



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS SAMOA

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: SAMOA

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.

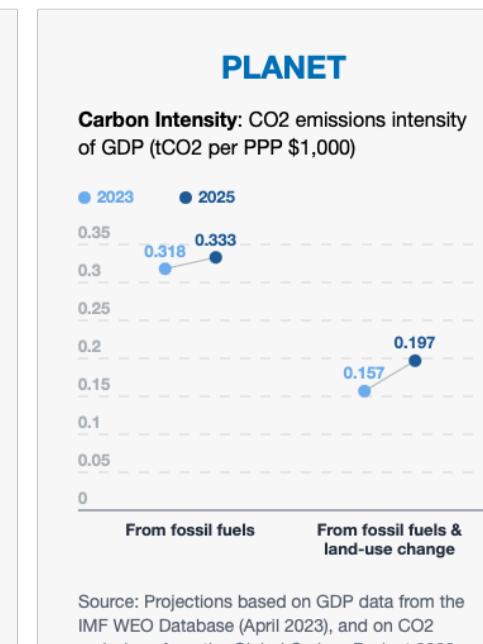
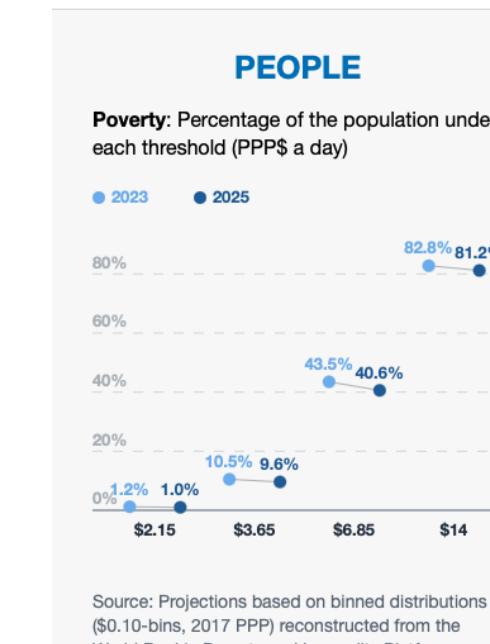
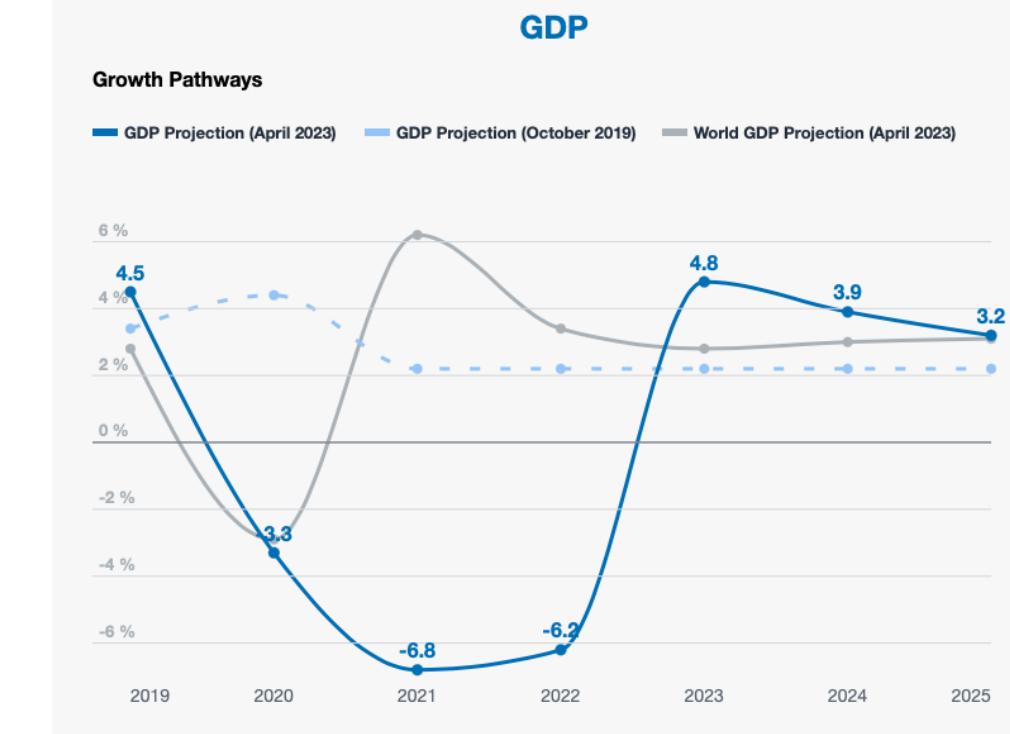
Samoa's growth trajectory during the 2023-2025 cycle is in acceleration mode, characterized by being 36% higher, on average, than the global projection, and well above the country's growth trajectory forecast before the pandemic.¹ Accordingly, Samoa's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on increasing people's well-being.

While this pace of growth is projected to reduce the incidence of poverty, there are still some distributional challenges where 10.9% of multidimensionally poor people experience all deprivations, mainly in internet connection, food insecurity and drinking water. The majority (91.3%) of multidimensionally poor households reside in rural areas. Without any significant development changes, poverty levels across various thresholds are projected to persist over time: at a threshold of \$2.15 poverty is projected to be 1.2% in 2023 and 1.0% by 2025; for a \$3.65 threshold, poverty rates are estimated to be 10.5% and 9.6% in 2023 and 2025 respectively.

It is critical to ensure that growth does not come at the expense of the environment as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 2.4% due to fossil fuel usage, and of almost 13% when also considering land-use change.²

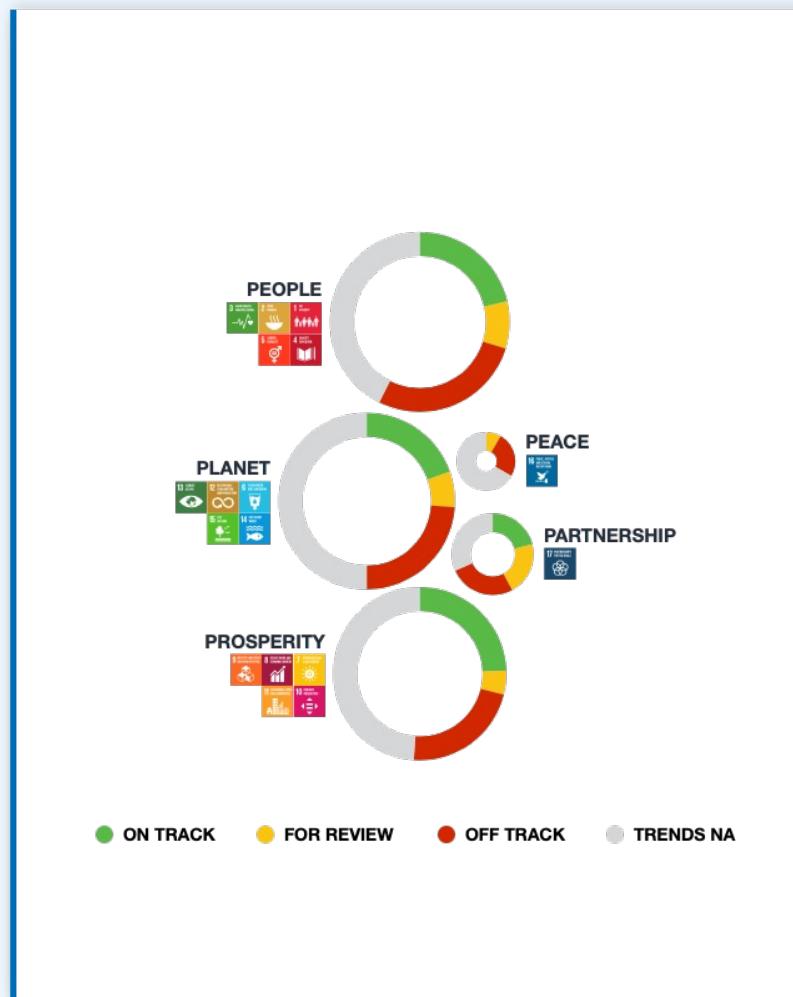
¹ The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is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

SDG PRIORITIES

Samoa's national priorities are generated 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. Disaster Risk Financing Policy 2022 - 2025
2. Fiscal Strategy Statement FY2023/2024 Main Estimates
3. Health Sector Plan 2019/20-2029/30
4. Pathway for the Development of Samoa FY2021/22-FY2025/26
5. 2022 Development Finance Assessment
6. 2021/22 Pacific Attitudes Survey: Samoa
7. 2020 Education Sector COVID Response Plan
8. 2021 Samoa's Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Roadmap and Investment Plan
9. Samoa Low Emission Strategy 2021-2030
10. 2022 Gender Equality Brief for Samoa

Priorities in detail:

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

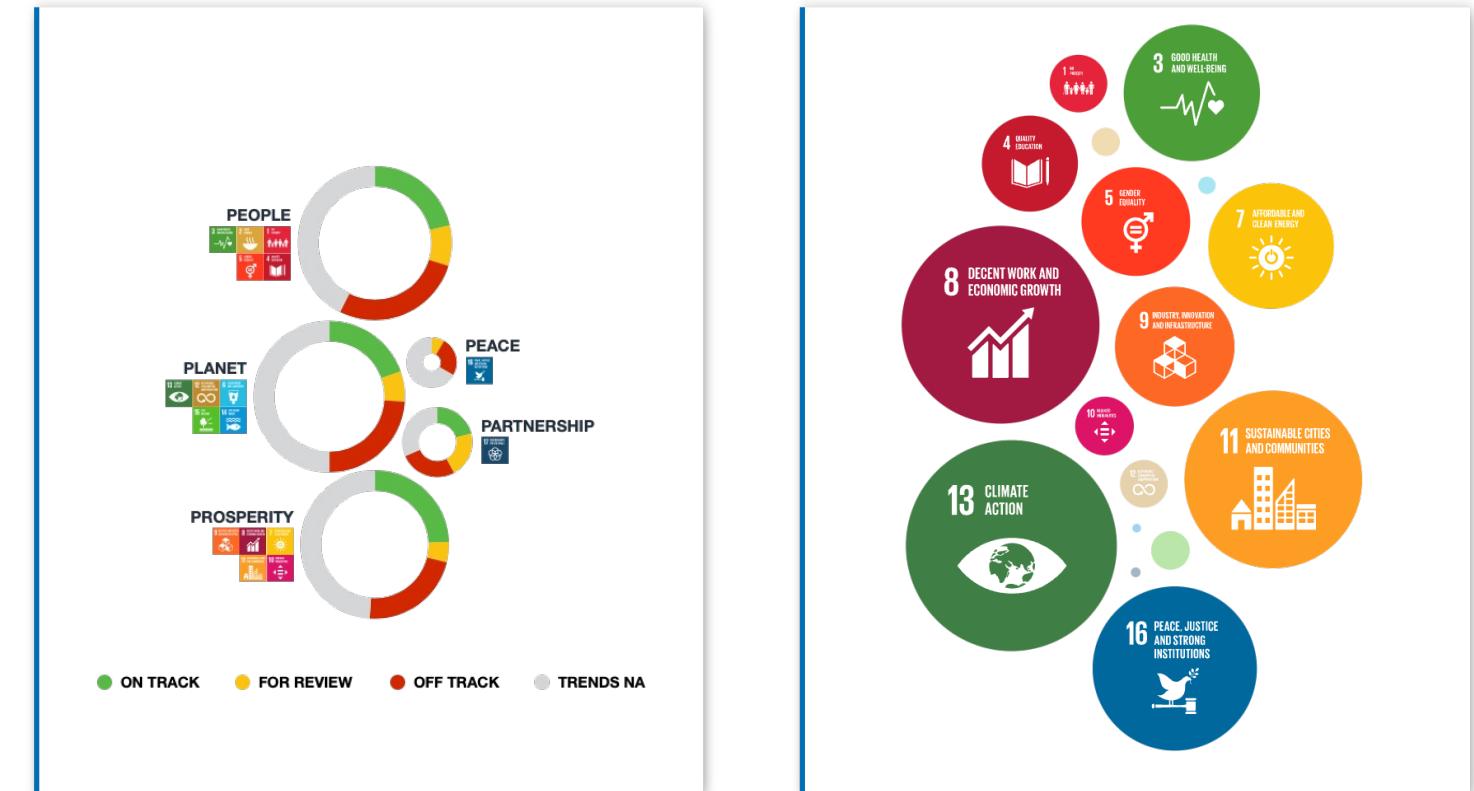
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Samoa's SDG progress is colour-coded at the target level.

Building from national priorities, the following pathways reflect policy investments with the most potential to accelerate the SDGs for Samoa:

- Target 3.4: Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health
- Target 8.2: Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
- Target 11.5: Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
- Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



SDG INTERLINKAGES

3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.

Samoa has some of the highest rates and risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the world. NCDs account for over 80% of all deaths and more than half the premature deaths in the country,¹ and cause lifelong disabilities (such as strokes or complications from diabetes) that have significant social and broader economic consequences on society. Beyond that, NCDs represent the largest financial burden on the health system and are the main drivers of local and overseas treatments.

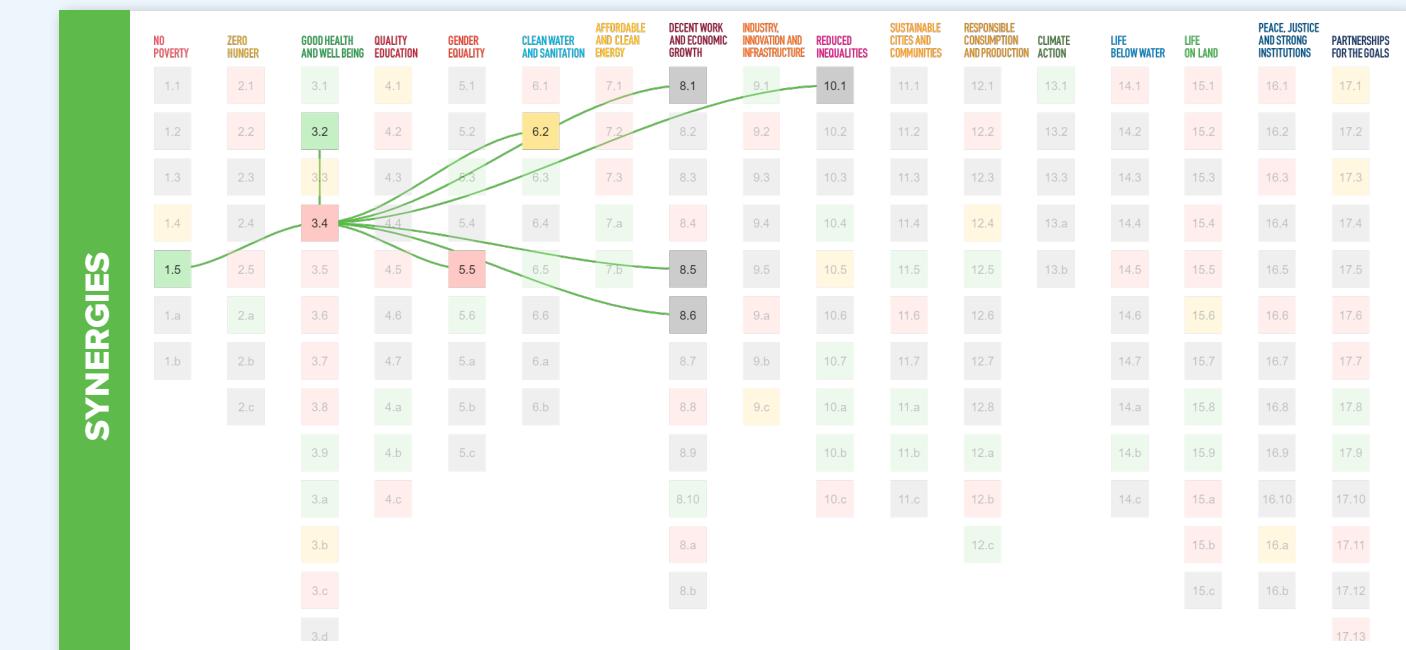
As the population is expected to increase by 10% by 2030, which imposes an additional burden for maternal, paediatric and child services, rehabilitation, dementia management and palliative care, the government undertook structural and administrative efforts by enacting the Ministry of Health Amendment Act of 2019. The Act focuses on preventive health, community engagement, strengthening primary health, and cost reduction associated with duplicated organizational arrangements.

There is a need to increase public expenditure and programmatic support to the health sector for its promotion, disease prevention and overall public health. Samoa's health financing needs would require new measures to ensure that a further burden is not put on public expenditure. An increase in tobacco and alcohol taxes to finance public health is under consideration.

Investing in public health and well-being will create synergies for the attainment of the SDG targets concerning poverty and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, economic growth, gender equality, productive employment and inequality.

¹World Health Organization, 2018. Noncommunicable Disease Country Profiles

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



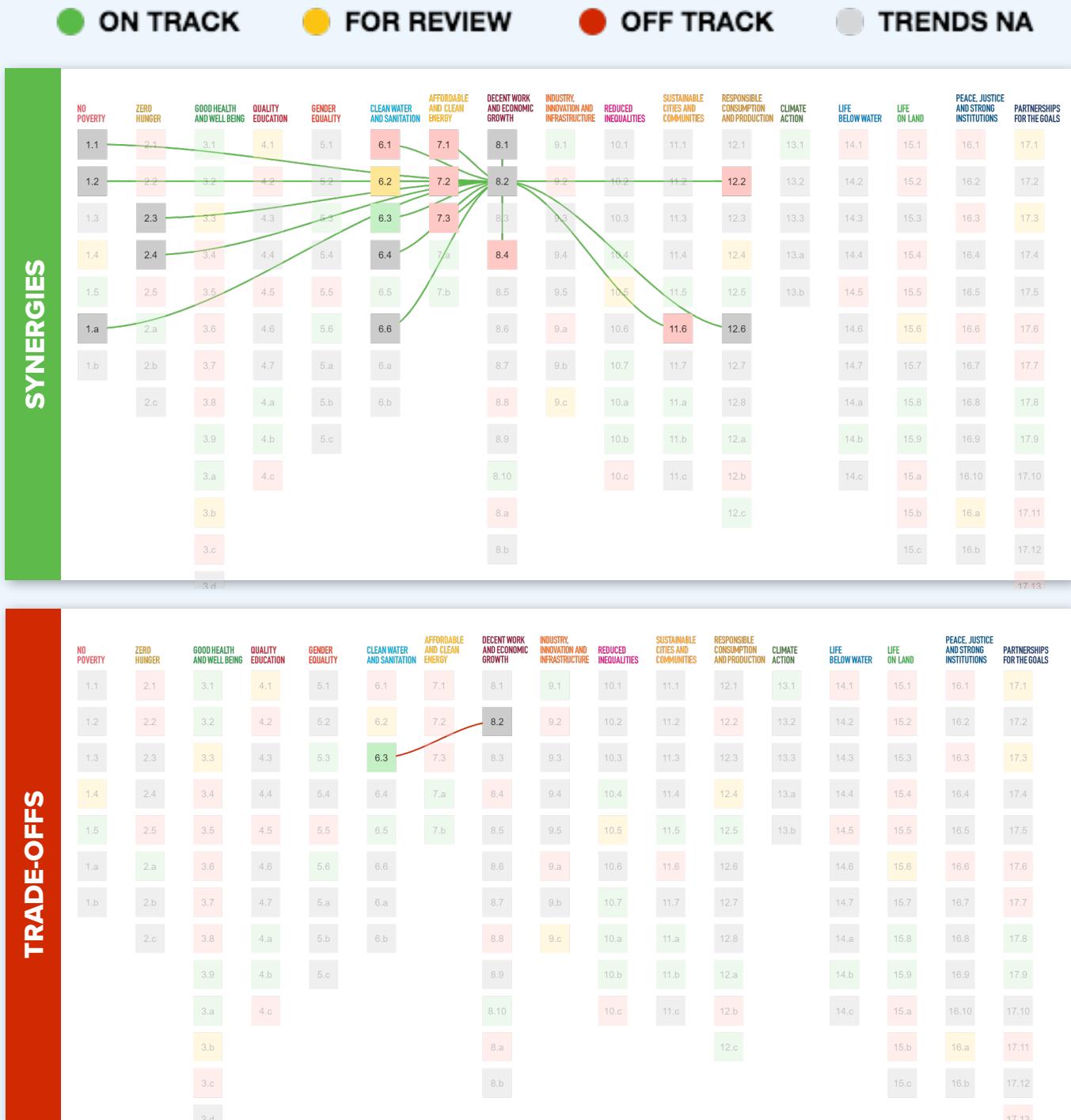
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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 Tui Samoa Cable increased the availability of fast, reliable internet services to all sectors of the economy. However, 19.8% of the multidimensional poor have deprivation in Internet connection. This provides opportunities to tap into the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) for all, and to use the improved infrastructure to drive innovation and creativity within the public and private sectors. Samoa will therefore continue to explore progressive and innovative solutions for the broadening of technological use, including the development of digital identification.

To drive the economy to be resilient and diversified and to employ innovation for increased productivity, Samoa seeks to ensure that everyone has the required skillsets and opportunity for a sustainable livelihood through decent employment opportunities and improved income generation. To ensure the attainment of a sustainable economy that drives human development and enables shared prosperity, Samoa seeks to support business innovation and growth for improved efficiency. It also seeks to embrace new and emerging market sectors that are driven by innovation.

As such, Samoa requires a long-term, phased development plan that guides public works and infrastructure investments, and ultimately supports socio-economic progress. For improved technology and innovation through broad affordable access to the internet and enhanced business performance through use of ICT, the country continues to embrace many advantages offered by digital technologies. Therefore, Samoa seeks to provide an enabling business environment and investment in education, skills and digital literacy. An increase in productivity levels through innovation and technology in a diversified economy will drive down poverty and hunger, as well as improve the health and education of the population. Water and sanitation, sustainable cities and responsible consumption and production would be promoted as sectors for accelerating the attainment of the SDGs.



Explore the interlinkages at

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

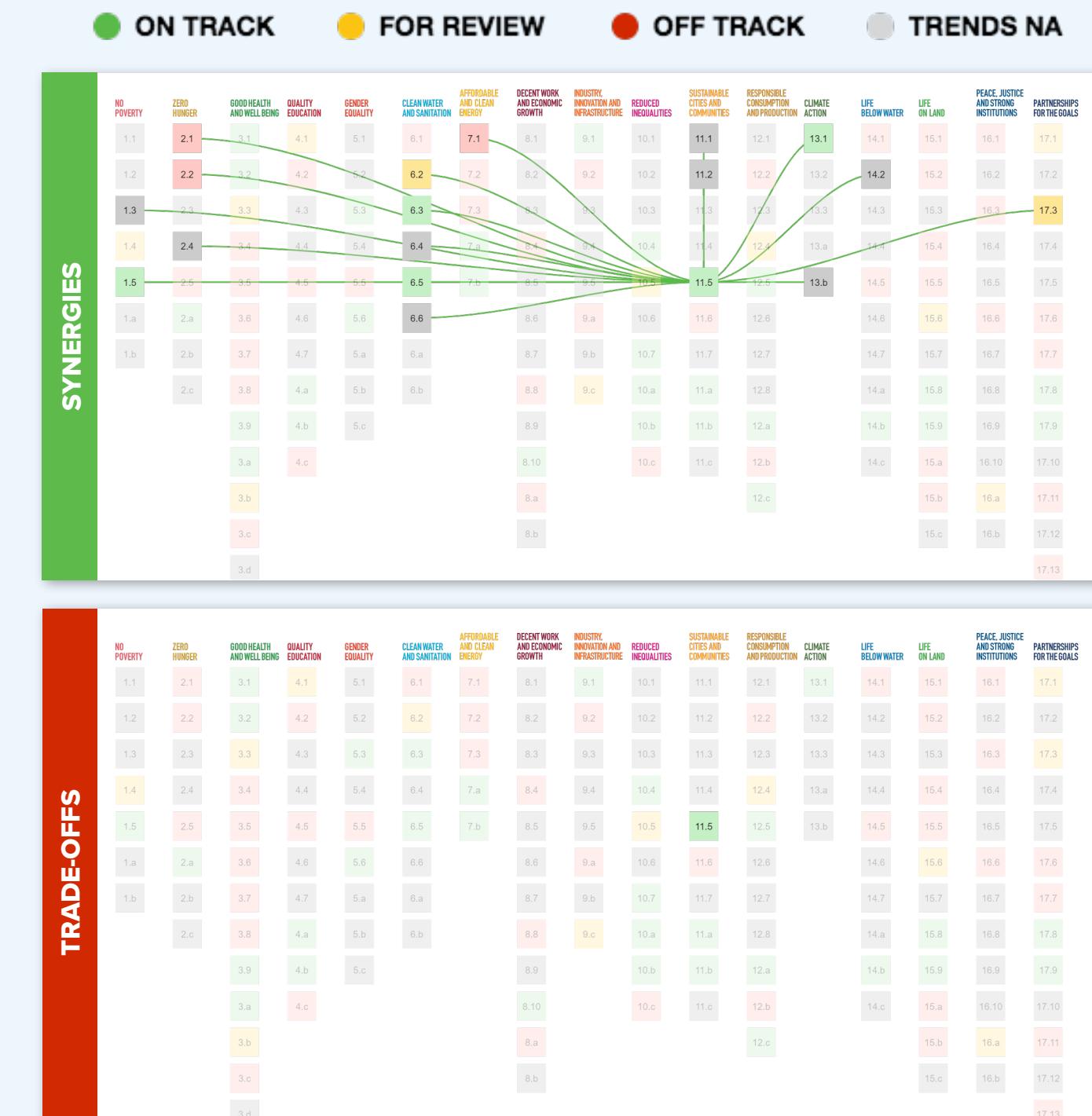
11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

In pursuing its sustainable economy and shared prosperity for its people, Samoa faces some challenges due to its vulnerability related to structural factors like its size, geographical remoteness, exposure to climate risks and natural disasters.

Samoa has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to negative economic growth rates (-3.1, -7.1, and -6.0 for 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively¹), which further created hardship for businesses and households alike, with people having to contend with job losses, reduced working hours and uncertain futures.

By supporting inclusive disaster insurance and risk finance and by focusing on economic diversification, Samoa expects to alleviate the pain of communities and people during disasters and to build resilience against future economic pressures. Investments on SDG Target 11.5 have the potential to generate more decent jobs, positively impacting employment rates and supporting a more inclusive economic growth (SDG8) and poverty reduction (SDG1). Samoa is also seeking to adopt a prudent fiscal position and proactively manages the risk of debt distress, closely monitoring the relative size of debt vis-à-vis sound monetary policy to support economic stability and growth over the medium term.

¹ World Development Indicators, World Bank.



Explore the interlinkages at:

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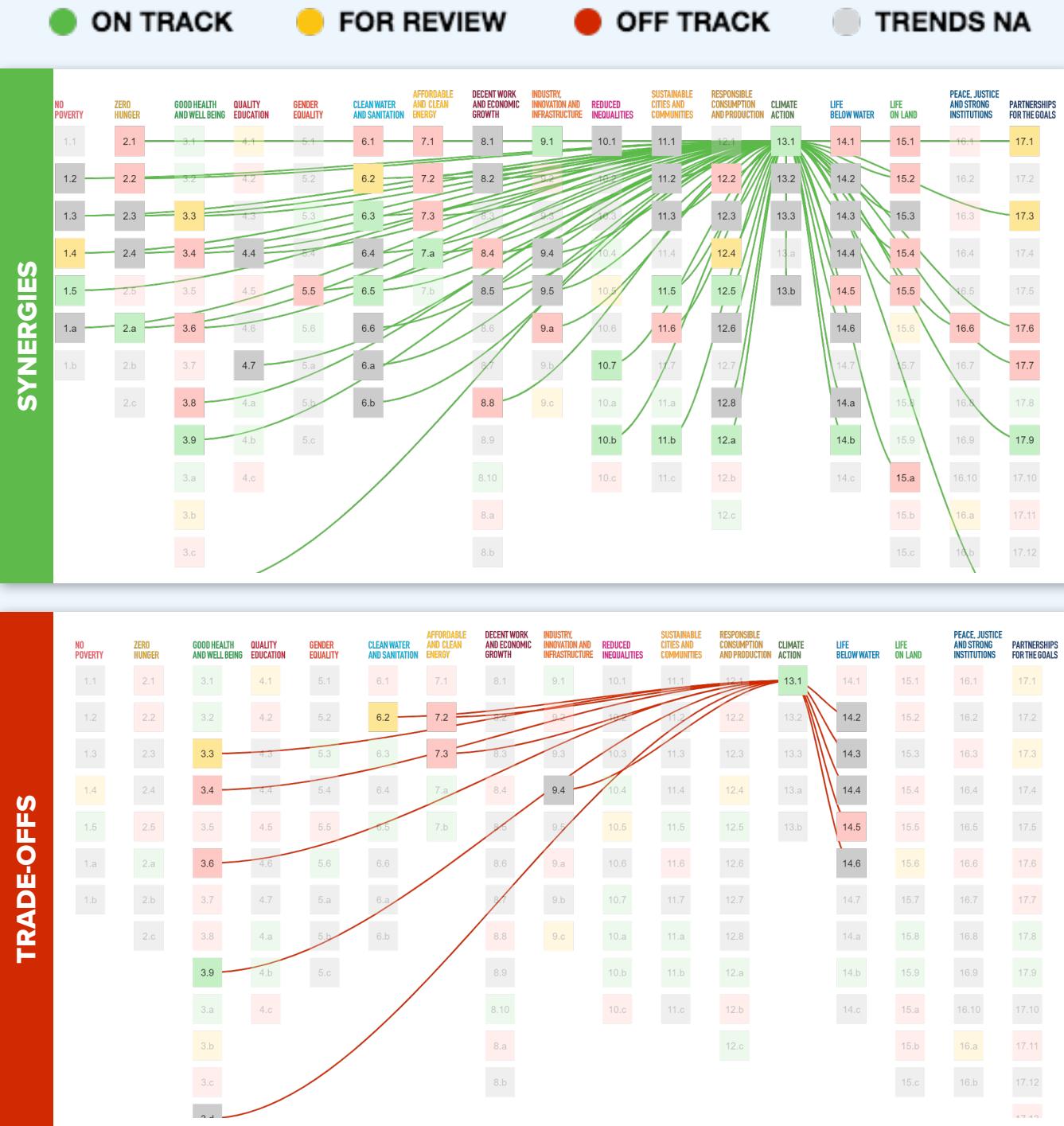
SDG INTERLINKAGES

13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

Although Samoa contributes only 0.035% of total global emissions, it is among the nations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country continues to experience higher than average temperatures, greater frequency in extreme daily rainfall events, sea level rise and increases in ocean acidification and coastal erosion. Changing weather patterns and natural disasters are impacting Samoa's settlements as 70% of the population and infrastructure are in low-lying coastal areas. Climate change and variable weather patterns are also impacting the country's primary industries, such as agriculture and fishing.

Samoa's carbon emissions have increased by approximately 113% since the 1994 baseline when total emissions were 165,633 t carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). This represents an average annual growth rate of 16%. In 2007, the country emitted a total of 352.03 Gg CO₂e. The fastest rate of growth occurred in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector, which also increased its share of total emissions drastically. A minor part of the growth in emissions can be attributed to the industrial processes and product use (IPPU) sector emissions. Of the total emissions, the energy sector accounted for 50%, the AFOLU sector accounted for 38%, the waste sector accounted for 9%, and the IPPU sector accounted for 3%.

For mitigation purposes, Samoa aims to reduce overall GHG emissions by 26% in 2030 compared to 2007 levels (or by 91 Gg CO₂e compared to the new reference year once Samoa's GHG emissions inventory has been updated). For example, emissions in the energy sector would decrease by 30% in 2030 compared to 2007 levels, in the waste sector by 4%, and in the AFOLU sector by 26%. Samoa's adaptation approach is to build resilience to the impacts of climate change through the Community Integrated Management Plans, which identify prioritized adaptation actions by all of Samoa's 368 villages to enhance their climate resilience. Investments in SDG Target 13.1 can lead to positive outcomes across multiple SDGs. Climate resilience can enhance livelihoods, particularly in vulnerable communities, contributing to poverty and inequality reduction efforts and safeguarding agricultural productivity and food security. It can also protect water resources, enhancing water availability. However, careful consideration is needed to manage potential trade-offs related to energy consumption, infrastructure and ecosystem conservation.



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

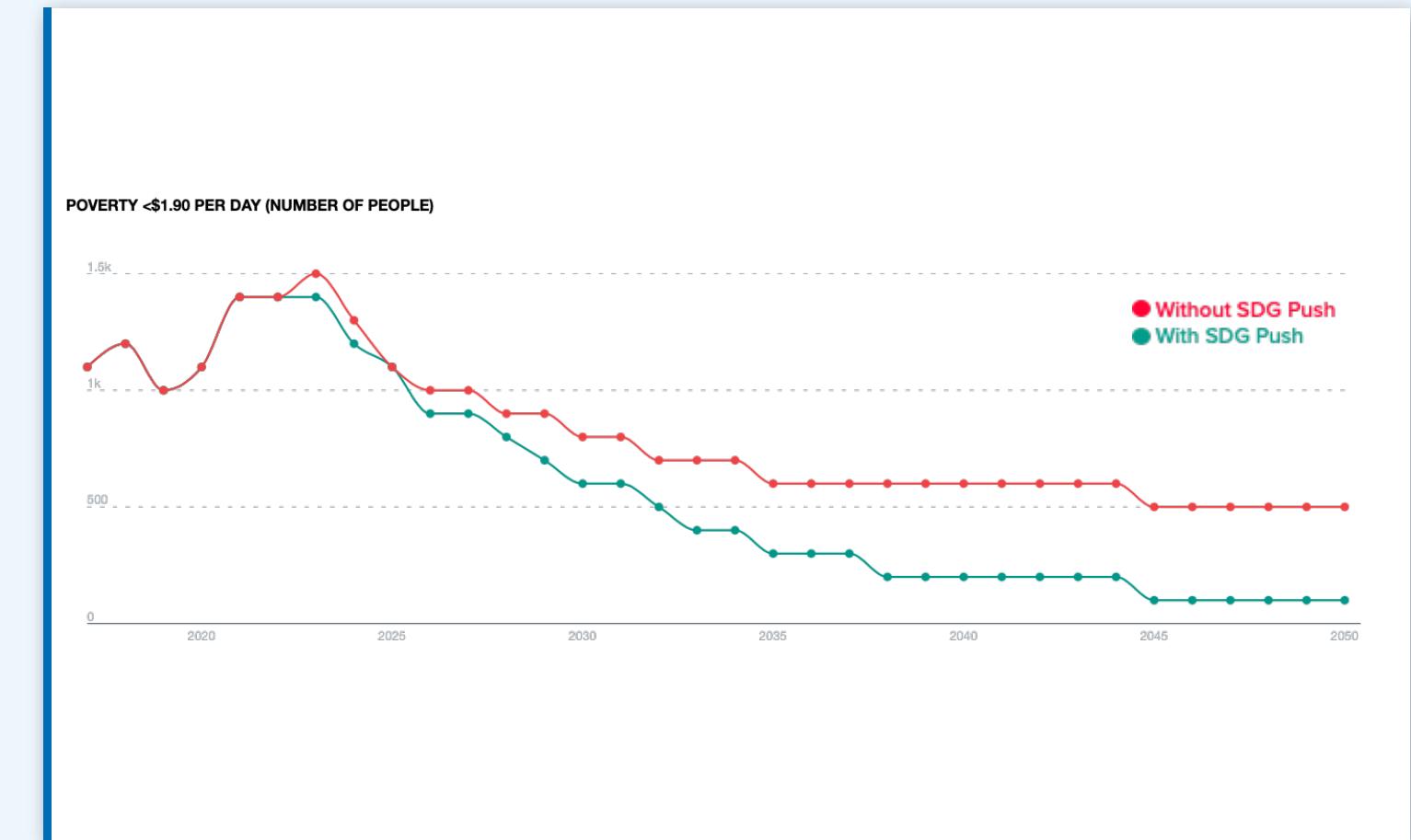
FUTURES SCENARIOS

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 their impact on human development by 2030 and by 2050 across key SDG indicators, extrapolating the latest economic growth trends and assuming a reduction in inequalities across time.

Incorporating ‘SDG Push’ accelerators into development interventions in Samoa can reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	800	500
With the SDG Push	600	100



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

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

FINANCE & STIMULUS

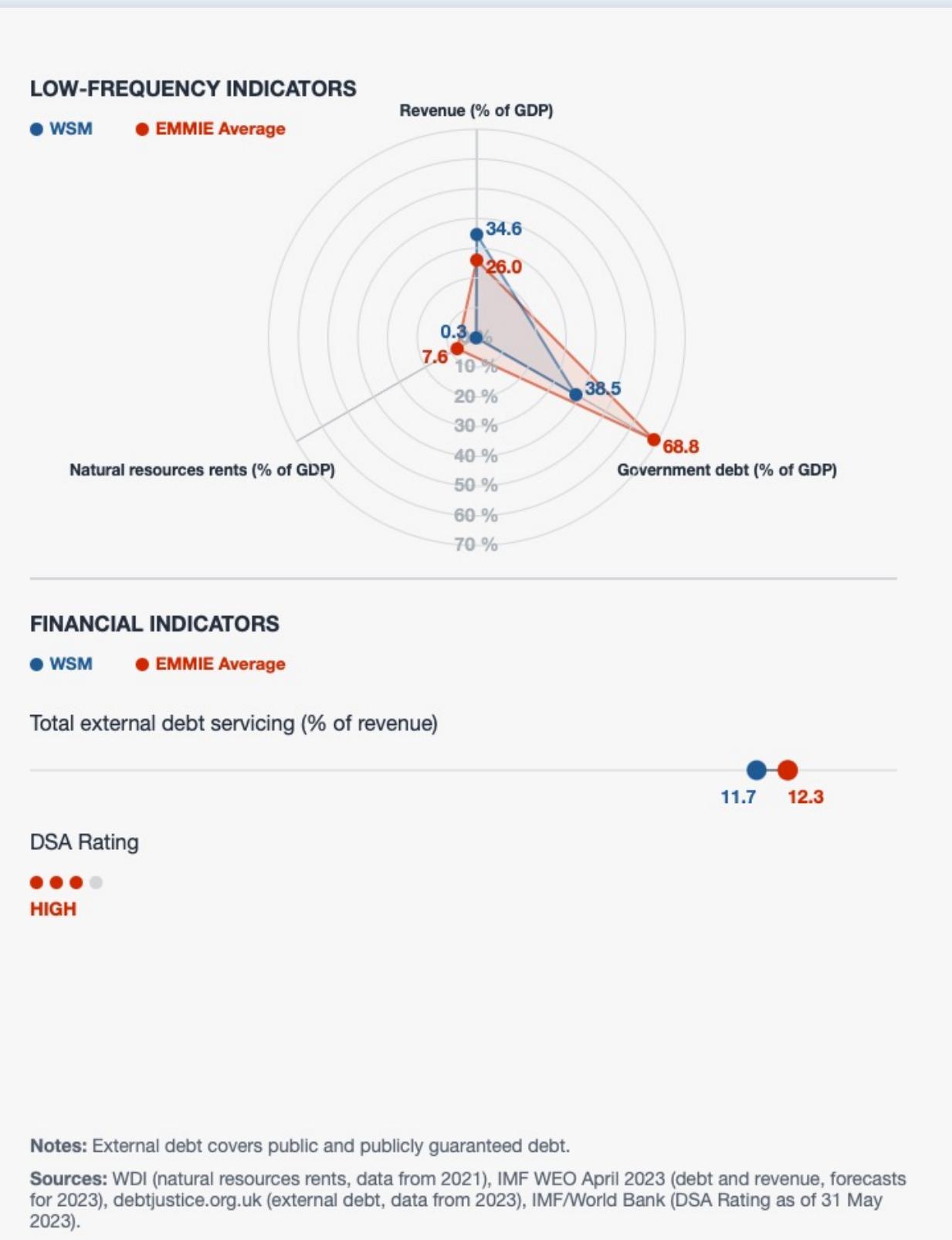
Many countries are facing reduced fiscal space, high debt levels, rising interest rates and downgrades on credit ratings. Fiscal and financial constraints tend to slow or even reverse SDG progress.

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.

Samoa's gross government debt, projected at 38.5% of GDP in 2023, is nearly half the emerging market and middle-income economies' (EMMIE) average of 68.8%. The country is projected to collect 34.6% of GDP in revenue this year, thus 8.6 percentage points above the average EMMIE country with 26%.

Samoa's external debt servicing relative to revenue is projected at 11.7% this year, which is close to the EMMIE group's 12.3%. Due to its high susceptibility to external shocks and natural disasters, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA from February 2023 rated Samoa as at 'high risk of debt distress'.

Given Samoa's vulnerability to natural disasters and external shocks, reforms to raise revenues, to improve the quality of spending and to attain higher, more diversified economic growth will be vital to building fiscal and external buffers and minimizing risks to debt sustainability.



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 Samoa possible financing options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Tax and revenue reform (Tax for SDGs)
- Debt for SDGs (Debt-for-Adaptation Swap)
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- Inclusive disaster insurance and risk finance
- 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).