INFORMATION BRIEF ON SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

01 December 2022

BACKGROUND

More than ever, people and countries everywhere rely on the United Nations to rise to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic – a human crisis. The Secretary-General has emphasized that the creativity of the response must match the unique nature of the crisis – and the magnitude of the response must match its scale.

Moving ahead on the Decade of Action for SDG implementation[1], the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity for governments and stakeholders alike to Build Back Better their societies. The SDG Acceleration Actions online database is a tool to help inspire and mobilize actions around the world to promote the implementation of the SDGs, as well as build resilience and bring inclusive recovery in the context of new realities post COVID-19, so that the global economy, planet, and people we serve could emerge stronger together from the crisis.

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 1 December 2022, a total of 409 Acceleration Actions have been published. The

WHAT IS AN SDG ACCELERATION ACTION?

The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the SDG Summit, UN DESA set up an online platform to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions.
(https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions)

SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate the SDG implementation by governments and any other non-state actors - individually or in partnership. Any new action or action that builds on existing efforts (scaling up, new phase, etc.) aimed to achieve the SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action.
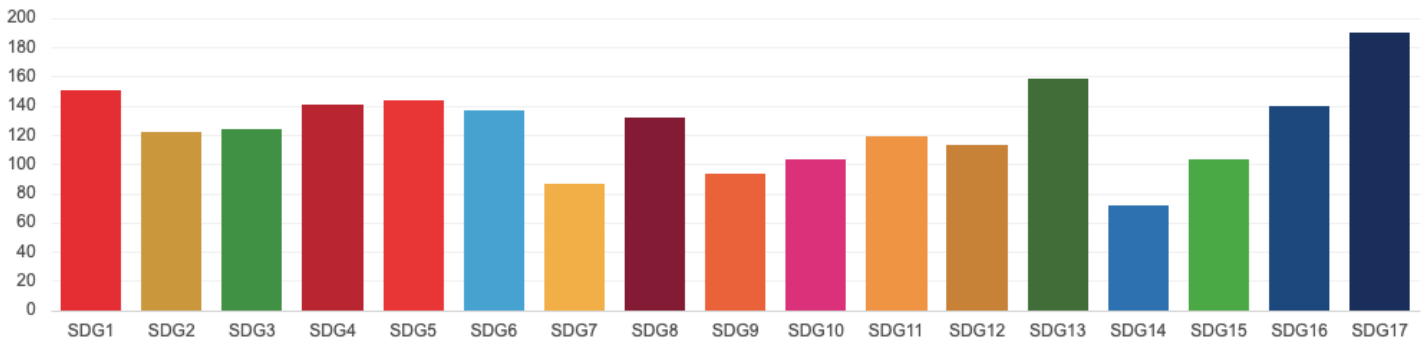
IMPACT?

Registered actions will be highlighted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and other key global meetings, including the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and through UNDESA's Acceleration Action platform and social media channels.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Registration is open online. Submissions will be reviewed by UNDESA in accordance with a set of criteria (click here for more information).
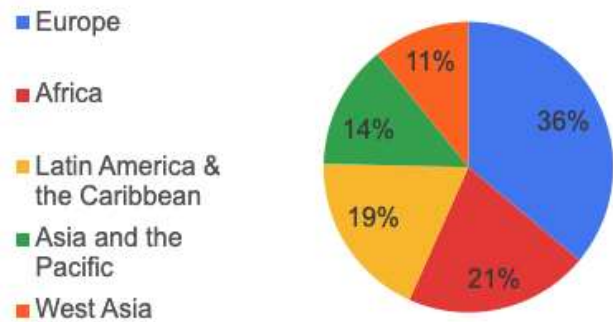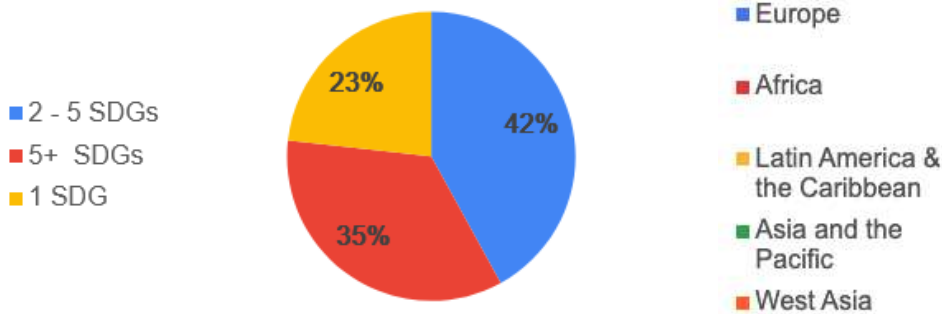
majority of actions (77%) aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages, while 23% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 409 registered actions, SDG 17 has mobilized the largest number, followed by SDGs 13, 1, 5, 4, 16 and 6. With regard to geographical location of initiatives, 36% of registered actions come from Europe; 21% from Africa; 19% from Latin America and the Caribbean; 14% from Asia and the Pacific; and 11% from West Asia (Middle East).

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[1] For more information, see: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions

By SDG

Number of SDGs Addressed

- 2 - 5 SDGs
- 5+ SDGs
- 1 SDG

Region

- Europe
- Africa
- Latin America & the Caribbean
- Asia and the Pacific
- West Asia
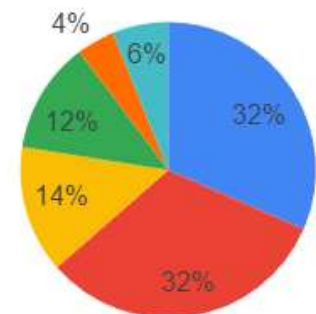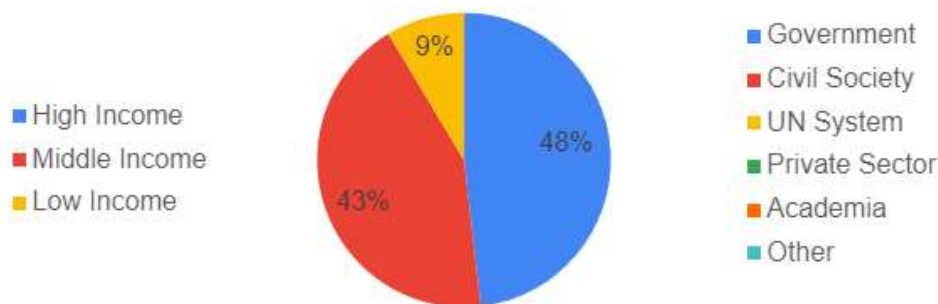
In terms of country breakdown by GDP (ppp), 48% of submissions are from high-income countries, while 43% from middle-income countries and 9% from low-income countries. There is a scope for mobilizing more SDG Acceleration Actions from the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and post-conflict and fragile states as they account for 10%, 1% and 10% of total actions published, respectively. Government and Civil society organizations have submitted the majority of SDG Acceleration Actions (32%), followed by UN entities (14%) and the private sector (12%).

Income Status

- High Income
- Middle Income
- Low Income

Sector

- Government
- Civil Society
- UN System
- Private Sector
- Academia
- Other

EXAMPLES OF SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

- The Government of Indonesia has launched the Kartu Prakerja program to enhance the competencies and entrepreneurship of 14.3 million youth.
- The Government of Zimbabwe is supporting over 1.6 million vulnerable households by enhancing the capacities of smallholder farmers to incorporate conservative agriculture practices for maize, sunflower, small grains and soya beans production.
- The Government of Spain is investing over 1,642 million euros, through the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan to prevent land degradation and to restore areas affected by desertification, while promoting the sustainable management of natural resources.
- The Government of Mexico is launching a training programme for 2.3 million youth, which offers healthcare coverage and scholarships equivalent to a minimum wage, in partnerships with companies that have pledged to hire graduates.
- The Government of Mongolia is aiming to increase renewable energy generation from 7.5 % in 2014 to 30 % by 2030 through its Northeast Asia Power System Interconnection (NAPSI) initiative, in line with the Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030.
- The Government of Burundi, led by the presidential office and through the coherent coordination among its four line ministries, is aiming to plant 3 million trees every year to protect its terrestrial ecosystems and forest.
- The Government of Paraguay is employing SDG-responsive budgeting to align its implementation and monitoring of national sustainable development strategy with SDGs.
- The Government of Malawi, led by Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), is embarking on a public-private partnership to reach 2,000 youth (55% female) with climate education coupled with hands-on climatic actions by Dec 2022.
- Through the Quick Action Economic Recovery Programme (QAERP), the Government of Sierra Leone is enhancing social protection floor, encouraging local production and supporting the most vulnerable, including the youth and MSMEs.
- The Government of Ethiopia, through its Green Legacy Initiative, is aiming to plant 20 billion seedlings by 2023 to mitigate the environmental degradation.
- Cameroonian NGO, AJEMALEBU Self Help (AJESH), in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), is aiming to settle 1500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in constructed low-cost houses by 2024.
- Portuguese National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS) promotes the localization of the SDGs among all Portuguese municipalities using dynamic technology-based online portal, which allows the visualization and monitoring of the progress and contributions of each municipality in relation to the various SDGs.
- M-SCAN is an Ugandan private company implementing the SDG 3, impacting 1.5 million pregnant women by enhancing their access to M-SCAN devices and through strengthening the capacity of health workers.
- Green Quarter, the green consulting firm in Malaysia, launched the Honda 3S Centre project aimed at maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing water usage, with the aim of off-setting 20% energy consumption and 45% reduction in portable water.
- The University of Surrey is collaborating with the Government of Malaysia and energy and chemical companies as well as 4 academic institutions in ASEAN countries to help both governmental and industrial policymakers to identify achievable emissions targets and optimal paths to achieve them through a range of technologies.
- Aspire-Transform-Inspire Foundation in line with SDG 3, aims to stop preventable deaths from cardiac arrest by educating all Ghanaians on CPR through systematic training programme for volunteers and secondary school students.
- Intergenerational Dialogues for Change (IDC) is aimed at developing pilot actions in support of the SDGs by May 2023 with a view to promoting a network of civic spaces in each of 8 Canary Islands and enhancing trust and cooperation amongst the groups of different ages.
- The Indonesian NGO Migrant Care is stepping up to reach out to migrant workers and to facilitate their access to social protection floor in 38 villages in 7 districts before, during and after migration.
- Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) is a partnership hosted by FAO and consisting of governments and multi-stakeholders aimed to enhance the field capacity for the adaptation of agriculture to water scarcity.