

# Qualitative Elements of the SDGs

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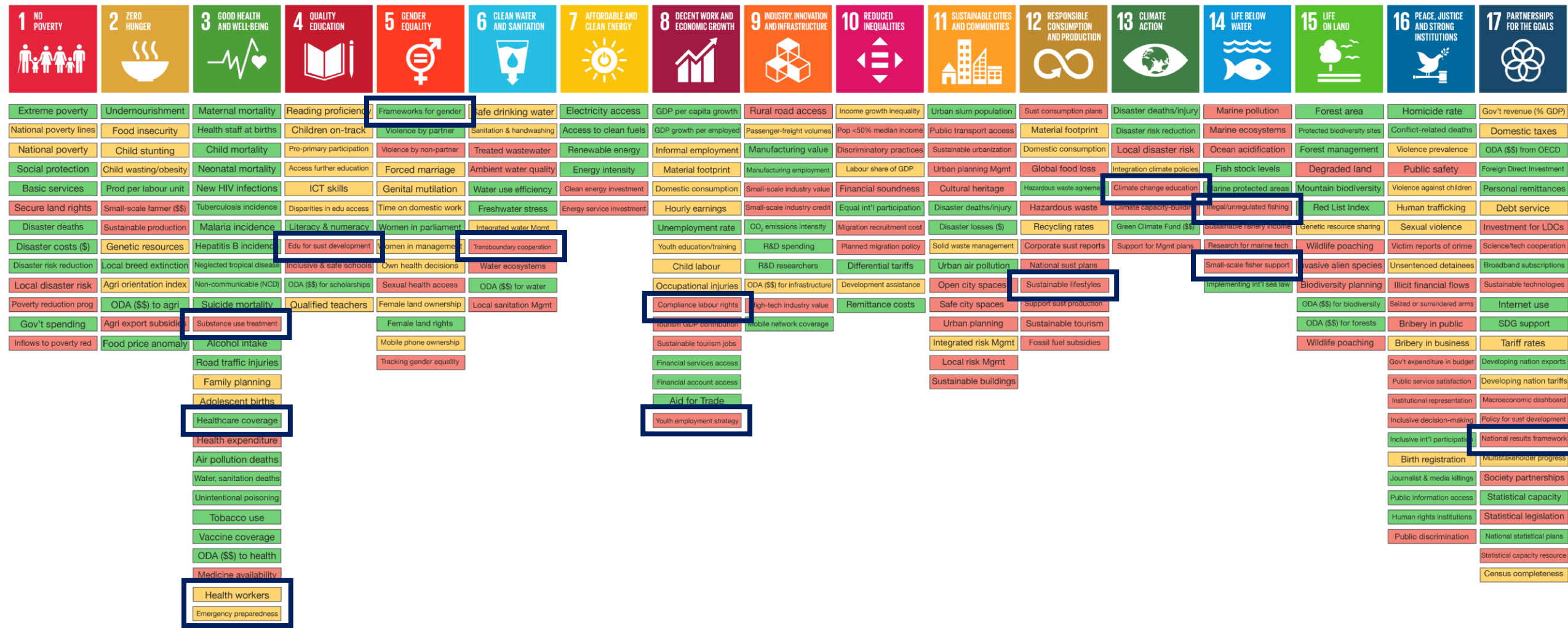
- SDGs are overwhelmingly quantitative.
- Difficult and controversial to include qualitative elements.
- Measuring progress on these elements difficult.



# All 232 SDG Indicators: What data is available?

This visualization shows for which of the 230 *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators* data is available at **SDG-Tracker.org**.

- = Indicators for which recent global official metrics are available, or for which alternative good-quality cross-country source are available (e.g. estimates from independent research institutes).
- = Indicators that do have official metrics, but for which available data is very incomplete or outdated. Yellow boxes also mark Indicators for which there are no official metrics, but for which closely related estimates are available that allow informative but imperfect monitoring.
- = Indicators for which – to the best of our knowledge – global monitoring is not currently possible.



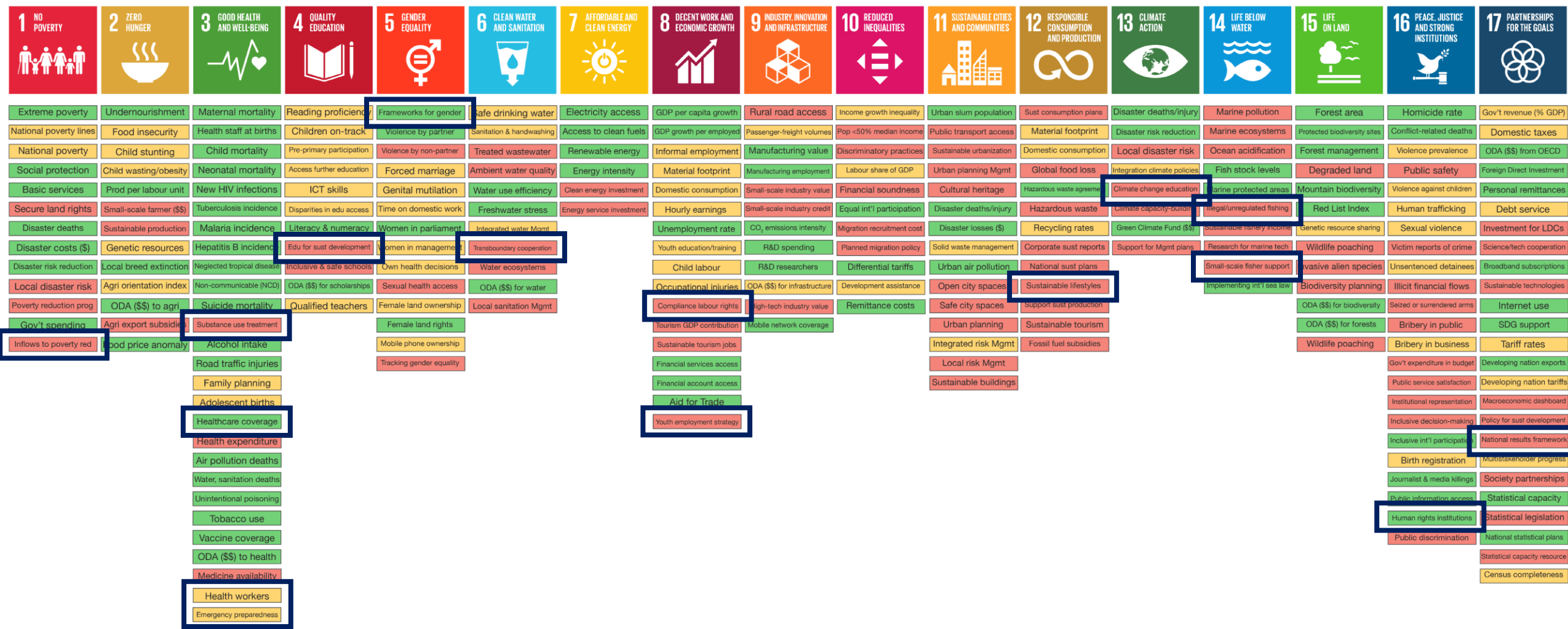
Qualitative  
indicators  
capture  
underlying  
concepts

Concept	Qualitative Indicator
Capacity	3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) <u>capacity</u> and health emergency preparedness
Cooperation	6.5.1 <u>Degree</u> of integrated water resources management
Equality	5.1.1 <u>Whether or not</u> legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
National Ownership	17.15.1 <u>Extent</u> of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation
Enabling Environments	8.b.1 <u>Existence</u> of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

# All 232 SDG Indicators: What data is available?

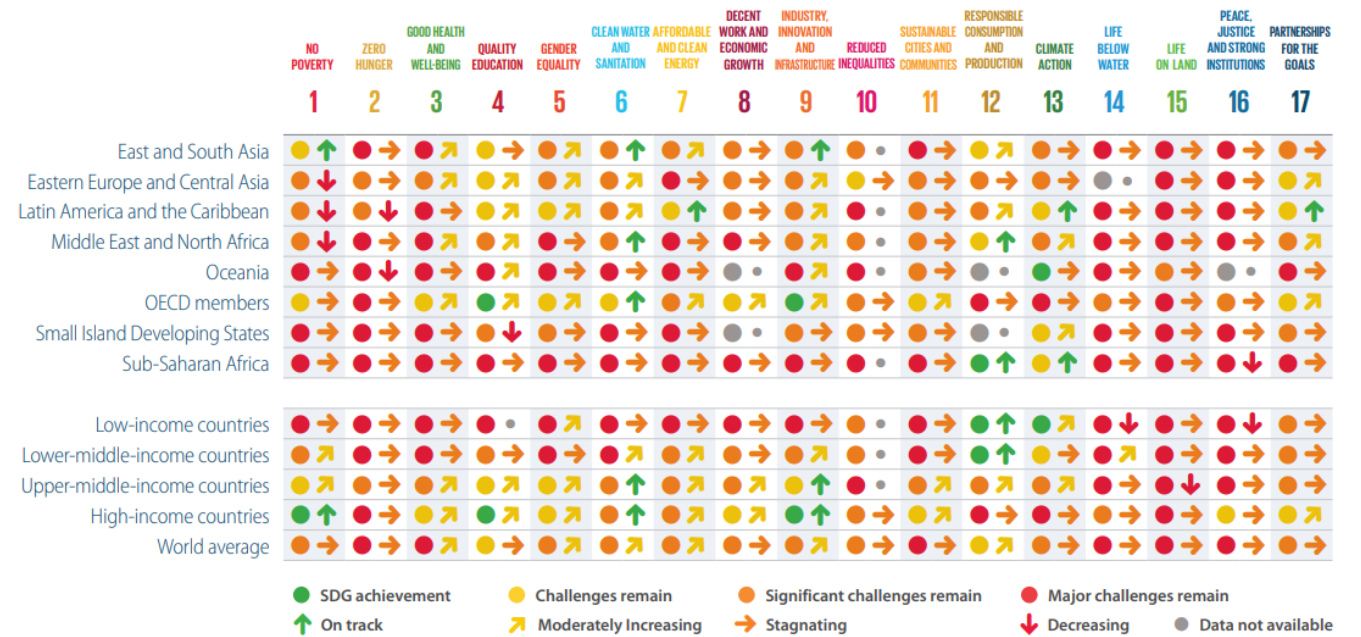
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Measuring progress on qualitative indicators has proven difficult

**Figure 2.16**  
2023 SDG dashboards by region and income group (levels and trends)



Note: Excluding OECD specific indicators. Population-weighted averages. Source: Authors' analysis



- SDGs are overwhelmingly quantitative.
- Difficult and controversial to include qualitative elements...*but they capture key concepts quantitative indicators miss or over-simplify.*
- Measuring progress on these elements difficult...*but incomplete information could be better than no information at all.*

## Appendix 1. SDG Qualitative Indicators

Goal	Target	Indicator
3	3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders
	3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services
	3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution
	3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks	3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness
4	4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment
5	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
6	6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management
8	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status



## Appendix 1 (cont.). SDG Qualitative Indicators

Goal	Target	Indicator
8	8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization	8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy
12	12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment
13	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment
14	14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation <sup>4</sup>	4.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
	14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/ policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries
16	16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
17	17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development	17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation

## Appendix 2. Qualitative Indicators dropped from Global Indicator Framework (2016 to 2023)

Goal	Target	Indicator
3	3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1* Coverage of tracer interventions (e.g. child full immunization, antiretroviral therapy, tuberculosis treatment, hypertension treatment, skilled attendant at birth, etc.)
10	10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations	10.5.1* Adoption of a financial transaction tax (Tobin tax) at the global level
14	14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1* Progress by countries in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries
17	17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	17.6.1* Access to patent information and use of the international intellectual property system
	17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries 17.16.1* Mutual accountability among development cooperation actors is strengthened through inclusive reviews