

Global Leadership for Sustainable Development (GLSD) Programme

An Inner Development Goals (IDG) Initiative Funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation

2023 Programme Evaluation Summary

An innovative new leadership programme integrating inner development into sustainable development work shows high levels of impact and satisfaction among leaders from government, private sector and academia alike.

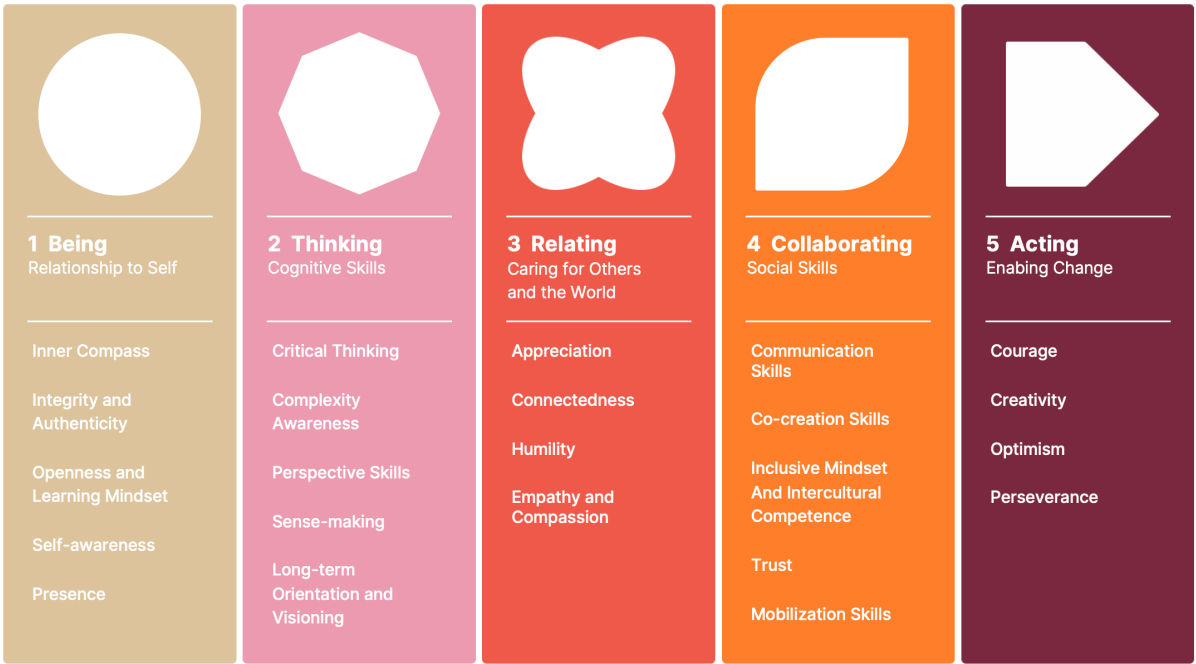
The context

Eight years since the UN's agenda 2030, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been poor. A crucial dimension is missing from current policy approaches: we urgently need to better understand the human inner skills and qualities necessary to work effectively together to meet our complex challenges.

Co-designed by thousands of experts, practitioners and scientists in response to this insight, the Inner Development Goals (IDGs) are a set of inner skills and qualities that can help accelerate work towards sustainable development. **Global Leadership for Sustainable Development (GLSD) is the first capacity-building programme based on the IDG framework** (see below).

The programme supports leaders to develop inner skills and qualities and integrate the IDGs into their processes, policies, strategies and operations, to accelerate their action towards SDGs – and to build vital networks for sustainable transformation.

The IDG framework



The programme

The pilot capacity-building program in 2023 included high-level decision-makers from government, private sector and academia, involved in implementing the SDGs in Albania, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Rwanda, and Zambia. A mixed-methods analysis was used to evaluate the GLSD programme and its effects on participants in the context of their sustainability work.

(For the full report, please visit innerdevelopmentgoals.org/resources).

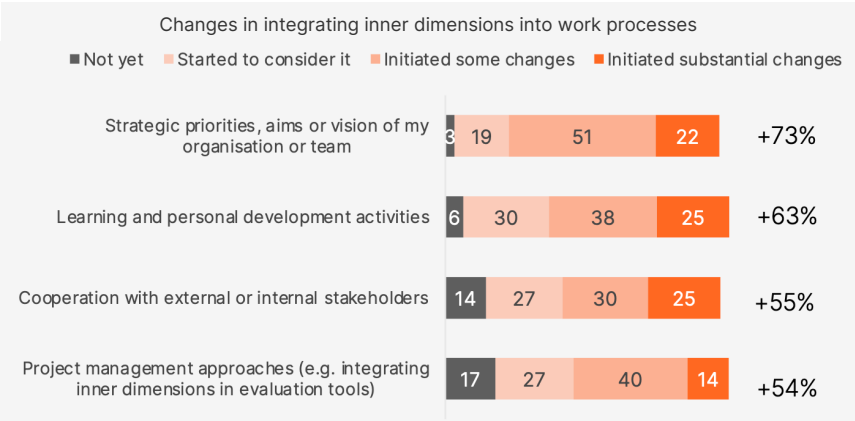
The results

Key result 1: Integrating inner and outer change for sustainability

The IDG Framework proved highly relevant in supporting human flourishing and sustainability work across individual, collective and system levels.

Participants demonstrated significant increase in action-taking for sustainability. Following the programme, **95% of participants reported actively engaging in more Sustainable Development Goals and related actions**. The Partnerships goal, relevant to all other SDGs, received a significant boost from participation in the programme (+22%). The same applied to Good Health and Wellbeing and Building Sustainable Cities and Communities (all +22%).

Encouragingly, **results also showed a large increase in integration of inner dimensions in sustainability-related work processes post training**.

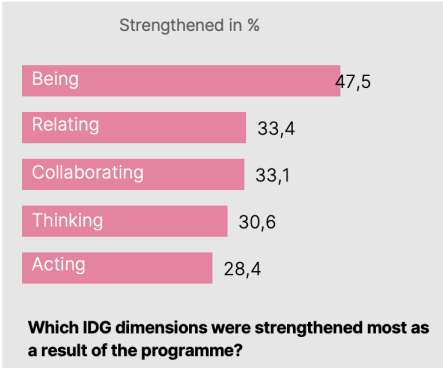


By the end of the programme, on average 63% of participants had initiated some or substantial changes in e.g. their organization’s strategic priorities, learning and development activities, and stakeholder and project management approaches.

Key result 2: Strengthening inner skills and qualities

All learning activities were found to be impactful and all of the 23 skills and qualities such as self-awareness, connectedness and inner compass were reported as strengthened by some participants (9 each on average).

Participants also strengthened feelings of hope and collective agency, crucial to sustaining action. Importantly, changes in IDGs were highly interrelated: improvements in certain qualities were consistently accompanied by improvements in others.



Data insights: increased trust lowers anxiety, unlocking action.

Anxiety around humanity's capacity to cope with climate and other crises is on the rise, and a significant proportion of participants linked this worry to underperformance. However, the analysis showed that increased trust in humanity post-training lessens the undermining effect of eco-anxiety, while in turn, lowered anxiety was related to taking increased action at work.

Key result 3: Programme quality and satisfaction

Participants reported very high levels of satisfaction with the programme and its delivery on key objectives. 97% said they would recommend the programme.

“ This programme should be for every human on the planet ”
- GLSD participant

97%
Recommend the
Programme

Data insights: a foundational mindset of connection for sustainability

The roots of today's sustainability crises lie in a culturally entrenched mindset of separation from others and from nature – even from ourselves. Cultivating a sense of reconnection is thus a vital foundation for sustainability work. Qualitative Data indicated that the GLSD programme influenced participants' relationship to self, others and nature in ways that underpin greater connectedness and action-taking for sustainability.

Learnings from the pilot programme will inform improvements for future cohorts:

Professor Christine Wamsler of Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)

commented: *“I see an opportunity to create a clearer “red thread” throughout the learning journey by weaving modules and methods even more closely together, to support a better understanding of the interrelationship between IDGs and sustainable development. More can likewise be done to mainstream and institutionalise inner dimensions to challenge unsustainable norms, cultures and systems”.*

Jeroen Janss, Co-Director of the Inner Green Deal and programme facilitator added: *“We will help participants integrate learnings into their working context, supporting continuous inner development and institutionalisation of measures through, for example, communities of practice”.*

Åsa Jarskog, Director Global Collaboration of the IDGs and programme facilitator concluded: *“We're thrilled with the encouraging results of this pilot, which clearly show the importance of inner development for accelerating action on the SDGs, and the enormous potential of the GLSD programme for integrating inner and outer change for sustainability across the world”.*

A next GLSD programme

This exciting work is only just beginning. **Currently The IDGs initiative is recruiting leaders to participate in GLSD 2.0 in 2024**, and we warmly invite decision-makers involved work towards Sustainable Development Goals to apply for a fully funded place. Up to 4 places are available for organisations in central or local government, academia, private sector and civil society, across Albania, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Rwanda, the Netherlands, the UK, and Tunisia.

This study was conducted by Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), the Contemplative Sustainable Futures Programme, and the Inner Green Deal. Learn more at innerdevelopmentgoals.org.