



4allSDGs®

**Generic methodology for analysing the impacts
of a project, strategy or policy
in a given sector
on all the SDG targets
of the 2030 Agenda**

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Summary

The 4allSDGs® methodology is a method for detecting and assessing the impacts of an action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that respects the 'systemic' nature of the 2030 Agenda¹ and the content of its 169 SDG targets.

It identifies the main positive or negative contributions of an action to progress towards the targets of the 17 SDGs. An 'action' can be a project, programme, policy or strategy at any stage of development. Hereafter the word 'project' is used to refer generically to the project, programme, strategy or policy that is being evaluated.

The 4allSDGs methodology provides much more substantiated assessments than the claims often heard from people who talk about contributions to the SDGs without referring to the precise content of their targets or omitting part of the 2030 Agenda.

This methodology can be applied to any sector of activity.

One of the original features of the 4allSDGs methodology is its treatment of the complexity of the SDGs: for each field of activity, this complexity is pre-digested by specialists. This makes it much easier for users to use the SDGs framework to assess the impact on the SDGs of a 'project' in a particular area of activity.

The 4allSDGs methodology makes the SDGs accessible to everyone by enabling non-specialists in the SDGs to carry out impact assessments on the SDG targets. It is not necessary to have prior knowledge of the details of the 2030 Agenda, its 17 SDGs and their 169 targets. As a result, non-specialists in the SDGs can easily identify the strengths and weaknesses of a 'project' in terms of the SDGs.

Detecting and assessing the impact of an action is structured in 2 phases:

1. A preparatory phase not linked to specific projects. This phase comprises three components:

- a) A general method for characterising and assessing impacts on the various SDG targets. This method is described in this document.
- b) For each field of activity, the identification of numerous concrete situations in that field having impacts on the various SDG targets, describing them in a way that makes it possible to use the general method. This part requires specialists in the field and specialists in the SDGs. These specialists consider the situations in the sector that are likely to have an impact on at least one of the 169 SDG targets, and then characterise them by describing these pre-identified 'situations' in detail. They then assess the significance of these impacts on the SDG targets by assigning positive or negative points to each of these 'situations' in accordance with the general method. Finally, they organise these different 'impacting situations' into categories called 'themes', which are both understandable to the players in the field and structured in such a way that a given project only falls into a small number of them.
- c) For each area of activity, a digital application implementing the general method to enable an evaluator to easily compare a given 'project' with pre-identified cases of 'situations' having impacts on the SDG targets.
For the freshwater sector, this application exists and is called *water4allsdgs.org*.
For the Education sector, this application exists and is called *education4allsdgs.org*.

2. A phase for assessing the impact of actions/projects

For each 'project' in a particular area of activity, use of the digital application leads to a detailed assessment of its impact on the SDGs. This phase does not require any SDG expertise. A user

¹ The 2030 Agenda is the global programme adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to tackle the major challenges facing humanity while ensuring social development, economic development and respect for the environment. Its numerous objectives are grouped into 17 categories called Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives themselves are called the 'SDG targets'.

does not need to tackle the complexity of the SDGs. He is guided to consider only some of the pre-identified cases. He is then asked to judge how close the characteristics of the 'project' are to the pre-identified 'impacting situations', which he can do without knowing anything about the SDGs. He then discovers the impact of the project on the SDGs and the content of the SDG targets affected, but only those targets.

The **4allSDGs methodology** enables the 'project' to be assigned a positive impact score and, where appropriate, a negative impact score on any SDG target impacted. These scores are based on the scores assigned during the preparatory phase to the pre-identified case situations.

Even if these scores are calculated in a rough way, they are sufficient to :

- - detect the SDG targets impacted by the 'project' ;
- - detect the SDG targets most impacted by the 'project';
- - detect the negative impacts of the 'project' on the 2030 Agenda.

This makes it possible to carry out a more detailed analysis of these impacts and possibly improve the project by increasing the positive impacts or seeking compensatory measures to neutralise the negative impacts.

This makes it also possible to easily compare the impacts of different options for the same project.

The **results of the 4allSDGs assessment** are presented in two forms: a detailed list of impacts on the various SDG targets and a bar graph showing which SDGs and SDG targets are positively and negatively impacted. The general principle of "leaving no one behind" of the Agenda 2030 is also taken into account.

Experience shows that most users of existing applications are amazed to discover that the 'projects' they assess have impacts on a number of SDG targets far greater than they had imagined.

The systemic nature of the Agenda 2030 becomes clear to them.

The name 4allSDGs® is registered with the Institut National de Propriété Industrielle (INPI France).

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Terminology / Glossary

Analysing the impact of an action on the targets of Agenda 2030 requires precise terminology. This methodological note uses the concepts below. These are presented in quotation marks in the text to clearly differentiate them from more imprecise words in everyday language.

<i>Action</i>	'Action' is a generic term used here to designate any type of action, such as the execution of a project or the implementation of a programme, strategy or policy.
<i>Impact</i>	An 'action', a 'project' or a 'situation' has a positive impact on an SDG target if it results in effective progress towards achieving at least one of the global objectives targeted by this SDG target.
<i>Partial impact</i>	An 'impact' on an SDG target is partial if the 'action', 'project' or 'situation' results in : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - either effective progress towards an intermediate step towards an objective of this SDG target, or - or effective progress towards a principal component of an objective of this SDG target but is not sufficient in itself to constitute effective progress towards an objective of this SDG target.
<i>Indirect impact</i>	An 'impact' on an SDG target is indirect if the action, 'project' or 'situation' results in progress that is not effective progress towards an objective of an SDG target but is effective progress towards a situation that is indispensable for achieving such progress.
<i>Objective</i>	An 'objective' here is a result targeted by the 2030 Agenda. All SDG targets aim at achieving results. But many SDG targets aim at achieving several different results. Some of these results might be achieved even if others are not achieved. They constitute the different 'objectives' of the target and can be considered as relating to sub-targets.
<i>Project</i>	'Project' is the word used in this document to designate the project, programme, strategy or policy whose effects are being evaluated in terms of the SDG targets.
<i>Impacting situation</i>	The term 'impacting situation' is used here to designate a precisely described concrete situation that creates a positive or negative "impact" on at least one SDG target.
<i>Positive situations</i>	A distinction is made between 'positive situations', which have a positive impact on at least one SDG target, and 'negative situations', which have a negative impact on at least one SDG target.
<i>Opposite situations</i>	A 'negative situation' is the opposite of a 'positive situation' if it produces effects opposite to its impact on the relevant SDG targets.
<i>SDG Target</i>	One of the targets of the 2030 Agenda.
<i>Topic</i>	A 'topic' is that which is common to the set of neighbouring situations intermediate between a 'positive situation' and the opposite 'negative situation'.
<i>Theme</i>	A 'theme' is a thematic area in which the 'topics' and 'impacting situations' relating to this area are grouped together.

1. Purpose of 4allSDGs®

The 2030 Agenda is the global reference for Sustainable Development. It brings together 169 goals called "targets" into a coherent and balanced set of goals commonly referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 169 targets were chosen to address humanity's greatest challenges. Together, they form a system, meaning that these SDG targets are complementary and that the world needs to make progress in all of the areas identified.

Some of these targets include several separate 'objectives'. This set is very rich and difficult to grasp in all its details by someone who does not spend most of his or her professional time on the SDGs. By consequence, many actors in a given sector are either unaware of the precise content of the global goals that concern them, or know the precise goals of only one or two targets. Yet the full value of the SDGs is only achieved by respecting their "systemic" nature, i.e. by not considering only one part of the targets while ignoring the others. In particular, it is essential that progress towards one target does not undermine action on other targets.

The ambition of the 2030 Agenda is to tackle all the major challenges facing humanity at the same time. This makes it a programme with a wealth of content, but this wealth appears to be a complexity for users.

4allSDGs® is a methodology that aims to simplify the complexity of the SDGs by allowing a non-specialist on the SDGs to identify and make visible the main positive or negative contributions to the 2030 Agenda of a project, strategy or policy in a sectoral area while highlighting the most important contributions. It is a methodology for analysing the impacts of an action on the SDGs.

This generic methodology needs to be supplemented by the work of experts in this sector and SDGs in order to identify a large number of 'impacting situations' resulting from actions in this sector.

A digital tool can then be developed that combines the generic *4allSDGs* methodology with the pre-identified 'impacting situations'. Such a tool enables professionals (or even non-professionals) in this sector to perform a kind of 'automatic translation' of the characteristics of their 'project' into contributions to the SDG targets. Without needing to know the details of the SDG targets, an evaluator can thus easily and quickly detect all the impacts of the project on the SDG targets and assess them roughly. This method thus makes it possible to take full advantage of the richness of the 2030 Agenda despite its complexity.

It makes visible the main positive or negative contributions of an 'action' in the sector to the various SDG targets and to the guiding principle of 'leaving no one behind' in the 2030 Agenda.

This methodology can be used by any project/strategy/policy owner or stakeholder at local, national or international level. The 'project' leader can be either a public or a private entity.

This methodology applies to the various stages in the life of a 'project': pre-conception, design, implementation, ex-post evaluation, etc.

Note: the description below uses the word 'project' generically to refer to the project, strategy or policy that is being assessed in terms of the SDGs. It may also refer to the sectoral component of an 'action'. The terminology used in this note is specified in the glossary at the beginning of this document, just after the table of contents.

2. Interest of 4allSDGs

The use of *4allSDGs®* for SDG impact assessments allows the strengths and weaknesses of a project or its components to be identified in relation to the SDGs, enabling the identification of compensatory measures for negative impacts. It is also an aid to decision-making when a choice has to be made between several options.

4allSDGs® complies with the requirements of the methodological note² published by the National Academy of Technologies of France concerning the assessment of the impacts of

projects or policies with regard to the SDGs².

Its use allows non-specialists in the SDGs without being put off by the richness of the 2030 Agenda:

- to make visible the contributions of a project to the SDGs;
- to at least partially objectify these contributions;
- to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the project with regard to the SDGs and, as a result, to consider corrective measures for any negative impacts;
- compare the impacts of different projects on a particular SDG target.
- to visualise the concrete interactions between the SDGs and the importance of not operating in isolated technical silos.

The results of the *4allSDGs* assessments are presented in two forms: a detailed list of impacts on the various SDG targets and a bar graph showing which SDGs have been positively and negatively impacted, with details of the targets concerned. This graph is a visual summary which is very useful for the reflections following the evaluation. In particular, it provides a basis for dialogue between the stakeholders in a project.

The results of the *4allSDGs* assessment make it possible to carry out a more detailed analysis of the impacts detected at a later stage, and to improve the 'project', if necessary, by increasing the positive impacts or seeking compensatory measures to neutralise the negative impacts.

Experience shows that most users are astonished to discover that the 'projects' they assess have impacts on a number of subjects and a number of SDG targets far greater than they had imagined. The systemic nature of the 2030 Agenda becomes clear to them.

An antidote

4allSDGs provides relatively objective elements for assessing a 'project' in terms of the SDGs as a whole. Even if part of the methodology relies on subjective estimates, it provides much more substantiated assessments than the claims often heard from people who talk about contributions to the SDGs without referring to the precise content of their targets or omitting part of the 2030 Agenda. *4allSDGs* is an antidote to "SDG-washing".

Limitations

As the evaluators have to estimate a number of factors subjectively, the scores obtained are not very accurate. It is their orders of magnitude that are useful for discovering and assessing the main positive or negative contributions of the 'project' to the SDG targets.

Because of the multiplicity of targets, and except in specific favourable cases, this methodology does not allow us to say that one 'project' is better than another in terms of all the SDGs. In cases where such an assertion requires favouring one SDG target over another, the statement can only be based on political choices and not on a rigorous methodological analysis.

It should be noted that the scores provided by this methodology only aim to measure the strengths of a 'project's' contributions to the various SDG targets. They are impact scores on the precise objectives that are the SDG targets. They

² [Using the SDG framework as a guide for public policy and decision-making. Methodological reflections](#), National Academy of Technology of France, Gerard Payen, 31 July 2020 and May 2021

are not estimates of the value of the 'projects' since, on the one hand, they say nothing about the intrinsic quality of the 'project' in terms of the many criteria not explicitly covered by the SDGs and, on the other hand, 'projects' can be very useful without actually contributing to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Impact assessments on the SDG targets thus provide a vision of the contribution to sustainable development, which complements assessments against other criteria.

3. What does "contributing to the SDGs" mean?

The SDG targets set by the Agenda 2030 are global. Achieving them requires the addition of efforts in every country and at every level: institutions, organizations, individuals.

As the Agenda 2030 covers the major challenges facing humanity, a particular action by an institution, organization or individual is likely to concern the thematic area of at least one of the SDGs. But does this action contribute to this SDG? Contrary to what many professionals believe, acting within the thematic domain of a SDG is not enough to claim that one is contributing to the SDGs. It is also necessary to verify that:

- the action creates real progress towards achieving at least one target of that Goal and
- does not hinder the achievement of other goals.

Let us detail these two criteria below.

In practice, there are three distinct types of "contributions to the SDGs": "*Contributing to an SDG target*", "*contributing to an SDG*" or "*contributing to all SDGs*", i.e. "*contributing to the 2030 Agenda*".

1. Contributing to a SDG target

Taking action in the thematic area of an SDG target can be very useful, or even essential, without actually contributing to that target. In fact, an action only contributes to a SDG target if it creates a concrete step towards achieving that target, or progress towards that target. It is the accumulation of such advances created by numerous players that can help achieve the expected result.

2. Contributing to one SDG

As a SDG is a set of targets to be reached, an action can contribute to this SDG if it contributes to at least one of the targets of this goal. However, it must be ensured that progress towards this target is not accompanied by a significant setback in relation to another target of the same SDG.

3. Contributing to all the SDGs, i.e. to the Agenda 2030

To contribute to the Agenda 2030, which brings together all the SDGs, an action must :

- have a positive impact on at least one SDG target, i.e. create concrete progress towards achieving the desired result;
- not create any significant setback to the achievement of another SDG target.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for a positive action in one area to have a negative impact in another. This is often unconscious, as the players in a given sector do not necessarily visualize all the consequences of their actions, nor all the SDG targets. However, if the action has a positive impact on one SDG target, experience shows that it very often also creates progress towards several other SDG targets.

“Contributing to a SDG target” or “Contributing to a SDG” is not sufficient to affirm that the action contributes to the 2030 Agenda, as it is necessary to verify that the action respects the systemic character of the latter.

The *4allSDGs* applications help to overcome these difficulties by detecting the positive and negative impacts of a particular action (project, policy, strategy, etc.) on all 169 SDG targets, the UN Agenda 2030 being the reference framework used by these applications. The final reports on these applications provide contributions to the SDG targets, the SDGs themselves, and the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

Every area of activity is concerned by all the SDGs and the whole 2030 Agenda.

Experience shows that an action that creates progress towards a SDG target often has an impact on several other targets. The actions of a business sector acting in the thematic area of a SDG can thus contribute not only to that SDG, but also to many others. This means that achieving the targets of an SDG cannot be achieved solely by the actions of specialists in the field concerned, but requires the positive contributions of several other institutions or professional sectors, and often even the actions of part of the population. The systemic nature of the Agenda 2030 means that no SDG can be achieved by the professional sectors of its thematic area alone. Each Goal requires the mobilization of many players, often outside the “silo” of specialists in the field.

4. The *4allSDGs* concept

4.1. General principle

Guiding principle: an easy "automatic" detection of impacts.

To avoid the perception of complexity due to the richness of the 2030 Agenda, the *4allSDGs* methodology consists of asking evaluators to compare the project they want to evaluate not directly with the numerous SDG targets, but with concrete situations pre-identified by experts as having an impact on SDG targets.

Using the 2030 Agenda directly is almost impossible for a non-specialist because of the large number of objectives targeted simultaneously and the need not to ignore any of them in order to respect the systemic nature of the Agenda.

On the other hand, if situations in a given field of activity have already been recognised as having an impact on a particular SDG target, practical questions using the vocabulary of the field but not mentioning the SDGs will enable a player to recognise his ‘project’ in some of these pre-identified cases. If this happens, the SDG targets impacted by these cases are then impacted by the ‘project’.

In this way, by comparing the situations created by a ‘project’ with the ‘situations’ identified in advance, it is possible to “automatically” detect the SDG targets impacted by the ‘project’. If the number of cases identified in advance is large, this detection can be exhaustive. And as the questions are commonplace for the sector of activity concerned, the perception of complexity disappears.

Principle for assessing the magnitude of impacts

Detecting impacts is not enough. It is also necessary to differentiate between positive and negative impacts, and between minor and major impacts. By assigning an impact score to each of the pre-identified ‘impacting situations’, we can calculate

the 'project's' impact score on that target by modulating the score assigned to the pre-identified situation according to the degree of proximity of the 'project' to it. We then obtain 'project' impact scores for each SDG target, which makes it possible to judge the respective importance of these different impacts in relation to the different targets.

Practical implementation

To enable a non-specialist in the SDGs to identify the impacts of a 'project' in a sectoral area of activity, a digital application implements the *4allSDGs* general method and brings together all the pre-identified 'impacting situations' in the area. A user can then compare a 'project' with these 'impacting situations' without needing to know the SDG targets.

These 'impacting situations' are presented in pairs that bring together a 'positive situation' and the opposite 'negative situation', i.e. a situation of a fairly similar nature that produces opposite effects with regard to the same SDG targets. Each pair then defines a 'topic' to be considered.

The evaluator selects the few 'positive or negative situations' to which his 'project' is close. For each of the selected 'topics', he estimates the degree of proximity between the 'project' and the precise statement of the 'positive situation' (or 'negative situation') it is close to.

The digital application can then automatically list the SDG targets that are impacted and produce a score of the importance of the various impacts in relation to the global targets.

4.2. Main steps of an impact assessment

Step 01: Pre-identification by experts of 'impacting situations' contributing to progress towards SDG targets

Sector specialists first identify actions in the sector that have a direct or indirect impact on progress towards the SDG targets. To do this, they have to study the details of the 2030 Agenda, confront its complexity and then characterise the 'impacting situations' causing concrete and real impacts towards the global objectives by considering the precise ambition of each of the SDG targets.

For each area of activity, numerous concrete examples of situations in that area that have an impact on the various SDG targets are pre-identified and described in a way that allows the general method to be used.

This step requires specialists in the field and SDG specialists. These specialists consider actions in the sector that are likely to impact at least one of the 169 SDG targets, then characterise them by precisely describing these pre-identified 'situations' and the targets impacted. They then form pairs of 'opposing situations', thus creating 'topics'. These 'impacting situations' are described in terms that are understandable to everyone, or at least to those involved in the sector, without mentioning the SDG targets affected.

The experts then attribute to each of these pre-identified 'impacting situations' positive or negative points in terms of contribution to the 2030 Agenda, assessing the extent of their impact on real progress towards the global objectives.

Finally, the experts organise these different 'impacting situations' into categories that are both understandable to those working in the field and structured in such a way that a given 'project' falls under only a small number of them. These constitute the 'themes' to which the different 'subjects' are linked. A single 'subject' may be linked to several themes.

Step 02: Development of a digital application dedicated to the sector

For each area of activity for which 'impacting situations' have been pre-identified, a digital application implementing the general method is built. It allows an evaluator to easily compare a given 'project' in that sector with pre-identified cases of situations that have an impact on SDG targets. Then the application automatically calculates impact scores.

For freshwater, this application exists and is called *Water4allSDGs*. It is publicly available at <https://water4allsdgs.org>.

For the field of education, there is also an application called *Education4allSDGs*. It is publicly available at <https://education4allsdgs.org>.

Step 1: Selection by an evaluator of the 'topics' relevant to the 'project' to be assessed

In the sectoral field of the 'project', the number of pre-identified 'impacting situations' can exceed several hundred. The number of 'topics', pairs of 'opposing situations', can therefore be well over a hundred. To avoid falling back into a new complexity trap, *4allSDGs* guides evaluators by grouping these 'topics' according to classic themes of the sector of activity called 'themes'. The assessor then considers only the few thematic areas corresponding to his or her 'project' without needing to look at the 'topics' of the other 'themes'.

For each of these thematic areas, the evaluator then examines each of the 'topics' proposed and selects those which describe 'positive' or 'negative' situations similar to those of the 'project'.

Optional: Additional 'topics' brought by the evaluator. The pre-identified 'impacting situations' may describe contributions to several dozen SDG targets, but not necessarily to all of them. It is impossible for the specialists doing the pre-identification to describe all the real situations in advance. If the evaluator identifies a contribution to an SDG target that has not been pre-identified, he documents it and adds it to the pre-identified 'impacting situations'. After describing the 'opposite situation', an additional 'topic' can then be added.

Step 2: Evaluation by the user of the selected 'topics'

Once the relevant 'topics' have been selected, the evaluator carefully studies the precise statement of the 'positive situation' or 'negative situation' to which his 'project' is close. He then assesses how close the 'project' is to it. They he estimate the size of the 'project' according to the proposed scale and justifies his choices.

Step 3: Calculation by the digital tool of contribution scores to the SDG targets

For each 'topic' recognised as relevant, a points score is calculated, taking into account the scale set in advance for the proposed 'situation' and the degree of proximity of the actual 'project' to this 'impacting situation'. This score is adjusted according to the size of the 'project'.

For each SDG target, it is then possible to group together all the scores of the 'topics' contributing to this target and to deduce the greatest positive contribution and the greatest negative contribution to this target.

Step 4: Assessment results produced by the digital tool

The assessment concludes with the results produced by the application, i.e:

- the list of all identified contributions to each SDG target with the positive or negative scores of the project's impacts on that target. This list can be sorted either by SDG or by theme.
- a bar graph showing the targets to which the project contributes. This graph highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the project with regard to the SDGs. It can be sorted either by SDG or by theme

5. Thematic areas or 'themes'

As noted in 1.3.2, *4allSDGs* guides evaluators by grouping 'topics' according to well-known sectoral thematic areas that are named 'themes'.

Guiding the evaluator in thinking in terms of coherent thematic areas rather than target by target is the consequence of several considerations:

- these areas are much easier for sector professionals or 'project' owners to understand than the many different SDG targets;
- a given 'project' in the sectoral area contributes to only a small number of 'themes', thus avoiding the need to examine in detail all the pre-identified 'situations' and saving the evaluators a lot of time;
- certain SDG targets combine several distinct objectives that are independent of each other. Each is then considered to be covered by an autonomous 'part of a target' or 'sub-target'. The assessment of the impact on the SDGs is therefore made in relation to each of these 'objectives', progress towards one of them being progress towards the target itself. However, these parts of the targets may come from distinct sub-sectors corresponding to distinct professional specialties or societal organisations. The 'situations' impacting on the different objectives of a target may be linked to different 'themes';

Example: In the field of freshwater, target SDG 6.2 aims for universal access to sanitation and universal access to hygiene. These two objectives are the subject of different UN indicators 6.2.1a and 6.2.1b. This target is therefore considered to have two distinct components. A hygiene access project can achieve the maximum score just as well as a sanitation access project. However, the people who deal with hygiene and those who deal with pollution are often very different. It is therefore advisable to link access to hygiene and sanitation to different 'themes'.

- Conversely, the same sub-objectives can be found in several targets. Processing them once in a single 'theme' saves time.

Example: the 3 targets 6.1, 1.4 and 11.1 aim to improve access to drinking water. They are grouped under the Water4allSDGs theme 'Drinking water'. A project improving access to drinking water in a slum can therefore achieve simultaneously the maximum score for each of the targets 1.4 poverty reduction, 6.1 access to safe drinking water and 11.1 access to essential services in all urban settlements.

Thus,

- On the one hand, it is easier, and therefore more operational, to enter into the assessment according to sectoral 'themes' than according to SDG targets;
- On the other hand, this thematic sorting allows a significant reduction in the complexity of the SDGs for the evaluators.

However, when selecting the 'themes' to be examined in more detail, the evaluator should not be too hasty and should consider the possibility that other 'themes' may be relevant to the 'project' that he/she had not previously thought of.

6. Calculating the score of a pre-identified 'topic'

For each action area, a number of pre-identified 'topics' are proposed and described in detail by statements describing a positive impacting situation and an opposite negative situation.

For each topic, the role of an evaluator is to estimate whether the 'project' will have consequences similar to one of these two statements. If this is not the case, the 'topic' is ignored and a score of zero is assigned to it. If this is the case, the topic becomes a 'relevant topic' that the assessor must select and then evaluate.

The assessor then evaluates three factors, which are:

- Factor 1: the degree of proximity of the consequences of the 'project' to the 'impacting situations' described,
- Factor 2: relating to the 'size' of the 'project'
- Factor 3: relating to the 'measurability of the impact' of the 'project'.

A fourth factor, the zero factor, does not depend on the evaluator but on the significance of the impact of the positive situation. It is determined in advance by the authors of the methodology applicable to the project's sectoral field.

The points reported by each of these four factors are then multiplied together and normalised to fit a scale of -80 to +100. The maximum score is therefore 100. A score of x points represents x% of this maximum score.

6.0. Factor 0 (zero) relating to the significance of progress generated by the positive "impacting situation"

The exact satisfaction of the proposed positive impacting situation earns a pre-determined number of points which is the maximum possible score of Factor zero for this 'topic'. This maximum score depends on the 'topic' because the pre-identified positive 'situation' may fully, partially or only indirectly satisfy the needs of progress towards the SDG target.

The maximum scores of Factor Zero are thus differentiated according to the positive 'situations' in the following way:

- a) Positive contributions that are substantial enough to generate concrete progress towards the SDG target (as defined by its title or progress indicator) earn the maximum possible points for that factor 0. In case of several distinct objectives in a single target, this is the case of 'situations' generating actual progress on the ground towards the achievement of at least one of the target's objectives.
- b) Indirect contributions, those that promote progress towards the target such as improvements in governance or funding but do not in themselves generate progress towards the target, earn one quarter of the maximum possible points for Factor 0
- c) Positive contributions that are only partial progress towards the target earn half or 2/3 of the maximum possible points for Factor 0. These are contributions that are in the right direction, are real progresses, but are not sufficient to advance any indicator of progress towards the target. In particular, this is the case of a target (or a progress indicator) that includes several components that all need to be satisfied to create a progress towards the target and for which the 'impacting situation' creates a progress on one component only.

6.1. Factor 1 on closeness of the real situation with pre-identified situations

Depending on 'topics', Factor 1 depends on:

- the proximity of the actual situation to the statement of the positive impacting

situation or that of the negative impacting situation.

- the quantitative importance of the change brought about by the project in the direction described by the statement of the positive impacting situation.

The score assigned to the 'project' for factor 1 is thus chosen by the evaluator on a 3-level ladder for positive contributions (scores of 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$) or a 2-level ladder for negative contributions (scores of $-\frac{1}{2}$ or -1).

Then the ladders used depend on the 'topics'. They may be, for example:

- A ladder based on the proximity to the statements:

Degree of proximity	Factor 1 score
with the positive 'impacting situation'	
Direct major	1
Moderate direct	1 / 2
Indirect or partial	1 / 4
Neutral or unknown	0
with the negative 'impacting situation'	
Slightly negative	- 1 / 2
Negative	- 1

- A ladder of significance of change described in the statements such as:

Magnitude of change	Factor 1 score
Positive change	
Increase (or decrease) > 10 %	1
Increase (or decrease) between 3% and 10 %	1 / 2
Increase (or decrease) < 3%	1 / 4
Neutral or unknown	0
Negative change :	
Decrease (or increase) < 10 %	- 1 / 2
Decrease (or increase) > 10 %	- 1

or :

Magnitude of change	Factor 1 score
Positive change	
Increase (or decrease) > 20 %	1
Increase (or decrease) between 10% and 20 %	1 / 2
Increase (or decrease) < 10%	1 / 4
Neutral or unknown	0
Negative change :	
Decrease (or increase) < 20 %	- 1 / 2
Decrease (or increase) > 20 %	- 1

For many subjects, the evaluator is guided in choosing the category best suited to the project being assessed.

Note: Some specific issues are not amenable to partial satisfaction. The project may or may not meet them. In this case, the only choice is to determine whether the "project" creates the proposed positive impacting situation or negative impacting situation. The "topic" then receives the maximum possible positive or negative points for factor 1.

6.2. Factor 2 measuring sizes of projects

As the method aims in particular to be able to compare 'projects' with regard to the SDGs, it seems necessary to take into account their size before assigning a score. Indeed, while two similar projects may bring contributions to SDG targets that are of the same nature, these contributions may vary in magnitude. Factor 2 is therefore a score that increases with the size of the projects.

Examples:

- : A clean water project that brings water to 1 million people thus earns more points than a project that benefits 1,000 people.
- An educational project that provides access to primary school to 1 million young people earns much more points than a project that only benefits 1,000 pupils.

For each 'topic', a size criterion is identified. It uses 2 reference levels:

- the 'high threshold' level that is defined as the level that yields a score of 100 points, i.e. 100% of the maximum possible. This level is chosen to be close to 1‰ of the global needs to achieve the impacted target.
- the 'low threshold' level is defined as the 'high threshold' level divided by 10,000. It yields a score of 2 point or 200 hundredths of points.

The 'project' sizes are then classified into 18 progressive brackets according to the table below:

Brackets		Scores of Factor 2	
B	'high threshold' = 10,000 x 'low threshold'	Hundredths of points	Points
18	< 0,01 'low threshold'	0	
17	> 0,01 'low threshold' and 0,03 'low threshold'	10	
16	> 0,01 'low threshold' and < 0,06 'low threshold'	20	
15	> 0,06 'low threshold' and < 0,1 'low threshold'	30	
14	> 0,1 'low threshold' and < 0,3 'low threshold'	40	
13	> 0,3 'low threshold' and < 0,6 'low threshold'	70	
12	> 0,6 'low threshold' and < 'low threshold'	100	1
11	> 'low threshold' and < 3 'low threshold' or > 0,0001 'high threshold' and < 0,0003 'high threshold'	200	2
10	> 0,0003 'high threshold' and < 0,0006 'high threshold'		5
9	> 0,0006 'high threshold' and < 0,001 'high threshold'		8
8	> 0,001 'high threshold' and < 0,003 'high threshold'		13
7	> 0,003 'high threshold' and 0,01 'high threshold'		21
6	> 0,01 'high threshold' and < 0,03 'high threshold'		34
5	> 0,03 'high threshold' and < 0,06 'high threshold'		53
4	> 0,06 'high threshold' and < 0,1 'high threshold'		65
3	> 0,1 'high threshold' and < 0,3 'high threshold'		80
2	> 0,3 'high threshold' and < 'high threshold'		90
1	> 'high threshold'		100

This method ensures that an impact that is more important than another gets a score that is higher or equal. In that sense, the method is progressive.

However, in order to recognize both high contributions at the level of a country and

smaller contributions at the local level such as the level of a city or a school, the method is not linear. By consequence it is not additive: a project that combines 2 smaller projects will get a score that is not the sum of their respective scores.

Small and very small contributions are recognised.

The aim of the methodology is to identify the orders of magnitude of the impacts on the SDG targets without seeking illusory precision. This is why this number of 18 brackets has been considered as sufficient to differentiate projects and to motivate most project owners. It would of course be possible to define an even greater number of brackets, but this would not be useful

For sectors of activity where it is not wished to make a differentiation between very small contributions, it is possible to replace the lower brackets (scoring points < 1) by a single small bracket for the range 0 to 0,0001 'high threshold' and to award a size factor of 1 to all actions below 0,0001 'high threshold'. See the table below

The scores below 2 are expressed in hundreds of points to facilitate their operational use and mobilise small contributors.

	Example with 11 size brackets	Score of Factor 2	
		Hundredths of points	Points
	(<i>'high threshold'</i> = 1,000,000) (<i>'low threshold'</i> = 100)		
11	< 100 people	100	
10	> 100 people and < 300 people	200	2
9	> 300 people and < 1,000 people		8
8	> 1,000 people and < 3,000 people		13
7	> 3,000 people and < 10,000 people		21
6	> 10,000 people and < 30,000 people		34
5	> 30,000 people and < 60,000 people		53
4	> 60,000 people and < 100,000 people		65
3	> 100,000 people and < 300,000 people		80
2	> 300,000 people and < 1,000,000 people		90
1	> 1,000,000 people		100
	0,5‰ of global 6.1 SDG target need equal to 2.2 billion people		

Example of actions contributing to a target requiring positive action among billions of people such as target 6.1 on universal access to safe drinking water:

6.3. Factor 3 on measurability of impacts

A project whose impact is objectively measured earns more points than a project that is going in the right direction but whose contribution is merely assumed or estimated without being measured. In practice, points for a positive contribution are increased by 25% if the contribution is objectively measured. This increase does not apply to negative contributions.

7. Non pre-identified 'topics'

In particular cases, the evaluator may discover an aspect of the project that clearly has an impact (positive or negative) on the SDGs but is not described in the proposed pre-identified statements. In such cases, the evaluator needs to add this particular 'topic'.

As this 'topic' is not covered in advance, the evaluator then estimates the zero factor in a manner that is as consistent as possible with the scales of the pre-identified 'topics'.

The following tables provide guidance for differentiating between major direct impacts and indirect or partial impacts.

For positive impacts, the assessor chooses one of the options in the table below and selects the level from the scale in the right-hand column:

Potential nature of a positive impact	Factor1
An effective progress on the ground towards the achievement of at least part of the target	1
A progress necessary to achieve at least part of the target but insufficient on its own to determine ground progress towards it	2/3
A factor favouring the achievement of the target but not constituting actual progress towards it (indirect factor)	1/3
An improvement of funding or governance of actions towards the target	1/3

For negative impacts, the assessor chooses one of the options in the table below and selects the related minimum score in the right-hand column.

Potential nature of a negative impact	Factor zero
a backward step on the ground away from the target	-1
a complication in the field making it more difficult to reach the target	- 2/3
a contextual factor that is unfavourable to the achievement of the target	- 1/3
a deterioration in funding or governance of actions towards the target	- 1/3

8. Calculating impact scores on a particular SDG target

When the evaluator has completed the selection and assessment of relevant 'topics', each selected 'topic' provides a number of impact points on the SDG target(s) concerned by that 'topic'.

It is then possible for each SDG target to identify the issues that contribute positively or negatively to it and the corresponding impact scores.

As the respective scales used for the calculation of these points are modulated according to their impact on the target concerned, the weights of the scores reported under the different 'topics' are considered equivalent.

The maximum of the positive points contributed by the different topics is then taken as

the score measuring the positive contribution of the project to this SDG target.

Similarly, the lowest of the negative scores for the different topics is taken as the score measuring the negative impact of the project on the SDG target.

Thus, each SDG target has a negative score between -80 and zero and a positive score between zero and +100.

For example, a target aiming at universal access for the population to something (drinking water, electricity, schooling, health care, etc.) may have a positive score of +40 if the project will give access to 100,000 people but will also have a negative score if the project simultaneously leads to a degradation of access in a neighbouring neighbourhood.

Thus, this methodology allows the 'project' to be assigned a positive impact score and, possibly, a negative impact score on any SDG target impacted by the many pre-identified 'impacting situations'³.

Although these scores are calculated in a crude way with, for example, large threshold effects resulting from the use of only 3 levels of positive impacts and 18 levels of sizes, these scores are sufficient to :

- detect the SDG targets impacted by the 'project';
- detect the SDG targets most impacted by the 'project';
- detect the negative impacts of the 'project' on the 2030 Agenda.

This allows for a more detailed analysis of these impacts to be carried out and, if necessary, improvements to the 'project' by increasing the positive impacts or by seeking compensatory measures to neutralise the negative impacts.

9. Calculating impact scores on a particular SDG

If more than one target of an SDG are impacted by the 'project', the highest and lowest of their scores can be taken as the positive and negative scores of the 'project' with respect to the relevant SDG. For each SDG, the 'project' is thus given a score on a scale from - 80 to +100.

This does not mean that each target should not be considered separately, but it does allow the identification of the SDGs most impacted by the 'project', which is a simplified way of communicating the results of the assessment.

As with the targets, although these scores are rough estimates, they allow for

- detecting the SDGs impacted by the 'project';
- detecting the SDGs most impacted by the 'project';
- detecting the existence of negative impacts of the 'project' on the 2030 Agenda.

Note: The same can be done for the sectoral themes by calculating a negative and a positive score for each of the themes used. This is useful for the evaluator as it helps him/her to judge the coherence of his/her evaluation and to detect possible omissions.

³ The same applies to additional topics provided by the evaluator (see paragraph 1.6)

10. Presentation of the assessment results

10.1. Equivalence of the relative weights of the targets - Absence of a synthetic score

The many SDG targets are all important in the 2030 Agenda. Even if locally, some appear to have higher priority than others, their inclusion at the global level in the 2030 Agenda means that none is systematically given higher priority than the others. This is why the *4allSDGs* assessment is done on a target-by-target basis without aggregating the scores for all the targets involved in the 'project'. There is no single score for each project, as 'projects' have strengths and weaknesses.

10.2. Results of the assessment

For each SDG target, the 'project' is given a score on a scale from -80 to +100.

To facilitate understanding of the assessment, indicative scores are assigned to each of the 17 SDGs on the same scale from -80 to +100. The impact scores on an SDG are calculated by taking the extremes of the scores of the targets that make up that SDG.

The assessment of the sector's 'project' according to this method leads to the following results:

- the list of SDG targets impacted by the project;
- for each of these targets, a positive or negative score or both;
- positive or negative impact scores for each of the 17 SDGs

The evaluation thus allows to :

- identify the SDGs and SDG targets impacted by the project and the reasons why the project impacts them;
- detect the SDG targets most impacted by the project;
- detect negative impacts of the project on the 2030 Agenda.

This enables a more detailed analysis of the causes and reality of these impacts to be carried out and the project to be improved by increasing the positive impacts or by seeking compensatory measures to neutralise the negative impacts.

10.3. Viewing the impact scores SDG by SDG

The most telling graphical representation of the result is a horizontal bar chart with one bar for each of the 17 SDGs and one bar for the principle of "leaving no one behind". The length of each bar is proportional to the number of points awarded by the method. The title of each SDG specifies the numbers of the SDG targets impacted by the project.

This makes it easy to identify the SDGs to which the project contributes as well as those for which there are negative impacts. The reader is then free to study the targets of these SDGs for which specific positive or negative impacts have been identified.

If the sectoral area of the project is particularly linked to a specific SDG, this bar chart can be 'zoomed in' on that SDG with a bar for each of the targets of that SDG.

Example: Figure 1 shows an example of a bar chart for a water project. It contains a bar for each of the SDGs with a zoom on SDG6, the SDG dedicated to water and sanitation.

On such a bar chart, the impacted SDGs stand out clearly. It is also easy to see the relative importance of the impacts on the different SDGs. Finally, any negative

impacts are clearly visible.

Thus, these bar charts visually show the strengths and weaknesses of a 'project' with regard to the SDGs without the evaluator having to know the details of the 169 SDG targets.

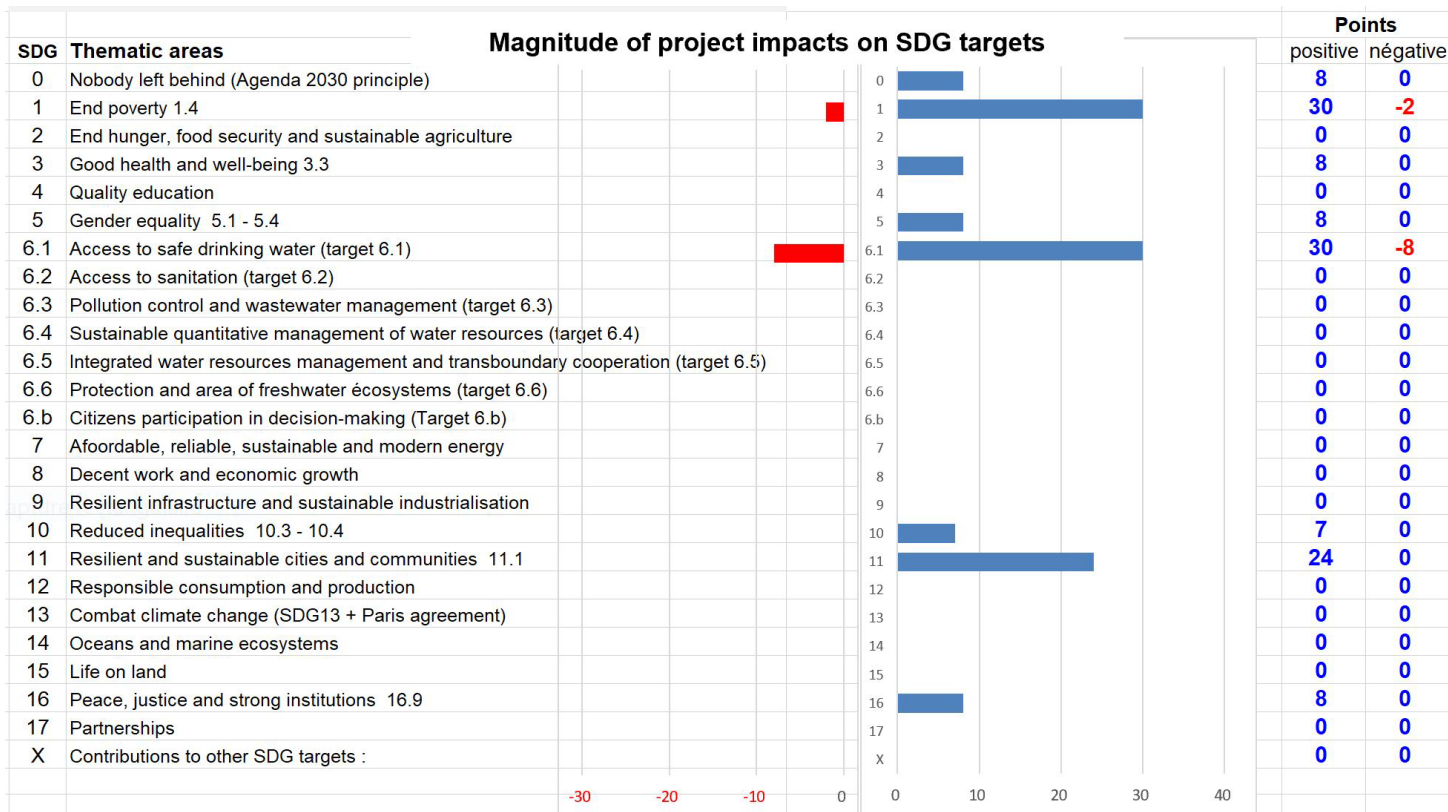


Figure 1: Example of impact scores resulting from the creation of a water network in a slum

10.4. Visualisation of scores by thematic areas

Since each 'topic' in a thematic area is assessed for a certain number of points, a positive and a negative score can be assigned to that thematic area by calculating the extreme values of the scores of the topics within that theme. The representation of these scores in the form of a diagram with a bar for each theme makes it easy to visualise the areas in which the project contributes most to the SDGs. The interest of this visualisation is above all to help the evaluator to judge the coherence of his/her assessment by spotting anomalies or omissions during the assessment process.