

ISSUE BRIEF

Sustainable Development Goals

Winter 2018

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

- *Our Common Future*, 1987

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



What are the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The SDGs are an ambitious and aspirational set of goals launched in 2012 at the UN Sustainable Development Conference in RIO to provide a blue print to achieve a sustainable economic system by 2030. The goals, which were adopted by all 193 Member States at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, were seen as necessary in meeting urgent environmental, social and economic challenges facing the world.

The SDGs built on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) launched in 2000 to tackle the most vexing aspects of poverty, hunger, deadly diseases and childhood education. The MDGs provided measurable goals and drove progress over 15 years in many important areas – most notably combating the spread of HIV in Africa and other treatable diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.

The SDGs were created from an extensive consultation program led by representatives from 70 countries. Each of the 17 goals has several specific targets and indicators to help measure their progress. The SDGs are meant to unite all stakeholders- the private sector, government and society. They are meant to create a collaborative effort to meet these highly aspirational goals.

How can we check in on the progress of the SDGs?

On a global level, progress of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will be reported on annually at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Each year has a different theme aligned with a SDG, and voluntary national reviews are intended to foster the sharing of experiences, successes and challenges. The theme of the 2018 HLPF, for example, was ‘transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies’ and included the presentations of 46 voluntary national reviews.

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This year, the UN released a Sustainable Development Goals Report that provides an overview on the world's efforts thus far. Although it is still early in the 15 year plan, some findings are grim while some are encouraging. For example, the number of hungry people in the world has risen from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. On the other hand, the proportion of people with families living on less than \$1.90 per day has fallen to 9.2%.¹ The report found that conflict, climate change and growing inequalities are key challenges in the collective effort to achieve the goals.

Another challenge is the question of funding. The UN estimates that \$5-7 trillion dollars is needed annually to achieve the SDGs. By some estimates, this would leave an annual investment gap of over \$2.5 trillion.² Government budgets are not nearly enough to bridge this gap. Investment from the private sector along with philanthropic money will be imperative to the success of the goals. There is a growing prevalence of innovative finance tools, such as bonds linked to the SDGs launched by the World Bank.

How does Bailard map to the SDGs?

As investors, we believe we have an important role to play, and Bailard's Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing group and corporate engagement framework are aligned with the 17 SDGs in a variety of ways. You can find our Social Impact Report posted on our website.

*SOURCES

[1] *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018*, United Nations, New York 2018

[2] *World Investment Report 2014*, UNCTAD

DISCLOSURES

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