Iteration 4 - BDAS

Steven Schmidt (ssch162)  
INFOSYS722

University of AucklandAuckland, NZ

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# Business Understanding:

## Business Situation.

The United Nations (UN) was established in 1945 and is made up of 192 member countries whose purpose is defined by a guiding charter. (Nations, UN Charter, 1945)

Driven by its charter, the UN has an active program titled “Sustainable Development Goals” which they feel will address various global issues facing mankind today. The program has 17 goals aimed at addressing global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. (Nations, Home, 2024)

A full list of goals can be viewed at https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

One of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is the “Goal 2, Zero Hunger” program. It aims to solve world hunger by 2030 by addressing areas that affect hunger such as poverty, inequality, climate change, conflict, and building resources to grow food within the affected countries.

A close-up of a chart

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In 2022, 821 million people (9.2%) faced severe starvation around the world.

In 2017, 2 billion people faced unreliable food supply and nutrition issues regularly. This grew to 2.4 billion in 2022. (Nations, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, n.d.) Figure 1 graphically details this. (Nations, Goals, 2024)

The UN has declared that they plan to solve this problem and achieve this goal by 2030.

The primary question I have is “Is the date 2030 achievable for Goal 2?”.

This paper attempts to answer this question using Data Mining techniques to analyze information the UN uses to track progress.

## The Problem.

For this project, the first problem we will face is identifying a suitable and reliable data source that can be analyzed to answer the question raised in 1.1.

The program has been running since 2000, over 24 years. As such, there will already be various means of tracking progress in place. Reporting is something that the UN pays a lot of attention to. Finding the right information will be the main issue.

Then identifying and building a model that will allow me to create future projections will be the next challenge. If the data is in a suitable format, it will make identifying and building easier.

## Data Mining Objective.

This paper asks one primary question and depending on the answer, two supplementary questions.

1. **Is the stated date, 2030, achievable for Goal 2 based on historical data?**

If **2030** is **not** achievable –

1. **Why isn’t 2030 achievable?**
2. **What is the earliest date the goal could be completed?**

Questions 2 & 3 will only need to be answered if **2030** is not achievable.

I feel all the questions can be answered as the UN is already tracking the progress of the goal so historical data will be available in some format. The challenge will be identifying the right data to analyze. Using prediction modeling and historical data, we can with some certainty, predict whether the UN will reach its goal by 2030.

The main objectives will be:

* Identify a **reliable source** of data.
* Look for **patterns** during the **mining** process that will allow us to gain **insight** into the progress of **Zero Hunger**.
* Using **Regression**, identify if 2030 is an achievable date based on the sourced data.
* If 2030 is not achievable,
  + Report on why 2030 was not achievable.
  + Using the same data, identify the new completion date.

## Assessment.



## Resource Inventory.

* Spyder IDE
* Historical information on hunger in a suitable data format
* Computing resource to develop the python scripts on and run them to get results



## Requirements, Assumptions, and Constraints.

* **Requirement**: Computer with enough processing resources
* **Requirement**: A clean data source
* **Constraint**: My knowledge of data analysis and interpretation.
  + This is my first real delve into data analysis.
  + Some terms are completely foreign.
  + Some mathematical terms in the modeling are foreign.
  + Data interpretation knowledge is limited.
  + The learning curve is steep.



## Risk Analysis.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Risk | Mitigation |
| historical data sets not found | Identify suitable sources and create the required data sets. If required, prepare a suitable data source based on other associated reliable data sources. |
| The data set is not complete | If the dataset has most of the required information but is not complete. Extrapolate and pad out the information but ensure it falls between the valid information markers. |
| Failure of computing hardware during development | Create a model on a virtual computer that is replicated at other locations |
| Unable to interpret information | Access external references and information sites that have the models I am using to gain more insight into the algorithms and outcomes. |

Table 2



## Cost/Benefit Analysis.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cost | Benefit |
| Estimated $267bn annually | Increased productivity, improved health outcomes, reduced poverty and enhanced overall well-being for individuals and communities within the benefiting countries |
| Supporting counties contributing to funding and developing hunger elimination programs | Future generations of developing countries produce citizens that can contribute on a local and world basis. |

Table 3

In March 2023, Greyhound International stated:

“Ending world hunger would require significant financial resources. According to estimates from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an annual investment of around $267 billion is needed to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030”. (Bezawit Beyene Chichaibelu, 2024)

A cost-benefit analysis of hunger is a very hard thing to perform from a humanitarian point of view. Although careful financial management should be taken, hunger should be eradicated no matter what the cost is. No one should go hungry, and mankind’s existence depends on it.

## Plan.

If we can find a source that has historical measurement data on hunger levels per country known as the **Global Hunger Index** value, (**GHI**) we can attempt to identify if the UN target of **2030** is achievable by calculating the **Mean** value of the Global Hunger Index value on a time basis and chart this value using a predictive model. The model can provide the data to plot out a timeline for both current and predicted trend lines to identify when Zero Hunger will possibly be achieved.



## Process.



Figure 1



## Task List and Gantt chart.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Phase ID** | **Task Description** |
| **1** | **Identify suitable Data source** |
|  | **Internet search** |
|  | **Review identified sources** |
|  | **Decide on the source and retrieve** |
| **2** | **Data Understanding** |
|  | **Load select data** |
|  | **Review data** |
|  | **Identify target data** |
|  | **Transform data** |
|  | **Produce a new data set** |
| **3** | **Model Build** |
| **4** | **Interpret results & Findings** |
|  |  |

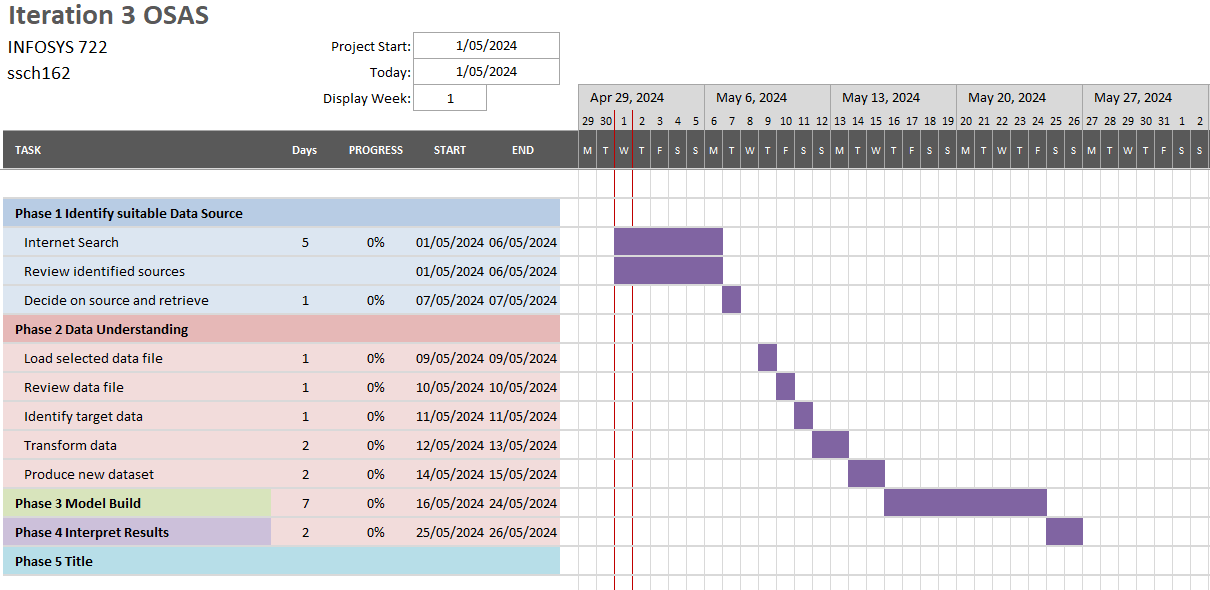


Figure 2

# **Data understanding**

## Initial data collection.

A data source has been identified. The website Kaggle has 4 downloadable CSV files that contain historical information about child hunger and a Global Hunger Index rating known as GHI. (Chauhan, 2022)

The historical information has been collected since the year 2000 and is a rating for countries that have hunger problems, and that the UN is trying to help. The rating provides a method for the UN to monitor if their programs are making a difference. The information is gathered from programs that have been implemented for child hunger. We will utilize the GHI value as a basis for analyzing and projecting in this paper.

Original data files used in this project are available for download here:

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/whenamancodes/the-global-hunger-index>

## Describe the data

**Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is a calculation based on a series of other studies into various health conditions related to child hunger around the world. (WHO, 2024)

Ultimately 4 areas of child health are looked at in more detail:

* **Undernourishment**: the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake);
* **Child wasting**: the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from wasting (low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);
* **Child stunting**: the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from stunting (low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and
* **Child mortality**: the mortality rate of children under the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

From this, a rating for each is derived. Each derived **rating** is added together to produce the **GHI** for a country. The **GHI** is a single value that, at best, helps to monitor world hunger. (Index, 2024)

I have identified a suitable dataset which contains 471 observations with the following attributes:

* Country (Entity)
* Country Code (Code)
* Date (Year)
* GHI (Global Hunger Index)
* 411773-annotations

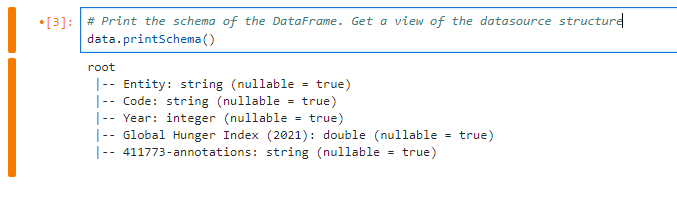


Figure 3

## Explore the data

The **Global Hunger Index** is an attribute that is of interest to us. This calculation is mentioned in section 2.2 above and rates each country that appears in the original data.

Each **Observation** is based on the **Country, Year,** and an associated **GHI** value.

i.e. Afghanistan has 4 observations, one for each year information was collected.

**GHI** values are ratings between 0 - 100 and are as follows:

* Extremely alarming: 50 or higher
* Alarming: 35 to 50
* Serious: 20 to 35
* Moderate: 10 to 20
* Low: below 10

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated Figure 4

The downloaded data does not have an even historical flow, but we can use it as a starting point as it has a start date and an end date with entries in between.

i.e. There is a gap of **6 years** between the first **3 entries 2000, 2006 & 2012**, and a **9-year gap** between the last 2, **2012 & 2021**.

There is a reason that was identified, while processing and exploring the data, for the uneven timeline. It helps support the conclusion, which we will discuss later in the paper.

The initial identified data has no target data and as such, is classified as “**Unlabeled**”. During **Data Transformation**, we will build a target variable by summarizing observations grouped by **Year** and call this the **Mean GHI**. The **Mean GHI** value will be a **Mean** calculation of all the **GHI** values for each year. From these calculations, we will have a **Year** variable **(X)** and a **Mean** value **(Y)** for each year.

In the previous iteration, due to the way SPSS handled dates, I added a day & month (01-01) to the source attribute **Year** to fulfill the requirements of the date routines within SPSS. This was not required with OSAS as the data functions handle this without a problem.

## Verify the Data.

The calculation of the GHI for each country looks at 3 main components from subprograms within Zero Hunger.

1. Undernourishment
2. Child Stunting
3. Child Wasting

The source data for these 3 components that were used to calculate the GHI is also available at Kaggle (Chauhan, 2022) and available for download from the same page listed in [section 2.1](#_Initial_data_collection). Author Aman Chauhan details how the supporting data sets were used in the calculations.

At this stage, this data is superfluous to needs but will be kept for possible validation purposes if required later.

Once we have transformed the data, we will have the information ready to perform predictive modeling against.

We can validate the **Mean GHI** by using the detail generated by the “**.describe()**” function.

Taking the **Mean GHI** values and calculating a **Mean** value from these should be close to the **Mean** value we see in the “**.describe()**” function call.

A screenshot of a data

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Figure 5

This will give us an indication if the calculations are close.

# **Data Preparation**

## Selecting the Data.

After I spent some time reviewing it in its raw format, I identified the following attributes that can be ignored and have been removed from the input stream.

Fields

* Code is not required as it is a shorthand representation of the Country.
* 411773-annotations are not required as this is effectively a “notes” field.

A screenshot of a computer code

Description automatically generated

## Clean the Data

The Attribute **Year** and **Global Hunger Index** are the main required attributes for my prediction models.

The attribute **Entity** may be useful later if we look to explore the information deeper, perhaps looking at and predicting individual countries but for now, this is outside the scope of the work.

## Construct the Data.

Now that we have the raw data, we can start to calculate the mean GHI value for each year.

With SPSS a complete logic flow was created to generate the Mean values for each year.

With OSAS and the ability to “stack” function calls, we can complete the calculation within one statement.

Y=df[["Year","Global Hunger Index (2021)"]].groupby("Year").mean().round(4)

df\_raw = data.groupBy("Year").mean("Global Hunger Index (2021)")

The above statement isolates the variable “Year” which is the timescale and the variable “Global Hunger Index (2021)” which is the mean calculation that will take place.

* Year & Global Hunger Index (2021) are identified as the timescale and target
* This is fed into “.groupby(“Year”)” function which sorts the information into year order
* This is then fed into the mean function which calculates the Mean GHI value for each year.
* The output from this calculation can be seen in Figure 6 below.
* This provides us with the feature and target data that we need.

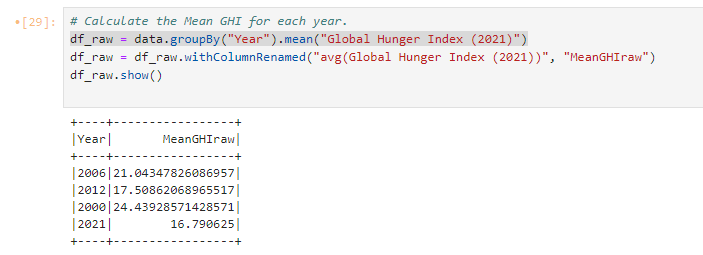


Figure 6



## Integrate various Data Sources.

Within the stacked function, the “.groupby” function allows us to easily isolate observations for each Year giving a data stream for each date in the file regardless of Country. Four summary dates were identified, 2000, 2006, 2012 & 2021.

## Format the Data.

I prepped the data for SQL access. This provides a mechanism for easier querying and reformatting of the data.

The “round” function in the SQL statement rounds the Mean to 4 decimal places producing a uniform calculation for each year.

At the end of the processing, we will have **4 Mean GHI** (target) summarized values, one for each **Year** (feature) which can then be fed into the **Data Transformation** process.

A screenshot of a computer

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# **Data Transformation(s)**



## Reduce the Data.

At this point, we already have the required information reduced and ready for prediction modeling.



## Project the Data.

A screen shot of a computer code

Description automatically generated

Figure 7

A graph with a line

Description automatically generated

Figure 8

# **Data-Mining Method(s) employed.**



## Data Mining Objectives v Methods.

The objective as listed in [Section 1.3](#_Data_Mining_Objective.) is to be able to predict whether the UN will meet its targeted goal of 2030 for Zero Hunger.

After examining the data, it was apparent that there was no direct target that could be used within the supplied data, meaning the selected data can be classed as “**Unsupervised**”.

I found observations that contained **Year-based** GHI readings for each **Country,** but I needed an overall total (target) for each year. Within the **Data Transformation**, I was able to create a **summarized** set of observations using the **Clustering** technique with **Year** as the grouping, calculating a **Mean GHI** for each selected **Year**. From this, the **Mean GHI** can become the target attribute in prediction modeling.

Once the data had been transformed and summarized with a target, it could be considered “**Supervised**” and as such, **Supervised** tasks, primarily **Linea Regression and Time Series Forecasting**, can then be considered.



## Appropriate Methods based on 5.1.

**Linea Regression**

LineaRegression is a class in the sklearn library that provides API functions that allow for predicting and extending a Linea set of numeric values.

i.e. We have a series of values associated with the Global Hunger Index rating (GHI) that have been created regularly. Based on the pattern in the values, we can build a model of how the values will look in N steps time.

Time-Based Series

TBS expands on Regression with the numeric values structured in a time-based sequence and when specifying N steps, it will represent a time interval.

i.e. We take the time each reading is taken and use this as an index when calculating Regression allowing us to get a clearer view over time which we can then apply when making forward predictions.

These two methods will allow us to make projections on the data.

# **Data-mining algorithm(s) employed.**



## Exploratory Analysis.

The results of the model run returned Figure 9 and gave a view of Planned v actual results.

Using **LinearRegression** and **time plot graph** and feeding it the **Date** & **Mean** attributes, provided the first indication that the UN is not going to meet the 2030 goal.

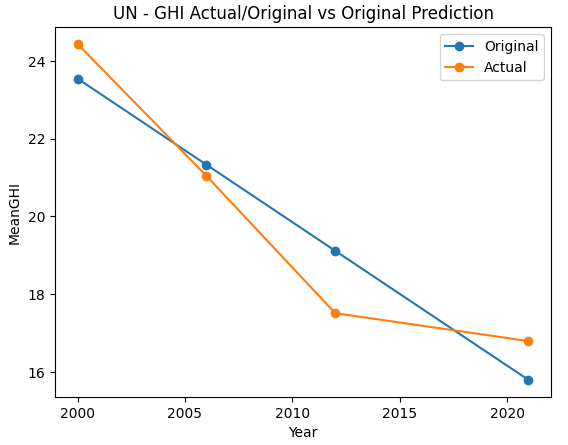


Figure 9

A section that stands out, as highlighted in Figure 10, shows in the period between 2012 & 2021 something occurred that affected the timeline directly, changing the trajectory of the trend line producing an upswing. This is reflected in both trend lines. More on this in the [Interpretation Section](#_Interpretation).

A graph with blue and orange lines

Description automatically generated

Figure 10



## Select Data Mining Algorithms.

The algorithm I chose to use is **LinearRegression** located in the **sklearn** API library.

Scikit-learn (scikit, 2024) defines the algorithm as

“**LinearRegression”** fits a linear model with coefficients w = (w1, …, wp) to minimize the residual sum of squares between the observed targets in the dataset, and the targets predicted by the linear approximation.”

Simply put, the algorithm uses the assumption that the relationship between the independent variables (consider timescale) and the dependent variable (our target) is linear and can make informed calculations based on this assumption.



## Build/Select Model.

A screenshot of a computer

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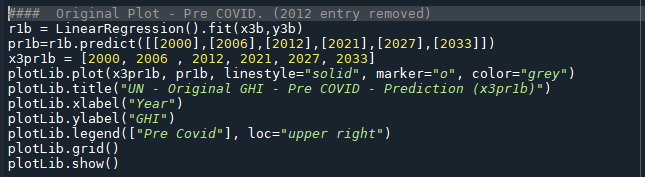


Figure 11

I have chosen to Predictive & Regression modeling and in particular **LinearRegression**

**LinearRegression** is the primary method used to perform predictions.

Figure 11 details 2 sets of code that build a class that takes 2 attributes listed below to implement the LinearRegression method returning requested future predictions.

**.fit** – Builds the **LinearRegression** class and loads the linear model with the attributes. Training data can be loaded via this API call as well.

**.predict** – The attributes passed are future dates that the prediction is to take place on. The model can take the information loaded in **.fit** and run the prediction(s) based on the time scale parameters passed in the API call returning the corresponding future values of the target. (In this case **Mean GHI**).

With regression, the output is a continuous flow based on specified time scales. This gives the ability to predict the values moving forward.

Different sets of data are built based on the **Mean GHI** calculation. These datasets are used with the same base template for the API call to produce different calculations, information, and graphs.

# **Data-Mining**



## Test Designs.

Sectional Testing was performed as the model was being developed.

No separate test data or partitions were created or used.

As the final dataset was very small, I could use it directly as the test dataset. This does not allow for the comparison of results from testing and training runs.



## Conduct Data Mining.

To run the model the following steps must be followed.

1. Start spyder
2. Open the script “**Interation 3 OSAS.py**” in the submission folder.

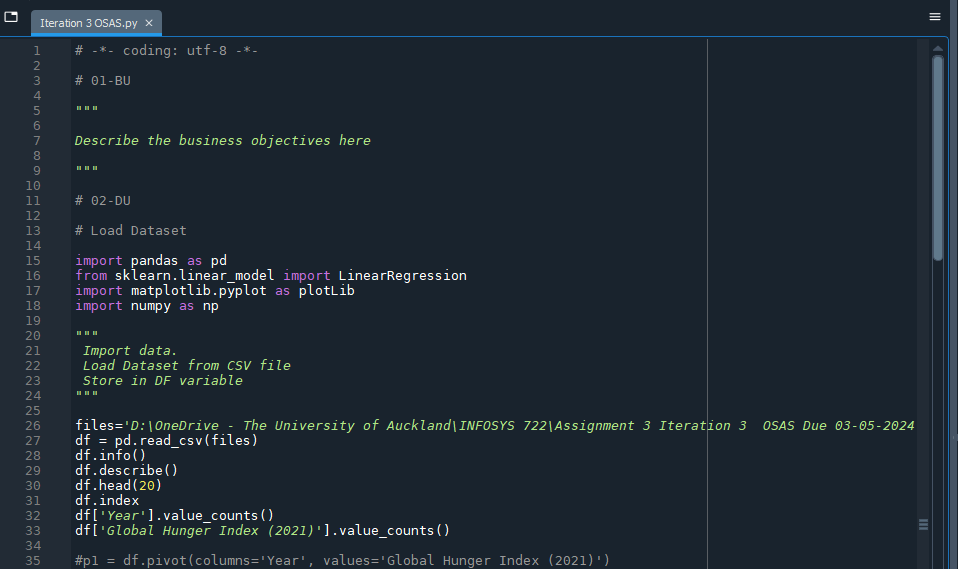


Figure 12

1. Run the script

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Figure 13

A screen shot of a graph

Description automatically generated

Figure 14

The run will produce 6 graphs.

# **Interpretation**

Even though the reduced dataset is small, some trends and identifying data points were evident that supported a determination of the primary objective:

**“Will the United Nations reach the goal of Zero Hunger by the year 2030”.**



## Discuss the mined patterns.

A pattern that showed in the mined data was the variation of the Actual compared to the Predicted. (See Figures 14-16 in [8.2 Visualizations](#_Visualizations_.))

A graph with blue and orange lines

Description automatically generated

Figure 15

Figure 15 shows the progress as of 2022. In it, it shows an upward swing that had taken place between 2012 and 2021 with the trajectory lifting from the downward trend that had been taking place. This indicated some sort of change or event had occurred. Figure 14 also reinforces the change showing what the projected trajectory was supposed to be compared to the actual.

Another pattern that stood out was the change in timing gaps between readings.

This aligned with the amount of change in the **Mean GHI** for 2012-2021.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Mean GHI** | **Change** |
| 2000 | 24.4393 |  |
| 2006 | 21.0435 | **-3.3958** |
| 2012 | 17.5086 | **-3.5349** |
| 2021 | 16.7906 | **-0.718** |

* 2000 to 2006 = 6 years
* 2006 to 2012 = 6 years
* 2012 to 2021 = 9 years

This also indicates that some sort of event(s) had impacted both the time scale as well the progress of the project.



## Visualizations.

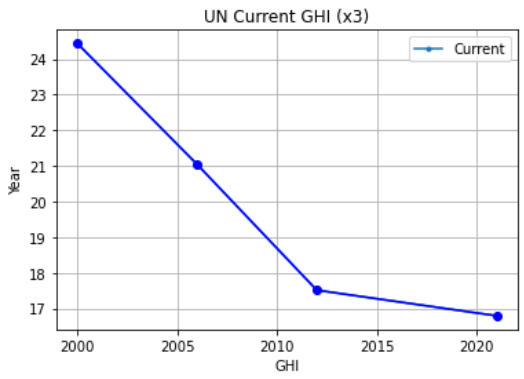


Figure 16

A graph with a line and dots

Description automatically generated

Figure 17

A graph with green line

Description automatically generated

Figure 18



## Interpret.

An early observation made was that the target date of 2030 was not going to be archivable.

A graph with green line

Description automatically generated

Figure 19

The time plot indicated that steady progress had been made up until the period between 2012 and 2021. Not only was there an upswing in the plot from the downward trend but also a lengthening between the time the readings took place. Before 2012, readings were evenly spaced at 6 years apart, the last one was 9 years apart, 3 years longer. Because of this, the new target would likely be in the decade following 2060 if current progress was maintained. Figure 18 illustrates this.

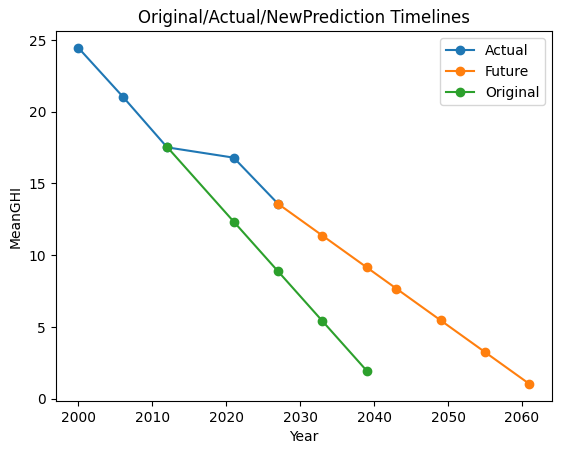


Figure 20



## Assess & Evaluate Results

The same regression model was run twice on two separate sets of data to answer the overall question **“Will the UN complete the project by 2030”**

1. The first set of data had the last entry for 2021 removed to predict what would have happened had the events between 2012 & 2021 **NOT** taken place.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Figure 21

1. The 2nd set of data used the full set to do the current projection as of 2022.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Figure 22

The plot in Figure 14 showed a definite upswing in the last reading from the overall downward trend in the previous readings. This indicated that something had affected progress.

During the period 2012 – 2021, **COVID-19** and a **recession** hit most countries to varying degrees. NZ alone experienced 2 major bouts of **COVID** between 2016 & 2020.

A linear progression is effectively a trend projection based on the previous values. A second set of data would answer the objective’s question. Figure 22 indicates this.

To answer the question “Will the UN achieve the date of 2030 for the Zero Hunger Program?”

**“The date of 2030 is not achievable at the current progress rate.”**

If these event(s) mentioned had not taken place or were not as severe then as indicated in Figure 23 below, the date of 2030 (or the decade following would have been achievable.

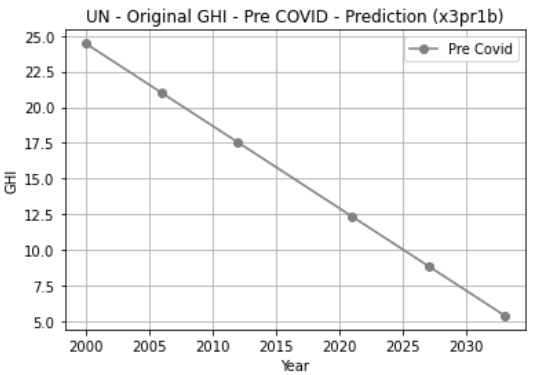


Figure 23

Figure 23 above is a projection based on the original Mean calculation data with the last period removed. Interestingly the original projection data before the upswing indicates Zero Hunger could have been achieved within the decade following 2030 but not exactly in 2030.

A graph with green line

Description automatically generated

Figure 24

Figure 24 above is based on the current Mean model calculation data, and it indicates that the goal at its current rate, would not reach Zero Hunger until the decade following 2060. The **COVID** upswing directly influenced the completion date of the project.



## Iterate

This iteration is the 2nd iteration based on the first iteration for assignment 1. Using a different software tool, the same processes have been followed.

It took me a few tries to get the right data streams and extracts working. I had to review and retry this a couple of times, to find the right API calls that would be what I required.

After finding the API’s that would provide the outputs I required and getting them to work, I decided to validate the output by fully projecting the linear trendline to their completion.

The **LineaRegression** library is a very powerful library with many features. With more time and more iterations, more features could be used to give an even deeper insight.

# **Action**



## How would you apply and deploy the implementation?

The Implementation is a validation model and only needs to be run when new data has been updated.

Whenever the model is run the main output graph (Figure 23) as well as the Excel spreadsheet graphs can be added to a website as a new page and the brief surrounding these added provides a historical analysis with each page representing a point in time.



## How would you monitor the implementation?

Watching for updates from the UN regarding GHI ratings would be the main task. On update, the new ratings can be added, and the model is run again. The resulting outputs can be added as per section 9.1.



## How would you maintain the implementation?

Updates only happen when new readings are available. At this point, any maintenance required can be assessed. Any future changes in the results may require changes to the overall system model to accommodate.



## How would you enhance the implementation?

# References

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