# Mini IMUN

# Topic Brief 2

## Evaluating the effectiveness of the UN SDG's

## General Overview:

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a group of 17 crucial goals created in 2015 to enhance the world by protecting the environment, improving education, ending poverty, and ensuring effective healthcare for all. The UN claims that by 2025, there are going to be meaningful changes and many children are getting education, maternal and child mortality rates are declining, and there is more access to electricity and the internet, and also a decline in people suffering from diseases like HIV and malaria. However, the progress is still very slow, and only 35% of tracking SDG targets are on track or making some progress, almost 50% are progressing too slow and 18% are in a regressing phase.

Improvement rate is different across all aspects. For instance, there is access to electricity, mobile internet, and child mortality rate, but the goals are also stagnating. Goals like Zero Hunger SDG 2, Quality Education SDG 4, Clean Water SDG 6, Decent Work SDG 8, Reduced Inequality SDG 10 are stagnant and have 50-57% of their targets stagnant or regressing. Increased hunger, the absence of clean water, increasing levels of inequality, climate change, conflicts, growing debt, and also reduced international aid are posing the largest difficulties.

For more effective SDGs, the UN calls for more global cooperation and smarter investments. Emphasis is given to improving food systems, expanding energy access, accelerating digital transformation, enhancement of education, strengthening jobs and social protection, as well as the protection of climate and biodiversity. In addition, stronger and more reliable data is also essential which calls for better data-driven policymaking like the use of the Medellin Framework for Action.

**Timeline:**

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 20-22 June 2012 | Rio+20 conference agrees to create new global goals after the MDGs. |
| 25 September 2015 | SDGs adopted by all UN member states. |
| 1 January 2016 | SDGs officially begin. |
| 9 July 2019 | First major UN review: progress mixed, climate and inequality lagging. |
| 11 March 2020 | COVID-19 pandemic declared, SDG progress slows sharply. |
| 18 September 2021 | UN launches "Decade of Action" to speed up SDG work. |
| 18-19 September 2023 | Midpoint review: only 12% of targets on track. |
| 2025 (planned) | Summit of the future to address SDG challenges before 2030. |

**Relevant parties:**

**United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):**
The UN body where all 193 member states are represented. It adopted the 17 SGDs in September 2015. The UNGA plays a key role in maintaining political momentum for the goals; reviewing progress, and encouraging member states to uphold their commitments.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):**
The primary UN agency responsible for supporting countries in implementing the SDGs. UNDP provides technical guidance, helps integrate the goals into national development plans, and produces reports tracking global and national progress towards the targets.

**Member states:**
All 193 UN member countries committed to the SDGs. Each is responsible for implementing the goals within their own borders, reporting progress to the UN, and adapting targets to local contexts. Their success or failure directly determines the overall achievement of the SDGs.

**Key terms**

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there are 17 interconnected global goals established by the United Nations in 2015 to address a wide range of challenges, including poverty, hunger, health and well-being, education, equality, sanitation, clean energy, economic growth, infrastructure, sustainability, consumption, climate, water and land life, justice and peace, and partnership. These serve as a blueprint for countries and organizations to achieve an enhanced and more environmental future by 2030.

- Evaluation is a systematic process of collecting and analysing information to judge the effectiveness, significance, efficiency, consequence, and impact of SDG-related programs and policies. It helps stakeholders understand whether goals are being met and how implementations can be improved.

- Inspecting how relevant well SDG programs align with the actual needs and priorities of the communities and countries they serve. High relevance means addressing critical issues that matter most locally and globally.

- The alignment and synchronization of policies, strategies, and actions across different sectors and SDGs to avoid conflicts and leverage interactions for a greater collective impact.

- There are different types of impacts such as direct impacts are the immediate effects of an intervention, example: increased school enrolment.

- Evaluations use quantitative methods like surveys, statistics, and indicators for numerical analysis, as well as qualitative methods like interviews, case studies, and focus groups to understand context, perceptions, and nuanced effects.

- Indicators, which are specific, measurable variables used to quantify

- progress toward SDG targets. It can involve statistics like poverty rates, literacy levels, or greenhouse gas emissions. They ultimately provide evidence-based insights into how well goals are advancing.

**Useful Resources:**

https://sdgs.un.org/goals

https://www.unesco.org/en/sdgs

https://unglobalcompact.org/sdgs/about

https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda

https://www.iied.org/effective-evaluation-for-sustainable-development-goals

https://www.local2030.org/library/236/ICLEI-SDGs-Briefing-Sheets-06-Measuring-Monitoring-and-Evaluating-the-SDGs.pdf