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# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress & prospects for Malaysia & Sarawak







Sarawak Leadership Forum, Langkawi, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024



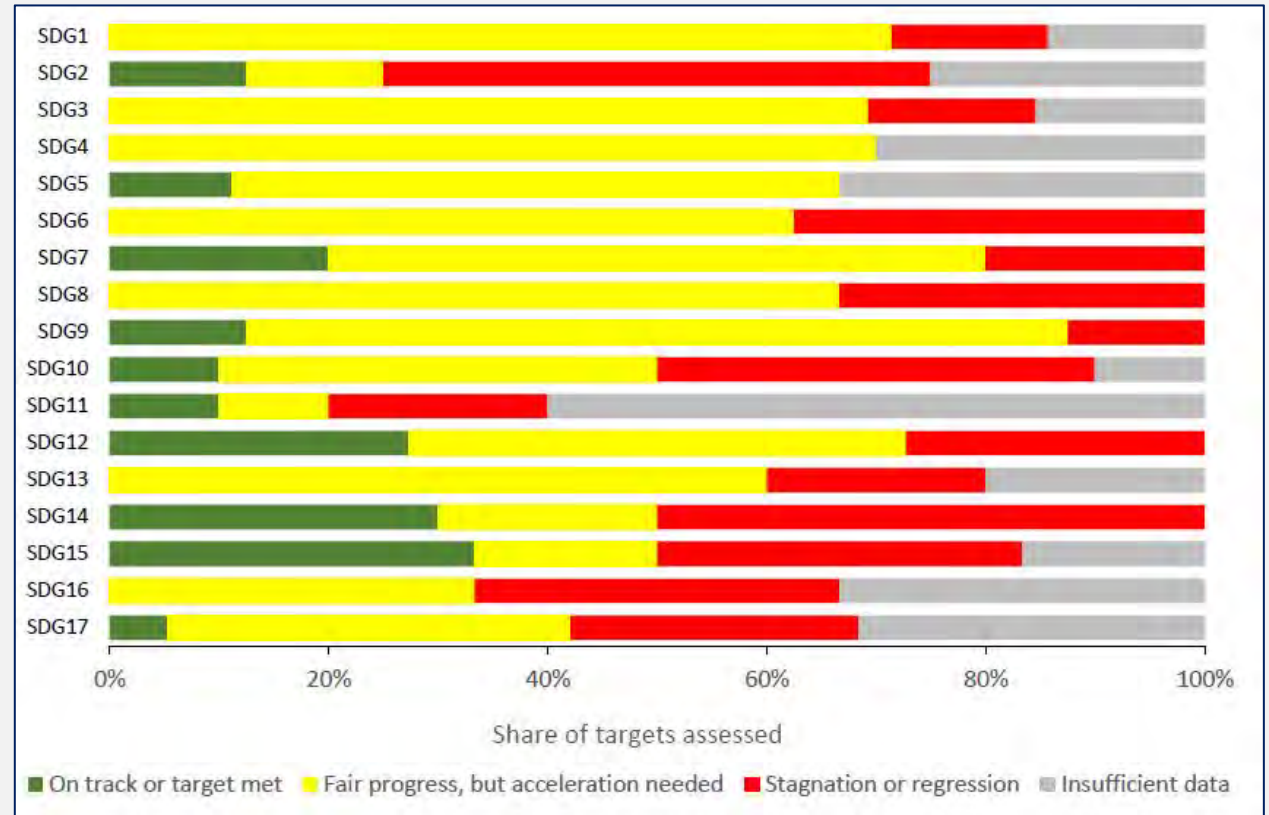
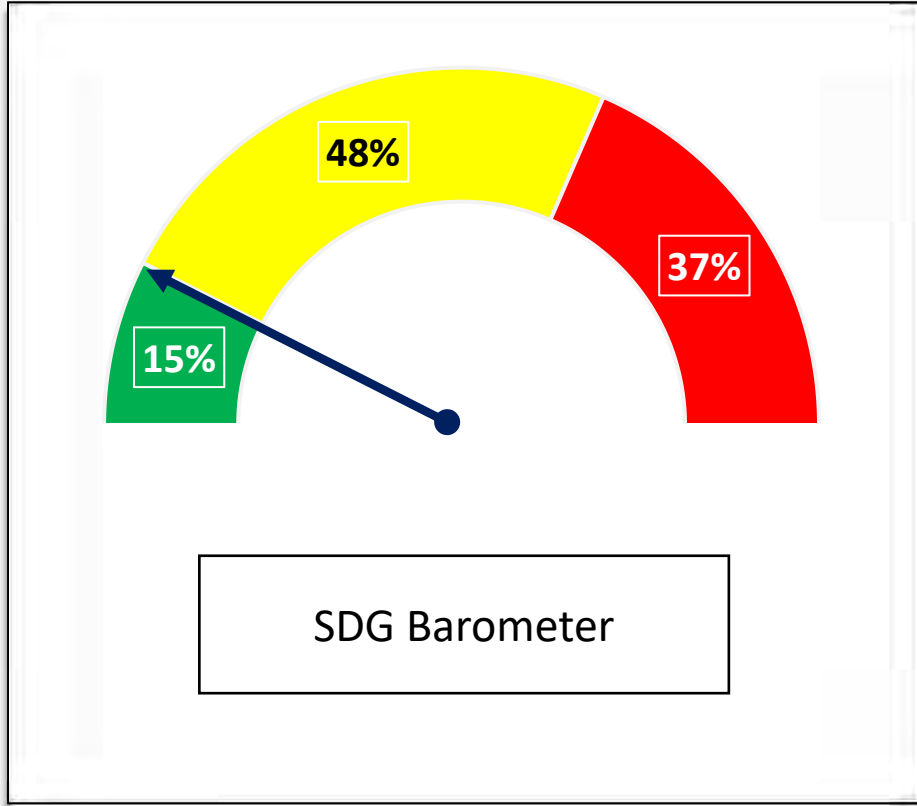
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-  Brief primer on the SDGs
-  Performance at the mid-point, including Sarawak
-  Business & the SDGs

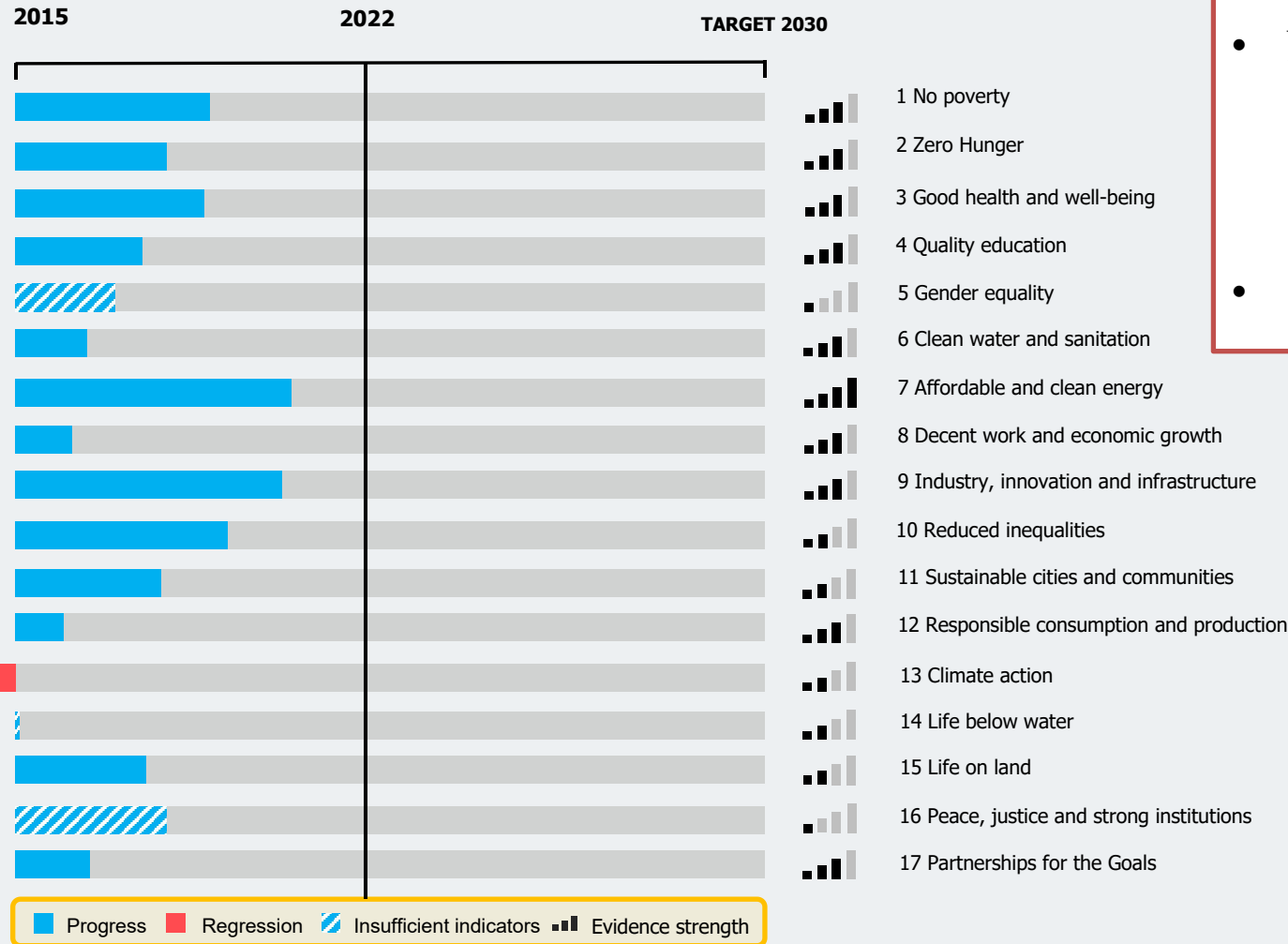


-  Agreed 2015 by UN General Assembly, rooted in Agenda for Sustainable Development: 17 goals, 169 targets, 231 unique indicators
-  SDGs encompass three principles which frame the Sustainable Development Agenda: Universality, Sustainability, Inclusion/ Equity. Underpinned by human rights
-  Began where MDGs left off. Run to 2030. Now at halfway point. Ambitious & expansive
-  Implemented by member states in line with national plans & aspirations. UN's role is to lead, support, advocate & monitor
-  Whole-of-society-approach, delivery includes all – government, business & civil society
-  Global summits review progress. National reporting via Voluntary National Reviews, subnational reporting via Voluntary Local Reviews. Ongoing update of data

# Sounding the alarm: Globally SDGs are off-track



-  The pandemic, imbalanced/incomplete recovery, deficits in human development & increased inequality
-  But off-track pre-Covid. UN Decade of Action (2019), now further off track
-  Geo-political events have interacted & intensified challenges faced
-  Climate change is being felt across countries, & impacting other SDGs
-  Inequities in performance, underpinned by inequities in resource bases
-  Importance of good governance, finance & sound institutions
-  Much missing SDG data. Weakens M&E & national delivery efforts



- No goals on track, some positive signals. Regression on SDG13 - Climate action. Missing data is an issue
- See: <https://data.unescap.org/>

# Asia-Pacific will miss 90 per cent of the 118 measurable targets by 2030

## GOAL 1

- 1.1 International poverty
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.a Resources for poverty programs
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies

## GOAL 2

- 2.2 Malnutrition
- 2.3 Small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Sustainable agriculture
- 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture
- 2.a Investment in agriculture
- 2.1 Undernourishment & food security
- 2.b Agricultural export subsidies
- 2.c Food price anomalies

## GOAL 3

- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.d Management of health risks
- 3.5 Substance abuse
- 3.8 Universal health coverage

## GOAL 4

- 4.1 Effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 Early childhood development
- 4.3 TVET & tertiary education
- 4.4 Skills for employment
- 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy
- 4.a Education facilities
- 4.b Scholarships
- 4.c Qualified teachers
- 4.5 Equal access to education
- 4.7 Sustainable development education

## GOAL 5

- 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls
- 5.5 Women in leadership
- 5.2 Violence against women & girls
- 5.3 Early marriage
- 5.4 Unpaid care & domestic work
- 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights
- 5.a Equal economic rights
- 5.b Technology for women empowerment
- 5.c Gender equality policies

## GOAL 6

- 6.1 Safe drinking water
- 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene
- 6.4 Water-use efficiency
- 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation
- 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
- 6.6 Water-related ecosystems
- 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.
- 6.3 Water quality

## GOAL 7

- 7.a Int. cooperation on energy
- 7.1 Access to energy services
- 7.3 Energy efficiency
- 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure
- 7.2 Share of renewable energy

## GOAL 8

- 8.1 Per capital economic growth
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.3 Formalisation of SMEs
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.a Aid for trade
- 8.b Strategy for youth employment
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.5 Fully employment & decent work
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism

## GOAL 9

- 9.a Resilient infrastructure
- 9.c Access to ICT & internet
- 9.1 Infrastructure development
- 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialisation
- 9.3 Small-scaled industry access to finance
- 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries
- 9.5 Research and development
- 9.b Domestic technology development

## GOAL 10

- 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)
- 10.2 Inclusion (socio-economic, political)
- 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies
- 10.7 Safe migration & mobility
- 10.b Resource flows for development
- 10.c Remittance costs
- 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)
- 10.3 Eliminate discrimination
- 10.5 Regulation of financial markets
- 10.6 Inclusive global governance

## GOAL 11

- 11.1 Housing & basic services
- 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
- 11.2 Public transport systems
- 11.b Disaster risk management policies
- 11.5 Resilience to disasters
- 11.3 Sustainable urbanisation
- 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage
- 11.7 Urban green & public spaces
- 11.a Urban planning
- 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings

## GOAL 12

- 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes
- 12.5 Reduction in waste generation
- 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices
- 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD
- 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
- 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring
- 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies
- 12.1 Programmes on SCP
- 12.3 Food waste and losses
- 12.7 Public procurement practices
- 12.8 Sustainable development awareness

## GOAL 13

- 13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity
- 13.2 Climate change policies
- 13.3 Climate change awareness
- 13.a UNFCCC commitments
- 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.

## GOAL 14

- 14.1 Marine pollution
- 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
- 14.6 Fisheries subsidies
- 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
- 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
- 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Ocean acidification
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.a Research capacity & marine tech.
- 14.c Implementing UNCLOS

## GOAL 15

- 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosys.
- 15.b Resources for forest management
- 15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosys.
- 15.2 Sustainable forest management
- 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosys.
- 15.8 Invasive alien species
- 15.5 Loss of biodiversity
- 15.3 Desertification and land degradation
- 15.6 Utilisation of genetic resource
- 15.7 Protected species trafficking
- 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
- 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)

## GOAL 16

- 16.1 Reduction violence & related deaths
- 16.6 Effective institutions
- 16.3 Justice for all
- 16.5 Corruption and bribery
- 16.7 Inclusive decision-making
- 16.2 Human trafficking
- 16.b Non-discriminatory laws
- 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows
- 16.8 Inclusive global governance
- 16.9 Legal identity
- 16.10 Public access to information
- 16.a Capacity to prevent violence

## GOAL 17

- 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection
- 17.3 Additional financial resources
- 17.6 Science & tech int. cooperation
- 17.8 Capacity building for ICT
- 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs
- 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)
- 17.11 Exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs
- 17.17 Partnerships (public private CSO)
- 17.18 National statistics availability
- 17.19 Statistical capacity
- 17.4 Debt sustainability
- 17.15 Respect country's policy space
- 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries
- 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs
- 17.7 Transfer of technologies
- 17.13 Global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Policy coherence for SD
- 17.16 Global partnership for SD

- **MAINTAIN** progress to achieve target
- **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target
- **REVERSE** trend to achieve target
- **CANNOT** be measured



UN assessment still under consultation with Government. Can offer key highlights



Overall, better progress than global & regional positions. Majority of SDG targets are judged on track & fewer examples of regression



But this as would be expected given Malaysia's (UMIC) development status



Performance varies by goal. Better performers include: SDG4 Education; SDG6 Clean Water; SDG7 Energy; SDG8 Decent Work & Growth; SDG11 Cities; & SDG15 Life on Land



But also, much complexity. Major areas of concern – 5 goals which follow...



Plus, missing data - sizeable minority of relevant targets lack sufficient data





**Hunger & Nutrition:** Zero hunger, but weaknesses remain - double burden of malnutrition (stunting) & obesity



**Empowering Women & Girls:** Off-track targets outnumber on-track targets. Pattern is one of no change. Major data & policy gaps



**Inequality:** Long-running challenge, deep seated disparities, divergence between income groups



**Climate Action:** Off-track on key mitigation & adaption/ resilience targets. However, policy response is positive. An SDG where Sarawak can contribute



**Life Below Water:** Much missing data, several targets off-track, a common challenge in this region. A key concern for Sarawak

# Sarawak: SDG progress versus Malaysia

**Provisos:** Approximate (rule  $\pm$  25% variation at target level) plus judgements; some split results - health appears twice (!); relative comparisons & must read alongside national performance

**Goals lagging Malaysia:** Poverty (national PLI), Health (communicable diseases, adolescent births, smoking), Water (rural supply); Growth (lower GDP, limited catch up); Industry (manufacturing share)








**Goals where progress is in line with Malaysia (& national progress often positive):** Nutrition; Education; Gender; Cites; Production & consumption; Life on land, Life below water; Partnership








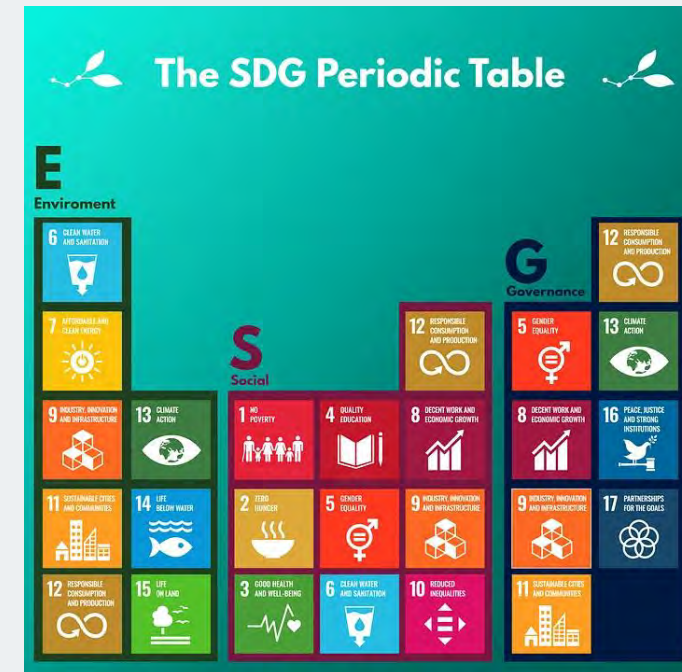
**Goals with better progress:** Health (non-communicable diseases); Energy (green objectives); Inequalities (B40 income trends); Climate (energy mix); Peace, justice & institutions (lower unsentenced detainees)









-  Economy-focused approach, but adopts strong SDG alignment, runs to 2030
-  Aims explicitly include social inclusivity and environmental sustainability
-  Strategic thrusts also include, and they address the SDG challenges identified
-  Strategy offers a means of drawing business into the sustainable development process
-  Special role of GLCs, again, as instruments of delivery



-  Long history of UN & governments leveraging private sector contributions to development
-  Jointness hardwired in the SDGs, whole-of-society efforts, Sarawak a case study, again Post-COVID Strategy
-  Special role of GLCs bridging public & private sectors, SDGs fit well with their function
-  ESG & SDGs are complementary. ESG covers operational, “the how”, SDGs define impact “the what”
-  SDGs can be incorporated within business models, via mapping (graphics), reporting & investment ratings



-  **Business contributions** – via investment/engagement in activity which is SDG supporting & via SDG-compliant corporate behaviour
-  Channels include adoption of sustainable models of business, financing allocation decisions, trade compliance & via performance reporting
-  **Pay-offs of engaging** - SDGs can guides business operations, ready-made impact reporting framework
-  Compliance with trading partner rules – especially labour standards & environment
-  Ability to lever finance, especially impact & blended at preferential rates
-  Marketing gains (SDG branding), plus intangibles...



UN Global Compact: UN/ business interface, resources & tools

- Main site: <https://unglobalcompact.org/sdgs>
- SDG Compass: <https://sdgcompass.org/>
- Malaysia Chapter: <https://www.ungcmyb.org/>



Malaysia SDG Investor Map: SDG-compliant investment platform (UNDP)

- See: <https://sdginvestorplatform.undp.org/country/malaysia>



Malaysia Together for the SDGs: Information platform on ESG initiatives

- See: <https://togetherforsdgs.my/>



MySDG Trust Fund: Multi-partner Trust Fund supporting SDG projects

- See: <https://malaysia.un.org/en/234148-malaysia-un-sdg-trust-fund-announces-first-call-proposals-offering-usd36-million-high-impact>

