



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS BURUNDI

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: BURUNDI

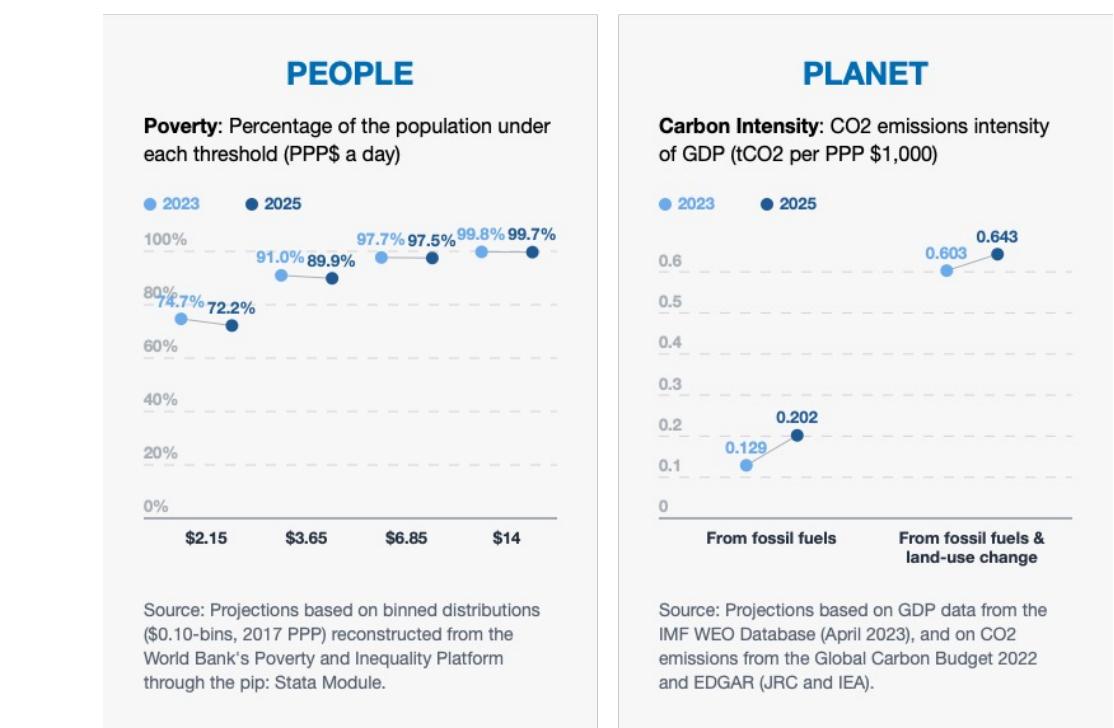
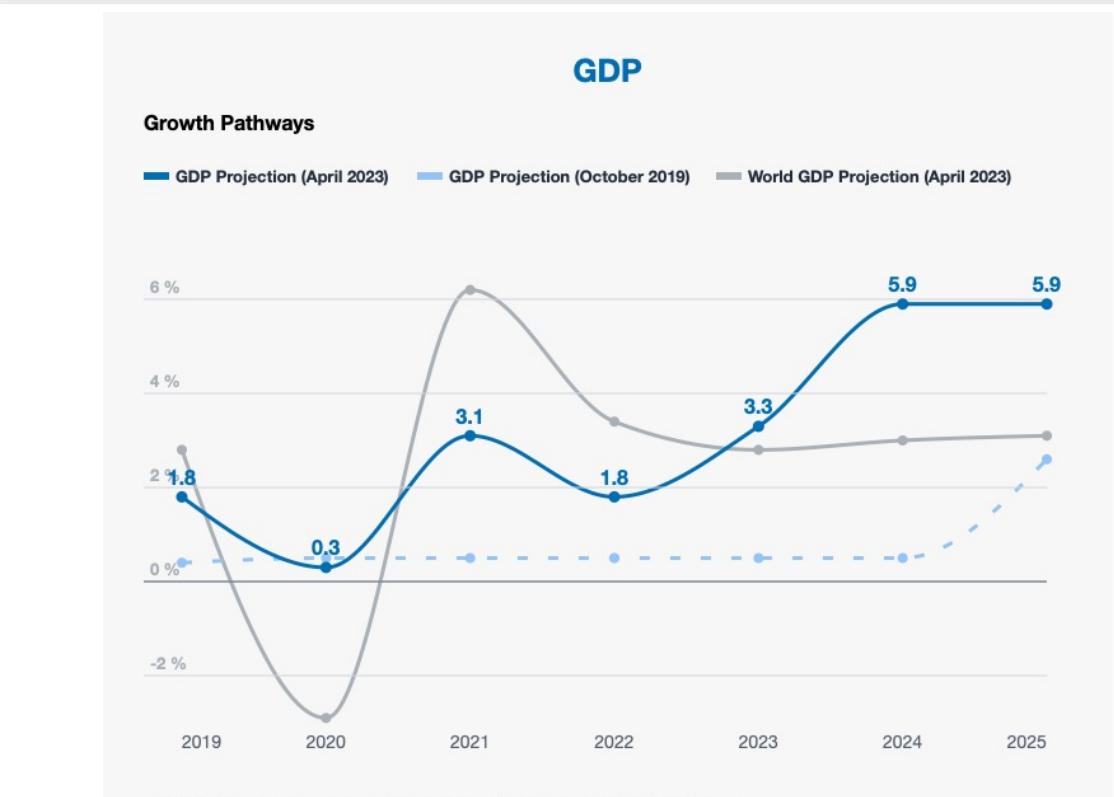
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Burundi's pace of economic growth during the cycle 2023-2025 is in acceleration, characterized by being 70% higher, on average, than the global rate of growth, and well above the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic.¹ Accordingly, Burundi's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on promoting the development of rural communities and the structural transformation of its economy.

Despite the generally positive impact of this pace of growth on extreme poverty reduction (at \$2.15 a day), there are still significant challenges to accelerate the pace of progress from the high prevailing levels. Moreover, the accelerated economic expansion comes at the expense of the environment as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 28% due to fossil fuel usage —and of 3.3% 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 Burundi 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

Burundi'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. Burundi's National Development Plan 2018-2027
2. Burundi Vision Emerging Country 2040, Developed Country 2060

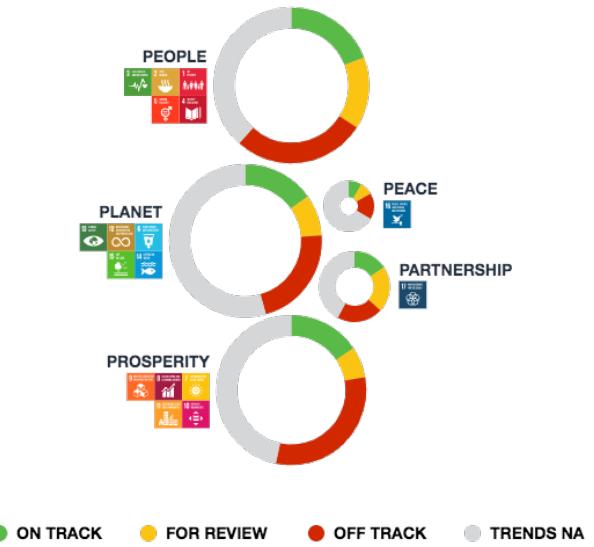
SDG INTERLINKAGES

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

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

- Target 8.5: Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- Target 11.2: Affordable and sustainable transport systems



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



SDG INTERLINKAGES

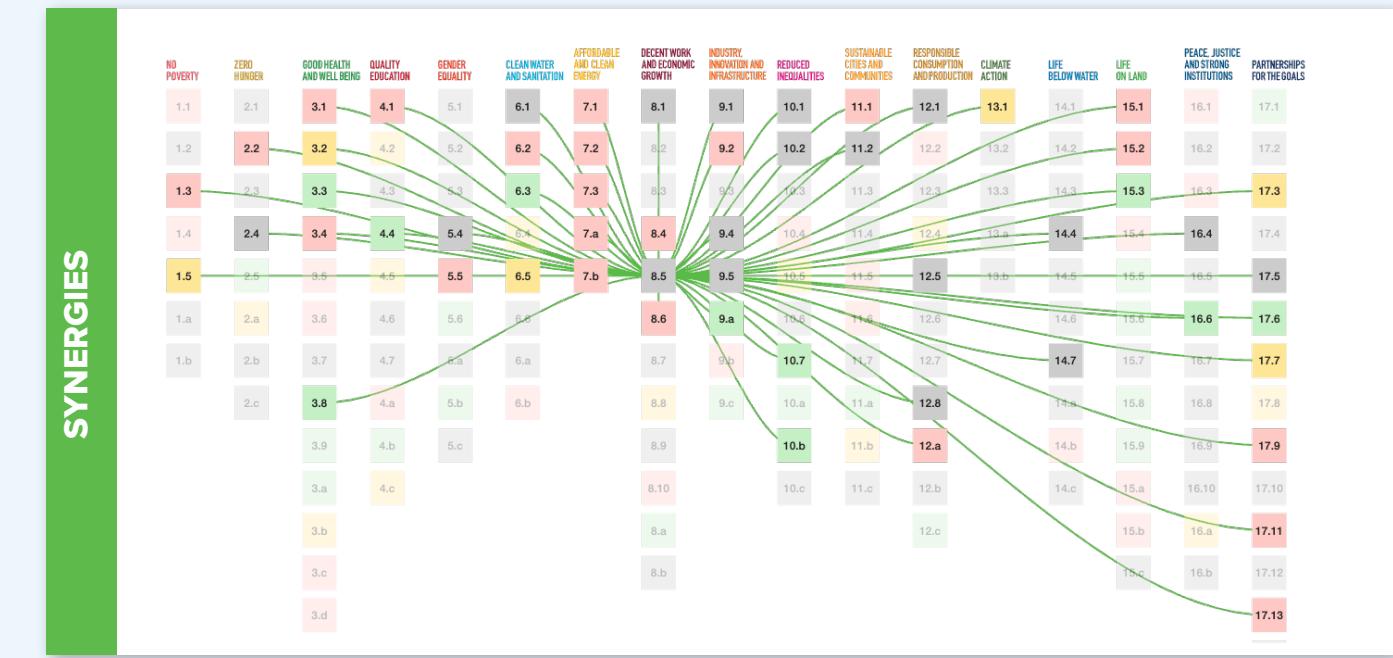
8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Burundi's ambition to have "every adult has access to a decent job", by 2040, is constrained by the current decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per person employed – and challenges pathways to create growth in decent jobs. In addition, the proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income has risen, reflecting an increase in income inequality (target 10.2).

However, there are opportunities for jobs in expansion of renewable energy consumption (target 7.2) towards a green transition, and in combination with technology access towards a digital transition (target 17.7). These are opportunities to drive job creation when combined with skills transfer and upskilling (target 8.2).

Currently, agriculture provides 84% of the jobs, which are characterized by wages. Burundi has also established local employment observatories, and this will signal where jobs are being created.

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



SDG INTERLINKAGES

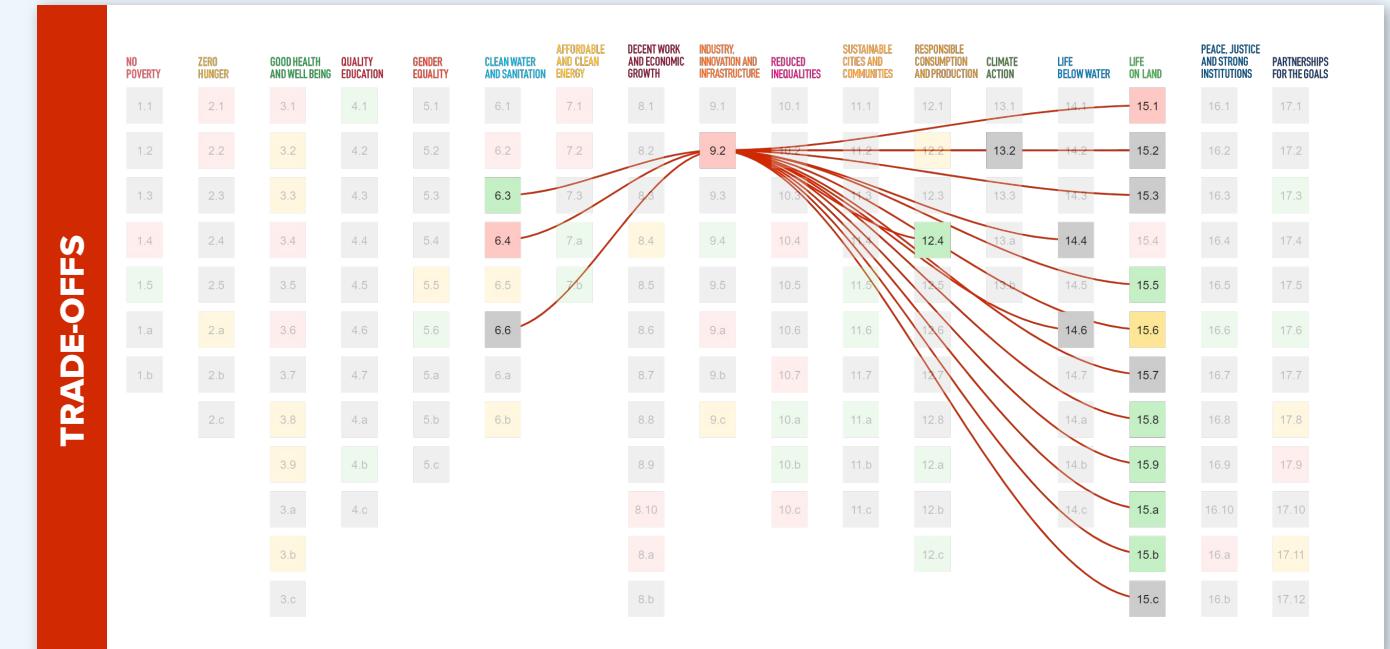
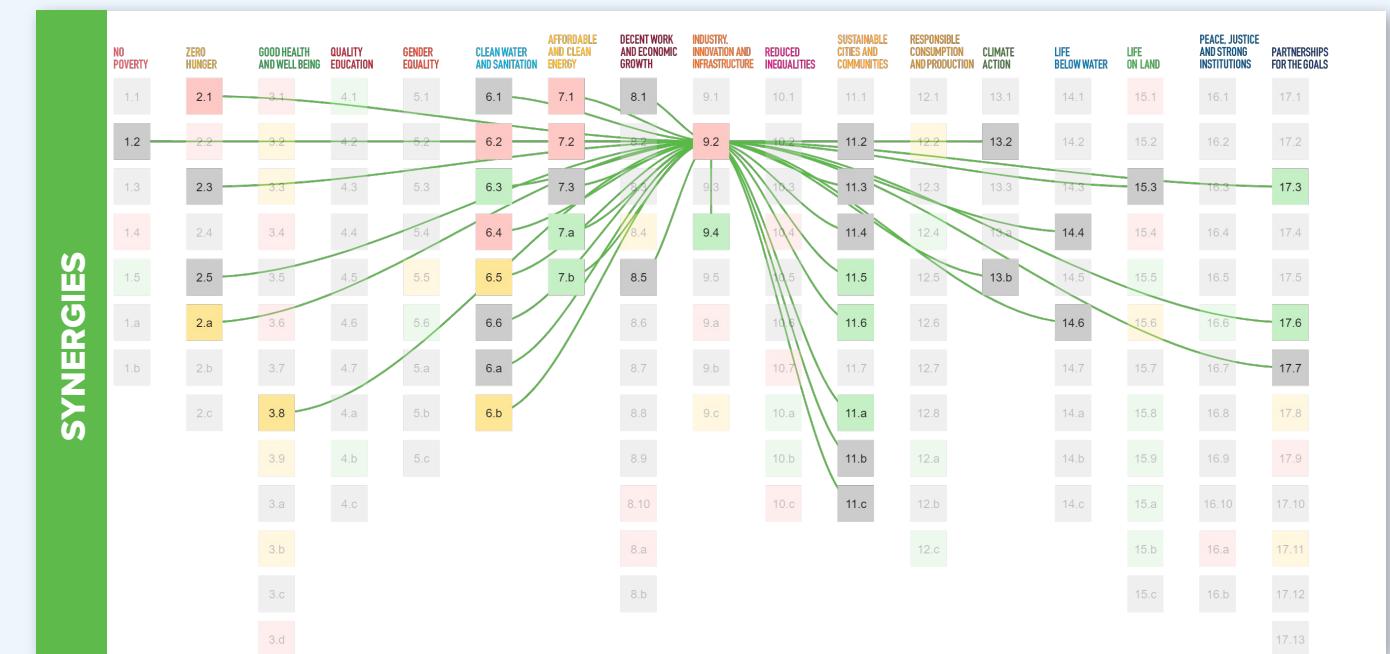
9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

Despite the goal of developing the industrial sector and its competitiveness, the share of manufacturing as a share of Gross Domestic Product has continued to decline, estimated at 9% according to the World Bank. Burundi's ambition to elevate this share to 25% of GDP in 2040 requires significant acceleration.

Leveraging its strong foundations in agriculture, advancing integrated policy choices that emphasize rural infrastructure and foster value addition (target 9.4), together with energy access (target 7.1) and increased access to connectivity (target 17.7), can accelerate progress in this critical element of Burundi's industrialization agenda.

The East African Community market provides further opportunity to define and shape value addition efforts for Burundi.

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



Explore the interlinkages at:

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

SDG INTERLINKAGES

11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

One of the major constraints noted for the structural transformation of Burundi's economy is the lack of transport infrastructure. Road transport remains the dominant mode of inland transport of goods and people. Burundi has ferry services on Lake Tanganyika, connecting to Tanzania.

Connection to other countries in the East Africa Community is relatively developed. Inland road transport comprises about 14,480 kilometres of which only about 7% all whether. This makes transport for people and goods difficult, which then undercuts the ambition of value addition.

Given the fiscal constraints, the key to improving road transport is to improve its governance, and mobilize citizen participation. Mobilizing financing for roads, either through climate funds or other infrastructure vehicles needs to be explored.

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



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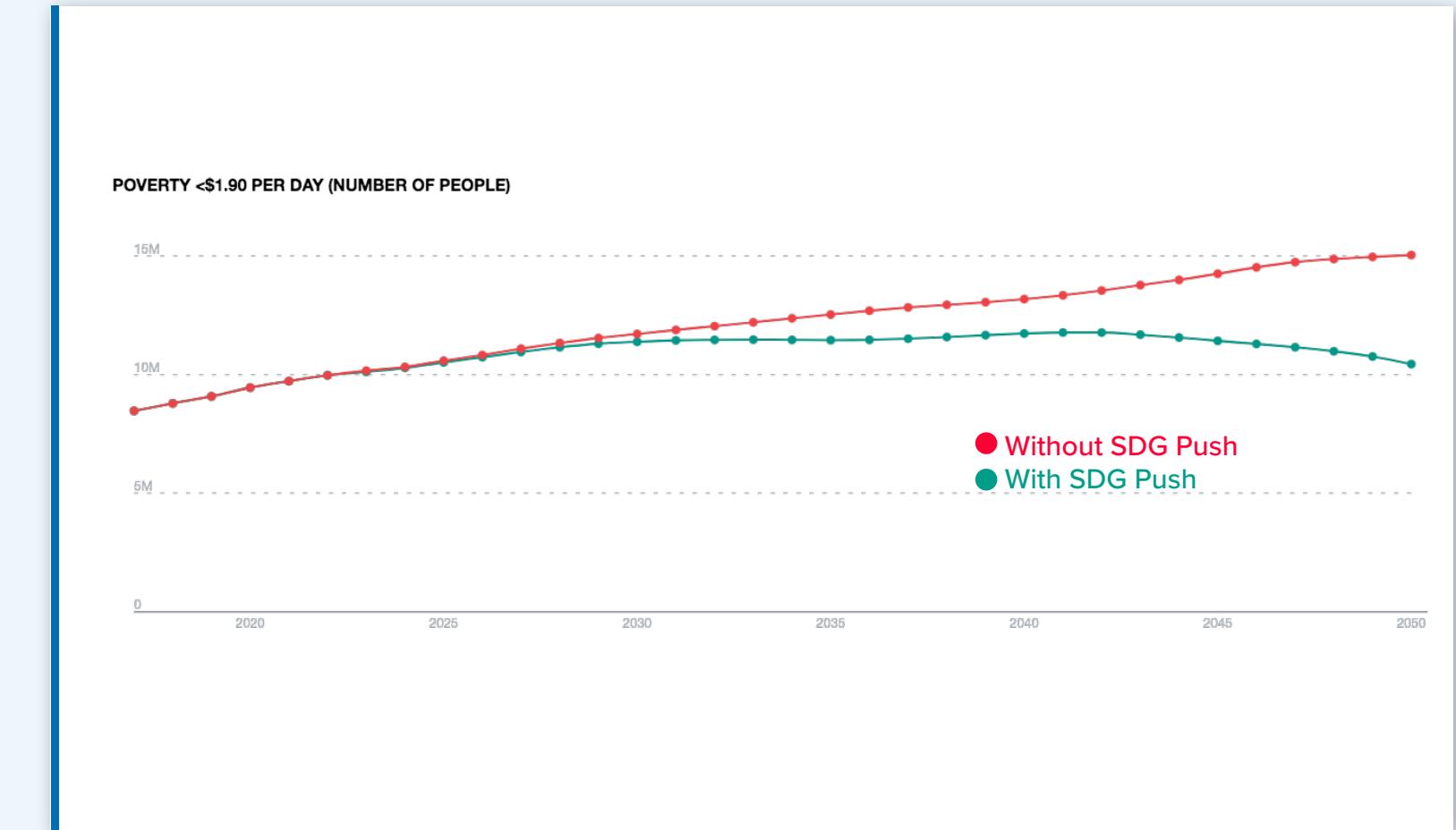
FUTURES SCENARIOS

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

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	12 mn	15 mn
With the SDG Push	11 mn	10 mn



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

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

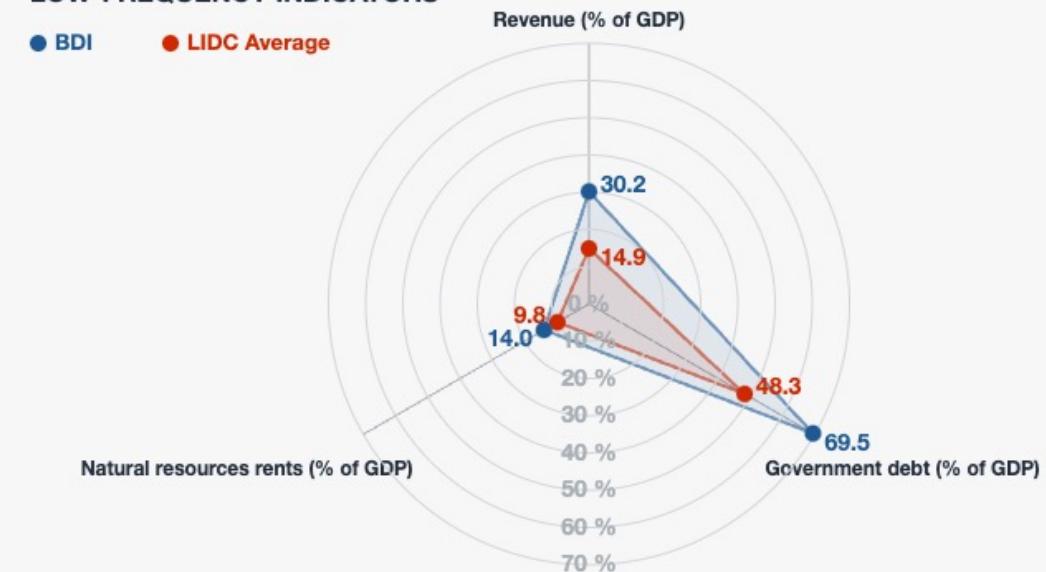
Burundi's gross government debt, projected at 69.5% of GDP in 2023, is 21.1 percentage points (pp) above the low-income developing countries (LIDC) group average of 48.3%. The country is projected to collect 30.2% of GDP in revenue this year, which is more than double the LIDC group ratio of 14.9%.

Burundi's public external debt servicing this year is projected to be 6.3% of revenue, which is less than half the LIDC average of 14.1%. Due to Burundi's susceptibility to shocks to its exports and exchange rates, the latest World Bank and IMF DSA from July 2022 rates the country as at 'high risk of debt distress'.

Burundi is using an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to address key fiscal and financial constraints and to build a more sustainable financial architecture at the national level. Priority actions include setting up a green tax framework (green taxes and tax expenditure for green investments); identifying opportunities for debt-for-nature swap frameworks; enhancing guarantee funds for loans to the agricultural sector and micro-projects; and promoting the development of microfinance institutions.

LOW-FREQUENCY INDICATORS

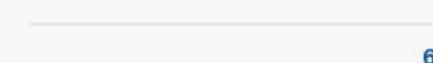
● BDI ● LIDC Average



FINANCIAL INDICATORS

● BDI ● LIDC Average

Total external debt servicing (% of revenue)



DSA Rating



Notes: External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt.

Sources: WDI (natural resources rents, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, data from 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 Burundi, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- 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).