



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS

HAITI

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: HAITI

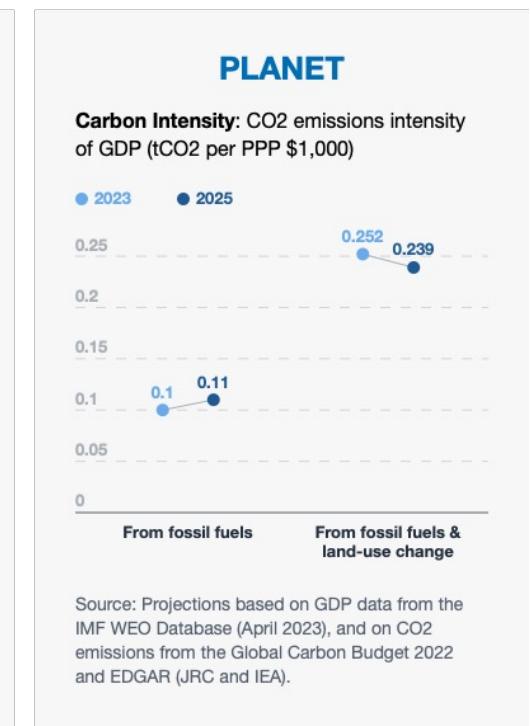
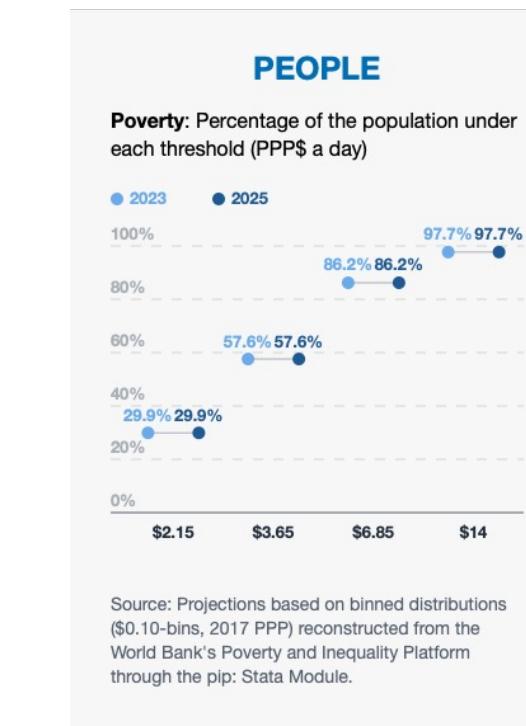
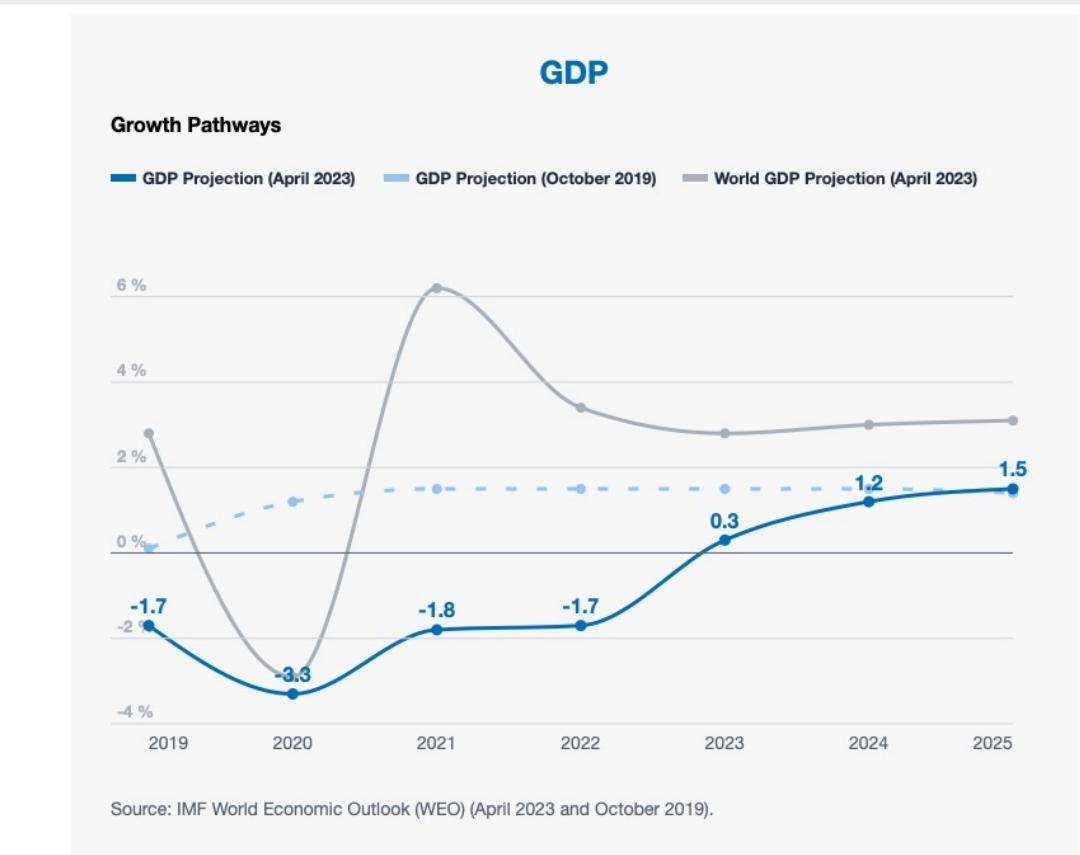
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Haiti's economy is in mitigation mode in 2023 and is projected to stay within this mode during 2024-2025¹. This pace of growth is characterized by being 67% lower on average than the global figure which comes from a few years of recession since 2019, having reached a 3.3% contraction of real GDP in the pandemic's onset in 2020. The forecast recovery of a 0.3% and 1.2% real GDP growth in 2023 and 2024 remain below that of the Caribbean region, set at 3.8% for both years. The considerable fiscal constraints and surge in insecurity levels seen in the past years have added to the recessionary context and have led to a severely restricted SDG policy space.

With the pressure set on mitigating the effects of the downturn – mainly on the poorest households – the situation brings to the fore the urgency to address key distributional challenges to accelerate poverty reduction from its high prevailing levels. Despite the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP being expected to increase at an annual rate of 5% due to an increase in fossil fuel usage following a rise in economic activity, the magnitude of this intensity is among the lowest in the world.²

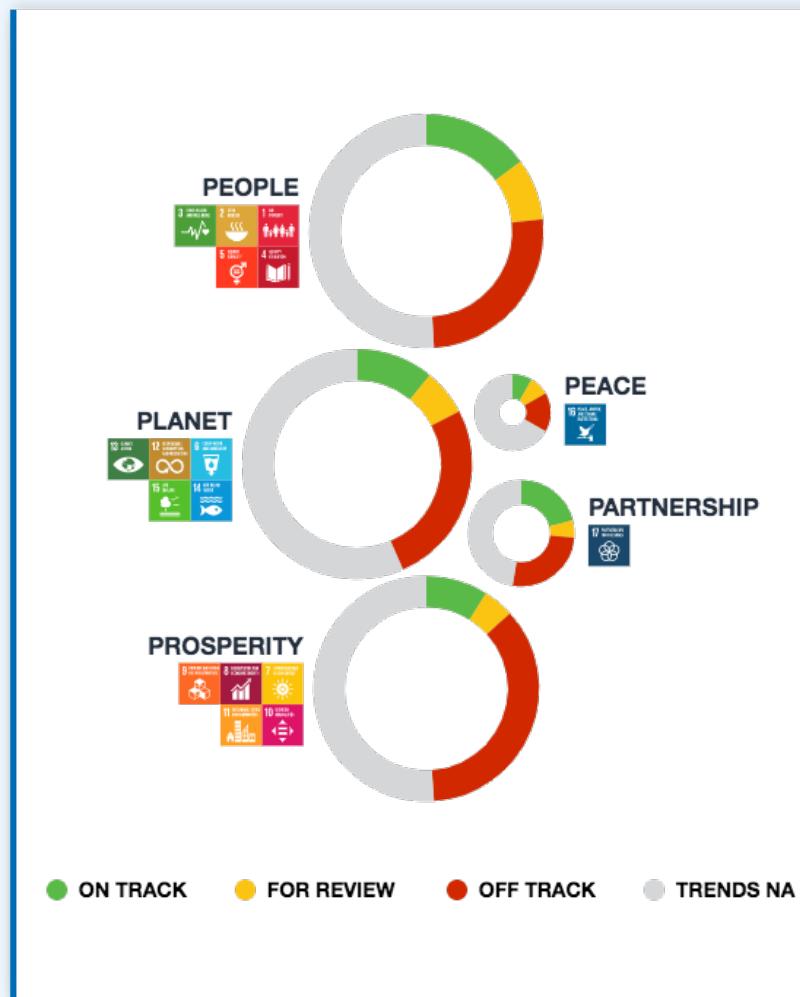
¹ The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is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

Haiti'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. The Strategic Development Plan for Haiti
2. Common Country Analysis, July 2022
3. Systematic Country Diagnosis for Haiti (World Bank Group, July 2022)
4. Country Programme Document of UNDP Haiti
5. UN Secretary-General Report, April 2023
6. The US Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability
7. Le Nexus entre instabilité et Insécurité alimentaire en Haïti
8. The Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti.
9. The National Policy for Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS)
10. National Disaster Risk Management Plan 2019-2030

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

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

- Target 1.3: Implement social protection systems
- Target 5.5: Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making
- 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
- Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



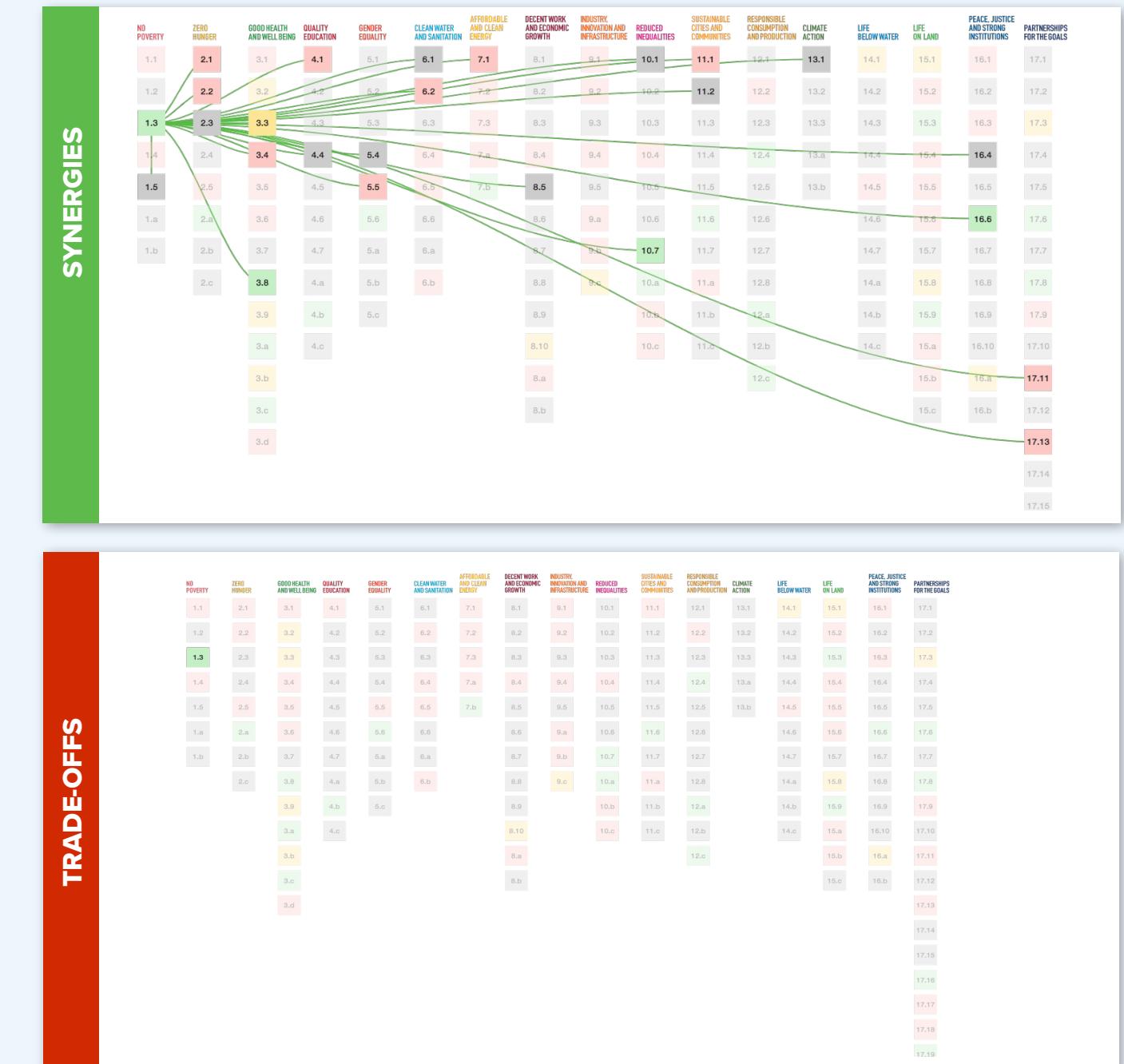
SDG INTERLINKAGES

1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

As a result of exposure to multiple risks, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country has increased from 2.6 million in 2019 to 4.9 million in 2022 (43% of the population), an increase of 11% over 2021. Efforts are required to promote inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder policy development and implementation, particularly concerning social protection and access to basic social services.

In 2020, only 5.8% of the population was covered by at least one social protection benefit, a modest 3.2% of the vulnerable population was receiving social assistance cash benefits and unemployed persons did not receive unemployment cash benefit. Investing in social protection systems enhances resilience to shocks (Target 1.5) facilitates access to essential services like water, health and education (SDGs 2, 3, 4) and contributes to reducing inequalities (Targets 10.1, 10.7). By considering a gender approach in the elaboration of these systems, greater gender equality can also be achieved (Target 5.4).

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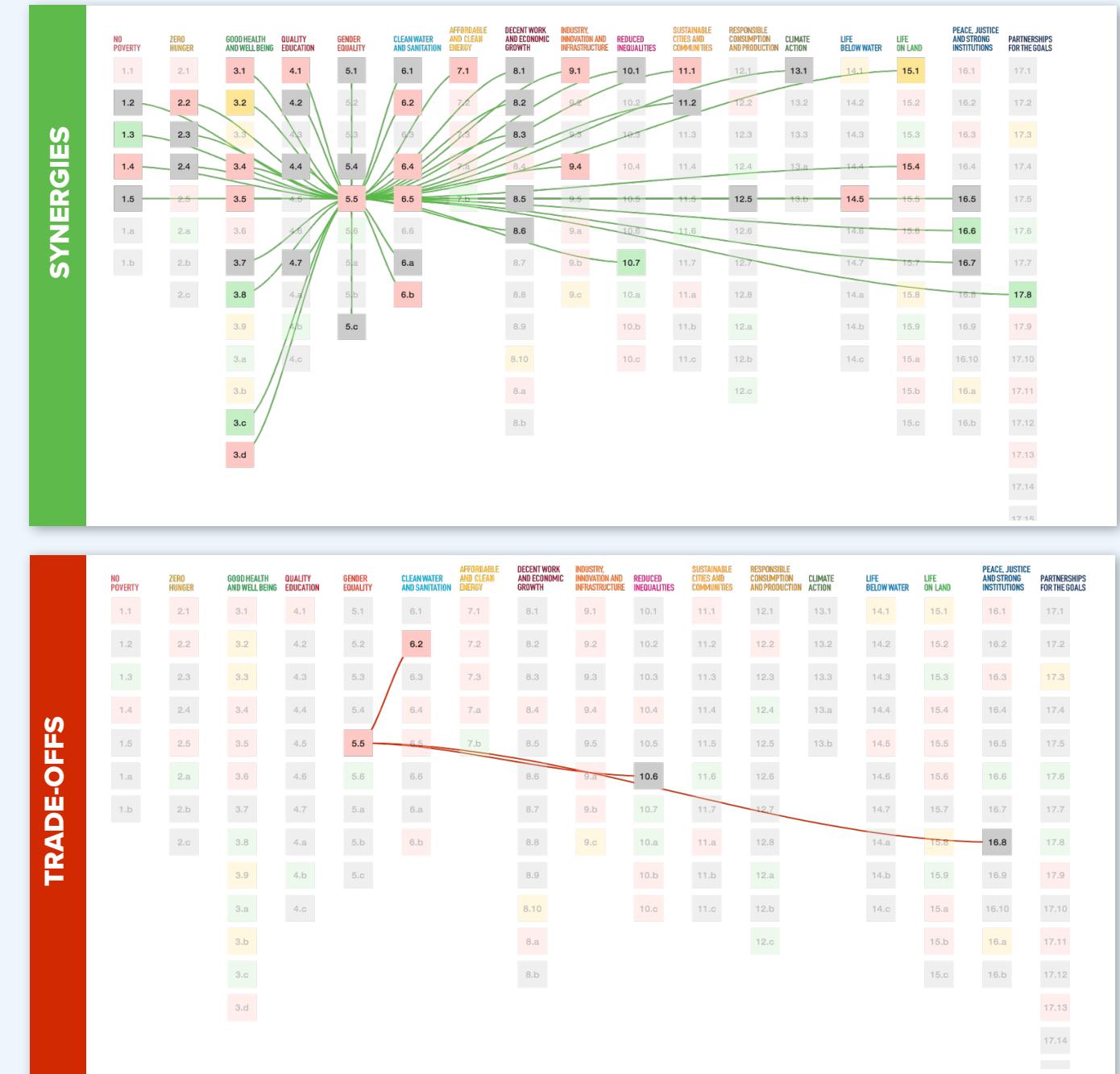
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Women's participation in decision-making remains very low. In 2020, the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament was 2.54%. Creating a strategy to promote the effective participation of women in the political, public and economic spheres could act as an enabler for a profound social and institutional transformation, contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence and the reduction of gender inequalities and discrimination (Targets 5.1, 5.4), while promoting the empowerment of women and girls (Target 5.c).

A strengthening of women's participation in economic and political life also reinforces productivity increases in the economy (Target 8.2) and decent job creation (Target 8.3). However, to achieve progress in this area, it is paramount to develop strong and transparent institutions that value meritocracy over clientelism, and to fight the current widespread impunity by combatting corruption.

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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

In 2022, the unemployment rate was 14.8% and out of an active population of 7 million only 44% are employed. Women and young people are more highly affected, with 73.3% and 70% being inactive respectively. An estimated 2.6 million people are in informal employment, lacking access to employment benefits.

However, Haiti has various economic channels that could bring about decent employment, in turn accelerating a transition to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In order to reduce inequalities and leave no one behind it will be necessary to invest in opportunities that address Target 8.5, which in turn can contribute to the materializing of a more resilient and inclusive economic model favourable to livelihood creation and the retention of young people and women (Target 8.6). Increasing employment and decent work also entails an increase in well-being through food security shelter, and also access to key services such as education (Targets 4.1, 4.4) and medical care (Targets 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3).

Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation would also promote sustainable consumption and production within the public and private sectors (Targets 2.5, 8.4), potentially lowering levels of domestic material consumption, which stood at 24 mn tonnes in 2019.



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

Population density in Haiti grew consistently in the last years, reaching 410 people per km² of land area in 2020 with 49% of the urban population living in slums. Slums are one of the most extreme forms of deprivation and contribute to the persistence of poverty and exclusion. Poor urban planning and lack of infrastructure and financing undermine the situation of the population, which faces vulnerable living situations in cities that are largely controlled or under the influence of often violent gangs.

Investing in affordable housing will have a direct impact on reducing multidimensional poverty (Targets 1.3 – 1.5), promoting healthy lives (Targets 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.9), as well as enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization (Target 11.3).

The lack of adequate and safe housing for most of the population increases their vulnerability to suffering from increasingly frequent, unpredictable and intense climate-related disasters. This is particularly devastating in the region of Haiti's location, prone to hurricanes, floods, droughts and earthquakes. These realities underline the imperative of investing in more efficient climate change management and adaptation systems (Target 1.5), while developing the ability to adapt and respond to natural hazards (Targets 1.5, 11.b).

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Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

Given Haiti's complicated context of political instability, recurring insecurity and economic uncertainty, strengthening governance through the attainment of SDG 16 serves as a quasi-precondition to achieving progress in all areas of development. As of January 2023, there are no longer any democratically elected national representatives, the democracy index has deteriorated for its fourth straight year, falling 16 places in 2022 compared to the previous year (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2023). Socio-political and institutional instability have exacerbated structural challenges to the rule of law, including accountability, access to justice and procedural transparency. Governmental initiatives aimed at rebuilding trust with the population and reestablishing the social contract have been insufficient at best.

Advancing on effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels will be necessary to rebuild trust in the State and in public institutions, as well as enabling the environment needed to pursue the path for sustainable development (Target 1.3), reduce levels of poverty (Target 1.2) and ensure access to safe, nutritious food (Target 2.1).

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SDG INTERLINKAGES

16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

With the immediate priority in Haiti being the reestablishment of security levels and strengthened governance, the restoration of trust not only between the population and the government, but also among the population, will need to be a key area of intervention. Efforts to increase social cohesion will prove crucial in achieving durable peace and stability. Haiti requires to effectively leave the current fragility cycle in which the country is caught. Only by ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes at all levels through the inclusion of civil society and other forms of communal organizations will Haiti be able to establish a secure and democratic society.

Greater participation of the population in socio-economic activities and political decision-making at the local, national and regional level is a major pathway in ensuring inclusive growth, as more diverse representation can lead to higher distributional policies and increased access to basic needs through public services to the most vulnerable segments of the population.

ON TRACK

FOR REVIEW

OFF TRACK

TRENDS NA



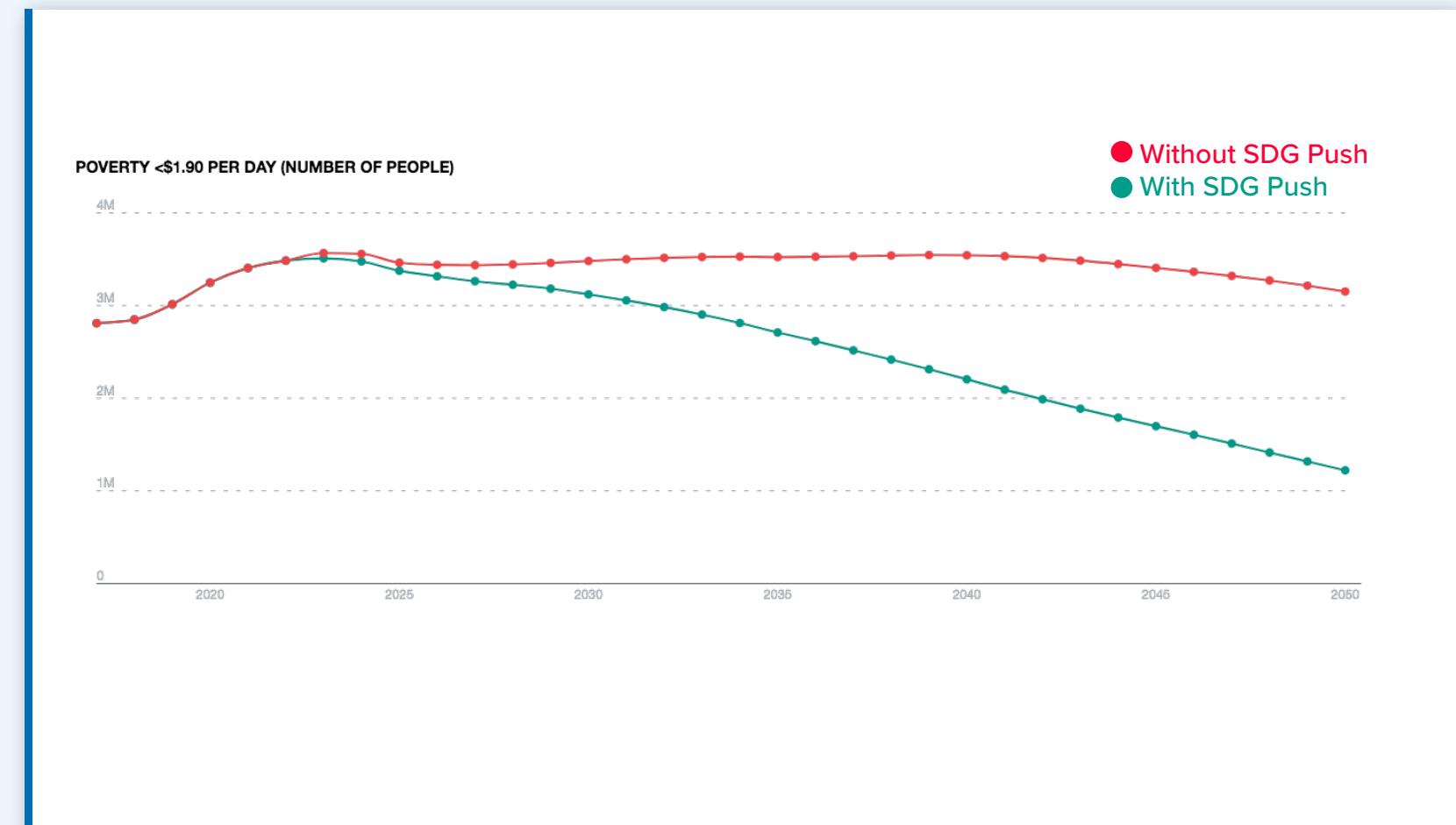
FUTURES SCENARIOS

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

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	3.5 mn	3.2 mn
With the SDG Push	3.1 mn	1.2 mn



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

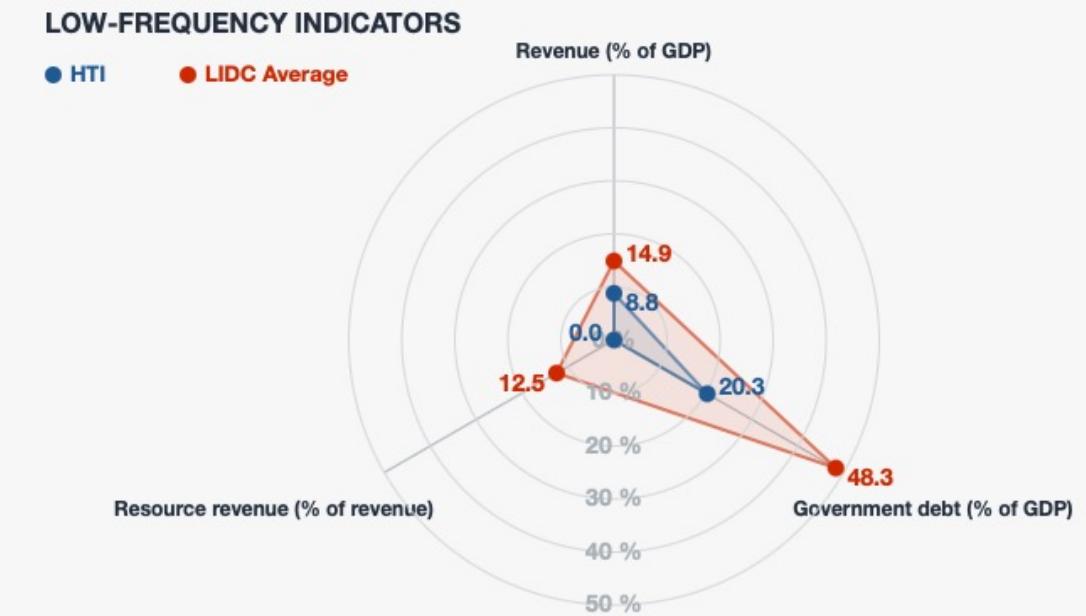
FINANCE & STIMULUS

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 and the natural resource share of total revenue. The financial indicator graphs show external debt servicing relative to revenue and the country's latest Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) risk rating.

Haiti's gross government debt is projected at 20.3% of GDP in 2023, which is only about two fifths of the low-income developing countries' (LIDC) average of 48.3%. The country is projected to collect 8.8% of GDP in revenue this year, which is 6.1 percentage points below the LIDC average of 14.9% and the lowest ratio in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Haiti's public external debt servicing this year is projected to reach 6.2% of revenue, which is less than half the LIDC average of 14.1%. Due to Haiti's vulnerability to natural disasters and to other institutional and economic fragilities, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA from February 2023 rates the country as 'in high risk of debt distress'.



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 2019), 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 Haiti, the possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Tax and revenue reform
- Debt for SDGs
- Climate finance
- Official development assistance
- Remittances, philanthropy and faith-based financing
- Blended and public-private finance

**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).