



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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KEY ASKS FOR 2020 SDG VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Partnerships are the glue for SDG implementation and will be essential to make the agenda a reality. SDG 17 calls to strengthen the means of implementation and to build and enhance partnerships with diverse stakeholders. The Goal comprises 19 targets (the most of any SDG), and covers **multi-stakeholder partnerships** (17.16 and 17.17), **financing** (17.1 - 17.5), **technology** (17.6 – 17.8), **capacity-building** (17.9), as well as **data, monitoring and accountability** (17.18 and 17.19).

The targets of Goal 17 are among the primary tools for the advancement of child rights and well-being around the world. They define, for instance, whether or not there is enough data available to identify those children most at risk of being left behind; or whether enough funds are available to invest in the social infrastructure necessary for every child to thrive. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial to holistically address the interrelated and multifaceted challenges children and young people face today. Examples of cross-sectoral partnerships that will be critical for achieving results on multiple SDGs include the [Early Childhood Development Action Network \(ECDAN\)](#) -- focused on young girls and boys getting nurturing care, access to basic services and pre-primary education; and [Generation Unlimited](#), a global partnership to engage young people, rally resources and coordinate efforts so every young person will be in learning, training or employment by 2030. Enhancing partnerships with children and young people as powerful agents of change is key. The children and young people of today are demanding urgent action and have proven that their creativity, energy and skills are necessary to achieve the SDGs.

However, much more needs to be done to accelerate progress on SDG 17. The Secretary-General's 2019 Progress Report shows that in 2018, [51 of 114 countries reported overall progress towards strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and the means of implementation](#).¹ However, the report also shows a decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the need for a more inclusive dialogue between the public and private sectors, as well as increased space for civil society contribution to sustainable development. Significant progress on SDG 17, through enhanced partnerships and sufficient means of implementation in the form of finance, data and technology, will be crucial to achieve all other 16 SDGs for children.



KEY ASKS

The SDGs can only be realized with strong and inclusive partnerships, as well as significant investment in the means of implementation with children at the center. UNICEF both encourages and can support governments to:

- **Build, strengthen and expand partnerships** in a whole-of-society approach with civil society, the private sector, philanthropists, academia and science, local communities, traditionally marginalized groups, as well as children and young people themselves across various sectors, locations, borders and levels to drive progress for children, youth and adolescents;
- **Broker meaningful multi-stakeholder coalitions and alliances** by convening diverse stakeholders around common results for children;
- **Engage with UN System as a key partner** for SDG implementation through technical and data support, capacity-building and knowledge exchange;
- **Enhance North-South, South-South, horizontal and triangular cooperation** to stimulate technical dialogue and the exchange of knowledge, technology and resources to develop adaptable and sustainable solutions for children. Utilize the know-how and experiences of countries with proven achievements in advancing child rights and welfare by forming horizontal alliances and partnerships;
- **Leverage and pool resources, capacities, technology and data** in an integrated manner to deliver results for children, youth and adolescents.



MONITOR -- THE IMPORTANCE OF DISAGGREGATED DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND USE

Goal 17 calls on Member States to significantly enhance the availability of reliable, high-quality and timely disaggregated data (target 17.18), as well as to further develop measurements of progress and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries (target 17.19). [While in 2018 there has been an increase in countries who had implemented a national statistical plan, many countries lacked the necessary funding to do so](#); for example, in sub-Saharan Africa, only 23% of plans were fully funded.² [To meet statistical capacity-building objectives by 2030](#), current financial commitments to data and statistics— 0.33% of total ODA—will need to double.³ While sufficient data on all SDGs is relevant to the fulfillment of child rights, UNICEF has identified 44 indicators in the global SDG monitoring framework that most directly concern children. On the positive, there has been a notable increase in data coverage on these indicators between 2018 and 2019.⁴ However, many children remain uncouned. On average, 75% of child-related SDG indicators in every country either have insufficient data or show insufficient progress to meet global SDG targets by 2030.⁵ UNICEF encourages Governments to:

- **Ensure that national SDG monitoring frameworks includes child-focused indicators.** The [35 indicators in the global monitoring framework](#)⁶ can guide the review and possible updating of the national framework, yet efforts should be made to localize indicators as much as possible.
- **Strengthen national capacity to improve the collection, dissemination and use of high-quality, comprehensive and up-to-date disaggregated data** to adequately monitor and report on progress for all children.
- **Leave no data source behind.** **Highlighting use of statistical data from a variety of sources in assessing SDG progress**, including censuses, sample surveys (including sample household surveys) and administrative records. There are also ongoing explorations to use such emerging big data sources as geospatial information to gain insights in SDG implementation. Fostering partnerships with the UN System, civil society and community-level organizations for both well-established and non-traditional sources of data will also assist these efforts.
- **As donors and development actors, increase commitments and invest in data and statistics** as part of ODA and in a more coordinated and sustained manner.



INVEST -- SOCIAL SPENDING AND PROGRESS ON RESULTS FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH

Prioritizing the education, protection, health and well-being of children constitutes the best and most robust investment we can make to fulfil the promise of Agenda 2030. However, there are worrying financing gaps to reach those most at risk of being left behind. Increased mobilization of financial resources to fuel sustainable development is a key concern in the [2019 SG's Progress Report](#).⁷ In 2018, ODA remained steady but below target, with a declining share going to the neediest countries, and humanitarian aid falling by 8%.⁸ Further, private investment flows are not well aligned with sustainable development.⁹ UNICEF encourages Governments to:

- **Strengthen resource mobilization, both domestically and through international support to developing countries, and increase investments on child- and adolescent-focused SDG priorities.** As part of such efforts, adopt child-sensitive budgeting to realize commitments to children's rights and enhance investments in economic or infrastructure development towards initiatives on child survival, education and protection.
- **Increase public-private partnerships to leverage resources and deliver impact for children.** Build alliances with the private sector and help create an enabling environment supportive of business respecting the rights of children. The [Child Rights and Business Principles](#) help guide businesses to take sustainable action to respect and promote children's rights in all business activities and relationships.
- **Improve reporting and efficiency on expenditures and programmes that have direct and indirect impacts on child and adolescent well-being.** Relevant approaches include Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) with a focus on children and child-focused areas, child-spending markers and taxonomies, as well as established reporting practices on child-focused allocations under the CRC (For example the [Financial Benchmark for Child Protection \(FBCP\)](#) in Nigeria).



ACTIVATE -- AWARENESS BUILDING & MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH

Partnerships with children, youth and adolescents are key for the success of the 2030 Agenda. Creating awareness about the SDGs and engaging you people as true partners for sustainable development is essential to mobilize creative and transformative action. Awareness-raising and participation should be seen as part of a continuum to regularly, meaningfully and consistently engage children, adolescents and young people as agents of change to influence behaviors and social norms amongst themselves, their households and their communities. This goes beyond engagement just for the purposes of reporting periods, but rather creating standing mechanisms and spaces for young people to engage and have their perspectives heard in decision and policy-making processes. UNICEF encourages Governments to:

- **Build true partnerships with young people** and enhance the meaningful participation of children and young people. The establishment of country level processes that will enhance child, adolescent and youth awareness, participation and engagement can provide a foundation for and long-term investment in the sustainability of behavior change and social norm shifts.
- **Strengthen partnerships and platforms that are child, adolescent and youth-centered at national and sub-national levels**, in formal governance structures as well as within civil society organizations, to ensure their: 1) positive contribution to dialogue and decision-making processes on SDG-relevant programmes; 2) enhanced demand generation within their communities; and 3) mobilization and action in promoting social accountability within and among their peer groups and other influencers.
- **Involve children and adolescents in learning about their rights and the SDGs through participatory means**, utilizing SDG-focused education and awareness building content. UNICEF can support this effort due to our existing work in this space and creating child-friendly education and entertainment materials through our foundational partnerships on the [World's Largest Lesson](#) and [Comics Uniting Nations](#). UNICEF's [Youth Activate Talk Methodology](#) is also a platform from children to express their ideas on the SDGs through a variety of mediums.
- **Enhance young people's access to technology and the internet** (target 17.8). The Internet can be a gateway to development, and a means of implementation for many of the SDGs. Access to technology can be a tool of empowerment for children and young people and boost their sustainable development efforts.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>

² <https://undocs.org/E/2019/68>

³ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

⁴ <https://data.unicef.org/resources/progress-for-every-child-in-the-sdg-era-2019/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://data.unicef.org/children-sustainable-development-goals/>

⁷ <https://undocs.org/E/2019/68>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.