
Mapping 17 SDGs: Unlocking the challenges and achievements of the world towards the Sustainable Development Goals using cartography

Guillaume Le Sourd, Ayako Kagawa *, Dana Alnaji, Paul Fabre, Selamawit Gebreselassie, Fleur de Lotus Ilunga, Gakumin Kato, Mina Lee, Javier Neme-Lozano, Michael Montani, Marilena Picci and Oliva Martin Sanchez ^a

^a United Nations Geospatial team geospatial@un.org

^a Authors are members of the United Nations Geospatial team. The United Nations Geospatial team is composed of officers and former officers at the Geospatial Information Section, Office of Information Communications Technology, United Nations, New York, United States of America and the Global Service, Centre, Department of Operational Support, United Nations, Brindisi, Italy.

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations. (ST/AI/189/Add.6/Rev.5)

Keywords: United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG maps, cartography, mapping, indicators

Abstract:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the current global blueprint to achieve a sustainable future for all. The global community agreed on 17 Goals to address the most pressing problems we face, with sets of targets and indicators to assist countries towards meeting the goals.

Following the release of the book *Mapping for a Sustainable World*, an open access e-book jointly written by the United Nations and the International Cartographic Association on the best practices in cartography in the context of the SDGs, the United Nations Geospatial team took on to further highlight the challenges and achievements of the world using cartography and the SDG indicators. Cartography can provide the science and art to reveal and understand patterns that would otherwise go unnoticed, the visualization to synthesize large volume of data as well as the art to make compelling and powerful stories toward a better world.

The UN Geospatial designed, developed and delivered the mapping of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to reveal some of the challenges the world faces regarding population growth, social disparities, climate change, food insecurity, economic inequalities, global health emergencies, natural hazards, and threats to peace and security.

This presentation will provide an overview of how the United Nations Geospatial used geospatial data, agreed official statistical indicators and other reputable source of data to contribute through cartography, to SDGs call for action, a testimony of the challenges of our times and a compass for the challenges that still lie ahead. Best practices and methods will be shared to encourage everyone, everywhere to join and contribute to mapping for a sustainable world, through mapping the 17 SDGs.