



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS

MALI

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: MALI

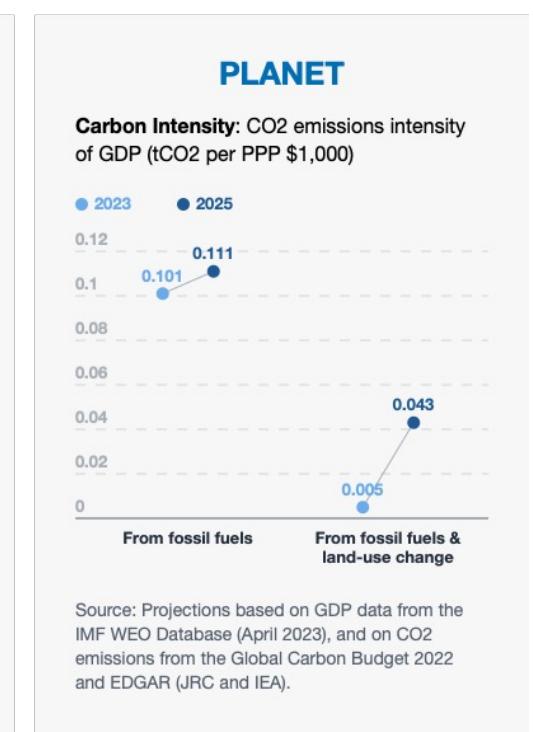
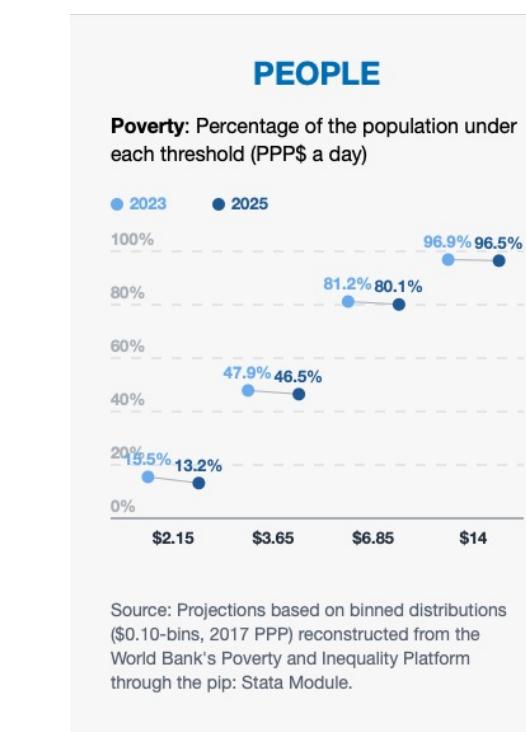
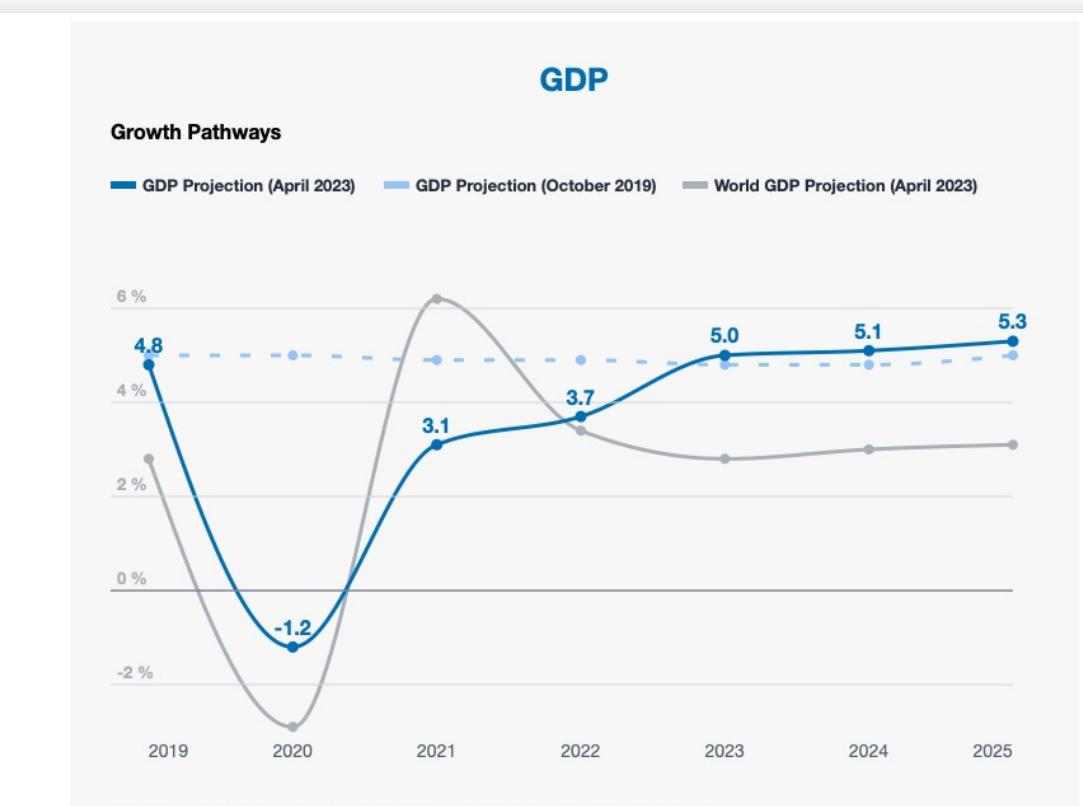
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Mali's pace of growth during the 2023-2025 cycle is in acceleration, characterized by being 70% higher, on average, than the global figure, and already above the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic.¹ Accordingly, Mali's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on building peace and security and increasing people's well-being.

Despite the positive impact of this pace of economic growth on poverty reduction at \$2.15 and \$3.65 a day, there are still significant distributional challenges to accelerate progress. Close to 60% of the poverty headcount is concentrated in three regions. Moreover, this economic expansion occurs at the expense of the environment as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 5% due to fossil fuel usage — and at much higher rates 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 Mali 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

Mali'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. Strategic Framework for Economic and Sustainable Development 2019-2023
2. Voluntary National Review 2022

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

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

- Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- Target 5.1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Target 8.5: Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 11.1: Safe and affordable housing
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



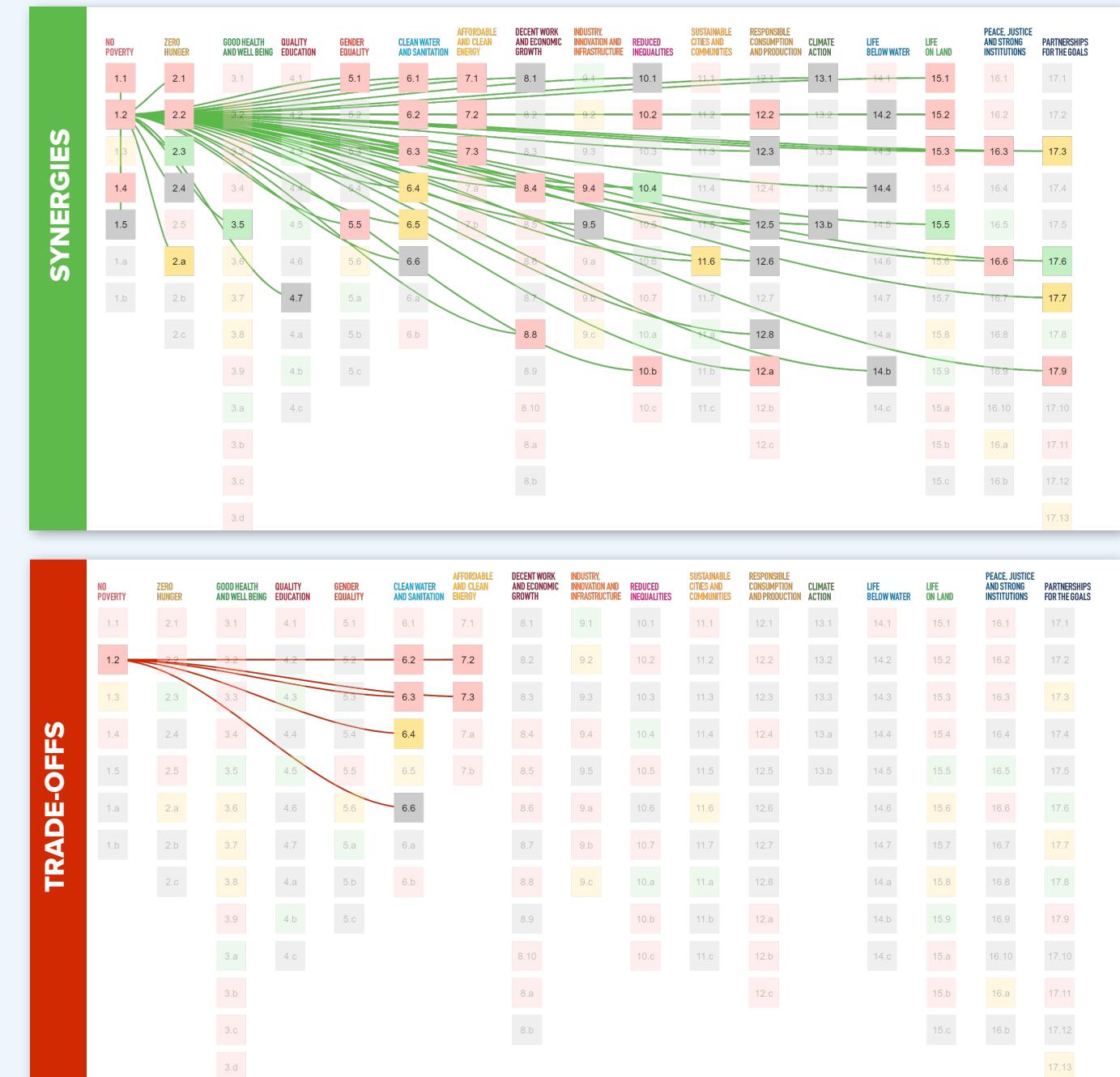
SDG INTERLINKAGES

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Government efforts to contain the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and the security crises were not enough to sustain the downward trend of poverty which reached 44.1% in 2021, up from 41.9% in 2020. Altogether 68.3% continue to suffer from multiple overlapping deprivations. Poverty reduction will remain a major concern and will be driven by strengthening the productivity and livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations (SDG 10) to support the acceleration of sustainable economic transformation (SDG 8).

Strengthening the social protection system, which currently benefits 9.3% of the population, and increasing access to basic services (SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7) will ensure the productive inclusion of poor populations (SDG 8) and reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and the extent of social deprivation. The government will provide the means to build the capacity of the poor to exploit and benefit from the green economy and support them to better adapt to climatic hazards (SDG 13). Sustainability will be promoted by providing the poor with alternatives for their survival, such as clean cooking and sustainable farming, to alleviate their traditional activities' detrimental effect on the environment (SDG 13 & SDG 15).

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



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

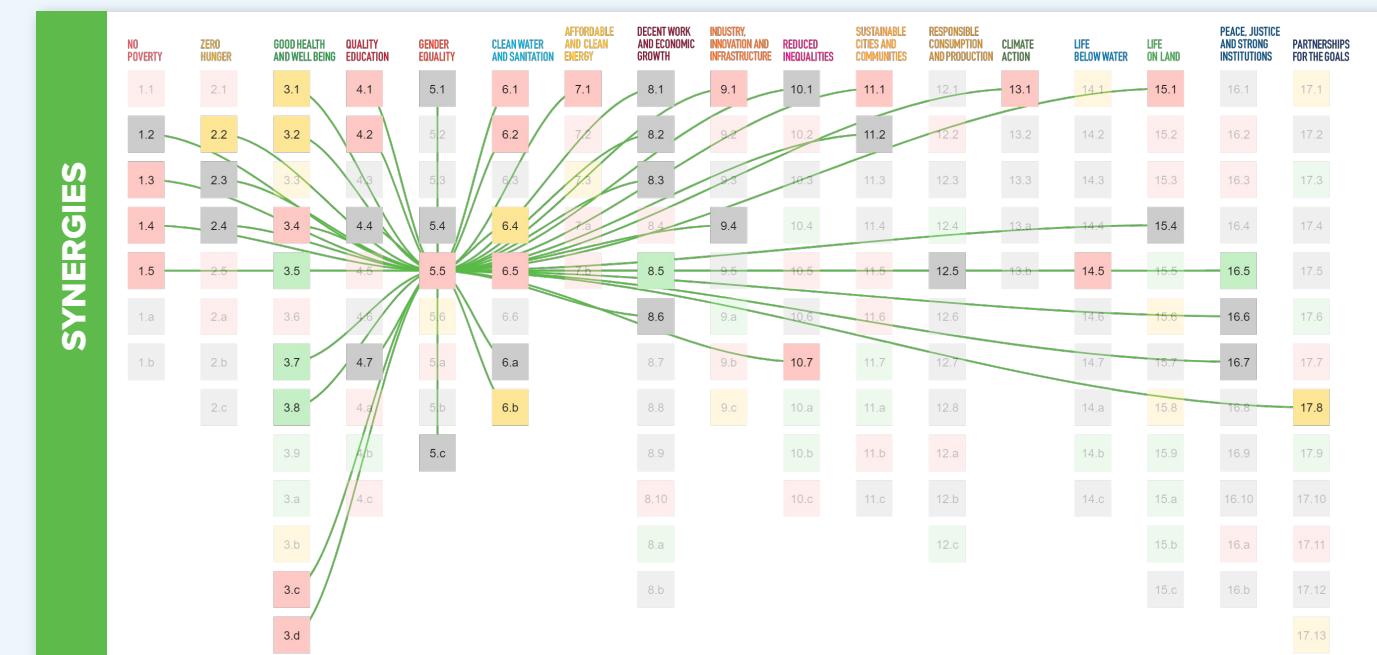
SDG INTERLINKAGES

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Mali has made encouraging progress in terms of gender equality, although significant challenges persist. The ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received reached 108.5% in 2021 while 27.3% of seats in parliament are held by women. However, the ratio of the activity rate of women to men (67.4% in 2022) has not improved, illustrating the need to strengthen policies and programmes for women's access to productive resources and their socio-economic empowerment.

The government will scale up the fight against gender-based violence while expanding the geographic coverage of holistic gender-based violence care services in conflict-affected areas. Women's leadership and their socio-economic empowerment will be further strengthened by improving their financial inclusion (SDG 9) and by providing incentives for girls to opt for science courses (SDG 4). Women, who represent 60% of agricultural labour force and 80% of food production labour, will be enabled to play a transformative role for land conservation (SDG 15) and climate action (SDG 13).

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



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

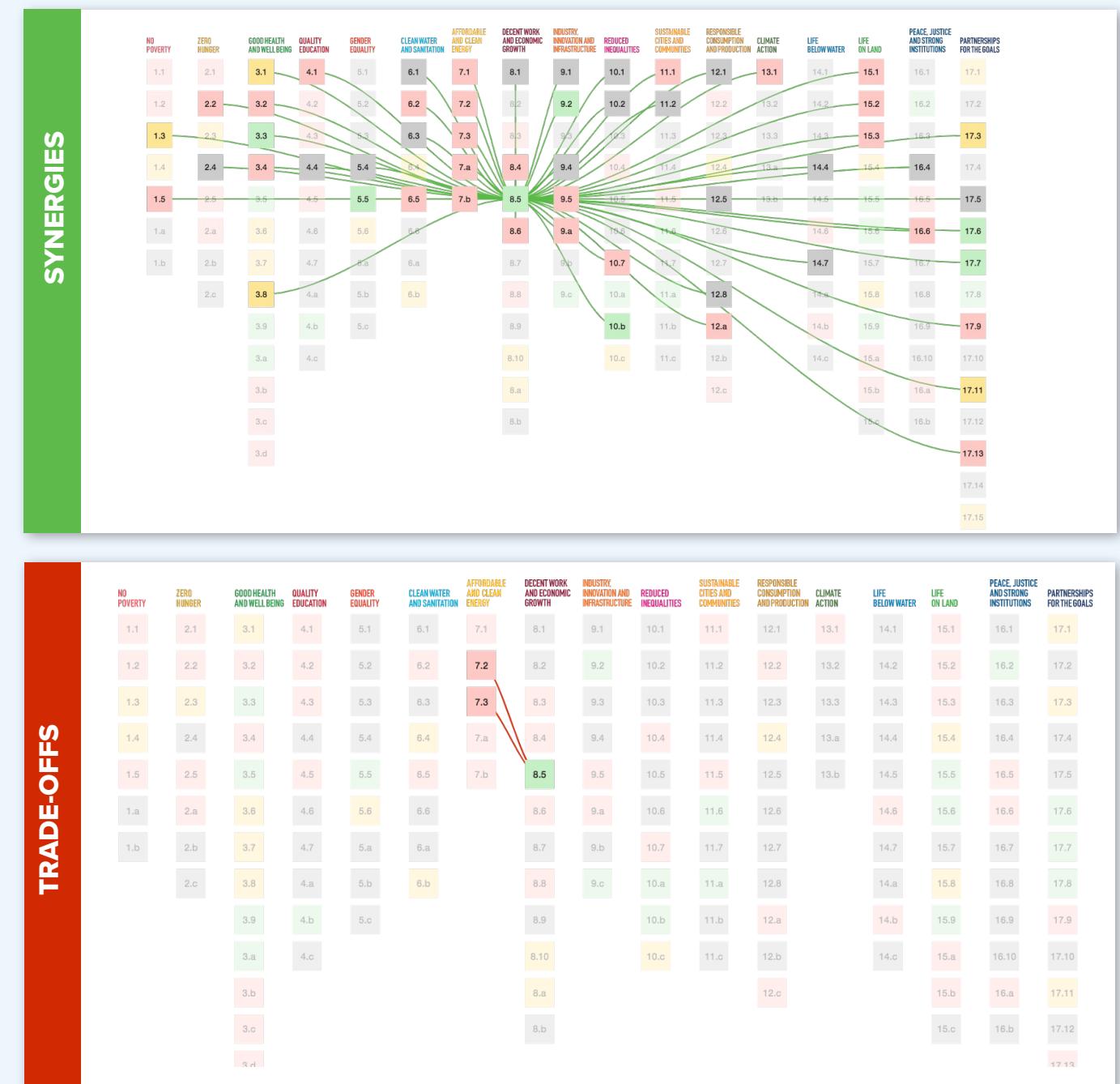
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Between 2020 and 2021, the unemployment rate increased from 5.2% in 2020 to 7.5% in 2021. From 2017 to 2021, the unemployment rate remains higher for women than for men. Similarly, the unemployment rate for young people under 25 rose from 8.8% in 2020 to 13.3% in 2021. This reflects the challenge for integrating young people into the labour force. Employment challenges arise mainly in terms of underemployment and precarious employment with 92% of informal jobs in the non-agricultural sector.

The government's response will focus on adapting labour market regulations to promote access to employment, thereby accelerating the diversification of the economy, developing the skills of young people and women (SDG 4) and introducing an adequate system to support self-employment and entrepreneurship. The government will also focus on improving access for crafts and tourism businesses to credit and markets (SDG 9). The social protection-employment nexus will be mobilized as an accelerator to ensure productive inclusion that enables the most vulnerable people, including people living with disabilities, to benefit from economic opportunities (SDG 10).

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



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

The proportion of the population living in inadequate housing remained low between 2017 and 2020 both in rural areas (falling from 8.5% to 3.2%) and in urban areas (a drop of 0.4 percentage points). However, a record percentage point gain was noted in rural areas. Notable actions implemented recently concern the dematerialization of land archives, the establishment of Unique National Cadastral Identification Numbers and the development of municipal cadastres, which constitute innovative initiatives for securing land.

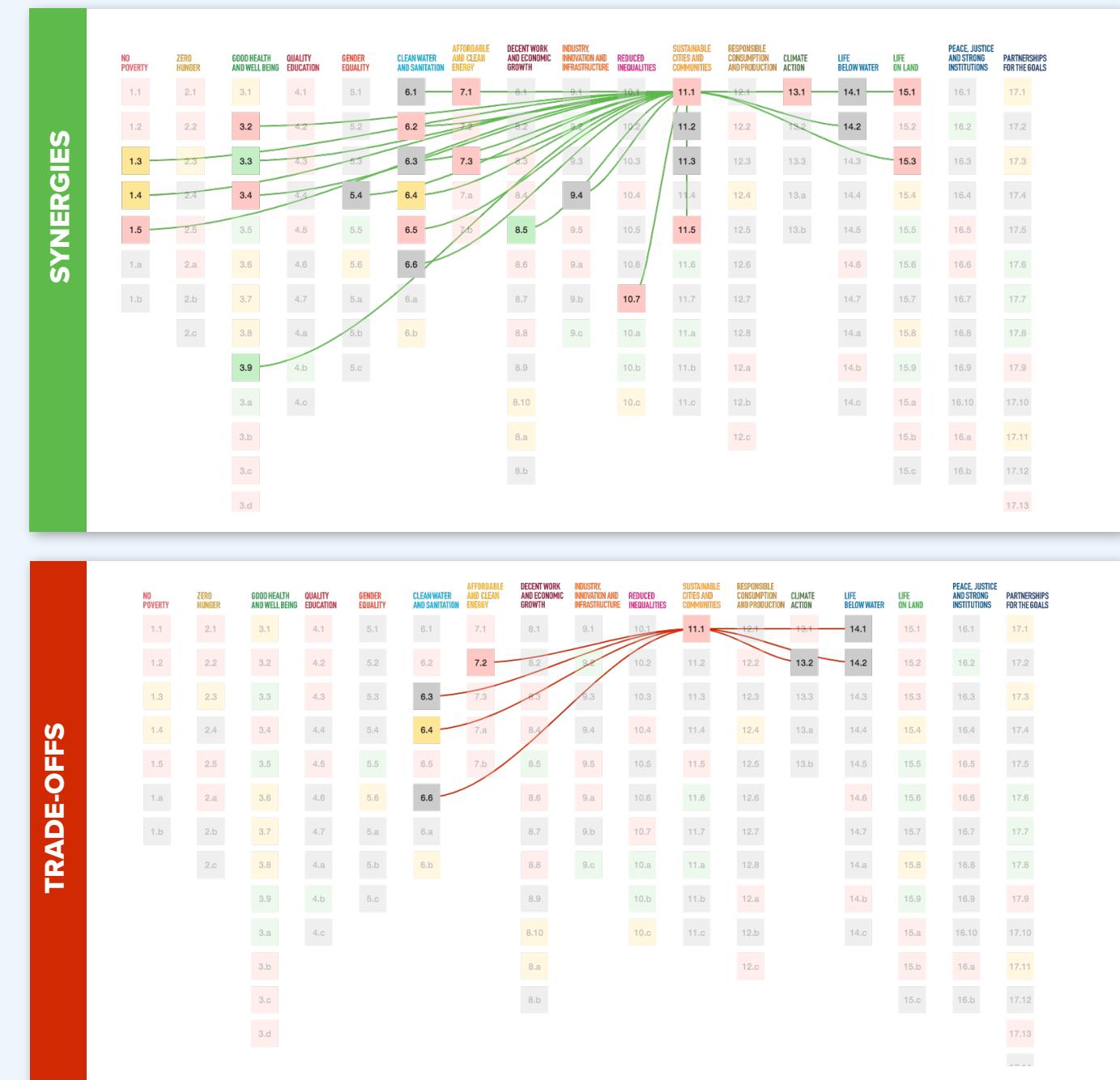
The construction of sustainable cities to improve the living environment in urban areas will be based on an adequate cadastral and urban planning policy to mitigate the effects of climate change (SDG 13). It will also consider structuring and transformative actions in terms of improved sanitation (SDG 6) and living conditions in poor peri-urban neighbourhoods and the development of urban road infrastructure (SDG 9). The implementation of a sustainable solid waste management policy will constitute a new niche for job promotion (SDG 8) and will contribute to improving the health of populations (SG 3).

ON TRACK

FOR REVIEW

OFF TRACK

TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Since 2012, Mali has been facing the consequences of a multidimensional crisis that has shaken the foundations of the nation itself. This profound multidimensional crisis has its roots in the cumulative deficit of governance found principally in the socio-political, economic and security realms. The proportion of individuals aged 18 and over who are victims of physical, psychological or sexual violence stood at 0.8% in 2019. Only 23.2% of individuals aged 18 and over deem that travelling alone on foot in their residential area poses no danger. The satisfaction of public services users declined between 2010 (44%) and 2020 (25%).

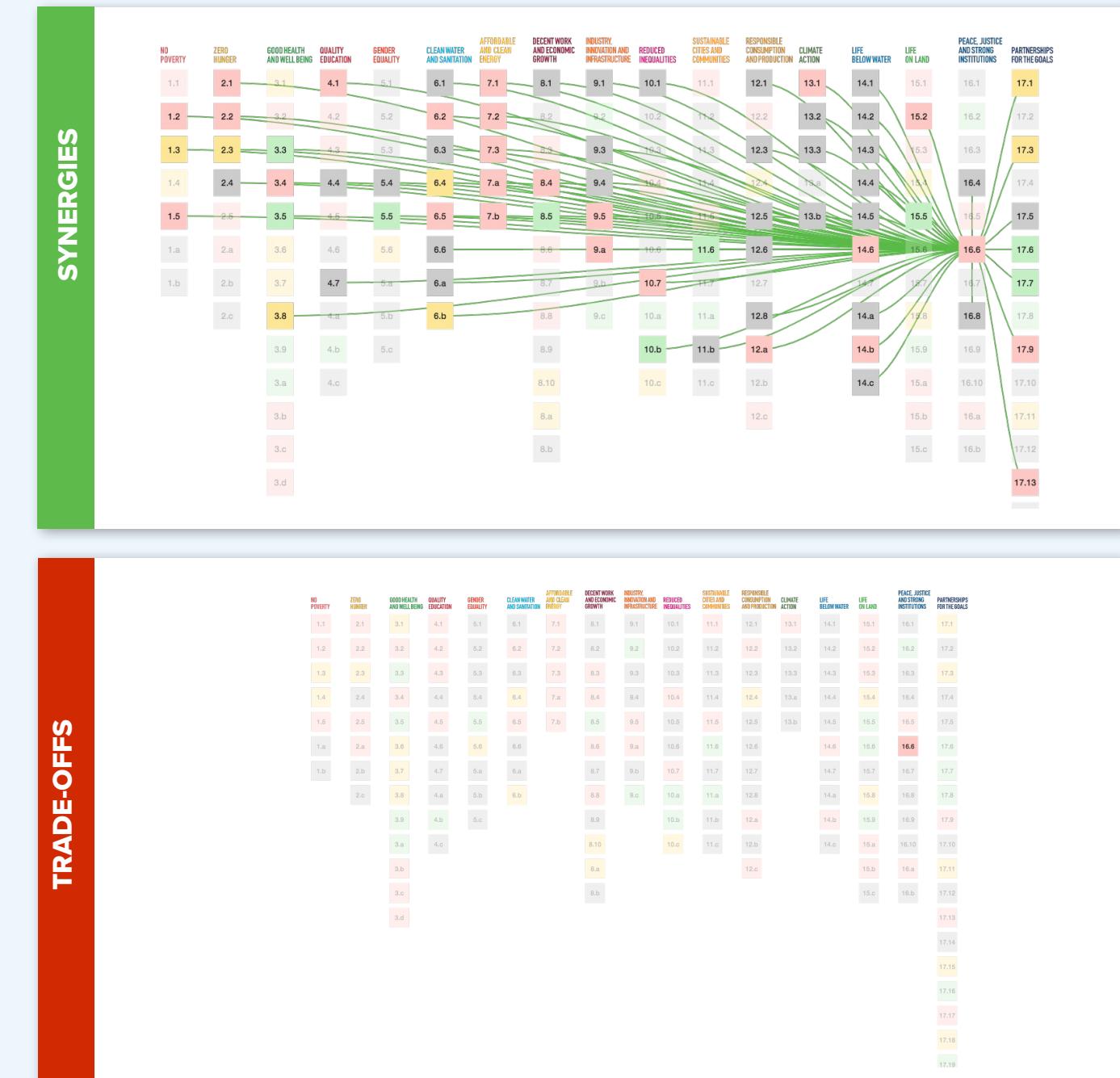
The government is convinced that peace, strong and effective institutions able to fight against corruption are prerequisites for the achievement of all the SDGs. It will continue its actions to rebuild the state and the social contract by emphasizing the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement resulting from the Algiers process; by securing people and their property; by continuing the fight against corruption; by accelerating the process of transferring resources and powers to local authorities; and by implementing the political transition agenda that should lead to the consolidation of the rule of law.

ON TRACK

FOR REVIEW

OFF TRACK

TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

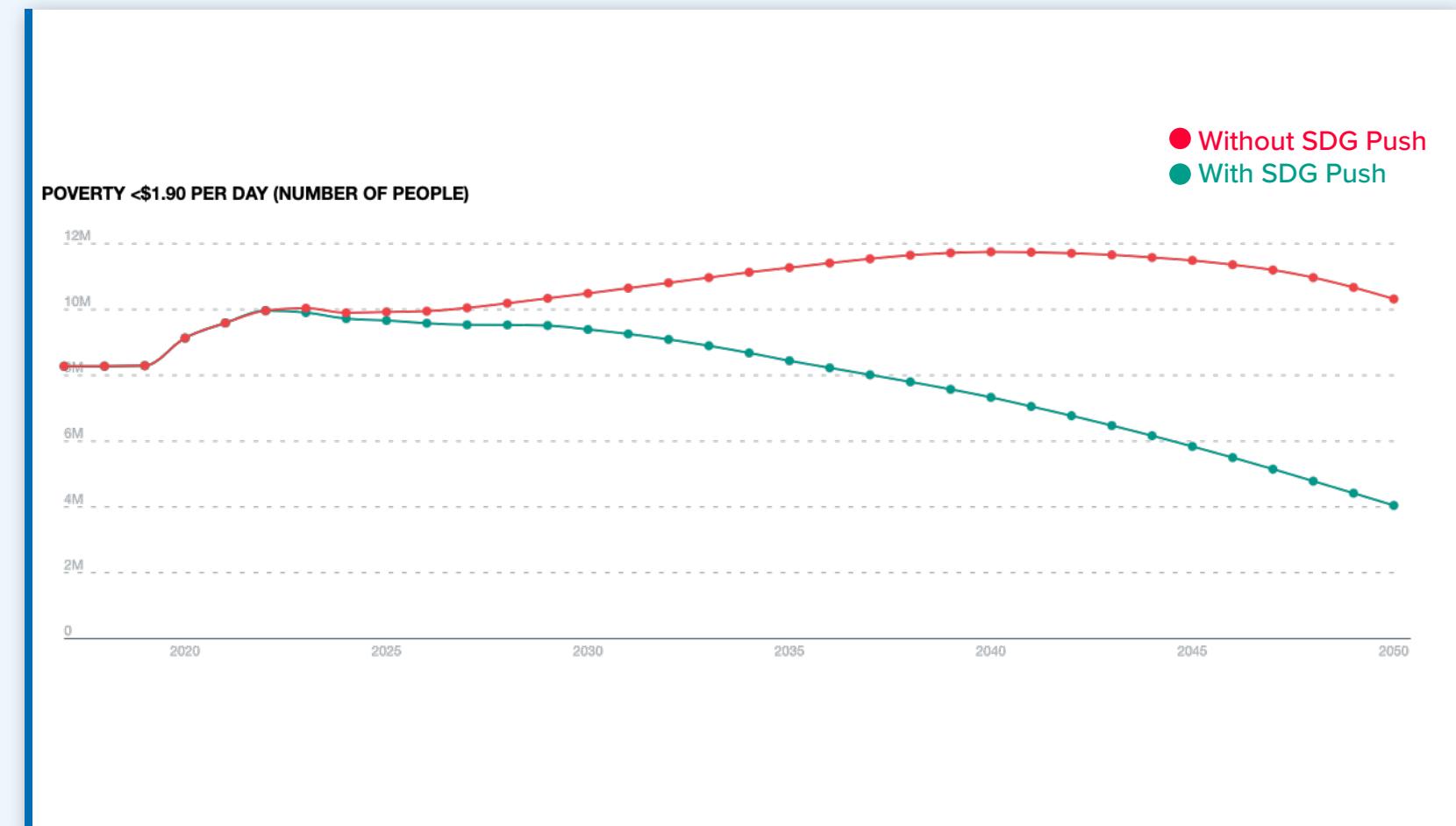
FUTURES SCENARIOS

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

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	10,000,000	10,000,000
With the SDG Push	9,400,000	4,000,000



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

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

FINANCE & STIMULUS

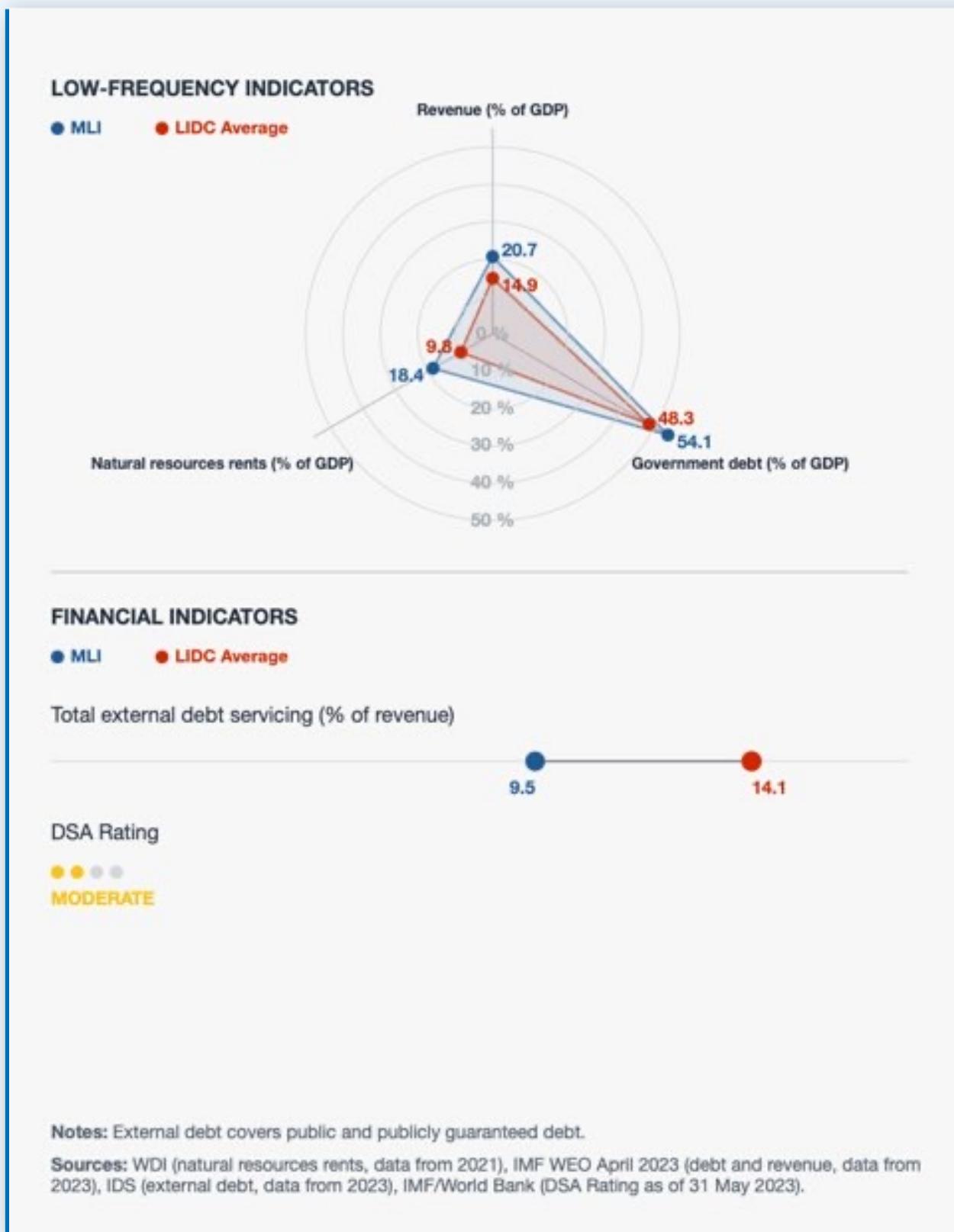
Many countries are facing reduced fiscal space, high debt levels, rising interest rates and downgrades on credit ratings. Fiscal and financial constraints tend to slow or even reverse SDG progress.

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

Mali's gross government debt is projected at 53.8% of GDP in 2023, which is 5.5 percentage points (pp) above the low-income developing countries' (LIDC) average of 48.3%, but below the established West African Economic and Monetary Union threshold of 70%. The country is projected to collect 19.9% of GDP in revenue this year, thus more than a third more than the LIDC average of 14.9%.

Mali's public external debt servicing this year is projected to reach 9.9% of revenue, which is a third below the LIDC average of 14.1%. Due to a worrisome upward trajectory and pace of debt accumulation, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA from March 2021 rated the country at 'moderate risk of debt distress'.

Grants have evolved downwards with a forecast of 0.7% of GDP in 2023 against 4.1% in 2020. This trend could worsen depending on the political situation and the interest of donors in maintaining their support to the transition process.



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

- Tax and revenue reform
- Debt for SDGs
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- 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).