An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development through SDG Interlinkages

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Importance of taking an integrated approach to sustainable development through SDG interlinkages

➤ 17 SDGs and 169 targets inherently connect with each other forming an indivisible framework for achieving sustainable development from

a systemic perspective.

Understanding the interlinkages between SDG targets is important for an integrated approach which however faces huge knowledge gaps.



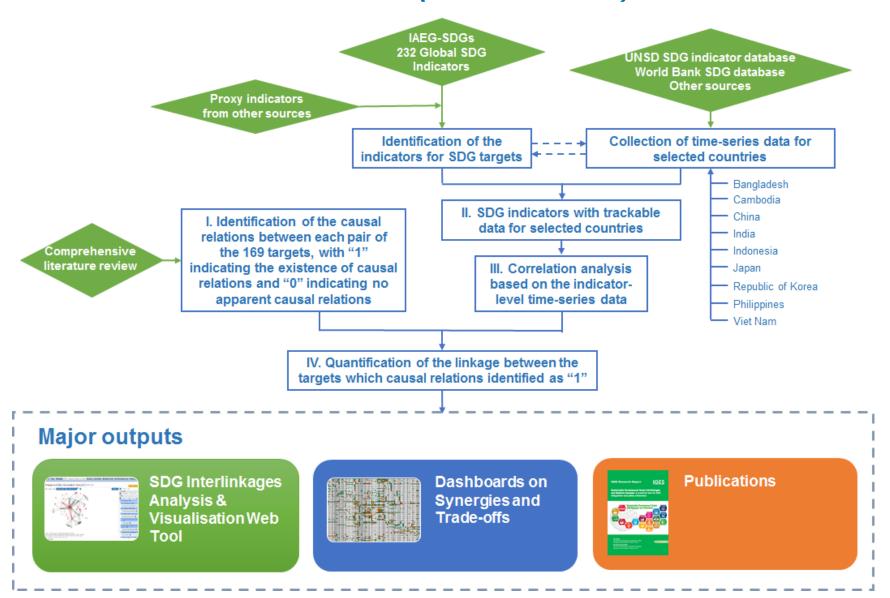
A siloed approach cutting off the intrinsic interlinkages



An integrated approach through SDG interlinkages

- How will achieving one target impact on achieving others and how strong are the impacts?
- Where are the synergies or trade-offs between SDG targets?
- How countries are different in terms of SDG interlinkages and what are the policy implications? Etc.

IGES initiated a project on SDG interlinkages and indicators (FY2015-2017)

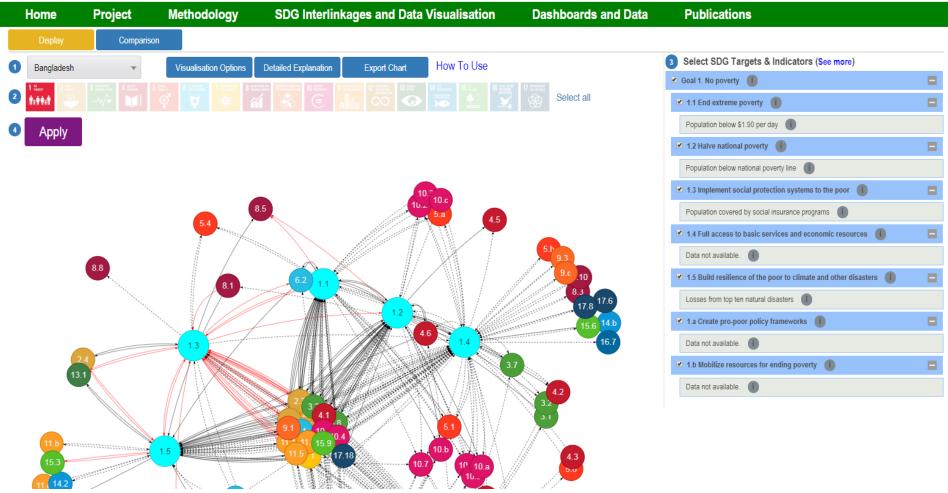


IGES SDG Interlinkages Analysis & Visualisation Tool (V2.0) (https://sdginterlinkages.iges.jp/visualisationtool.html)



SDG Interlinkages Analysis & Visualisation Tool (V2.0)





Source: A snapshot taken from IGES SDG Interlinkages Analysis and Visualisation Web Tool.

IGES flagship report on SDG interlinkages (preliminary draft): Practical applications of the IGES tool to support national integrated policymaking

Six main chapters:

 Ch3 Integrated priority setting for Bangladesh

 Ch4 SCP based on LC and SDG interlinkages

Ch5 LTM scenarios and SDG

Ch6 Effects of indicator selection

Ch7 Corporate carbon management and SDGs

Ch8 Urban-rural linkages and SDGs Planning: Priority setting based on strategic targets and key synergies and trade-offs (Ch3, 4)

Institutional Arrangement: Effective arrangement based on SDG interlinkages (Ch3)

Financial Arrangement: Ensure resource allocation to address the trade-offs (Ch3, 4)

SDG Indicators: Effects of indicator selection and the development of headline indicators (Ch5, 6)

An integrated approach for achieving individual Goals based on SDG interlinkages (Ch4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development through SDG Interlinkages (Preliminary draft)



Key messages

- The prevailing practices on mapping the existing national development plans and the line ministries with SDGs present a continuation of the siloed approach. Shifting to an integrated approach is urgent and the IGES SDG Interlinkages Tool provides practical guidance through SDG interlinkages.
- Through the analysis of the existing SDG interlinkages, many trade-offs or conflicting areas can be observed in the real world. These have dragged the SDG system from achieving its full potential. Removing them requires a transformational change that helps upgrade the systems performance to new levels.
- A case study for Bangladesh provided scientific evidence for priority setting for planning and implementation based on SDG interlinkages which will help finetuning of the existing priority list set by the government of Bangladesh.
- IGES SDG Interlinkages Tool supports informed policy integration through diagnosing the existing interlinkages, identifying key negative and positive interlinkages and providing practical solutions. Chapters on SCP, urban-rural linkages and corporate carbon management demonstrate the usefulness of the IGES tool in this regard.
- Quality indicators and data are crucial for the SDG interlinkages analysis. The indicator chapter by analysing proxy indicators and proposing a new indicator, taking Target 13.2 as an example, provided practical recommendations for the development of indicators. Improvement in indicators and data is open-ended.