






**The Global
SDG Synthesis
Coalition**

Engaging Partners and Funders Breakfast

19th September 2023 – SDG Summit side event

 sdgsynthesiscoalition.org
 @SDGSynthesis
 The Global SDG Synthesis Coalition

Good morning your Excellencies, distinguished partners and guests,

To make sure you are all sufficiently caffeinated I will show you a picture and ask you what you think it is and what it has to do with the Sustainable Development Goals or Synthesis for that matter.



Who knows what this is?

This is a picture of an allegoric carnival car in Rio de Janeiro Brazil

In 2005, the United Nations took part in the official Rio Carnival parade, when Rio dedicated one of its spectacular parade, complete with lyrics and costumes, specially to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2005 the UN had the official carnival in Rio dedicate one of its parades, lyrics, outfits and everything to the Millennium Development Goals - the MDGs

We managed to put a dear and famous UN Resident Coordinator in tights and a glorious outfit made of fake feathers.

We even managed to convince a prominent and well-known UN Resident Coordinator to don tights and a magnificent costume adorned with fake feathers. He proudly stood atop one of those

towering allegorical cars, attempting to samba with all his might. We all had to stand up for the cause of the MDGs, even if it meant a fair share of embarrassment along the way.

Millenium Development Goals



Maybe not many of you can read what is in this picture but I believe most of you recognize the icons. These icons were used throughout the world. I am personally proud because these famous icons were developed by a dear person I used to know in Brazil, my country, Percival Caropreso, when we were part of the Global Compact together.

About 20 year ago, I was a national UN officer in Brazil and among other things I worked with the Millennium Development Goals - what preceded the Sustainable Development Goals.

At some point I was called to coordinate a global UN campaign in Brazil that perhaps some of you will remember, it was called Stand up for the Millennium Development Goals and to end poverty



I traveled all over Brazil and there were thousands of other events and millions of people that engaged in these messages throughout the world.

Stand up for the Development Goals



STAND UP
TAKE ACTION
End Poverty Now!



We had the large Maracana soccer stadium in Brazil stand up

We made the Pan American Games in 2007 stand up

And many schools, organizations and poor communities stood up committing to take action.

Unfortunately, we didn't get much more than a few businesses to plant some trees, pick up trash and distribute some food to the poor.



The MDGs fell short of our expectations due to various reasons, including insufficient political commitment and a lack of clarity regarding effective strategies of WHAT worked to achieve the goals.
NOW WE HAVE IT!



**The Global
SDG Synthesis
Coalition**

'We Are the First Generation that Can End Poverty, the Last that Can End Climate Change' UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 2015

We have the capacity to synthesize evidence and identify what works through syntheses.

The thesis Coalition is poised to synthesize the massive evaluative evidence available and hand decisionmakers, investors and stakeholders – what might work to actually help achieve the global goals.

The Global SDG Synthesis Coalition



The Global SDG Synthesis Coalition is an unprecedented multi-stakeholder initiative with the aim to harness the power of evaluation and synthesis to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 agenda. Never before have 45 UN entities and multiple member states and partners working in concert, sharing evaluative evidence, resources and brain power, collaborated in such a way, buying into a common vision and mission to use evidence to help accelerate development .

In 2022 UNDP invited all evaluation offices to join us in a Global SDG synthesis coalition to develop 5 syntheses of the evaluative evidence organized around the 5 SDG pillars Partnerships, People, Peace, Planet and Prosperity to deliver to the 2023 GA SDG Summit and the summit of the future.

Throughout 2023 we establish a Steering committee composed of High Level Officials from 8 countries from different regions of the

globe to guide the learning needs of the syntheses.

We set up a management group for each pillar composed of UN entities Evaluation Offices and different partners, including member states, MDBs and synthesis and evaluation networks to co-design and manage the syntheses.

And we also established technical Advisory Panels of experts and methodologies to quality assure the syntheses.

Why is the Coalition important?

- Not a single SDG is projected to be met by 2030, with the poorest countries struggling the most
- Synthesis helps to identify and amplify key messages from the wealth of evidence available
- Synthesizing evidence by Pillar recognizes the integrative nature of the SDGs
- The Coalition represents an unprecedented collective effort by the UN and external evaluation and evidence communities



But why is the coalition important? According to the current trends, “not a single SDG is projected to be met by 2030, with the poorest countries struggling the most”. So how to identify what could help?

The wealth of evidence on the SDGs presents challenges in determining what is most relevant. Synthesis helps to ‘amplify key messages’.

And why a pillar approach and not a synthesis for each pillar?

Synthesizing evidence by Pillar recognizes the integrative nature of the principles of the SDGs. The Pillars embody the multidimensional and interconnectedness needed for sustainable development that

leaves no one behind.

Partner UN entities and affiliates

Co-leads:

UNDP and Global
Affairs Canada

IFAD
IMO
OHCHR
OIOS
UNCDF
UNCTAD
UNFPA
UN-HABITAT
UNICEF
UNIDO
UNODC
WB
IMF
Paris 21
ITU
IDEAS
UN Joint SDG Fund



Partnership Pillar

Co-leads:
UNDP, UNICEF,
WFP, UNESCO,
UN Women

FAO
IFAD
ILO
IMO
IOM
OHCHR
OIOS
UNFPA
UNODC
WHO
WB
PAHO
IAEA



People Pillar

Co-leads:
GCF, UNEP

FAO
GEF
IFAD
ILO
IMO
IOM
OHCHR
OIOS
UNDP
UNECE
UNFPA
UNIDO
WMO
IAEA
UNICEF
WFP



Planet Pillar

Co-leads:
UNDP, OIOS,
PBSO,
UNODC

IOM
OHCHR
UNESCO
UNFPA
UNOCT
UNODC
UNICEF
ESCWA
UNHCR



Peace Pillar

Co-leads:
UNDP, CAF
ILO, UNIDO,
IOM

OHCHR
OIOS
UNECE
UN-HABITAT
WB
AFDB
ADB
ESCWA
WTO
FAO
AfDB
IsDB
WFP
UNOCT



Prosperity Pillar



We now includes 45 UN entities and a growing number of UN Member States, multilateral development banks, International Financial Institutions, civil society organizations, Synthesis and evaluation professional networks, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector.

Not all are listed under each pillar, some are engaged in different forms as well as the member states and other partners

Why begin with the Partnership Pillar?



- Enabling role for accelerating all other SDGs
- 'to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize Global Partnership for Sustainable Development'
- five key areas: **trade, finance, technology, capacity building, and systemic issues**
- 2023 UNGA SDG Summit call for a new paradigm to revitalize Global Partnerships.

Some of you may have participated in the launch of our first report on this part Sunday. The Partnership Pillar has been chosen as the first synthesis due to the enabling role of SDG 17.

The SDG 17 targets cover international cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships that can be grouped into five key areas: **Trade, Finance, Technology, Capacity building and Systemic issues such as** enhancing policy and institutional coherence.

In addition to that we wanted to contribute to the SDG Summit calling for a new paradigm to revitalize Global Partnerships' emphasizing the role of multi-stakeholder approaches, to shift economic models and global financial architectures, reducing donor dependency, and supporting financial accountability and transparency to achieve the SDGs.

What have we learned thus far?



- The Partnership Pillar Synthesis was a successful pilot and proof of concept
- The Coalition is an incredible force aligned with the vision of the broader social science evidence and evaluation communities
- Synthesizing evidence by Pillar is important but very complex given the vast evidence

WHAT TO DO?

- Develop a collective living evidence approach to go beyond simply delivering 5 Pillar reports, ensuring a flow of evidence, accessibility and knowledge translation.
- Ensure that key evaluative evidence from UN agencies and other partners are better accounted for in the synthesis, they carry relevant qualitative data on THE “why”
- Consider the overall interconnectedness of the five pillars and interlinkages between the pillars building an overarching evidence architecture.
- Mobilize significant resources beyond 5 reports with the goal of ensuring an overarching evidence architecture to continuously provide living evidence needed.

What have we learned from conducting the first synthesis and from progressing as a Coalition thus far that is relevant for you to know to want to join us?

The Partnership Pillar Synthesis was a successful pilot and proof of concept with many lessons learned . **Bringing together the Coalition and delivering a global synthesis in 9 months were incredible achievements in itself.**

Whilst the focus of the Coalition is on evaluative evidence and producing these syntheses – much time, effort (blood, sweat and tears) have been spent on building the Coalition itself. However, running a Coalition of this size takes real time and effort, and one that needs to be properly resourced. SDG practitioner, research, evaluation and advocacy communities also buy in to the vision of the Coalition.

We learned many great insights with this first synthesis. You have a print out of the 8 key insights of the report with you and you can access the full report and a full brief of the coalition in our website.

But beyond the lessons and insights about the Partnership Pillar we learned a **lot in this process to refine the next syntheses.**

- Synthesizing evidence on each Pillar is important but incredibly complex given the vast quantities of evidence. We need to develop a collective living evidence approach and that requires significant resources to go beyond simply delivering 5 Pillar reports but ensuring a flow of evidence, accessibility and knowledge translation. **We need to ensure that the synthesis is not an end in and of itself, the important work begins after**
- We also learned that we need to ensure that key evaluative evidence from UN entities and other partners are better accounted for in the synthesis, they carry relevant qualitative data on why initiatives work or not but the inclusion and exclusion criteria requires careful consideration to capture the particularities of qualitative evidence.
- The coalition also needs to continue to ensure the overall interconnectedness of the five pillars and interlinkages between the pillars. What works in one pillar may help accelerate parts of another pillar; likewise, there may be trade offs between progress in one pillar and progress in another.
- **The key message here**, is that what we're working towards is greater than just producing 5 reports on the pillar syntheses. The potential value for what this Coalition has started, is actually in developing an overarching architecture for rigorous evidence framed by the SDGs. What you could be investing in is the beginning of a global collective effort to systemitize the global evidence base on what works to achieve all SDGs.
- But none of this is possible without resources. If we want to know what to do to accelerate development we need to invest significant resources on synthesis of evaluative evidence to capture this information.

What's next?



- **Promoting the uptake of the lessons and insights** from the Partnership Pillar Synthesis
- Contingent on the growth of resources and support:
 - **Progress with the People, Peace, Planet, and Prosperity syntheses.**
 - **Update the syntheses to keep them "living"**
 - **An online, interactive evidence portal utilizing AI**

So what is next is clear.

1) , we will need all partners help to promote the uptake of the lessons and insights from this Partnership Pillar Synthesis – PLEASE take them to the SDG summit and decision makers in your countries and work to further translate the evidence to your particular contexts.

2) We will also need technical and financial resources to progress with the subsequent syntheses on the remaining four SDG Pillars.

This was the coalition pilot, we can do even better and bring more lessons and specific contextualizes insights of what works BUT we now rely on the growth of resources and support, to deliver the other SDG Pillars syntheses.

What is also coming next is the development of an online, interactive evidence portal with Artificial Intelligence technology, housing the




evidence base of these syntheses.



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Your Excellencies and distinguished partners and guest, thank you for your attention, I would now like to call on my Deputy Director Alan Fox to say few words on where do we go from here.