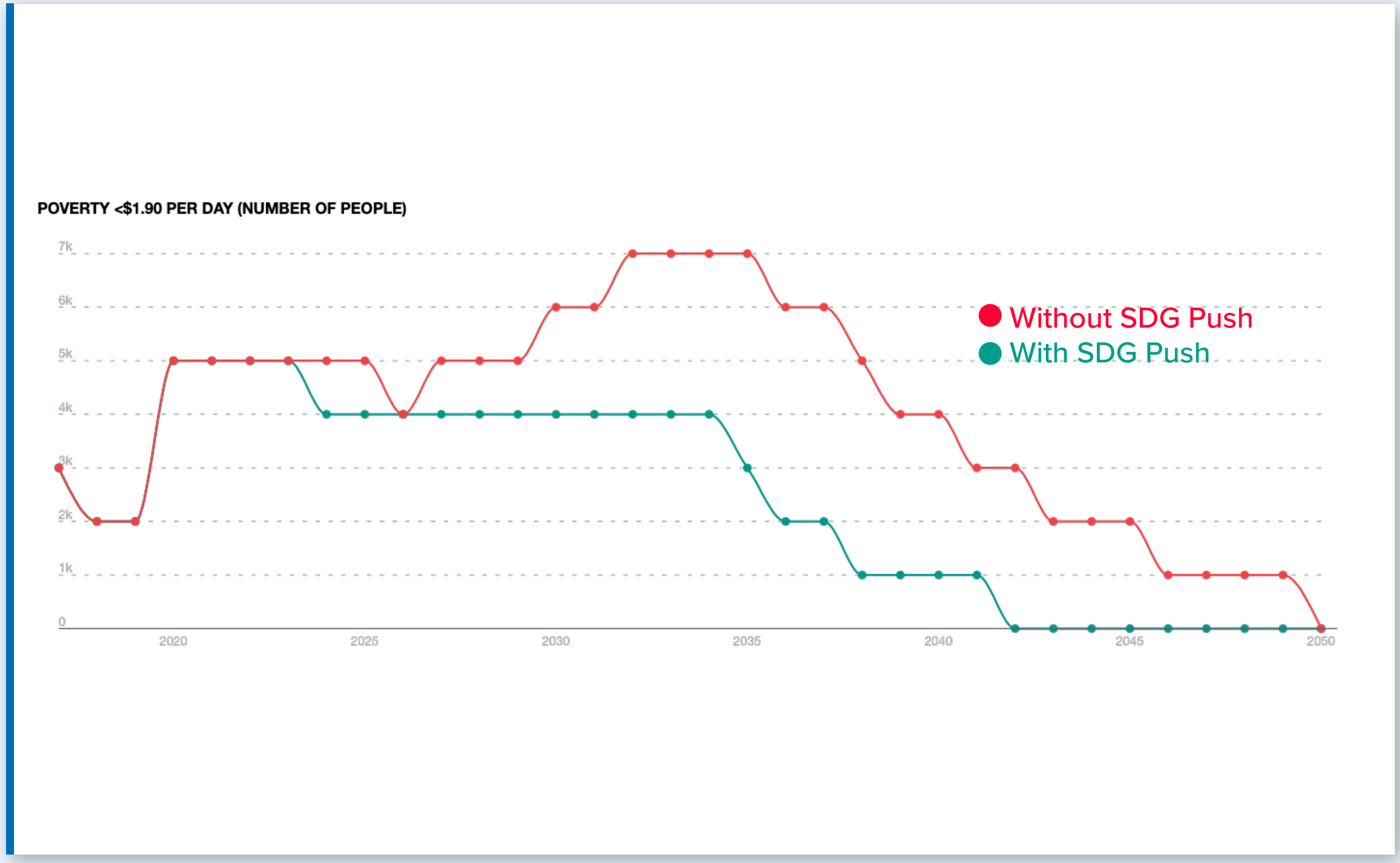
FUTURES SCENARIOS

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

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	6,000	0
With the SDG Push	4,000	0



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

FINANCE & STIMULUS

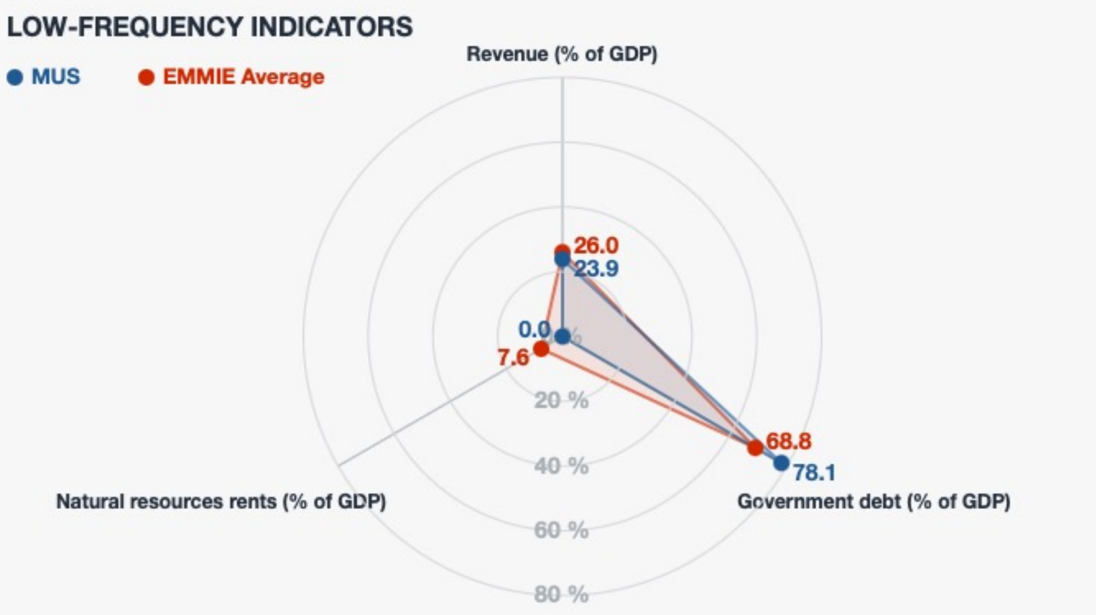
Many countries are facing reduced fiscal space, high debt levels, rising interest rates and downgrades on credit ratings. Fiscal and financial constraints tend to slow or even reverse SDG progress.

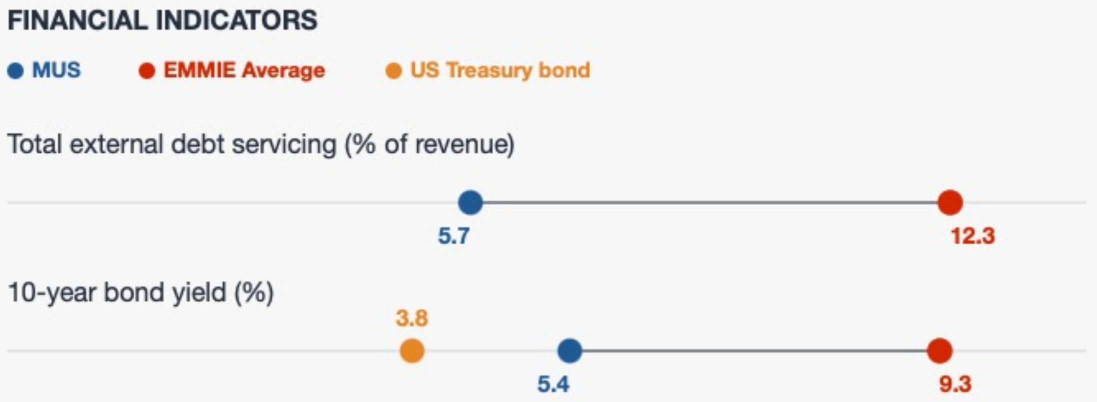
The radar diagram shows low frequency data points linked to government revenue, debt, and natural resources rents as a proportion of GDP. The financial indicator graphs show external debt servicing relative to revenue and the 10-year bond yield.

Mauritius' gross government debt is projected at 78.1% of GDP in 2023 and 71% in 2024, which is 9.3 (pp) above the emerging market and middle-income economies (EMMIE) group of 68.8%. The country is projected to collect 23.9% of GDP in revenue this year, thus slightly less than the EMMIE group at 26%.

Owing to its upper-middle income status, the country’s development agenda has been pursued within the constraints of limited official development assistance despite the evolving vulnerabilities it has been experiencing. Moreover, foreign direct investment is highly concentrated in a limited number of sectors with little potential for decent work creation and positive spillovers for environmental protection and socio-economic inclusion.

Mauritius' external debt servicing relative to revenue, at a projected 5.7% this year, is less than half the EMMIE group's 12.3%. The country’s 10-year bond yield is trading at 5.4% – 3.9 pp below the EMMIE average of 9.3%, thus suggesting higher investor confidence – and 1.6 pp above a 10-Year US Treasury bond.





Notes: External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt. The EMMIE average of 10-year bond yield (%) only includes 30 countries which reported data for that indicator.

Sources: WDI (natural resources rents, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, forecasts for 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), worldgovernmentbonds.com and Haver Analytics (yields as of 8 June 2023).

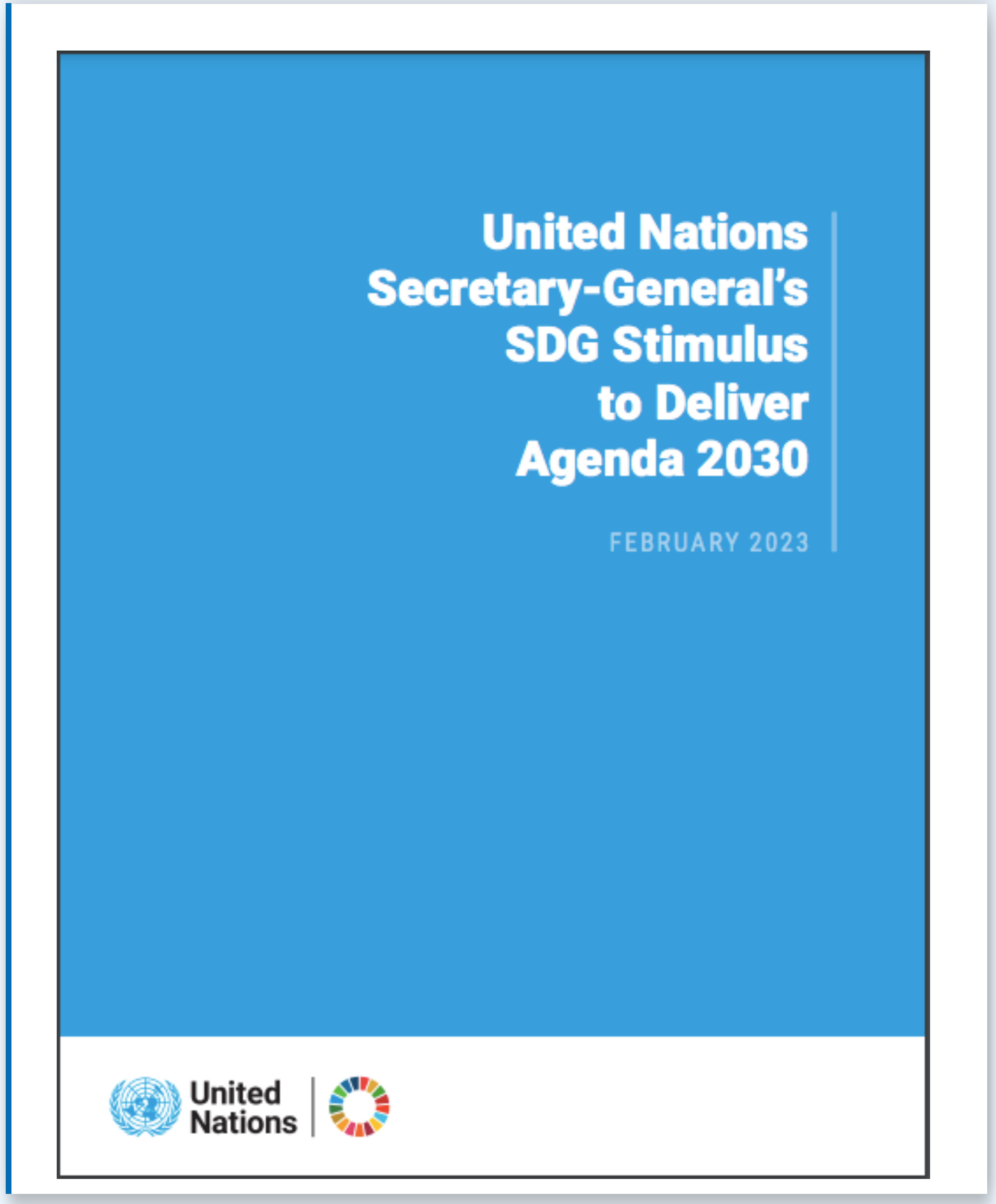
SDG STIMULUS

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

- Tax and revenue reform
- Climate finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment



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

FEBRUARY 2023

United Nations

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_2 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).