# Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019

## AN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE OECD COUNTRIES STAND

OECD

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# *Foreword*

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders at the United Nations on 25 September 2015, is a broad and ambitious plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, with the overarching objective of leaving no one behind. At its core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.

The OECD is fully committed to supporting the achievement of the SDGs. This commitment is underscored by the OECD Action Plan on the SDGs, endorsed by the OECD Council in December 2016. The Action Plan describes how the OECD will support the 2030 Agenda through its legal instruments, its expertise in policy analysis and its know-how on statistics, indicators and systems for monitoring performance. As part of this extensive plan, the OECD Statistics and Data Directorate developed a unique methodology for measuring the distance that OECD countries would need to travel in order to meet the SDG targets.

This Study, *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019: An Assessment of Where OECD Countries Stand* is closely aligned with the *UN Global Indicator List for the SDGs*, and, wherever possible, reflects the level of ambition agreed by Member States when setting the 2030 Agenda. It was first released as a pilot study in 2016; following feedback from OECD member countries and work to expand indicator and country coverage, a revised and expanded version was published in June 2017.

This 2019 edition of the Study further expands the indicator, target and country coverage. It also presents some preliminary evidence on how these indicators have changed over time as well as on the transboundary aspects embodied in the Agenda. An earlier version of this Study was presented to the OECD Council on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in March 2019.

The SDGs are our promise and our responsibility to future generations. They present a unique opportunity for countries to work together to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable future for all. In this respect, the OECD, through its expertise on policy and data, is assisting several countries in their efforts to implement the SDGs. This Study aims to further support member countries in their priority setting, assessment and monitoring towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Angel Gurría
OECD Secretary-General

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# *Reader's guide*

| | |
|---|---|
| 5Ps | The 5 areas of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships |
| DAC | Development Assistance Committee |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GNI | Gross National Income |
| HLPF | High-Level Political Forum on SDGs |
| IAEG | Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs |
| NSOs | National Statistical Offices |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UN | United Nations |
| VNR | Voluntary National Review |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |

# *Executive summary*

With eleven years left to achieve the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda, how close are OECD countries to reaching the SDGs? And how is our understanding constrained by targets and indicators that still cannot be measured? The OECD *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study aims to help member countries assess where they stand now and to identify the areas where additional effort is required in order to achieve the goals. It also sets out the statistical agenda – showing how much we do not yet know, and how this might impact both the achievement of the SDGs, and decisions about what to prioritise across this vast agenda. The methodology underlying the Study also provides a way for OECD countries to understand their SDG achievements and challenges in a comparative context.

This Study goes further than the previous (2017) edition in exploring how OECD countries have been doing over time by showing, indicator by indicator, whether they are moving in the right direction. It also highlights how much of the 2030 Agenda is transboundary in nature, thus requiring countries to consider their impacts beyond their own borders, as well as whether they are meeting the SDG targets domestically.

The indicators used in the Study are closely aligned with those in the *UN Global Indicator List* agreed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. They are drawn from OECD sources and the *UN SDGs Global Database*. The available data only allowed assessing 105 of the 169 SDG targets, and for only 87 of these it has been possible to assess whether indicators have been moving towards the target levels, rather than away from them. The target levels themselves have been set with reference to the level of ambition embodied in the wording of 2030 Agenda wherever possible. Where no clear target level is indicated in the 2030 Agenda, the Study relies on international agreements and expert opinion, and (in the remaining cases) on benchmarking against the top performing 10% OECD countries.

The results of the Study indicate that OECD countries are, on average, closest to achieving targets such as access to basic amenities (e.g. energy, information and communication technologies, and modern education facilities); maternal, infant and neonatal mortality rates; statistical capacity; public access to information; and conservation of coastal areas. They are furthest away from several targets related to inequalities (e.g. relative income poverty, disparities in education, women's participation and leadership); healthy behaviours (tobacco use and malnutrition); certain educational and employment outcomes (secondary education; adult numeracy skills; share of youth not education, employment or training); and violence and safety (e.g. violence against women; feelings of safety).

When aggregated at the Goal level, the Study finds that OECD countries are on average closest to achieving goals on Energy, Cities and Climate (goals 7, 11 and 13) and goals relating to Planet (Water, 6; Sustainable Production, 12; Climate, 13; Oceans, 14; and Biodiversity, 15). They are furthest from reaching goals related to inclusiveness, such as Gender Equality and Reducing Inequality (goals 5 and 10), with Food and Institutions

(goals 2 and 16) also areas of weaker performance. However, it is important to underscore that this assessment is based only on what can be measured at present. Data coverage is poorest on some of the planet-related goals, such as Oceans and Sustainable Production, and best in relation to goals on Health and Education. An analysis of the uncertainty created by these data gaps suggests that results could change substantially if a more complete data set were available.

There are considerable differences across OECD countries in achievement of individual goals and targets. These large disparities strongly suggest that national SDG implementation should consider performance at target level.

Time series data (available for 76 indicators) show that most OECD countries have been progressing towards targets relating to health, gender equality and all five Planet goals. The most notable areas of worsening performance pertain to Food (2.2.2 on obesity), Health (3.b.1 on vaccination coverage), Economy (8.1.1 on GDP growth, 8.2.1 on productivity growth, and 8.5.2 on unemployment) and Biodiversity (15.5.1 on the conservation status of major species groups and extinction risk over time). For most indicators, however, at least one third of OECD countries display no visible trend.

Nevertheless, this first analysis does not measure the pace of change, implying that, even when indicators are moving in the right direction, it does not assess when the targets are likely to be achieved by 2030.

Over half of the targets in the 2030 Agenda can be considered to contain a transboundary effect, meaning that, in achieving these targets, countries are likely to have impacts outside their own borders. These impacts could be on neighbouring countries, on other countries, or global public goods. Of 97 transboundary targets, indicators are available for only 31, leaving considerable data gaps for understanding the global and inter-connected aspects of the 2030 Agenda and its implementation.

Previous editions of this Study have been used by countries as input for communication on SDGs, for reference in their Voluntary National Reviews presented at the UN High-Level Policy Forum, for identifying data gaps in monitoring the SDGs, and for supporting deeper engagement across government and with civil society on the SDGs. The Study has proved to be a flexible tool that can provide a basis for analysis and be tailored to countries' needs in order to help them with the implementation and monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. As part of its Action Plan on SDGs, the OECD will continue to broaden and deepen its analysis so as to make the Study as useful to member countries as possible.

# Chapter 1. How far are OECD countries from achieving the SDG targets?

*Achieving the SDGs requires understanding where countries stand today, in order to plan how to reach the targets set for 2030. This chapter uses the UN Global Indicator List, supported by OECD and UN data, and a unique methodology in order to assess how far countries are from achieving the 2030 targets. It shows the distance from the targets for the OECD area as a whole, and how much of the 2030 Agenda currently remains unmeasurable. It also analyses changes in performance over the recent past, to assess whether countries are moving towards the targets, or away from them. In addition, it presents an analysis of transboundary aspects of the SDGs based on the indicators in the UN Global List that are currently available to measure these.*

## 1.1. Introduction

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are far-reaching global objectives adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 (Figure 1.1). The goals encompass five broad areas: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships (the "5Ps"). The core aim of the 2030 Agenda, to improve people's lives now and in the future, is shared by the OECD in its work on promoting better policies for better lives, and particularly in defining and measuring well-being and sustainability (OECD, 2017[1]).

**Figure 1.1. The Sustainable Development Goals**

*Source*: (United Nations, 2019[2]), Sustainable Development Goals Communications Materials, www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/ (accessed on 10 April 2019).

Since 2015, countries around the world have been translating the SDGs into national plans and policies, and designing national implementation strategies and monitoring systems. This Study aims to support these processes, providing a high-level overview of performance that helps countries identify their key strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets *from an international comparative perspective*. The assessment is based on the UN official list of SDG indicators (United Nations, 2017[3]) and in accordance with the level of ambition agreed by Member States when setting the 2030 Agenda. The Study highlights critical data gaps that need to be addressed in order to provide a more complete picture of where countries stand. These data gaps are unevenly distributed across the goals and targets, and place important limits on the conclusions that can be drawn so far.

This edition of the Study builds on earlier versions from 2016 and 2017 (OECD, 2017[4]), deepening the analysis by looking at whether countries have been moving towards or away from the targets. It also considers the indicators available to assess transboundary aspects of the 2030 Agenda – i.e. the contribution that individual countries make to whether targets are met at the global level. Finally, an assessment of how missing data could affect the findings shows the degree of uncertainty around countries' performance in relation to each goal.

This report is organised as follows. Section 1.2 provides the context for the Study, with background information about SDGs follow-up at the UN, global and national levels. Section 1.3 presents the Study's key findings, including a first assessment of changes in countries' performance over time and transboundary issues; Section 1.4 concludes and Annex 1.A reviews the metadata for the indicators used in the Study.[1] Chapter 2 presents country-level summary results, while Chapter 3 presents the methodology developed for the Study, including for measuring change over time and transboundary aspects.

## 1.2. This Study's contribution to global SDG monitoring

On 25 September 2015, world leaders gathered in New York and adopted United Nations Resolution 70/1, "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (UN-DESA, 2018[5]). The Agenda is "a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity [which]… also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom". The core of the Agenda is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising 169 targets that draw on a large number of previous international agreements, especially concerning development, environment and human rights. The goals are presented as "integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable". The Agenda presents them as addressing the 5Ps: People (broadly corresponding to goals 1-5), Planet (goals 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15), Prosperity (goals 7-11), Peace (goal 16) and Partnership (goal 17).

Partly because the 2030 Agenda was politically driven, rather than based on a conceptual framework, its 169 targets are heterogeneous. About one third of them are "means of implementation", while the others are located at various points along the input-process-output-outcome-impact chain – for example, targets include healthcare financing (inputs, targets 3.8 and 3.c), development of vaccines (outputs, target 3.b) or reducing premature mortality (outcomes, target 3.4). This mix of different types of objectives and the consequent need to resort to different types of data to measure progress present a substantial challenge for implementation and evaluation (Kanbur, Patel and Stiglitz, 2018[6]).

In agreeing on the 2030 Agenda, governments around the world committed to implementing the SDGs in their national settings. The Agenda states that "Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances" (UN-DESA, 2018[5]). This wide scope for countries in setting their national targets and implementing the SDGs means that each country must decide for itself on national targets and then integrate these into national processes. The Agenda also leaves the means of review of national progress to each UN Member State to determine.

The 2030 Agenda is more explicit regarding global reviews and monitoring, and has set up a process that includes an annual report by the UN Secretary-General and regular reviews by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The HLPF is organised annually under the auspices of UN Economic and Social Council and once every four years under the UN General Assembly; this forum provides the setting for countries to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as well as for the thematic reviews of the SDGs.

### *1.2.1. The global framework for SDG follow-up and review*

The main institutional structure for global SDG monitoring was set up prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, with the creation of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) in March 2015.[2] The IAEG-SDGs' task was to develop and implement a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda (henceforth, the *UN Global Indicator List*). The framework, composed of 244 indicators,[3] was finalised at the UN Statistical Commission session held in March 2017, and subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly in the Fall of 2017. These indicators align with the 169 targets and 17 goals, but are not distributed evenly: goals have between 5 and 19 targets, and targets have between one (most targets) and five (target 3.3) indicators.

These 244 global indicators were classified into three tiers based on their methodological development and data availability, as follows:

- Tier I indicators are those that are conceptually clear, based on established methodology and standards, and regularly produced by at least 50% of countries accounting for at least 50% of the population of each region;
- Tier II indicators are those that are conceptually clear, based on established methodology and standards, but not regularly produced by countries; and
- Tier III indicators are those that still lack an established methodology or standards (IAEG-SDGs, 2019[7]).

The IAEG-SDGs is regularly revising indicators' tier classifications as their methodology and data availability evolve. As of February 2019, 101 indicators were identified as Tier I, 84 as Tier II and 41 as Tier III. A further six indicators had multiple tiers (i.e. different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers). The average tier level of indicators varies across the goals, with some areas more advanced, such as goals relating to People, and other less, such as goals relating to Planet. This is reflected in the data available for this Study, as detailed in Section 1.3.1.

The IAEG-SDGs has recently presented a report outlining the methodological development of Tier III indicators, including the timeline for a comprehensive review of the *UN Global Indicator List* in 2020, also highlighting the work on data disaggregation (UN-ECOSOC, 2019[8]). Additionally, draft guidelines on data flows (IAEG-SDGs, 2018[9]) were agreed at the IAEG-SDGs November 2018 meeting, and discussed at the United Nations Statistical Commission meeting in March 2019. The guidelines state that global monitoring should primarily rely on country data produced by National Statistical Offices (NSOs). To support the development and compilation of these data, the IAEG-SDGs has identified custodian agencies for each indicator. These custodian agencies are responsible to help ensure international comparability, compute regional and global aggregates, and provide data for the *UN Global SDG Indicators Database* (UN Statistics Division, 2018[10]); henceforth, the *UN Global Database*.

The *annual UN Secretary-General's report* (UN-DESA, 2018[5]) and UN-DESA's *Sustainable Development Goals Report* (UN-ECOSOC, 2018[11]) are both based on the data available in the *UN Global Database*. This database provides access to data compiled by the UN system and other custodian agencies, and currently contains data for 153 individual indicators of the 232 unique indicators (244 including recurring

indicators) in the *UN Global Indicator List*.[4] However, these indicators vary widely in country coverage. For example, only half of them have comparable data available for at least 20 OECD countries, covering both EU and non-EU members, which is the minimum criterion regarding country coverage set for this Study. Many other studies have responded to the dearth of data on the *UN Global Indicator List* by limiting the targets covered, or by using other indicators (see Box 1.1).

**Box 1.1. Key international efforts to monitor SDG performance so far**

Since 2015, many international, governmental and non-governmental initiatives have been launched to assess SDG performance at all levels of monitoring (Sachs et al., 2018[12]; Kharas, 2018[13]; UN-ECOSOC, 2018[11]).

The UN's annual global reports (discussed above) are complemented by those by UN Regional Commissions, who play a key role in promoting SDG follow-up adapted to regional needs and interests. For example, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with other regional actors, publishes annual SDGs reports tackling issues such as the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the SDGs (UNECA, 2016[14]). Reports by the Economic Commissions for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) set out regional progress in SDG implementation, with ECLAC identifying critical links across goals (UNECLAC, 2018[15]) and ESCAP focusing on key strengths and weaknesses (UNESCAP, 2018[16]). The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has published a comprehensive Road Map on Statistics for SDGs to help countries meet the data challenges of the Agenda (UNECE, 2017[17]).

In the European Union, sustainable development was mainstreamed in 2010 into the Europe 2020 Strategy (European Commission, 2016[18]), which addresses economic, social and environmental policy areas, similar to the SDGs. With the alignment of the two, Eurostat's approach to measuring progress on SDGs focuses on existing EU policies and goals identified as relevant for the SDGs (Eurostat, 2018[19]).

The *SDG Index and Dashboards Report* has been published since 2016 by the Bertelsmann Foundation in co-operation with the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) (Sachs et al., 2018[12]). The report compiles measures across goals and targets to produce a single aggregate index, and subsequently ranks 193 countries according to their performance on that index. The data are only partially aligned with the *UN Global Indicator List*, and are sourced from publicly available data from official data providers and international organisations (e.g. World Bank, WHO, ILO, OECD) as well as from research centres and non-governmental organisations, with varying levels of country coverage.

UN-Habitat estimates that 23% of all SDG indicators have a local or urban component, and can be measured at the local level. To capture this sub-national dimension, UN-Habitat proposes that national governments and local authorities adopt the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) as a global monitoring platform for all SDGs with an urban component (UN HABITAT[20]). The CPI integrates all the indicators pertaining to goal 11 and a selected number of other SDG indicators referring to different aspects of shared prosperity and sustainability. The OECD's Programme on *A Territorial Approach to the SDGs: A role for cities and regions to leave no one behind,* launched at the 2018 HLPF, also aims to support cities and regions to develop, implement and monitor strategies to achieve SDGs (OECD, 2018[21]).

### *1.2.2. The purpose and approach of this Study*

This Study contributes to the OECD Action Plan on SDGs (OECD, 2016[22]), and in particular Action Area 2, which aims to "Leverage OECD data to help analyse progress in the implementation of the SDGs". A central part of the OECD's data effort aims to contribute to the global monitoring framework itself, and to the UN's global reports on SDG progress. As a custodian agency, the OECD directly supplies data to the UN Global Database on official development assistance and other international flows, as well on gender-based legal discrimination through the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). It also contributes data to other custodian agencies across a range of topics including policy coherence, education, environment and migration (OECD, 2016[22]).

The Study deepens the OECD's data-related support to member countries by offering a high-level picture of performance right across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. It draws on data aligned with the *UN Global Indicator List*, and assesses where countries stand in relation to the targets that were agreed by Member States when setting the 2030 Agenda.[5] It aims to help countries in both navigating and implementing the SDGs by:

- identifying available comparative indicators that members could use to set their strategic priorities within the SDG agenda, and to track progress towards them;
- assessing countries' current position on each of the targets, and putting this into context through a comparison with the OECD average; and
- highlighting key data gaps where statistical development will be particularly important, either to track progress or to advance understanding of the policy drivers of SDG targets.

The Study's methodology is described in detail in Chapter 3. To capture the effort needed to reach the different SDG targets, this Study applies a standardised method that measures the distance between OECD countries' current performance and where they should be in 2030. Doing so requires identifying suitable data sources for indicators to track the targets and (where this is not specified in the 2030 Agenda itself) defining a desirable level to be achieved by 2030. This methodology distinguishes this Study from other approaches as detailed in Box 1.2.

#### *Identifying suitable data sources*

The Study takes the November 2018 edition of the *UN Global Indicator List* defined by the IAEG-SDGs as its starting point. The following decision rules are then applied:

1. Where OECD data aligned with the *UN Global Indicator List* exist, the Study takes OECD data[6] (around 43% of indicators used).
2. Where no OECD data sources exist, data are extracted from the *UN Global Database* (around 33% of indicators used).
3. Where neither OECD nor *UN Global Database* data are in full alignment with the *UN Global Indicator List*, then OECD data that are considered suitable as close proxies are used (around 24% of indicators used).

As already mentioned, indicators are only included if data are available for at least 20 OECD countries, and not limited to EU countries only.

### *Setting target levels*

The SDGs encompass 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. Measuring distances from these targets requires a degree of precision that the 2030 Agenda does not always provide (Box 1.2, below). In the present Study, a four-step process was followed:

1. Wherever possible, target levels explicitly specified in the 2030 Agenda are used. This is typically a fixed value identified in the wording of the target (e.g. maternal mortality ratio below 70 per 100 000 live births for target 3.1) or, in a small number of cases, expressed as a relative improvement (e.g. reduce at least by half the proportion of people living in poverty for target 1.2). This applies to around 40% of the indicators considered in this Study.
2. Where no target value is identified in the text of the 2030 Agenda, target levels were drawn from other international agreements (e.g. reduce PM2.5 pollution to less than 10 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the WHO) or based on OECD expert judgment (e.g. water stress is considered to be low if total freshwater abstraction is below 10% of total internal renewable resources (OECD, 2017[23])). This applies to around 16% of the indicators used.
3. If no target value can be identified from either the 2030 Agenda or expert sources then the target level is based on current "best performance" among OECD countries. This is defined as the 90th percentile – i.e. the level attained by the top 10% of OECD countries (e.g. a recycling rate of municipal waste). This method is used for just over one quarter of the indicators.
4. Finally, for indicators lacking a clear normative direction (e.g. the share of manufacturing in value added), no target level is set and no "distance" is measured in the Study. This applies to around 17% of the indicators used in this Study; for these indicators, performance is shown separately in Section 1.3.

### *Measuring distance*

In order to compare performance across different targets, indicator values are normalised using a modified version of the z-score (i.e. distance is expressed as the number of OECD standard deviations a country is from reaching the target level).[7] In the results that follow, this is described as the "standardised difference" between the country's current position and the target end-value. The higher the distance, the further the country needs to travel to achieve its target. A zero distance means the country has already achieved the 2030 target. Negative scores mean the country already exceeds the target; these negative values are trimmed to zero in the figures reported below.

**Box 1.2. Different methodological approaches to measuring progress on SDGs**

Approaches to SDG monitoring and reporting vary significantly across countries and international organisations. This partly reflects the different institutional roles of each organisation. National Statistical Offices (NSOs), for example, follow the *UN Global Indicator List* when collecting data for the *UN Global Database*. Other units in national administration may use a different set of indicators to align with their own domestic policy agendas and priorities. International organisations and think tanks also use different methodologies and datasets, selected according to their priorities and value judgments.

*Selection of indicators and data coverage*

Government departments, NSOs and other actors have relied on different sets of indicators for monitoring the SDGs. As mentioned, this OECD Study uses the 244 indicators of the *UN Global Indicator List* as its starting point, sourcing data from the *UN Global Database* and OECD data. The annual report on SDGs of the UN Secretary General is based on the data from the *UN Global Database*, following the *UN Global Indicator List*, but presents results only at a global level. UN Regional Commissions present results aggregated at the regional level based on the *UN Global Indicator List*. Similarly, some OECD countries, such as Denmark, Italy and the United Kingdom, have based their monitoring and reporting on the *UN Global Indicator List*, aiming to report on all SDG targets in the future. Other countries, have selected only nationally relevant indicators from the *UN Global Indicator List*, for which data are available from the statistical office or other official sources. As mentioned above, Eurostat assesses performance on SDGs in alignment with the 2020 Sustainable Development Strategy. The monitoring framework consists of 100 indicators, of which only 51 are drawn from the *UN Global Indicator List*. The 100 indicators are distributed evenly across the 17 goals, with results presented for the EU as a whole, together with an assessment of trends (Eurostat, 2018[19]).

In order to measure progress in meeting specific national targets, some countries have developed their own sets of indicators, not aligned with the *UN Global Indicator List*. For example, Finland started to monitor its progress towards sustainable development soon after the 2030 Agenda was adopted and thus before the *UN Global Indicator List* was finalised. A similar approach to indicator selection was used in the Czech Republic, where 192 indicators were identified to measure progress towards national targets; the selection of these indicators was based on indicators in the *UN Global Indicator List*, the indicators used in the 2016 version of the OECD Study and indicators in the Eurostat framework.

*Alignment with the SDGs: Goal, target or indicator level*

At one end of the spectrum, some studies follow the *UN Global Indicator List* very closely. For example, this Study adheres to the UN Framework at the goal, target and indicator level, making every effort to include all *UN Global Indicator List*, and offering the most complete coverage of the 169 targets that can be achieved within data constraints. Similarly, the report of the UN Secretary General (UN-DESA, 2018[5]) uses a selection of indicators drawn from the *UN Global Indicator List*. At the other end of the spectrum, a number of approaches to SDG monitoring are very loosely aligned with the 2030 Agenda, offering no direct correspondence with the indicators, targets or even goals of the Global Monitoring Framework. For example,

the Social Progress Index has been adapted for use as an SDG monitoring tool (Social Progress Imperative, 2018[24]), despite missing several core aspects of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in relation to the Prosperity and Planet goals. Other studies align to the SDGs only at the goal level: for example, the Federal Planning Bureau in Belgium uses two SDG indicators per goal, rather than trying to cover all 169 targets and 244 indicators (Bureau fédéral du Plan, 2016[25]). Eurostat's report also aligns with SDGs only at goal level, including some indicators from the *UN Global Indicator List*.

*Setting target levels*

National, regional and international SDG reports may also show different results due to the methods used for setting the target levels (end values) to be achieved for various indicators. While these levels are sometimes specified in the 2030 Agenda, this is not always the case (see above). A further challenge arises from the need to reconcile the level of ambition set by the 2030 Agenda with other commitments and political processes, such as in the case of the European 2020 Strategy, or the Paris Agreement on climate change. The latter entered into force over one year after the SDGs were agreed in 2015, with ambitions that go beyond those embodied in goal 13 (climate) of the 2030 Agenda.

The Belgian national monitoring system (Bureau fédéral du Plan, 2016[25]) groups targets into two categories: a) well-defined, quantified, time-bound objectives; and b) objectives with desired directions only. Both well-defined targets and desired directions are assessed on a scale of "favourable" (i.e. reached or near/moving in the right direction), "unfavourable" (i.e. not reached/moving in the wrong direction) or "undetermined". Similarly, Eurostat's 2018 report (Eurostat, 2018[19]) calculates trends based on compound annual growth rates, differentiating between indicators with clear target levels and those without. According to the pace of change, the report assigns 4 possible assessments of the trends: "significant", "moderate", or "insufficient" progress towards the target, and "movement away from the target". The *SDGs Index and Dashboard Report* (Sachs et al., 2018[12]) uses the average of the top performers to set the upper bound of each indicator.

*Dynamic vs. static analysis*

Approaches to measuring performance on SDGs can be either static, i.e. assessing what is the current situation vis-à-vis the 2030 targets, or dynamic, i.e. assessing changes over time, and/or forecasting whether targets are likely to be met by 2030. Dynamic approaches include a recent Brookings Institute report (Kharas, 2018[13]), which estimates the distance of countries from achieving SDG targets using a normalisation method similar to that used in the OECD Pilot, on a 0 to 100 scale. The underlying methodology looks at countries' trajectories to 2030 extrapolated from observed trends, and extracts distance from targets, which are then normalised.

Other dynamic analyses include the *SDGs Index and Dashboard Report* (Sachs et al., 2018[12]), which estimates how fast countries have been progressing towards the SDG targets, and whether this pace will be sufficient to achieve them by 2030, as well as the aforementioned Eurostat and Belgian reports. This Study only shows the direction of change for all indicators for which data are available.

### *Innovations in this edition and future plans*

The present Study extends previous editions (2016, 2017) by offering greater indicator and target coverage, more up-to-date data, and closer adherence to the *UN Global Indicator List* (which has evolved since 2017). It also discusses transboundary effects – i.e. how actions taken in one country might affect the success of other countries, or the world as a whole, in meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, the Study presents a straightforward method for assessing changes over time.

Future work could explore possible extensions of the methodology to non-OECD countries, and enhance the assessment of OECD countries' transboundary contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The Study methodology was also adapted to consider countries' distance from the SDG targets for specific population groups, starting with children and youth (Marguerit, Cohen and Exton, 2018[26]); an analysis by gender is currently ongoing.

## *1.2.3. Countries' use of this Study so far*

As part of their national SDGs implementation processes, several member countries have used evidence from the previous Study to:

- **Communicate on SDGs:** This includes initiatives to inform internal policy debates, to set priorities and goals for national strategies; to provide an overall picture of countries' SDG performance as a starting point for a broader public debate; to present data coverage or data gaps in the *UN Global Database*; and to identify national strengths and weaknesses based on comparative results (e.g. Slovenia, Denmark).
- **Develop national monitoring and reporting systems** to select national indicators; to establish starting positions and nationally relevant target values, and to develop dynamic baselines (e.g. Czech Republic, Belgium).
- **Identify policy-relevant areas of action,** prioritising their alignment with SDGs (e.g. Slovak Republic, Poland).

Results of the 2016 and the 2017 editions were quoted in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted to the UN-HLPF by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic and Sweden. In 2018, Slovenia published an update of its 2017 VNR which used the 2017 version of the OECD Study to show progress made in SDGs implementation (United Nations[27]).

Statistics Netherlands issued two reports assessing the country's performance on SDGs, which both used the OECD Study as one of the main resources for comparative data at country level (Statistics Netherlands, 2017[28]; 2018[29]). Denmark published a statistical report in 2017 aimed at providing an overall picture of the country's starting point on SDGs to inform public debate (Statistics Denmark, 2017[30]), referencing the OECD Study among other international assessments of countries performance on SDGs. The Czech Republic used the Study results to identify policy gaps in its national implementation plan for the SDGs.

### *Developing national monitoring systems*

Member countries are also using the OECD Study to guide their monitoring processes. Slovenia, Italy, Belgium and the Czech Republic have used the methodology of previous versions of this Study to test the robustness of national indicators, or to

develop static and dynamic baselines. In building its national reporting framework, Luxembourg is considering the indicator set used by this Study alongside other national and international indicator sets.

*Targeted country support for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda*

As part of a joint project to support implementation of the SDGs, the Slovenian government designed its National Development Strategy around several of the priorities identified by the OECD Study, such as the need to increase trust in institutions and the quality of governance more generally (Slovenian Government, 2017[31]). The elaboration of the National Development Strategy involved several governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and used evidence from the OECD Study to present the country's SDG starting positions in a comparative perspective. The Study also contributed to the OECD's broader work to assist the Slovenian government in setting targets on a number of its key goals.

In addition to the OECD's work with the Slovenian government mentioned above, the government of the Slovak Republic also engaged with the OECD when preparing its 2030 Agenda roadmap and national strategy. This included the development of an indicator framework, with 2030 targets based on the methodology and data from the OECD Study. Additionally, several countries, both OECD and non-OECD members, expressed interest in the detailed results and further analysis based on this Study.

## 1.3. How far are OECD countries from the SDG targets? Key findings

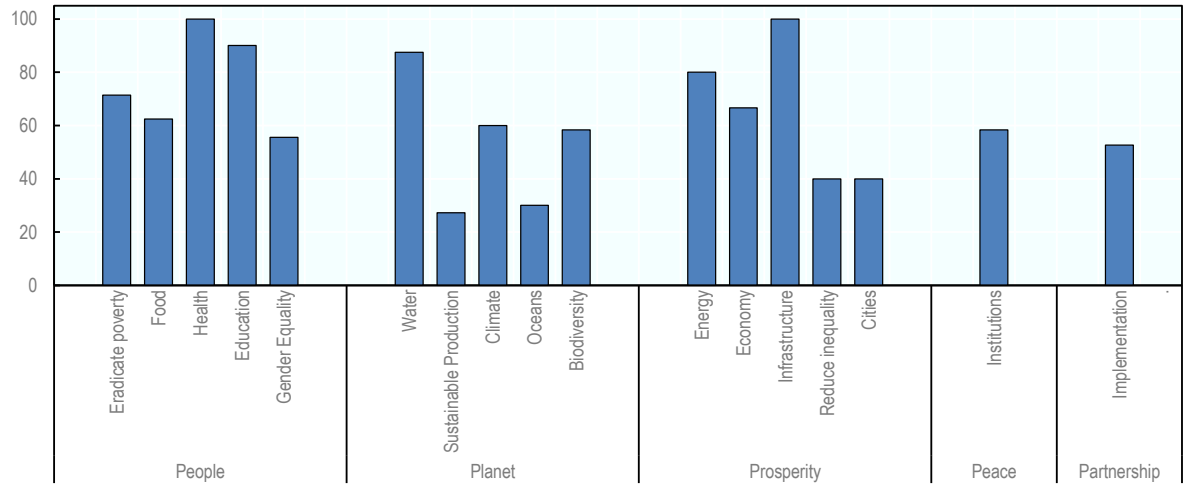
This section presents the Study's key findings at the indicator, target and goal level for the OECD average, while also describing how data gaps affects the interpretation of results. It also discusses the challenges faced when trying to measure the distance to target for those indicators with no clear target level is specified in the 2030 Agenda. Finally, it includes an analysis of changes over time in performance at indicator and goal level, and looks at the transboundary aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Chapter 2 presents detailed country fiches showing key results for individual OECD countries.

### *1.3.1. How many indicators of the UN Global Indicator List can be measured for OECD countries?*

In total, this Study relies on data for 132 of the 244 *UN Global Indicator List* (or close proxies) that met the selection criteria outlined in the previous section. These indicators cover 105 of the 169 targets. However only 87 targets have at least one indicator with a clear normative direction, thereby allowing measuring distance to targets. Indicator coverage is uneven across the 17 goals, with the goals on Health (3), Infrastructure (9) and Education (4) having the largest share of targets covered by at least one indicator, and Oceans (14) and Sustainable Production (12) the lowest (Figure 1.2).

**Figure 1.2. Share of the 2030 Agenda's targets covered in this Study by at least one indicator, by goal**

Percentage, all OECD countries




*Note*: Share of targets covered by at least one indicator in the present study, out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda. Coverage is shown according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: OECD calculations.

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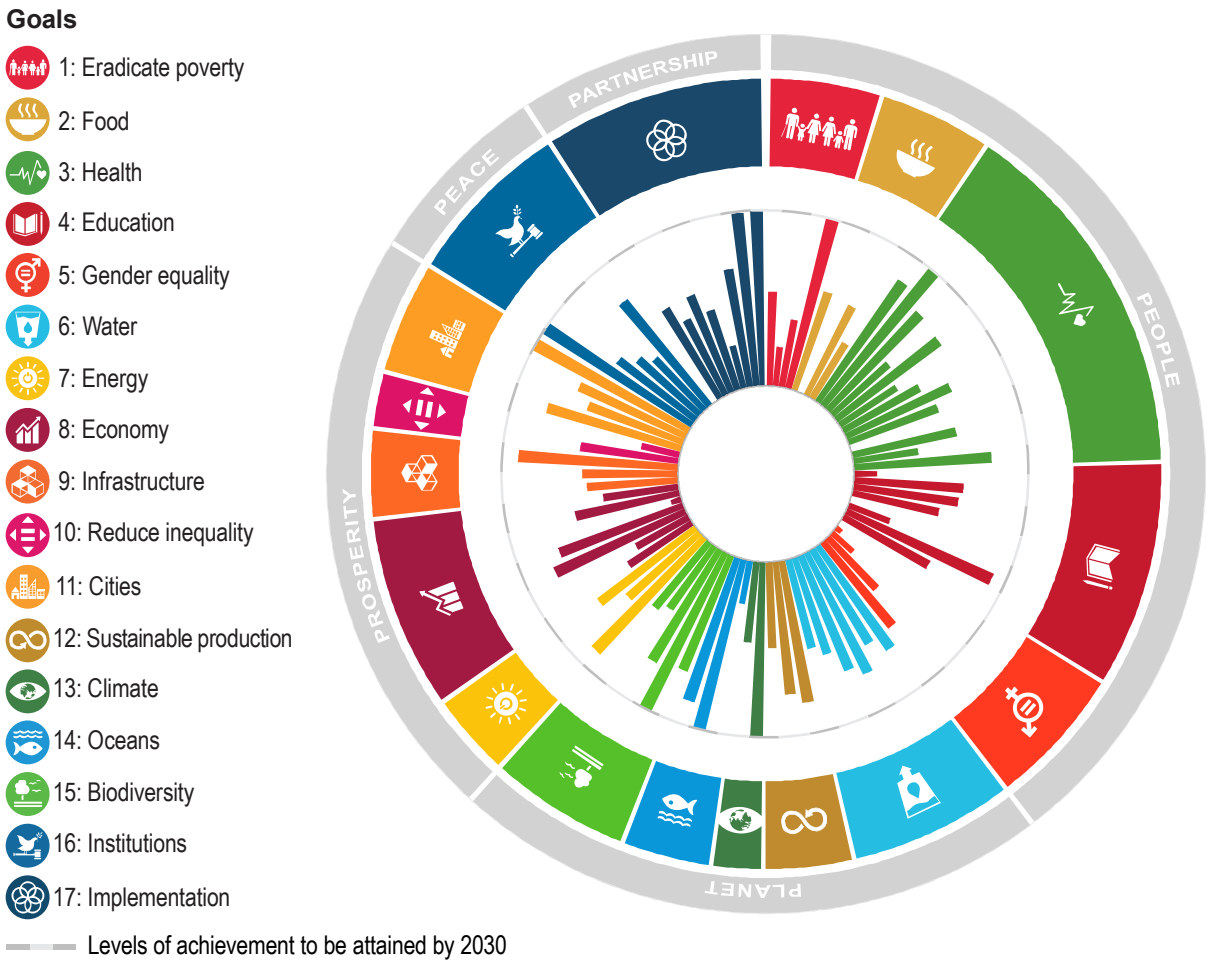
### *1.3.2. What distance will OECD countries have to travel to achieve the SDGs?*

Figure 1.3 shows distances from the 2030 targets for the OECD as a whole by goal and target, with the outer boundary indicating targets that are already achieved today. Distances differ significantly even when considering a specific goal, which suggests that, when seeking to identify strategic priorities for implementing the SDGs, countries should look at performance against targets rather than focusing on average results by goal. For instance, for the goal on Food (2), targets relating to soil quality and breed protection are fairly close to being met, but performance on obesity rates is far from the target level. Similarly, on the Institutions goal (16), most OECD countries perform well on registration of births, but poorly on confidence in national government.

**Figure 1.3. OECD countries' average distance from achieving SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows how far OECD countries (on average) are from achieving each target for which data are available. The longer the bars, the shorter the distance to be travelled by 2030; target levels are represented by the outer dotted circle. The inner circle (the starting point for the bars) represents a score of 3 or more standardised distances away from target, which most OECD countries have achieved on most targets. Targets are shown by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda.
*Source*: See Annex 1.A for summary metadata, and www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962721

Table 1.1 further highlights these uneven performances. OECD countries are closest to reaching the 2030 targets (Panel A) in several fields that, conversely, remain critically important for less developed countries. For example, all OECD countries have already achieved maternal, infant and neonatal mortality rates far below those required by the 2030 Agenda (indicators 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.2.2); most schools in OECD countries provide access to internet for pedagogical purposes (4.a.1); and almost all OECD citizens have access to electricity and mobile networks (7.1.1 and 9.c.1). On the other hand, Panel B shows where performance in OECD countries lags furthest behind the 2030 targets. This spans a wide range of fields, such as inequalities, education, biodiversity, healthy behaviours, violence and feelings of safety, and human rights. Distances are especially wide for indicators of relative poverty (1.2.1 and 10.2.1),

learning disparities among students (4.5.1 and 4.6.1), gender inequality (5.2.1 and 5.5.1), obesity (2.2.2) and tobacco consumption (3.a.1). Overall, Table 1.1 shows that OECD countries' average strengths and weaknesses are both spread across a wide range of goals and targets.

**Table 1.1. Top and bottom OECD average distances from target, by indicator**

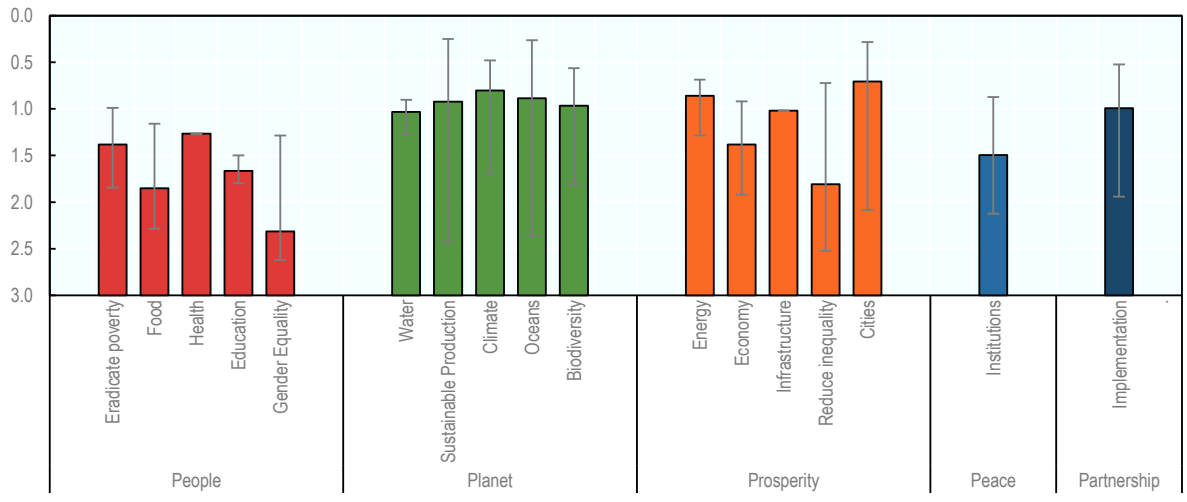
| Panel A – Indicators where OECD countries on average already meet or are close to meeting SDG targets | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Indicator | Distance |
| 1.5.3<br>11.b.1<br>13.1.2 | Countries with legislative and/or regulatory provisions for managing disaster risk | 0 |
| 3.1.1 | Maternal mortality ratio | 0 |
| 3.2.1 | Infant mortality rate | 0 |
| 3.2.2 | Neonatal mortality rate | 0 |
| 7.1.1 | Proportion of population with access to electricity | 0 |
| 14.5.1 | Protected areas as a share of Exclusive economic zone | 0 |
| 15.1.1 | Land area covered by trees | 0 |
| 15.2.1 | Intensity of use of forest resources | 0 |
| 16.10.2 | Countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information | 0 |
| 17.19.2 | Proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years and have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration | 0 |
| 17.18.2 | Countries with national statistical legislation complying with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | 0.01 |
| 17.18.3 | Countries with national statistical plans that are under implementation and fully funded | 0.04 |
| 4.a.1 | Proportion of schools with access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes | 0.25 |
| 9.c.1 | Proportion of population covered by a mobile network | 0.26 |
| **Panel B – Indicators where OECD countries are on average furthest from meeting SDG targets** | | |
| | Indicator | Distance |
| 4.6.1 | Proportion of adults achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional numeracy skills | 2.24 |
| 17.15.1 | Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | 2.24 |
| 14.4.1 | Aggregate indicator for policies and practices against IUU fishing | 2.25 |
| 2.5.1 | Proportion of local breeds with genetic material stored | 2.33 |
| 1.2.1<br>10.2.1 | Relative income poverty rate | 2.38 |
| 5.5.1 | Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments | 2.51 |
| 4.1.1 | Proportion of 15 year-olds achieving at least PISA level 2 in mathematics | 2.60 |
| 8.6.1 | Proportion of youth (aged 15-29 years) not in education, employment or training | 2.80 |
| 16.1.4 | Share of population feeling safe when walking alone at night | 2.84 |
| 5.2.1 | Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical and sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months | 2.87 |
| 2.2.2 | Obesity rate | 3.00 |
| 16.a.1 | Existence of independent national human rights institutions complying with the Paris Principles | 3.11 |
| 4.5.1 | Socio-economic parity index in education (based on PISA ESCS Index) | 3.13 |
| 5.1.1 | Existence of a legal frameworks governing gender equality | 3.28 |
| 3.a.1 | Prevalence tobacco consumption | 3.47 |

Despite variations within goals, it is also interesting to look at results at the goal level (Figure 1.4). OECD countries are, on average, closest to reaching targets for the goals on Cities (11), Climate (13) and Energy (7), while also showing relatively strong performances for the goals on Oceans (14), Sustainable Production (12), Biodiversity (15), Means of Implementation (17), Infrastructure (9) and Water (6). Conversely, while the Agenda's overarching aim is to "leave no one behind", OECD countries (on average) appear to be furthest from their 2030 targets on Gender Equality (5), Food (2)

and Reducing Inequality (10). Targets pertaining to goals on Education (4) and Eradicating Poverty (1) and Economy (8) are also relatively far from being met.

When evaluating countries' performances at the goal and 5P levels, attention should be paid to uncertainties arising from missing data – while also being mindful of the constraints imposed by the need to adhere closely to the *UN Global Indicator List*. Figure 1.4 indicates the potential impact of missing data on the distances measured at goal-level by showing (as whiskers) the full range of possible uncertainties (under the two assumptions that the indicators that are currently missing could either have attained their targets level or, conversely, be far away from those levels). The range of uncertainty is largest for most Planet goals, as well as for goals on Cities (11) and Reducing Inequality (10). Conversely, data are available for all UN Global Indicators in goals on Health (3) and Infrastructure (9) for OECD countries. This analysis shows that if data were available to fill these measurement gaps, the ranking of the goals by distance to target could change dramatically.

**Figure 1.4. OECD countries' average distance to targets by SDG goal**




*Note*: This figure shows the average distance OECD countries need to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details), from 0 indicating that the 2030 level has already been attained, to 3 as most OECD countries have already reached this distance. Bars show OECD countries' average performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, based on the alternative assumptions that either missing indicators are 3 standardised distances away from the 2030 target or that they are all already at the target level.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

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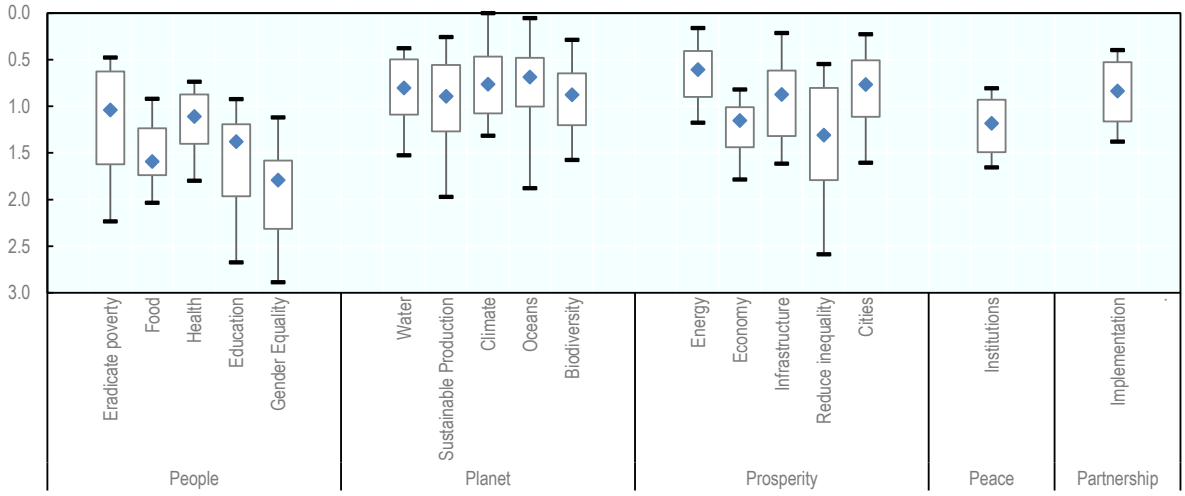
Distances from targets also vary significantly across countries (Figure 1.5). Especially on the goals relating to Reducing Inequality (10), Oceans (14), Gender Equality (5), and Eradicating Poverty (1), some countries are much closer to the 2030 targets than others. On the other hand, performance is more uniform across countries, and generally quite good, for goals relating to Institutions (16), Economy (8), Implementation (17) and Energy (7).

**Figure 1.5. Distribution of OECD countries' distances to targets around the median, by SDG goals**




*Note:* The charts shows the distribution of OECD countries' distances to targets on the 17 goals; distances are expressed in standardised units. Central diamonds refer to the OECD median distance. Box boundaries indicate the first and third quartiles of the country distribution. Whiskers indicate the 10th and 90th percentiles of the country distribution.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962759

### *Challenges in measuring distances to targets: indicators on the UN Global Indicator List lacking a clear normative direction*

As already noted, countries' performances on 18 of the 105 targets covered in this Study were not assessed because it was not possible to establish a numerical target level to be achieved by 2030. Thirteen of these targets relate to flows of official development assistance (ODA) in specific sectors. This is because, while there is a clear international benchmark for total ODA provided by donor countries (0.7% of gross national income), the ideal sectoral breakdown of this aid will depend on the needs of each recipient needs and the priorities of each donor (see Box 1.3). In the remaining cases, the *UN Global Indicator List* includes indicators expressed as a share of GDP (e.g. the share of labour compensation or of manufacturing, of GDP), where no one-size-fits-all target would be appropriate for every country. For all indicators without a target level, it was not possible to measure the distance to target, and they are excluded in the results presented above. However, as these indicators are part of the *UN Global Indicator List*, their median values, and the top 10th and bottom 90th percentiles are also included in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.2. Indicators without normative direction**

| Target | Indicator | p10 | p50 | p90 | Units |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions | 1.a.2 Government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) | 56.5 | 62.4 | 68.5 | Share of total government spending |
| 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries | 2.a.1 Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures | 0.1 | 0.4 | 1.6 | Ratio |
| 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all | 9.1.2 Freight volumes (rail and road) | 9 373 | 52 998 | 504 477 | Tonne-kilometres, (millions) |
| 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries | 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added | 9.8 | 15.0 | 24.4 | Manufacturing, value added (% of total value added) |
| | 9.2.2 Employment in manufacturing) | 8.1 | 11.9 | 19.4 | Share of total employment |
| 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets | 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added | 6.7 | 10 | 17.3 | Proportion of total value added (%) |
| 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities | 9.b.1 Medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added | 20.9 | 43.7 | 61.0 | Proportion of total value added (%) |
| 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality | 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers | 32.9 | 47.6 | 51.7 | Percent share of GDP |
| 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection | 17.1.1 Total government revenue of GDP | 33.3 | 40.9 | 53.2 | Percent share of GDP |
| 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources | 17.3.2 Volume of remittances | 0 | 0 | 3 | Percent share of GDP |

*Note:* P50 relates to the median value, p10 is the top tenth percentile, and p90 is the bottom tenth percentile.

### *1.3.3. Trends: Are OECD countries heading in the right direction?*

Previous editions of this Study have focused on countries' current position vis-à-vis the SDG targets, rather than on the direction or pace of improvement. Yet, even when a country is already at (or near) its 2030 target, it may slip behind without continued effort. Conversely, a country that is still far from its 2030 target might still reach it by maintaining the rapid progress that it achieved in the recent past. Examining OECD countries' recent historical performance may therefore help to assess the likelihood of reaching the targets by 2030.

Among the indicators used in this Study, time-series are available for 76 indicators to assess changes since 2005; these 76 indicators cover 63 targets (the methodology is detailed in Chapter 3). Table 1.3 shows for each indicator, the number of countries

which had been moving towards target, away from target, or for which no trend is visible (either because their historical performance has been broadly stable, or because the time-series is too volatile, or too short to identify a trend data).

Patterns differ across both OECD countries and the indicators and targets considered. One-third or more of OECD countries have been moving towards the targets for 33 indicators, while for 57 indicators at least one third of OECD countries display no visible trend. Finally, for 7 indicators, more than one third of OECD countries have been moving in recent years away from their 2030 targets. These negative developments characterise the targets pertaining to Food (2.2.2 on obesity), Heath (3.b.1 on vaccination coverage), Economy (8.1.1 on GDP growth, 8.2.1 on productivity growth, and 8.5.2 on unemployment), Cities (11.6.1 on material recycling rate) and Biodiversity (15.5.1 on the conservation status of major species groups and extinction risk over time).

These results should, however, be interpreted carefully. Progress *towards* the target says nothing about whether the *pace* recently achieved by a country would be sufficient to meet the target level by 2030. The evidence in Table 1.3 should therefore be considered as only a first step towards a more extensive analysis that would allow target-by-target projections of the future trajectories for each country. Such analysis could focus on those indicators that, while not having yet reached their target levels, are moving towards them, and on those that indicators that, while having already reached the targets, have been slipping back in recent years; it could also move beyond "business as usual" scenarios, to consider the effect of policies or other drivers on these trajectories.[8]

**Table 1.3. Trends over time in OECD countries, by SDG indicator**

Number of OECD countries by direction of trend, by SDG indicator

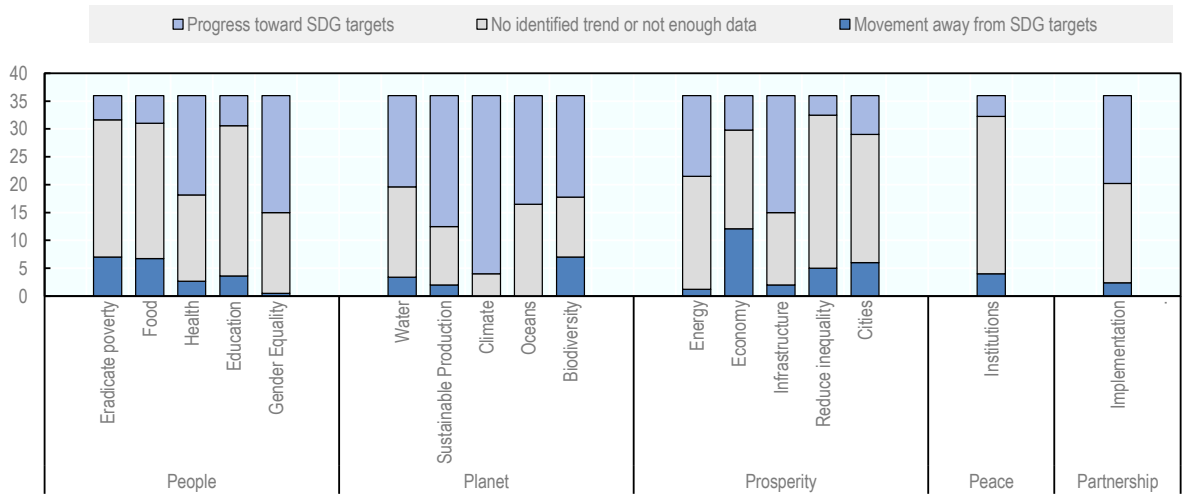
| Goal | Indicator | Moving away from target | No trend or no data | Moving towards target | Goal | Indicator | Moving away from target | No trend or no data | Moving towards target |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eradicating poverty | 1.1.1 | 6 | 28 | 2 | Economy | 8.1.1 | 32 | 3 | 1 |
| | 1.2.1 | 8 | 25 | 3 | | 8.2.1 | 27 | 7 | 2 |
| | 1.3.1 | 7 | 21 | 8 | | 8.4.2 | 1 | 11 | 24 |
| | **Average** | **7** | **24.67** | **4.33** | | 8.5.1 | 1 | 33 | 2 |
| Food | 2.1.1 | 0 | 33 | 3 | | 8.5.2 | 12 | 19 | 5 |
| | 2.2.2 | 16 | 20 | 0 | | 8.6.1 | 8 | 22 | 6 |
| | 2.4.1 | 4 | 25 | 7 | | 8.8.1 | 3 | 27 | 6 |
| | 2.5.2 | 7 | 19 | 10 | | 8.10.1 | 14 | 17 | 5 |
| | **Average** | **6.75** | **24.25** | **5** | | 8.10.2 | 11 | 20 | 5 |
| Health | 3.1.1 | 0 | 29 | 7 | | **Average** | **12.11** | **17.66** | **6.22** |
| | 3.1.2 | 4 | 32 | 0 | Infrastructure | 9.4.1 | 0 | 5 | 31 |
| | 3.2.1 | 1 | 16 | 19 | | 9.5.1 | 3 | 17 | 16 |
| | 3.2.2 | 1 | 16 | 19 | | 9.5.2 | 3 | 17 | 16 |
| | 3.3.1 | 0 | 13 | 23 | | **Average** | **2** | **13** | **21** |
| | 3.3.2 | 0 | 12 | 24 | Reducing inequality | 10.1.1 | 2 | 30 | 4 |
| | 3.3.4 | 0 | 12 | 24 | | 10.2.1 | 8 | 25 | 3 |
| | 3.3.5 | 0 | 15 | 21 | | **Average** | **5** | **27.5** | **3.5** |
| | 3.4.1 | 7 | 15 | 14 | Cities | 11.6.1 | 5 | 24 | 7 |
| | 3.4.2 | 7 | 15 | 14 | | 11.6.2 | 7 | 22 | 7 |
| | 3.5.2 | 3 | 13 | 20 | | **Average** | **6** | **23** | **7** |
| | 3.6.1 | 0 | 7 | 29 | Sustainable production | 12.2.2 | 1 | 11 | 24 |

| Goal | Indicator | Moving away from target | No trend or no data | Moving towards target | Goal | Indicator | Moving away from target | No trend or no data | Moving towards target |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3.7.2 | 3 | 1 | 32 | | 12.5.1 | 3 | 10 | 23 |
| | 3.8.2 | 0 | 34 | 2 | | **Average** | **2** | **10.5** | **23.5** |
| | 3.9.3 | 10 | 12 | 14 | Climate | 13.2.1 | 0 | 4 | 32 |
| | 3.a.1 | 1 | 11 | 24 | | **Average** | **0** | **4** | **32** |
| | 3.b.1 | 13 | 18 | 5 | Oceans | 14.5.1 | 0 | 8 | 28 |
| | 3.c.1 | 1 | 7 | 28 | | 14.6.1 | 0 | 25 | 11 |
| | 3.d.1 | 0 | 16 | 20 | | **Average** | **0** | **16.5** | **19.5** |
| | **Average** | **2.68** | **15.48** | **17.84** | Biodiversity | 15.1.2 | 0 | 1 | 35 |
| Education | 4.1.1 | 8 | 23 | 5 | | 15.2.1 | 5 | 28 | 3 |
| | 4.2.2 | 3 | 22 | 11 | | 15.4.1 | 0 | 11 | 24 |
| | 4.3.1 | 2 | 24 | 10 | | 15.5.1 | 23 | 2 | 11 |
| | 4.5.1 | 5 | 30 | 1 | | **Average** | **7** | **10.75** | **18.25** |
| | 4.a.1 | 0 | 36 | 0 | Institutions | 16.1.1 | 7 | 28 | 1 |
| | **Average** | **3.6** | **27** | **5.4** | | 16.1.4 | 0 | 29 | 7 |
| Gender equality | 5.5.2 | 1 | 25 | 10 | | 16.5.1 | 9 | 20 | 7 |
| | 5.b.1 | 0 | 4 | 32 | | 16.a.1 | 0 | 36 | 0 |
| | **Average** | **0.5** | **14.5** | **21** | | **Average** | **4** | **28.25** | **3.75** |
| Water | 6.1.1 | 8 | 7 | 21 | Implementation | 17.1.2 | 4 | 27 | 5 |
| | 6.2.1 | 4 | 2 | 30 | | 17.2.1 | 8 | 21 | 7 |
| | 6.3.1 | 4 | 2 | 30 | | 17.6.2 | 0 | 1 | 35 |
| | 6.4.1 | 0 | 35 | 1 | | 17.8.1 | 0 | 4 | 32 |
| | 6.4.2 | 1 | 35 | 0 | | 17.19.2 | 0 | 36 | 0 |
| | **Average** | **3.4** | **16.2** | **16.4** | | Average | 2.4 | 17.8 | 15.8 |
| Energy | 7.1.1 | 0 | 35 | 1 | | | | | |
| | 7.1.2 | 0 | 36 | 0 | | | | | |
| | 7.2.1 | 0 | 5 | 31 | | | | | |
| | 7.3.1 | 5 | 5 | 26 | | | | | |
| | **Average** | **2** | **19** | **15** | | | | | |

*Note*: Trends for 76 indicators are based on past performance over the period from 2005 to 2017. Trends are assessed through the Spearman correlation coefficient between the indicator values in different years and time. The trend is described as "movement away from target" if the correlation coefficient (corrected for the normative direction of each indicator) is significant and negative; as "moving towards targets" if the correlation coefficient is significant and positive; as "no trend or no data" when the coefficient is close to 0 or not significant, or there are no time-series available. The methodology is detailed in Chapter 3.

Figure 1.6 summarises the evidence shown in Table 1.3 at the goal level. The overall pattern is one of moderately positive overall changes. In particular, more than one third of OECD countries have been progressing toward the targets for the goals on Health (3), Gender Equality (5), Energy (7), Infrastructure (9), Means of Implementation (17), as well as for all five goals relating to Planet. Conversely, more than half of OECD countries achieved no significant changes for the goals on Eradicating Poverty (1), Food (2), Education (4), Energy (7), Reducing Inequality (10) and Institutions (16). For the Economy goal (8), one third of OECD countries have been moving away from the SDG targets.

**Figure 1.6. Average number of OECD countries by types of trends, by goals**




*Note*: Trends are assessed through the Spearman correlation coefficient between the indicator values in different years and time. The trend is described as "movement away from the SDG target" if the correlation coefficient (corrected for the normative direction of each indicator) is significant and negative; as "progress toward SDG targets" if the correlation coefficient is significant and positive; as "no trend identified or not enough data" when the coefficient is close to 0 or not significant or there are no dataseries available. The figure shows the average number of countries for each type of trend, grouped by goals, as detailed in Table 1.3.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

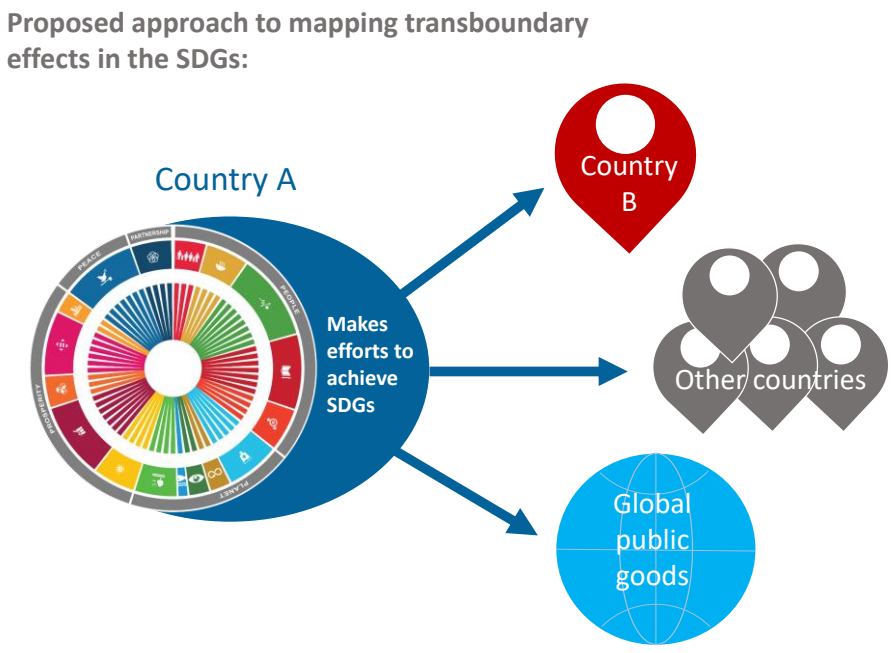
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962778

### *1.3.4. Monitoring the transboundary aspects of the 2030 Agenda*

Actions taken in one OECD country can have an important impact on other countries' ability to meet the SDGs, as well as on global public goods embedded in the 2030 Agenda. It is therefore important to assess the transboundary aspects of the Agenda, i.e. the effect a country achieving the targets may have outside its borders.

Measuring transboundary impacts is a task that can imply different levels of ambition. At one extreme, measuring these effects in a comprehensive way could require a full model describing how every country has an impact on every other country and on global public goods. This is an ambitious undertaking, but also one that goes well beyond what is feasible at the present state of knowledge. The narrower approach adopted here considers the transboundary aspects of the 2030 Agenda by assessing whether achieving each SDG target by one country could have a direct impact on another country or a global public good, as illustrated in Figure 1.7. These impacts include targeted policy actions (such as ODA spending, see Box 1.3), but also countries' contributions to global public goods (such as the environmental assets covered by several Planet goals), and unintended spill-overs (such as pollution of shared bodies of water). The methodology and specific criteria used by this Study to identify transboundary indicators are discussed in Chapter 3 and in more detail in forthcoming working paper (Shinwell, fortcoming).

**Figure 1.7. How "transboundary effects" are identified in this Study**



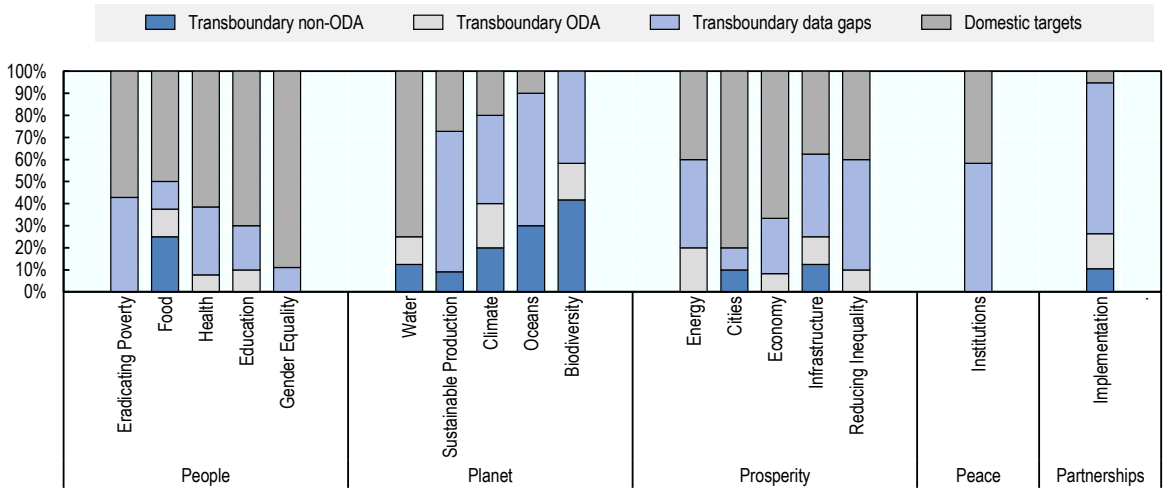

*Note*: The diagram describes how transboundary effects are defined for the purpose of this Study. SDG targets are identified as having a transboundary aspect if Country A's actions to achieve the target could impact on another single country (B); other countries in general; and/or global public goods.

The analysis is based on two distinct steps. The first involves identifying SDG targets whose wording (in the 2030 Agenda) explicitly implies actions taken by a country that would have an impact "elsewhere". The analysis finds that 97 targets can be described as having transboundary elements (57% of all 169 targets); 50 of these are "means of implementation" targets, most of which relate to financing and supporting developing countries in achieving the SDGs. Transboundary targets are heavily concentrated in the Planet goals, where they account for 76% of the total, and in the Implementation goal (95%).

The second step requires identifying, among the indicators included in the *UN Global Indicator List* for which data are available, those that pertain to these "transboundary targets". Only 31 of the 97 transboundary targets are covered by 34 indicators used in this Study. However, 13 of these indicators refer to official development aid targeting specific sectors, for which no target (end value) can be established; one additional indicator cannot be assigned a normative direction (17.3.2, i.e. share of remittances of GDP), so that only for 20 indicators "distances to travel" can be assessed. Data gaps in measuring OECD countries' performance for these transboundary targets are largest for the goals on Sustainable Production (12), Institutions (16) and Means of Implementation (17).

Figure 1.8 provides a mapping of targets between domestic and transboundary and, for the latter (97), a breakdown between targets measured by ODA indicators (14), targets measured by non-ODA indicators (17) and the large majority (66) for which no indicators are currently available.

**Figure 1.8. Domestic and transboundary targets and data gaps, OECD total**

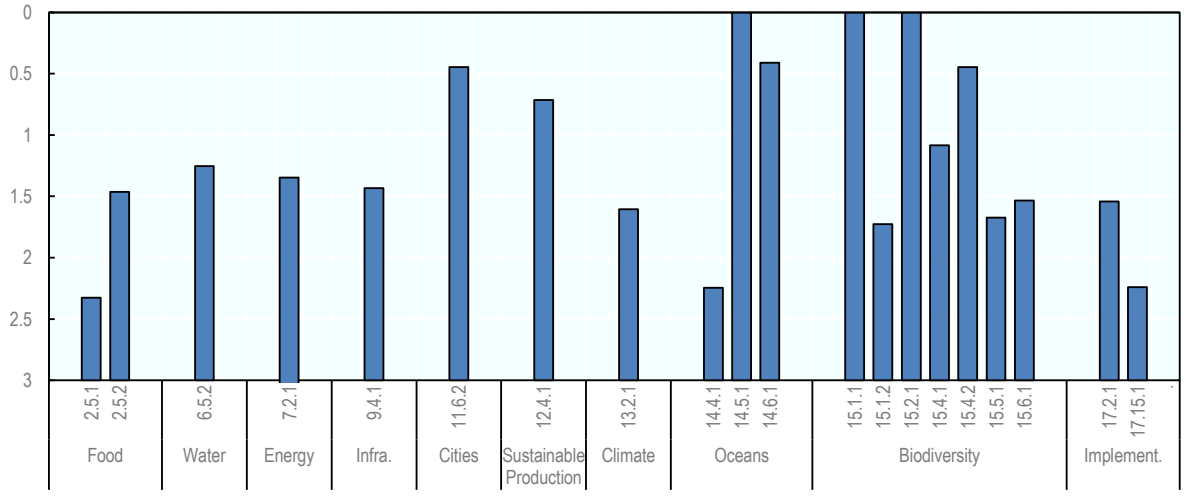



*Note*: "Transboundary non-ODA" are targets identified as transboundary which are not related to ODA funding, "Transboundary ODA" are targets identified as transboundary which are related to ODA funding, "Transboundary data gaps" are targets identified as transboundary for which there are no available data in this study, and "Domestic targets" are targets which are not identified as transboundary.
*Source*: Shinwell, forthcoming.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962816

Figure 1.9 shows the distance to target for the 20 indicators for which targets levels to be achieved by 2030 could be defined; these refer to targets relating to Food (2), Energy (7), Infrastructure (9), Cities (11), Means of Implementation (17) and all goals relating to Planet. Figure 1.9 suggests that OECD countries have, on average, already achieved targets for the indicators relating to protected marine areas (14.5.1), forest as a proportion of total land area (15.1.1) and the intensity of forest use (15.2.1). Distances remain significant for the indicators on sustainable fishing (14.4.1), coverage of genetic information for animal breeds (2.5.1) and, to a lesser extent, $CO_2$ emissions (9.4.1). These results should however be considered in the light of the data gaps described above, and of the level of ambition implicit in the target levels.

**Figure 1.9. OECD countries' average distance from target for transboundary targets**




*Note:* This figure shows the average distance that OECD countries need to travel to reach transboundary targets at the indicator level, limited to those indicators (20) for which target levels to be achieved by 2030 could be set. Distances are measured in standardised distances (see Chapter 3 for details): 0 indicates that the 2030 level has already been attained; 3 is the largest distance (i.e. the one that most OECD countries have already travelled). Indicators are grouped by goals.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962835

**Box 1.3. Measuring progress in Official Development Assistance**

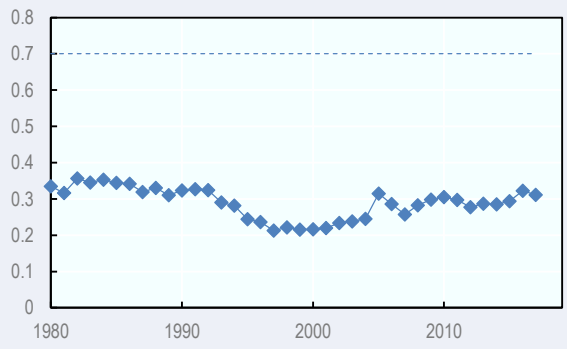
The 2030 Agenda recognises the critical role of official development assistance (ODA) in supporting less developed countries to achieve the ambitions of the SDGs. At a global level, the achievement of the SDGs requires greater mobilisation of both public and private resources, from both domestic and international sources, as recognised by countries in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (United Nations, 2015[32]). The goal on Means of Implementation (17) thus includes an explicit target (17.2) on the total value of ODA that donor countries should provide as a share of their gross national income (0.7% of GNI). OECD countries can hence be assessed in terms of how far away from this ODA target level they currently are.

In addition, however, the *UN Global Indicator List* also includes 13 measures of ODA in specific domains, spread over 11 goals. For example, under the Health goal, one target (3b) is about supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines in developing countries, monitored through an indicator (3.b.2) referring to total net ODA to medical research and basic health sectors. In these cases, no target level (end value) is specified in the 2030 Agenda, since this would require agreeing on what the desirable distribution of ODA across these sectors should be. Indeed, how ODA is distributed across sectors will generally vary from one donor country to another, as well as across recipient countries. In the absence of a fixed target level (end value), the measuring distance methodology of this Study could not be applied to these indicators, even if they are a core aspect of SDGs monitoring.

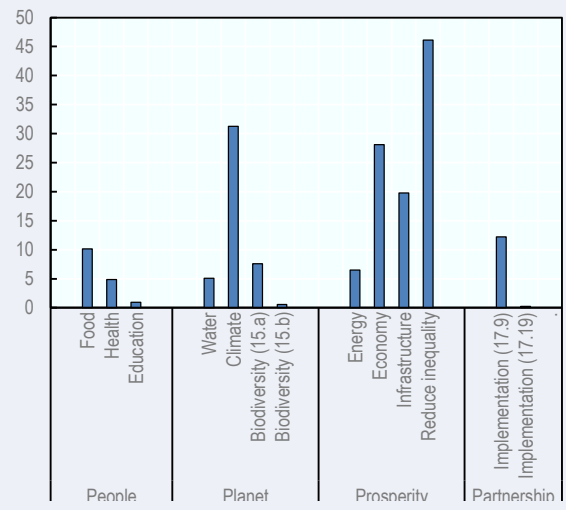
Figure 1.10 shows, in panel A, that ODA from countries that are members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) – the leading international forum for bilateral providers of development co-operation – has hovered at around 0.3% of GNI over the past three decades, compared with a target of 0.7% first agreed in a UN resolution in 1970 (United Nations, 1970[33]). Panel B shows that, according to the *UN Global Indicator List*, most ODA goes to less developed countries and to small island developing states; measured under goal 10, and, when looking at distribution across sectors, to goals relating to Climate (goal 13, USD 31 billion), and Trade (goal 8, USD 28 billion). The *UN Global Indicator List* does not include ODA indicators relating to goals on Eradicating Poverty (1), Gender Equality (5), Cities (11), Sustainable Production (12), Oceans (14) and Institutions (16).

**Figure 1.10. Official Development Assistance from DAC countries**

Panel A. Net ODA as a share of Donor countries' GNI (DAC total)




Panel B. ODA from DAC countries across goals, 2016 or 2017, billion USD




*Note*: Panel A shows (net) ODA as a share of donor countries' GNI from 1980 to 2017. Panel B shows ODA by sectors in SDG goals.
*Source:* (OECD, 2017[34]), "Creditor Reporting System: Aid activities", *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00061-en.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962854

## 1.4. Conclusion

This Study was prepared to help OECD countries navigate the complex data landscape of the SDGs, and to provide information about where they stand in relation to the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda. The Study adheres as closely as possible to the *UN Global Indicator List*, and evaluates how far OECD countries are from reaching the SDG targets for which data are currently available. It thus provides a high-level overview of strengths and weaknesses across the individual targets of the 2030 Agenda, as well as across goals grouped under the 5Ps. The Study also clearly identifies the data gaps that should be filled in order to fully understand overall performance on SDGs.

Based on 132 available indicators, covering 105 targets, the Study shows that OECD countries, on average, still have significant distances to travel to meet many of the 2030 targets. On average, OECD countries are closest to reaching the 2030 targets for the goals pertaining to Cities, Climate and Energy, and perform well on goals pertaining to Oceans, Sustainable Production, and Biodiversity. By contrast, OECD countries' performance lags on several targets in the fields of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, non-medical determinants of health, and education. The largest data gaps affect targets under the Planet goals, casting a large degree of uncertainty on the overall results.

This chapter also presented new analyses of past trends, with a focus on whether OECD countries have been moving, since 2005, towards or away from the 2030 targets. Overall, on most of the indicators for which time-series are available, most OECD countries are either on a stable or improving path. The most notable exceptions pertain to goals pertaining to Food (obesity), Heath (vaccination coverage), Economy (GDP and productivity growth, as well as unemployment) and Biodiversity (conservation status of major species groups and extinction risks).

A first analysis of transboundary effects in the 2030 Agenda shows that achievement of 97 of the 169 targets could have impacts across borders, including financial transfers, policies with international repercussions, and unintended spill-overs. Most of these 97 targets relate to the Planet goals and to Means of Implementation. However, only 31 of the 97 transboundary targets are measurable using data available in this Study, and these limited data show that while some targets relating to oceans and biodiversity have been achieved, challenges still remain.

This edition of the Study covers OECD members only, and focuses on country average and OECD average results. While this Study presents an initial exploration of performance over time, deeper analysis of trends and forecasts could be considered for future work. Lastly, the Study will continue to provide a cornerstone for engagement with OECD countries in building their national strategic plans and monitoring systems to respond to the 2030 Agenda.

## Notes

[1] See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

[2] The IAEG-SDGs consists of 27 representatives of National Statistical Offices and the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission and includes regional and international agencies as observers.

[3] Some of the indicators included in the list pertain to more than one target. Overall, the list includes 232 unique indicators, and a total of 244 indicators covering all 169 targets.

[4] Based on the *UN Global Database* (UN Statistics Division, 2018[10]).

[5] This means that, in some cases, the indicators and target levels adopted in this Study may differ from the approaches used by national governments in their own SDG monitoring, where the level of ambition and selection of indicators can be tailored to the context and ambition of each country.

[6] As detailed in section 3.2, the Study uses data from OECD databases that are comparable with the *UN Global Indicator List* definitions when they provide better coverage and precision than the data in the *UN Global Database*.

[7] In a standard z-score normalisation, distance is expressed as the number of standard deviations away from the mean score.

[8] This analysis, while going beyond the scope of this Study update, could be explored in future editions and with interested countries.

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# Annex 1.A. Short metadata for indicators used in the Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets Study

**Annex Table 1.A.1. Short metadata for indicators used in this Study**

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1.1 | Proportion of population below international poverty line (%) | UN | Percent | 0 | 0.84 | 2.50 | -1 | 0 | 0.60 | 1.39 | 2008 | 2016 | 9 |
| 1.2.1 | Relative income poverty rate | OECD | Percent | 5.40 | 14.33 | 17.80 | -1 | 5.45 | 3.83 | 2.32 | 2014 | 2016 | 8 |
| 1.3.1 | Share of the population living below the relative poverty threshold receiving minimum income benefits | OECD | Percent | 0 | 45.3 | 143.09 | 1 | 100 | 29.93 | 1.83 | 2014 | 2016 | 9 |
| 1.5.3 | Countries with legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk (1 = Yes; 0 = No) | UN | Number | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2013 | 2015 | 0 |
| 1.a.2 | Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) | OECD | Percent | 49.78 | 63.61 | 72.81 | 0 | | 5.38 | | 2015 | 2017 | 0 |
| 2.1.1 | Prevalence of undernourishment (%) | UN | Percent | 2.50 | 2.69 | 4.20 | -1 | 2.50 | 0.35 | 0.53 | 2015 | 2015 | 9 |
| 2.1.2 | Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population (%) | UN | Percent | 2.20 | 10.41 | 29.40 | -1 | 0 | 5.41 | 1.92 | 2015 | 2015 | 0 |
| 2.2.2 | Obesity rate | OECD | Percent | 4.20 | 24.83 | 40 | -1 | 0 | 8.28 | 3.00 | 2008 | 2017 | 8 |
| 2.4.1 | Nutrient balance (nitrogen, absolute value) | OECD | Kg per hectare | 7.21 | 66.22 | 221.87 | -1 | 0 | 51.31 | 1.29 | 2015 | 2017 | 10 |
| 2.5.1 | Proportion of local breeds with genetic material stored (%) | UN | Percent | 0 | 3.38 | 38.05 | 1 | 31.11 | 11.92 | 2.33 | 2018 | 2018 | 0 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.5.2 | Proportion of local breeds classified as known being not at risk (%) | UN | Percent | 0 | 7.94 | 66.67 | 1 | 26.92 | 12.97 | 1.46 | 2018 | 2018 | 12 |
| 2.a.1 | Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures | UN | Index (no unit) | 0 | 0.58 | 5.39 | 0 | | 1.30 | | 2014 | 2016 | 0 |
| 2.a.2 | Official development assistance plus other official flows to the agriculture sector | OECD | USD (millions) | 0 | 1 184.62 | 2 411.48 | 0 | | 570.46 | | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 3.1.1 | Maternal mortality ratio | OECD | Deaths per 100 000 live births | 0 | 10.13 | 36.70 | -1 | 70 | 10.67 | 0 | 2012 | 2016 | 9 |
| 3.1.2 | Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%) | UN | Percent | 94.40 | 98.85 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 1.20 | 0.96 | 2009 | 2016 | 9 |
| 3.2.1 | Infant mortality rate | OECD | Deaths per 1 000 live births | 0.70 | 5.19 | 12.10 | -1 | 15 | 2.18 | 0 | 2014 | 2016 | 10 |
| 3.2.2 | Neonatal mortality rate | OECD | Deaths per 1 000 live births | 0.50 | 3.41 | 7.50 | -1 | 12 | 1.44 | 0 | 2014 | 2016 | 10 |
| 3.3.1 | Incidence of AIDS | OECD | Incidence per 100 000 population | 0.10 | 2.66 | 8.40 | -1 | 0 | 2.25 | 1.18 | 2012 | 2017 | 10 |
| 3.3.2 | Death rate due to tuberculosis | OECD | Deaths per 100 000 population (standardised rates) | 0.10 | 0.99 | 6.00 | -1 | 0 | 1.49 | 0.67 | 2013 | 2016 | 9 |
| 3.3.4 | Hepatitis B incidence | OECD | Incidence per 100 000 population | 0 | 1.23 | 13.20 | -1 | 0 | 2.80 | 0.44 | 2010 | 2017 | 9 |
| 3.3.5 | Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases | UN | Per 100 000 population | 0 | 745.85 | 7 571.66 | -1 | 0 | 1 313.43 | 0.57 | 2016 | 2016 | 6 |
| 3.4.1 | Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (probability) | UN | Percent | 7.80 | 12.57 | 23 | -1 | 7.50 | 4.08 | 1.24 | 2016 | 2016 | 6 |
| 3.4.2 | Death from intentional self-harm | OECD | Deaths per 100 000 | 2.10 | 11.43 | 26.70 | -1 | 0 | 5.32 | 2.15 | 2013 | 2016 | 9 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | population (standardised rates) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.2 | Alcohol consumption per capita | OECD | Litres per capita | 1.30 | 8.04 | 13.20 | -1 | 6 | 2.62 | 0.78 | 2015 | 2017 | 10 |
| 3.6.1 | Death rate due to road traffic injuries | OECD | Deaths per 100 000 population | 2.59 | 7 | 11.97 | -1 | 2.69 | 2.35 | 1.83 | 2016 | 2016 | 10 |
| 3.7.2 | Adolescent fertility rate | OECD | Births per 1 000 women | 1.30 | 18.70 | 66.20 | -1 | 0 | 12.51 | 1.50 | 2013 | 2016 | 10 |
| 3.8.1 | Universal health coverage (UHC) service coverage index | UN | Index (no unit) | 64 | 78.28 | 80 | 1 | 80 | 4.35 | 0.39 | 2015 | 2015 | 0 |
| 3.8.2 | Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health (greater than 25%) as a share of total household expenditure or income (%) | UN | Percent | 0.05 | 1.24 | 4.01 | -1 | 0 | 0.75 | 1.66 | 2008 | 2013 | 6 |
| 3.9.1 | Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to ambient air pollution | UN | Deaths per 100 000 population | 7 | 17.49 | 47 | -1 | 0 | 10.38 | 1.69 | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 3.9.2 | Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene | UN | Deaths per 100 000 population | 0 | 0.38 | 1.80 | -1 | 0 | 0.34 | 1.13 | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 3.9.3 | Mortality from accidental poisoning | OECD | Deaths per 100 000 population (standardised rates) | 0 | 5.25 | 15.3 | -1 | 0 | 4.14 | 1.27 | 2013 | 2016 | 9 |
| 3.a.1 | Tobacco consumption | OECD | % of population who are daily smokers | 7.60 | 16.54 | 27.30 | -1 | 0 | 4.77 | 3.47 | 2012 | 2017 | 9 |
| 3.b.1 | Proportion of the target population covered by DTP3, MCV2 and PCV3 | UN | Minimum proportion (proxy) | 50 | 89.96 | 98 | 1 | 100 | 8.53 | 1.18 | 2016 | 2016 | 10 |
| 3.b.2 | Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors | OECD | USD (millions) | 0 | 760.28 | 1 984.43 | 0 | | 355.61 | | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 3.c.1 | Physicians density | OECD | Density per | 2.34 | 2.94 | 5.13 | 1 | 4.27 | 0.71 | 1.88 | 2013 | 2017 | 10 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 000 population (head counts) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.d.1 | Average of 13 International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities | UN | Percent | 68.22 | 94.08 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 9.31 | 0.64 | 2010 | 2017 | 7 |
| 4.1.1 | Proportion of 15-year-olds achieving at least PISA level 2 in mathematics | OECD | Percent | 43.36 | 72.50 | 89.31 | 1 | 100 | 10.56 | 2.60 | 2015 | 2015 | 9 |
| 4.2.2 | Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) | OECD | Percent | 65.53 | 93.45 | 99.98 | 1 | 100 | 5.86 | 1.12 | 2016 | 2016 | 6 |
| 4.3.1 | Participation rate of adults in formal and non-formal education | OECD | Percent | 16.70 | 48.85 | 69.10 | 1 | 63.80 | 12.65 | 1.18 | 2011 | 2016 | 9 |
| 4.4.1 | Proportion of adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills (skill considered: writing a computer program using a specialized programming language) (ITU) | OECD | Percent | 2.20 | 5.48 | 18.30 | 1 | 11 | 3.74 | 1.47 | 2014 | 2017 | 0 |
| 4.5.1 | Socio-economic parity index (based on PISA ESCS Index) | OECD | Index | 0.38 | 0.67 | 0.84 | 1 | 1 | 0.11 | 3.13 | 2015 | 2015 | 9 |
| 4.6.1 | Proportion of adults achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional numeracy skills | OECD | Percent | 37.90 | 74.01 | 91.75 | 1 | 100 | 11.62 | 2.24 | 2012 | 2015 | 0 |
| 4.a.1 | Proportion of schools with access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes | OECD | Percent | 85 | 99.02 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 3.89 | 0.25 | 2015 | 2016 | 9 |
| 4.b.1 | Official development assistance flows for scholarships | OECD | USD (millions) | 0.09 | 101.31 | 316.83 | 0 | | 59 | | 2016 | 2017 | 0 |
| 4.c.1 | Proportion of teachers who received in-service training in the last 12 months | OECD | Percent | 72 | 89.61 | 98 | 1 | 100 | 7.87 | 1.32 | 2013 | 2013 | 0 |
| 5.1.1 | Existence of legal frameworks governing gender equality | OECD | Percent | 40 | 66.61 | 90 | 1 | 100 | 10.18 | 3.28 | 2018 | 2018 | 0 |
| 5.2.1 | Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical and sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age (%) | UN | Percent | 2 | 6.37 | 11 | -1 | 0 | 2.22 | 2.87 | 2012 | 2014 | 0 |
| 5.4.1 | Gender gap in unpaid work | OECD | Minutes | 49.15 | 142.38 | 246.63 | -1 | 0 | 56.71 | 2.51 | 2009 | 2017 | 0 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5.5.1 | Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments | OECD | Percent | 9.30 | 25.27 | 47.60 | 1 | 50 | 9.86 | 2.51 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 5.5.2 | Gender gap in the share of employed who are managers | OECD | Ratio (men/ women) | 1.10 | 2.18 | 7 | -1 | 1 | 1.11 | 1.06 | 2014 | 2016 | 5 |
| 5.b.1 | Proportion of women using the Internet | OECD | Percent | 63.93 | 81.28 | 99.43 | 1 | 95.77 | 12.82 | 1.13 | 2012 | 2018 | 11 |
| 6.1.1 | Population with access to improved drinking water sources | OECD | Percent | 42.61 | 91.20 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 10.47 | 0.84 | 2015 | 2015 | 9 |
| 6.2.1 | Population with access to improved sanitation | OECD | Percent | 44.29 | 83.72 | 99.80 | 1 | 100 | 14.59 | 1.12 | 2015 | 2015 | 9 |
| 6.3.1 | Population not connected to public sewage treatment | OECD | Percent | 0.20 | 16.28 | 55.71 | -1 | 6.26 | 14.59 | 0.69 | 2015 | 2015 | 9 |
| 6.4.1 | GDP per unit of freshwater abstraction | OECD | USD per cubic metre | 9.37 | 71.11 | 1 108.22 | 1 | 265.76 | 208.67 | 0.93 | 2008 | 2016 | 8 |
| 6.4.2 | Water stress | OECD | Percent | 0.67 | 18.66 | 46.42 | -1 | 10 | 10.86 | 0.80 | 2008 | 2016 | 8 |
| 6.5.2 | Proportion of transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%) | UN | Percent | 0 | 49.14 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 40.57 | 1.25 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 6.6.1 | Average annual change in water surface | OECD | Percent | -0.23 | 0.18 | 1.59 | 1 | 0.73 | 0.39 | 1.43 | 2015 | 2015 | 0 |
| 6.a.1 | Official development assistance to water and sanitation | OECD | USD (millions) | 0 | 514.65 | 1 469.61 | 0 | | 337.39 | | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 7.1.1 | Proportion of population with access to electricity (%) | UN | Percent | 100 | 100 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 0.17 | 0 | 2016 | 2016 | 10 |
| 7.1.2 | Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%) | UN | Percent | 85 | 93.90 | 95 | 1 | 95 | 1.77 | 0.62 | 2016 | 2016 | 6 |
| 7.2.1 | Renewable energy share in the total energy generation | OECD | Percent | 2.46 | 23.91 | 99.99 | 1 | 58.62 | 25.75 | 1.35 | 2016 | 2017 | 11 |
| 7.3.1 | Energy intensity, TPES per capita | OECD | Tonnes of oil equivalent (toe) per capita | 1.41 | 4.10 | 17.24 | -1 | 1.63 | 2.69 | 0.92 | 2016 | 2017 | 11 |
| 7.a.1 | Official development assistance to clean energy | OECD | USD (millions) | 0.01 | 535.98 | 2 386.23 | 0 | | 635.39 | | 2010 | 2016 | 0 |
| 8.1.1 | 15 years average annual growth rate | OECD | Percent | -0.74 | 1.41 | 4.62 | 1 | 3.87 | 1.45 | 1.69 | 2017 | 2018 | 11 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | of real GDP per capita | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.2.1 | 15 years average annual growth rate of real GDP per hours worked | OECD | Percent | -0.02 | 1.31 | 3.92 | 1 | 3.77 | 1.26 | 1.96 | 2017 | 2018 | 10 |
| 8.4.2 | Domestic material consumption per GDP | OECD | Kg per 2010 USD | 0.12 | 0.33 | 1.87 | -1 | 0.17 | 0.30 | 0.54 | 2012 | 2017 | 10 |
| 8.5.1 | Average hourly earnings of managers (ISCO-08) | UN | 2015 USD PPP | 3.99 | 17.42 | 28.68 | 1 | 24.81 | 6.57 | 1.12 | 2010 | 2016 | 6 |
| 8.5.2 | Unemployment rate (aged 15-64 years) | OECD | Percent | 2.91 | 6.00 | 21.65 | -1 | 4.50 | 4.55 | 0.33 | 2017 | 2017 | 11 |
| 8.6.1 | Proportion of youth (aged 15-29 years) not in education, employment or training | OECD | Percent | 4.77 | 13.68 | 25.08 | -1 | 0 | 4.87 | 2.81 | 2009 | 2016 | 9 |
| 8.8.1 | Non-fatal occupational injuries among employees | UN | Per 100 000 employees | 122.24 | 1 924.43 | 5 200 | -1 | 438 | 1 268.41 | 1.17 | 2008 | 2016 | 7 |
| 8.10.1 | Number of commercial bank branches and of automated teller machines (ATMs) | UN | Number per 100 000 adults | 31.40 | 154.64 | 293.05 | 1 | 192.74 | 58.22 | 0.65 | 2009 | 2016 | 10 |
| 8.10.2 | Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider | UN | Percent of adults aged 15 years and older | 36.93 | 87.19 | 99.92 | 1 | 99.72 | 14.01 | 0.89 | 2017 | 2017 | 6 |
| 8.a.1 | Official development assistance to trade | OECD | USD (millions) | 0 | 3 082.61 | 11 645.58 | 0 | | 2 640.28 | | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 9.1.2 | Total inland freight transport | OECD | Tonnes-kilometres, millions | 1 052 | 2 169 947.8 | 7 730 254 | 0 | | 1 313 429 | | 2011 | 2017 | 0 |
| 9.2.1 | Manufacturing, value added (% of Total Value Added) | OECD | Percent | 5.43 | 16.17 | 34.01 | 0 | | 6.58 | | 2015 | 2018 | 0 |
| 9.2.2 | Employment in manufacturing | OECD | Percent | 7.50 | 12.44 | 26.76 | 0 | | 4.55 | | 2016 | 2018 | 0 |
| 9.3.1 | Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added (%) | UN | Percent | 3.07 | 10.63 | 22.96 | 0 | | 4.57 | | 2013 | 2016 | 0 |
| 9.4.1 | Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion per unit of GDP | UN | kg CO2 per 2010 USD | 0.08 | 0.24 | 0.45 | -1 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 1.43 | 2015 | 2015 | 10 |
| 9.5.1 | Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP | OECD | Percent | 0.36 | 2.16 | 4.55 | 1 | 3.28 | 1.01 | 1.11 | 2015 | 2018 | 11 |
| 9.5.2 | Researchers per capita | OECD | Full-time equivalent per | 252.72 | 3 809.59 | 8 033.32 | 1 | 6 845.32 | 1 869.29 | 1.62 | 2010 | 2017 | 10 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | million inhabitants | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9.a.1 | Official development assistance plus other official flows to infrastructure | OECD | USD (millions) | 0 | 1 957.40 | 7 105.27 | 0 | | 1 528.30 | | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 9.b.1 | Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added (%) | UN | Percent | 13.67 | 43.95 | 63.65 | 0 | | 14.41 | | 2015 | 2015 | 0 |
| 9.c.1 | Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology (%) (AL4G) | UN | Percent | 70 | 95.15 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 18.64 | 0.26 | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 10.1.1 | Difference between the annual average growth rates among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population (3 year average) | OECD | Ratio | -1.77 | 0.01 | 2.38 | 1 | 1.09 | 0.83 | 1.30 | 2012 | 2016 | 8 |
| 10.2.1 | Relative income poverty rate | OECD | Percent | 5.40 | 14.33 | 17.80 | -1 | 5.45 | 3.83 | 2.32 | 2014 | 2016 | 8 |
| 10.4.1 | Compensation of employees as a share of GDP | OECD | Percent | 26.08 | 45.68 | 58.52 | 0 | | 7.19 | | 2015 | 2018 | 0 |
| 10.b.1 | Official development assistance to LDCs and SIDs | OECD | USD (millions) | 6.50 | 5 356.96 | 12 767.21 | 0 | | 2 245.64 | | 2016 | 2017 | 0 |
| 11.1.1 | Dwellings with access to basic sanitation | OECD | Percent | 85.15 | 97.51 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 4.17 | 0.60 | 2008 | 2013 | 0 |
| 11.3.1 | Average annual change in built area per capita | OECD | Percent | -0.74 | 0.34 | 1.83 | -1 | -0.51 | 0.68 | 1.25 | 2014 | 2014 | 0 |
| 11.6.1 | Material recovery rate of municipal waste (recycling and composting) | OECD | Percent | 4.99 | 34.20 | 72.82 | 1 | 57.66 | 15.46 | 1.52 | 2012 | 2017 | 10 |
| 11.6.2 | Mean population exposure to PM2.5 in metropolitan areas | OECD | Micrograms per cubic meter | 5.91 | 12.56 | 25.14 | -1 | 10 | 5.74 | 0.45 | 2017 | 2017 | 7 |
| 11.b.1 | Countries with legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk (1 = Yes; 0 = No) | UN | Number | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2013 | 2015 | 0 |
| 12.2.2 | Domestic material consumption per GDP | OECD | Kg per 2010 USD PPP | 0.12 | 0.33 | 1.87 | -1 | 0.17 | 0.3 | 0.54 | 2012 | 2017 | 10 |
| 12.4.1 | Compliance with the Basel Convention, the Montreal Protocol, the Rotterdam Convention and the | UN | Index | 55.56 | 91.53 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 11.86 | 0.71 | 2015 | 2015 | 0 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Stockholm Convention | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12.5.1 | Material recovery rate of municipal waste (recycling and composting) | OECD | Percent | 4.99 | 34.20 | 72.82 | 1 | 57.66 | 15.46 | 1.52 | 2012 | 2017 | 10 |
| 13.1.2 | Countries with legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk (1 = Yes; 0 = No) | UN | Number | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2013 | 2015 | 0 |
| 13.2.1 | Production-based CO2 productivity | OECD | GDP per unit of energy-related CO2 emissions | 2.18 | 4.81 | 12.09 | 1 | 8.39 | 2.23 | 1.61 | 2016 | 2016 | 10 |
| 13.a.1 | Bilateral climate-related ODA | OECD | USD | 0.09 | 2 403.83 | 8 958.76 | 0 | | 2 122.77 | | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 14.4.1 | Aggregated indicator for policies and practices against IUU fishing | OECD | Percent | 56.26 | 81.27 | 93.63 | 1 | 100 | 8.34 | 2.25 | 2018 | 2018 | 0 |
| 14.5.1 | Protected areas as a share of Exclusive Economic Zones | OECD | Percent | 0.06 | 24.82 | 96.89 | 1 | 10 | 20.47 | 0 | 2018 | 2018 | 12 |
| 14.6.1 | Transfers to individual fishers (budgetary) as a percent of GDP | OECD | Percent | 0 | 0.001 | 0.014 | -1 | $1.10^{-5}$ | 0.003 | 0.35 | 2015 | 2018 | 8 |
| 15.1.1 | Land area covered by trees | OECD | Percent | 0.03 | 34.44 | 71.87 | 1 | 17 | 18.86 | 0 | 2015 | 2015 | 0 |
| 15.1.2 | Protected areas as a share of total land | OECD | Percent | 9.67 | 20.26 | 53.52 | 1 | 37.73 | 10.12 | 1.73 | 2018 | 2018 | 12 |
| 15.2.1 | Intensity of use of forest resources | OECD | Percent | 0.23 | 0.52 | 1.10 | -1 | 1 | 0.17 | 0 | 2010 | 2016 | 9 |
| 15.4.1 | Average proportion of Mountain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) | UN | Percent | 0.84 | 61.12 | 98.98 | 1 | 92.69 | 29.15 | 1.08 | 2018 | 2018 | 12 |
| 15.4.2 | Mountain Green Cover Index | UN | Index | 25 | 88.46 | 100 | 1 | 98.04 | 21.50 | 0.45 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 15.5.1 | Red List Index | UN | Index | 0.63 | 0.84 | 0.99 | 1 | 1 | 0.09 | 1.67 | 2018 | 2018 | 12 |
| 15.6.1 | Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits | UN | Number | 0 | 0.55 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.29 | 1.54 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 15.a.1 | Official development assistance for biodiversity | OECD | USD (millions) | 0.08 | 734.89 | 1 906.44 | 0 | | 533.81 | | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 15.b.1 | Official development assistance plus other official flows to support forestry | OECD | USD (millions) | 0 | 37.34 | 184.11 | 0 | | 36.98 | | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 16.1.1 | Deaths from assault | OECD | Deaths per 100 000 | 0.20 | 3.66 | 18.10 | -1 | 0 | 3.08 | 1.19 | 2013 | 2016 | 9 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | population (standardised rates) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16.1.4 | Share of population feeling safe when walking alone at night | OECD | Percent | 42.74 | 69.97 | 90.91 | 1 | 100 | 10.56 | 2.84 | 2016 | 2017 | 9 |
| 16.3.2 | Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (%) | UN | Percent | 7.29 | 23.13 | 47.08 | -1 | 9.76 | 10.11 | 1.32 | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 16.5.1 | Share of the population having confidence in the government | OECD | Percent | 15.24 | 40.20 | 83.74 | 1 | 62.76 | 14.32 | 1.58 | 2016 | 2017 | 9 |
| 16.7.2 | External political efficacy | OECD | Percent | 9.60 | 32.67 | 71 | 1 | 59.40 | 15.10 | 1.77 | 2012 | 2015 | 0 |
| 16.9.1 | Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority | UN | Percent | 95 | 99.40 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 0.87 | 0.69 | 2011 | 2015 | 0 |
| 16.10.2 | Countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information | UN | Number | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2018 | 2018 | 0 |
| 16.a.1 | Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles | UN | Index | 0 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 1 | 1 | 0.24 | 3.11 | 2010 | 2017 | 7 |
| 17.1.1 | Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP | OECD | Percent | 23.81 | 37.43 | 55 | 0 | | 7.79 | | 2016 | 2017 | 0 |
| 17.1.2 | Net lending/net borrowing of general government | OECD | Percent | -4.15 | -2.04 | 5.06 | 1 | 0.78 | 2.33 | 1.21 | 2016 | 2017 | 11 |
| 17.2.1 | Net official development assistance to developing and least developed countries as a percentage of GNI (composite) | OECD | Index | 0.09 | 0.51 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.32 | 1.54 | 2016 | 2017 | 11 |
| 17.3.2 | Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP (%) | UN | Percent | 0.04 | 0.60 | 4.45 | 0 | | 1.20 | | 2016 | 2016 | 0 |
| 17.6.2 | Total fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants | OECD | Percent | 13.89 | 30.77 | 47.05 | 1 | 40.37 | 8.03 | 1.20 | 2017 | 2017 | 8 |
| 17.8.1 | Share of the population using internet - last 3 months | OECD | Percent | 65.32 | 82.10 | 99.02 | 1 | 100 | 11.50 | 1.56 | 2012 | 2018 | 11 |
| 17.9.1 | Official development assistance plus | OECD | USD | 0.06 | 1 265.15 | 2 347.1 | 0 | | 637.48 | | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |

| Code | Indicator | Source | Unit | Lowest value | OECD average value | Highest value | Normative directions | Target value | Standard deviation | OECD average distance | Last year available (min) | Last year available (max) | Average number of years for trends |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | other official flows to focused on capacity building and national planning | | (millions) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.15.1 | Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | OECD | Percent | 0 | 55.63 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 19.81 | 2.24 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 17.16.1 | Progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals (1 = Yes; 0 = No) | OECD | Number | 0 | 0.52 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.51 | 0.95 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 17.18.2 | Countries with national statistical legislation exists that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (1 = Yes; 0 = No) | UN | Number | 0 | 0.99 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 17.18.3 | Countries with national statistical plans that are under implementation and fully funded | UN | Index | 0.50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 2017 | 2017 | 0 |
| 17.19.1 | Resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries | OECD | USD | 189.44 | 5 973 576.5 | 16 700 000 | 0 | | 16 200 000 | | 2014 | 2016 | 0 |
| 17.19.2 | Proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years and have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration | UN | Index | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2016 | 2016 | 6 |

# Chapter 2. Measuring distance to the SDG targets at the country level

*The OECD Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets Study covers 132 indicators and 105 targets measuring performance on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. It assesses the strength and weakness of an individual country vis-a-vis the 2030 Agenda, using the UN Global Indicator List. In a series of two-page country fiches, this chapter presents the performance of OECD countries at target and goal level, as well as data coverage across goals for each country.*

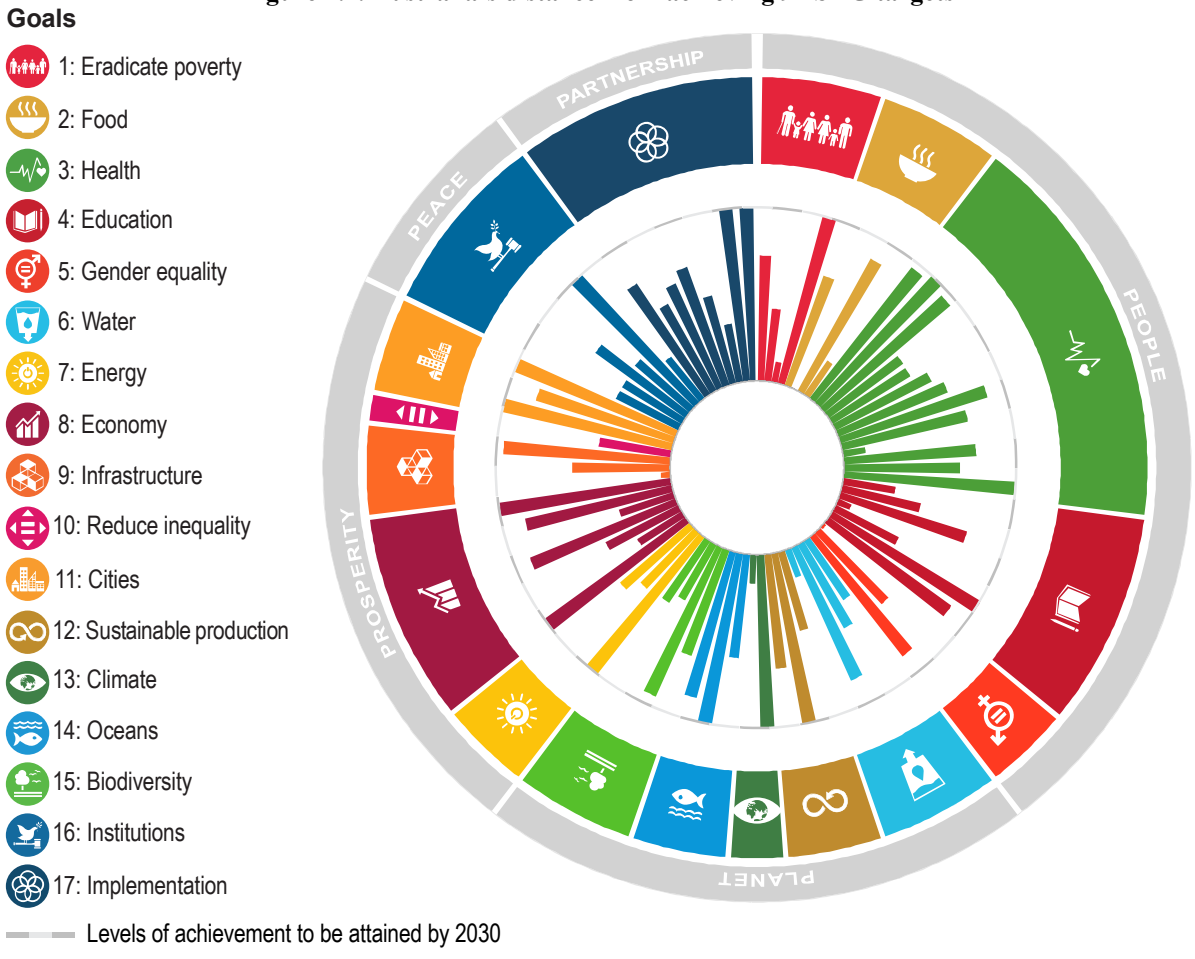
The study includes country-level data of all OECD Members except the United States.

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Australia

Based on 123 available indicators allowing a coverage of 97 of the 169 SDG targets, Australia has currently achieved 15 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.1). For example, schools in Australia are connected to the internet (target 4.a), water stress is low (target 6.4), and exposure to air pollution is among the lowest in the OECD (target 11.6). However, some challenges remain; Australia is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 2% of the targets. Targets that are further away include obesity (target 2.2), $CO_2$ intensity (target 9.4) and feelings of safety (target 16.1).

**Figure 2.1. Australia's distance from achieving 97 SDG targets**



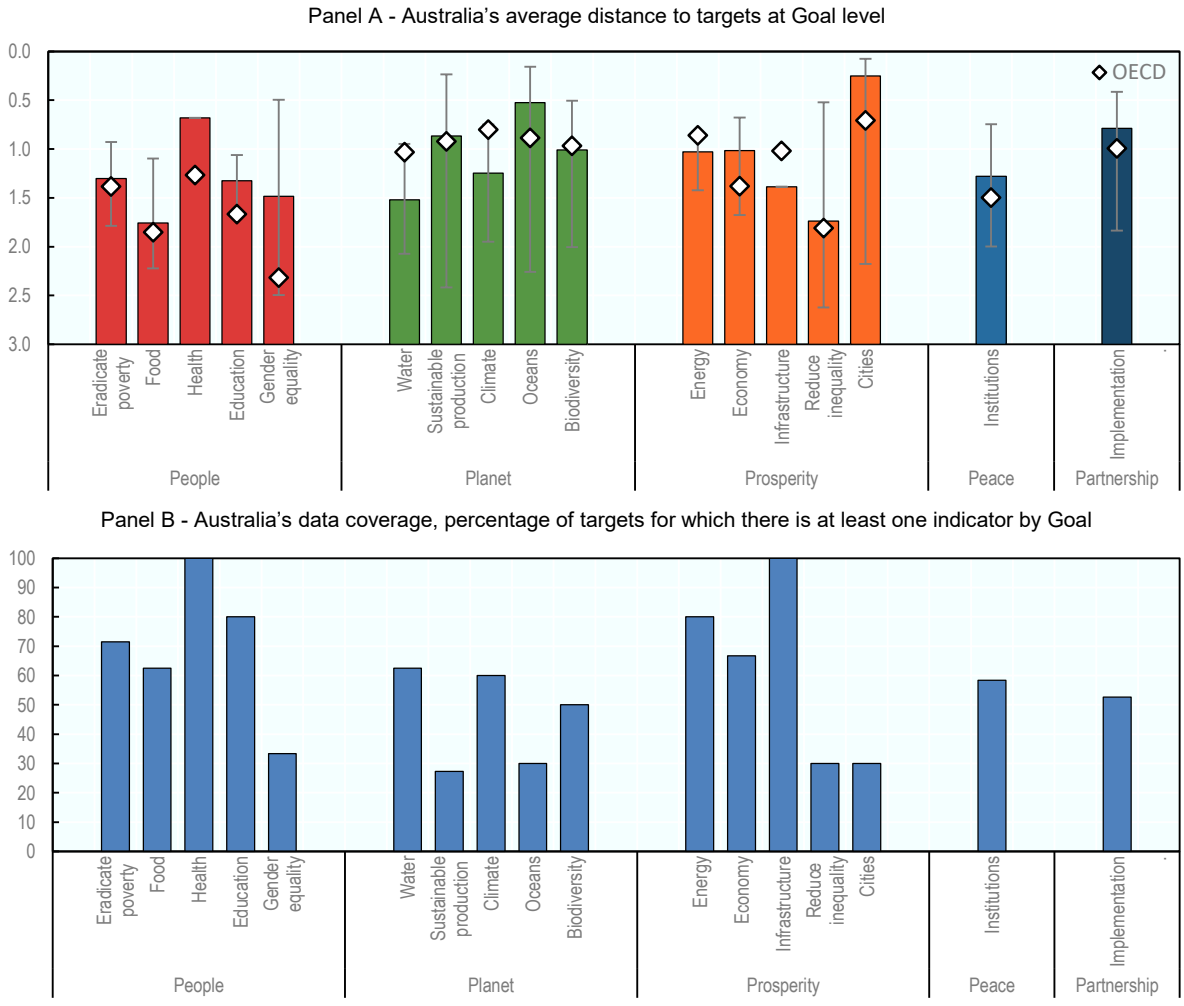

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962873

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.2, Panel A shows that Australia is on average closest to reaching goals on Health, Oceans and Cities (goals 3, 14 and 11), and further from reaching goals on Food and Reducing Inequality (goas 2 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Australia outperforms on goals such as Health, Gender Equality, Oceans, Economy and Cities (goals 3, 5, 14, 8 and 11). Conversely, Australia is relatively further away on goals such as water, Climate and Infrastructure (goals 6, 13 and 9). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.2, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable production, Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 14 and 10), Australia's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.2. Australia's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



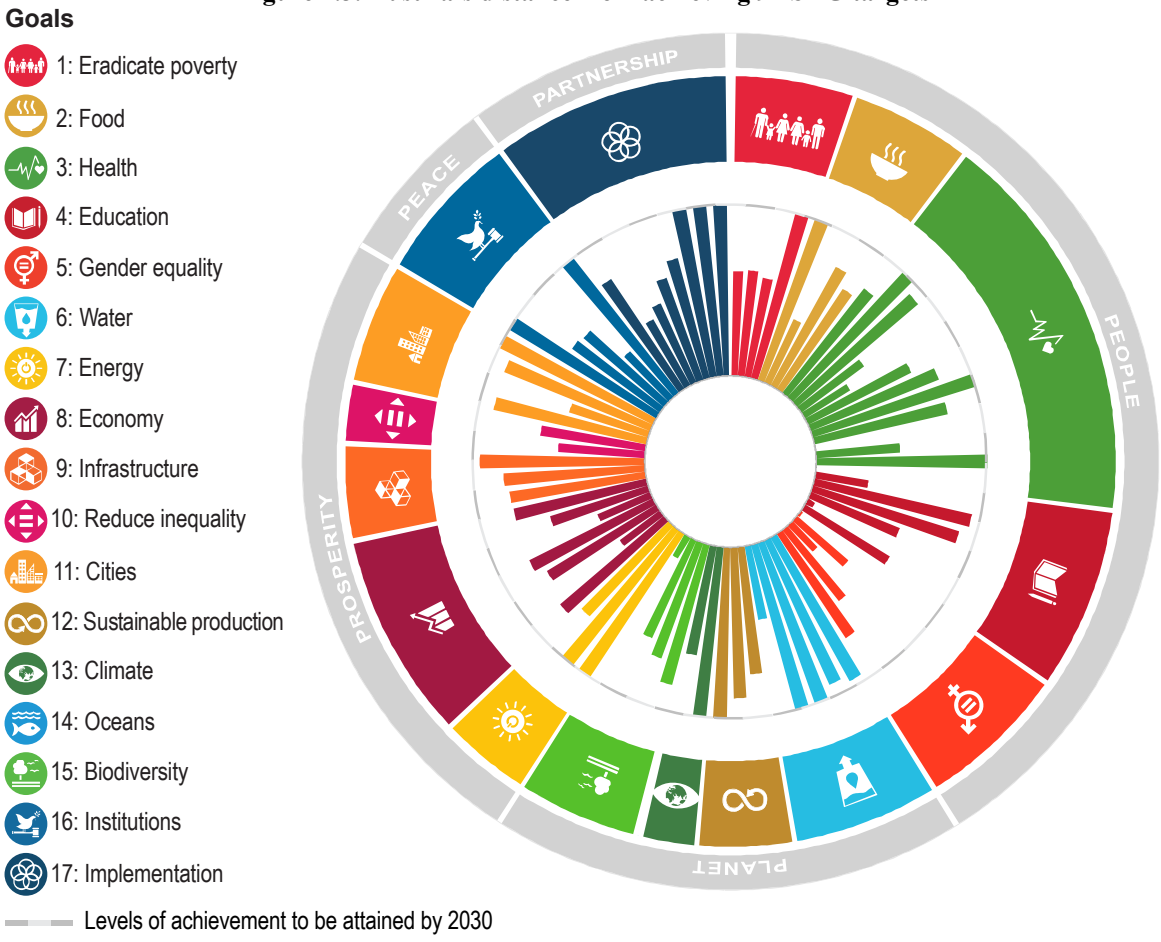

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962892

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Austria

Based on 120 available indicators allowing a coverage of 97 of the 169 SDG targets, Austria has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.3). For example, Austria already has the highest number of physicians per capita in the OECD (target 3.c), a large share of renewable energy consumption (targets 7.2), and high recycling rates (targets 11.6 and 12.5). However, some challenges remain; Austria is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 2% of the targets. These include targets relating to tobacco consumption and legal frameworks governing gender equality (targets 5.1 and 16.5).

**Figure 2.3. Austria's distance from achieving 97 SDG targets**



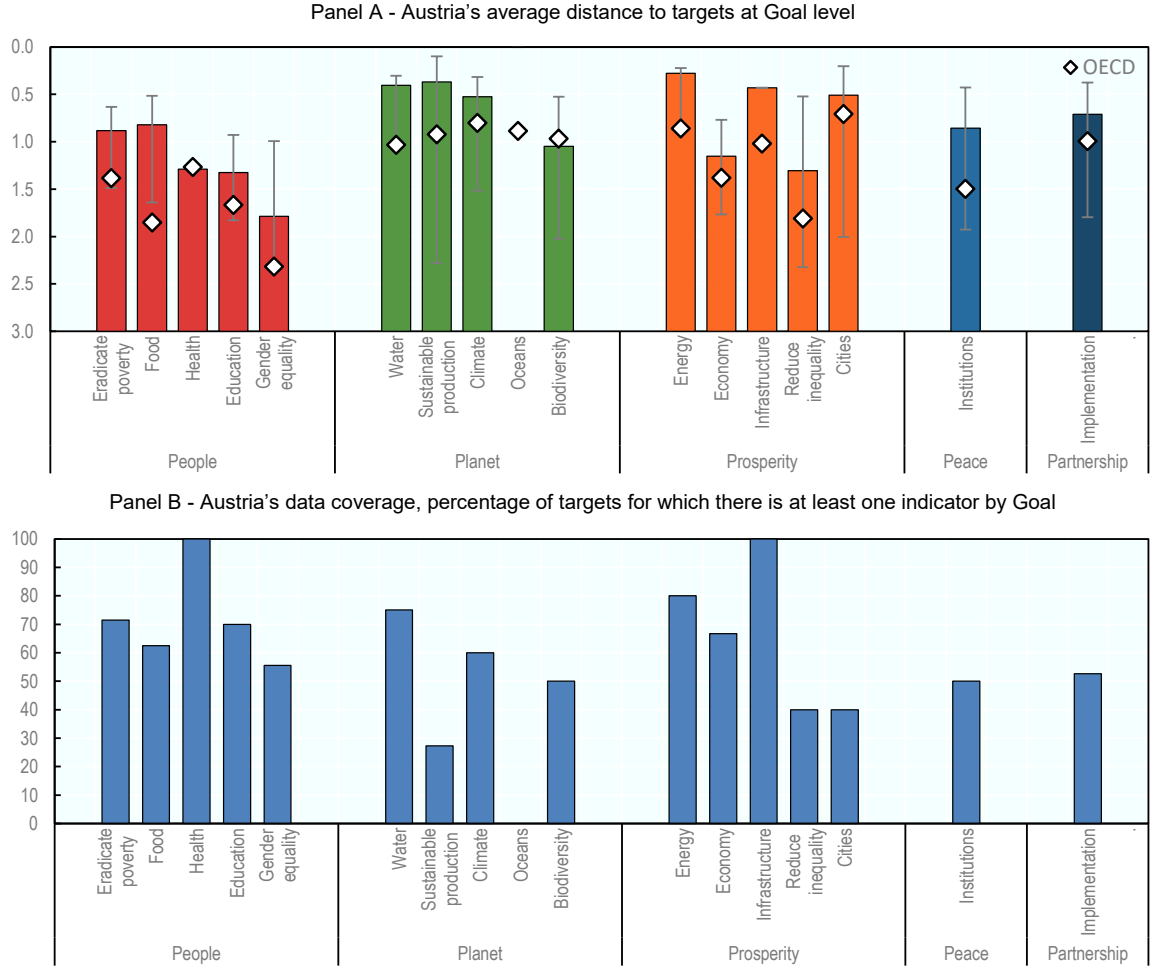

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962911

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.4, Panel A shows that Austria is on average closest to reaching goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Water, Sustainable Production and Climate) and most goals pertaining to Prosperity (on Energy, Infrastructure and Cities). Goals further from achievement relate to Education, Gender Equality, and Reducing Inequality (goals 4, 5 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Austria outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Food and Institutions (goals 1, 2 and 16), as well as on goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 6 on Water, 12 on Sustainable Production, and 13 on Climate) and on goals relating to Prosperity. However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.4, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Reducing Inequality, Cities and Sustainable Production (goals 10, 11 and 12), Austria's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.4. Austria's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

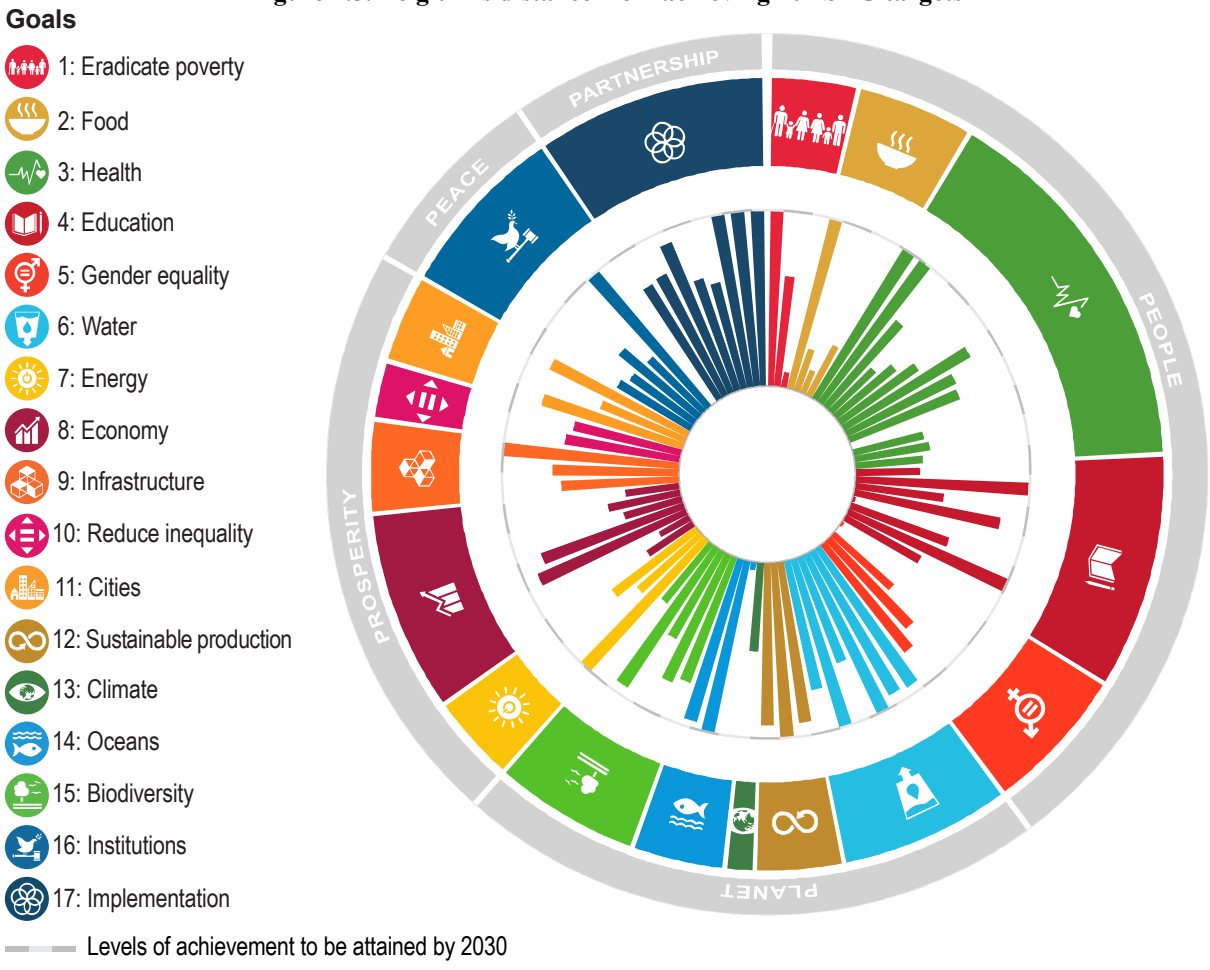
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962930

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Belgium

Based on 126 available indicators allowing a coverage of 102 of the 169 SDG targets, Belgium has currently achieved 16 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.5). For example, Belgium has already achieved the targets on pre-primary education, sanitation and clean fuels (targets 4.2, 6.3 and 7.1). However, some challenges remain; Belgium is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 3% of the targets. These include incidence of Hepatitis B, tobacco consumption, and violence against women (measuring targets 3.3, 3.a and 5.2).

**Figure 2.5. Belgium's distance from achieving 102 SDG targets**



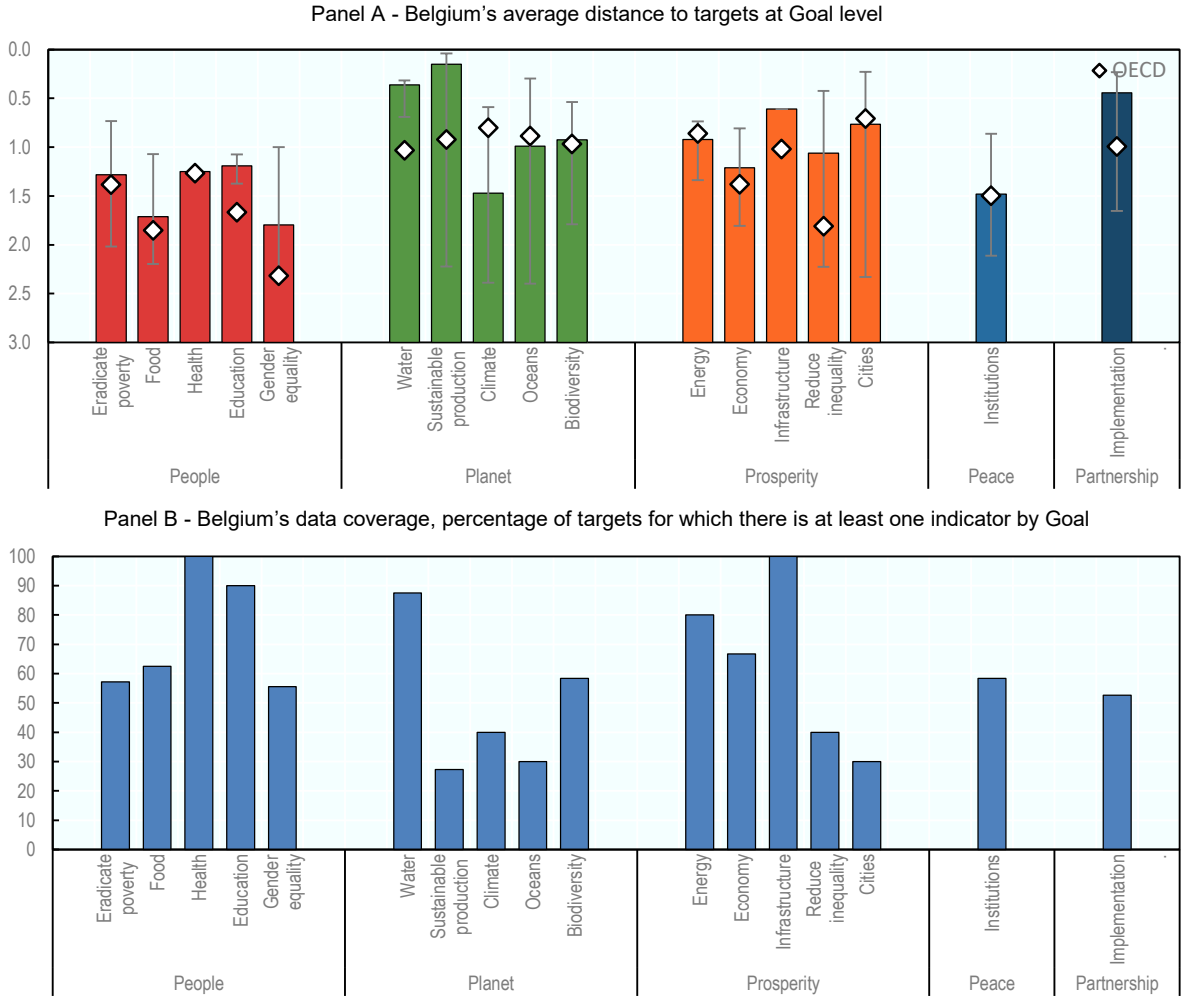

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962949

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.6, Panel A shows that Belgium is on average closest to reaching goals on Water, Sustainable Production, Infrastructure, Cities and Implementation (goals 6, 12, 9, 11 and 17), and further away from goals on Food and Gender Equality (goals 2 and 5). Relative to the OECD average, Belgium outperforms on goals such as Education, Gender Equality, Water, Sustainable Production, Infrastructure, Reducing Inequality and Implementation (goals 4, 5, 6, 12, 9, 10 and 17). Conversely, Belgium is relatively further away on Climate (goal 13). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.6, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Reducing Inequality, Sustainable Production, Oceans and Cities (goals 10, 12, 14 and 11), Belgium's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.6. Belgium's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

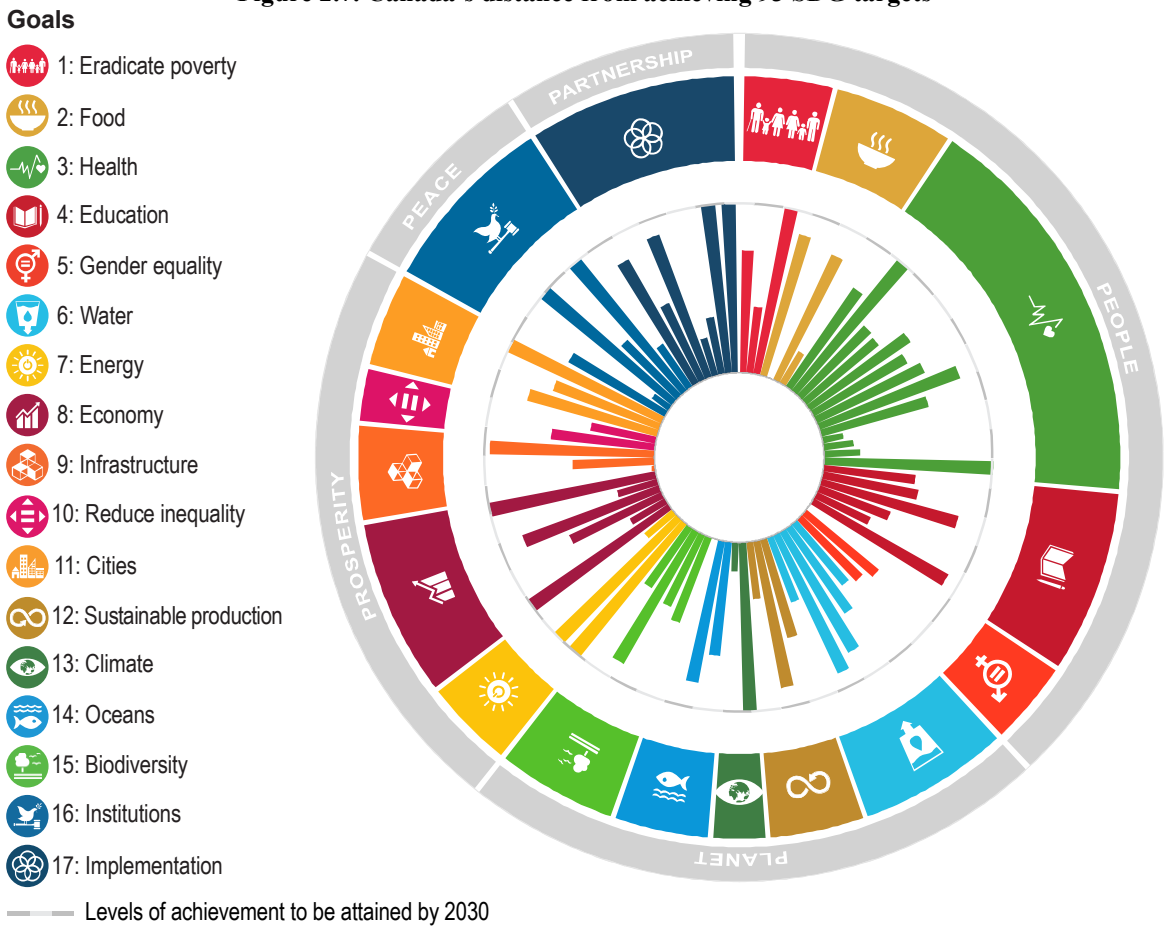
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962968

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Canada

Based on 119 available indicators allowing a coverage of 93 of the 169 SDG targets, Canada has currently achieved 14 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.7). For example, Canada performs well on water stress, has a relatively high share of renewable energy and low exposure to air pollution in cities (measuring targets 6.4, 7.2 and 11.6). However, some challenges remain; Canada is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 3% of the targets. These include obesity rate, Hepatitis B incidence and support to fisheries (measuring targets 2.2, 3.3 and 14.6).

**Figure 2.7. Canada's distance from achieving 93 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933962987

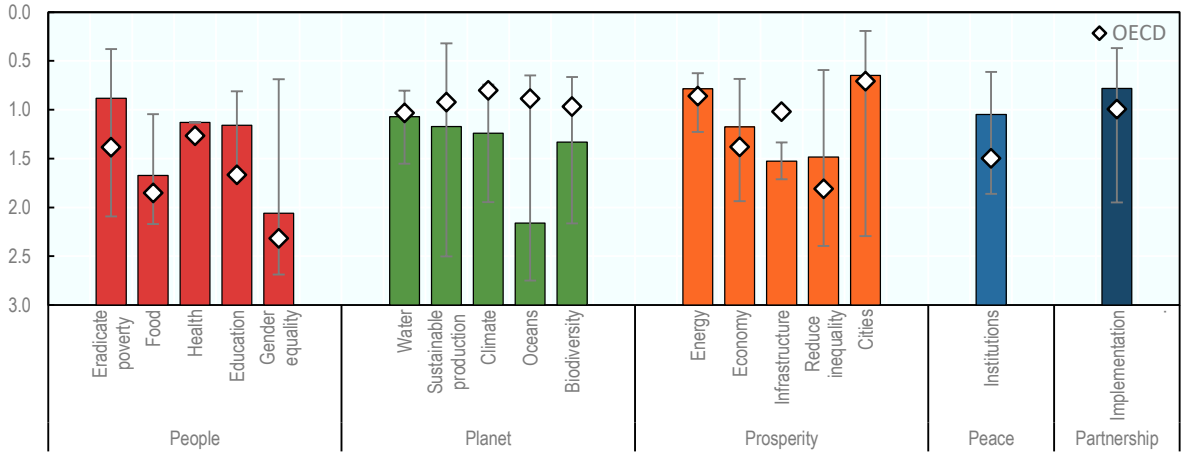
The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and selected targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are primarily based on the *UN Global List of indicators on SDGs*; they are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases and may not be based upon national statistics. Countries' comparisons may be affected by differences in some indicators as reported in the underlying international databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and are more up to date. The Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals Data Hub can be accessed here: www144.statcan.gc.ca/sdg-odd/index-eng.htm.

Figure 2.8, Panel A shows that Canada is on average closest to reaching goals on Cities (goal 11). Relative to the OECD average, Canada outperforms on Education and Institutions (goals 4 and 16). Conversely, Canada is relatively further away on goals such as Infrastructure (goal 9), as well as on goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 13 on Climate, 14 on Oceans and 15 on Biodiversity).

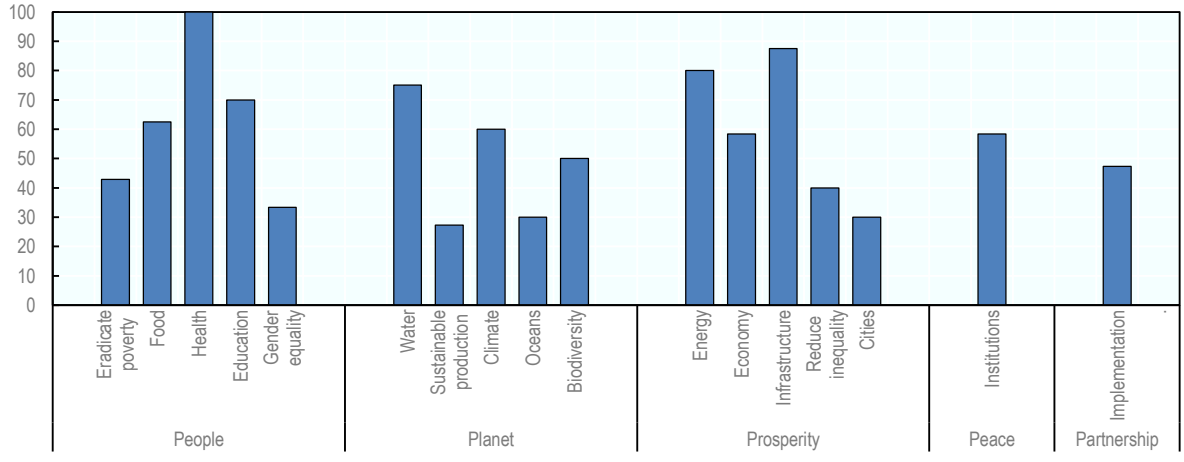
However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.8, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 14 and 11), Canada's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.8. Canada's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**

Panel A - Canada's average distance to targets at Goal level




Panel B - Canada's data coverage, percentage of targets for which there is at least one indicator by Goal




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

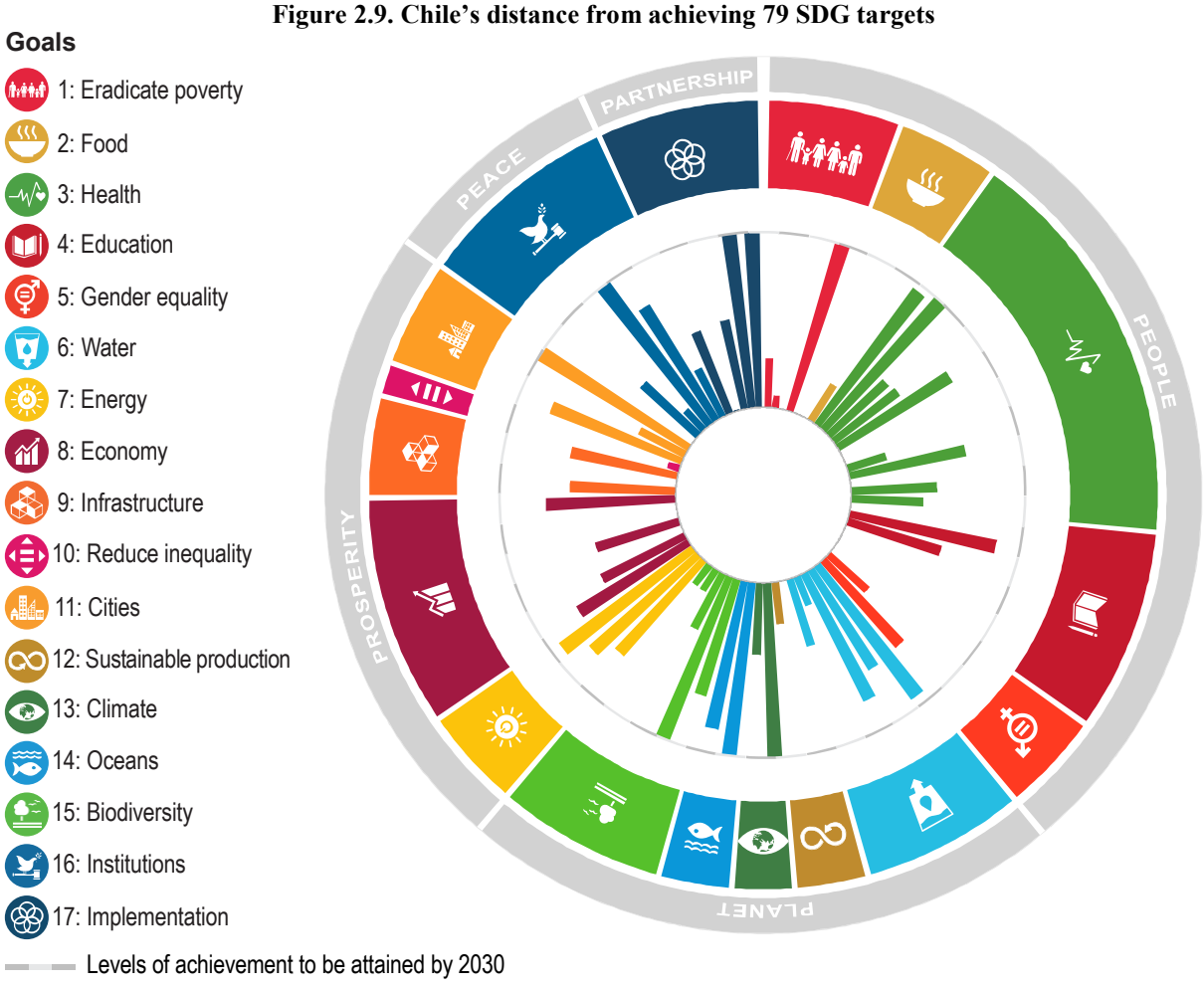
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963006

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Chile

Based on 99 available indicators allowing a coverage of 79 of the 169 SDG targets, Chile has currently achieved 9 of the 2030 targets, and some of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.9). For example, Chile has already achieved the targets on neonatal, infant and maternal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2), access to electricity and land area covered by trees (measuring targets 7.1 and 15.1). However, a significant number of challenges remain; Chile is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 18% of the targets. These include road traffic fatalities, teenage pregnancies (targets 3.6 and 3.7), and basic proficiency in numeracy skills (targets 4.1 and 4.6).

**Figure 2.9. Chile's distance from achieving 79 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963025

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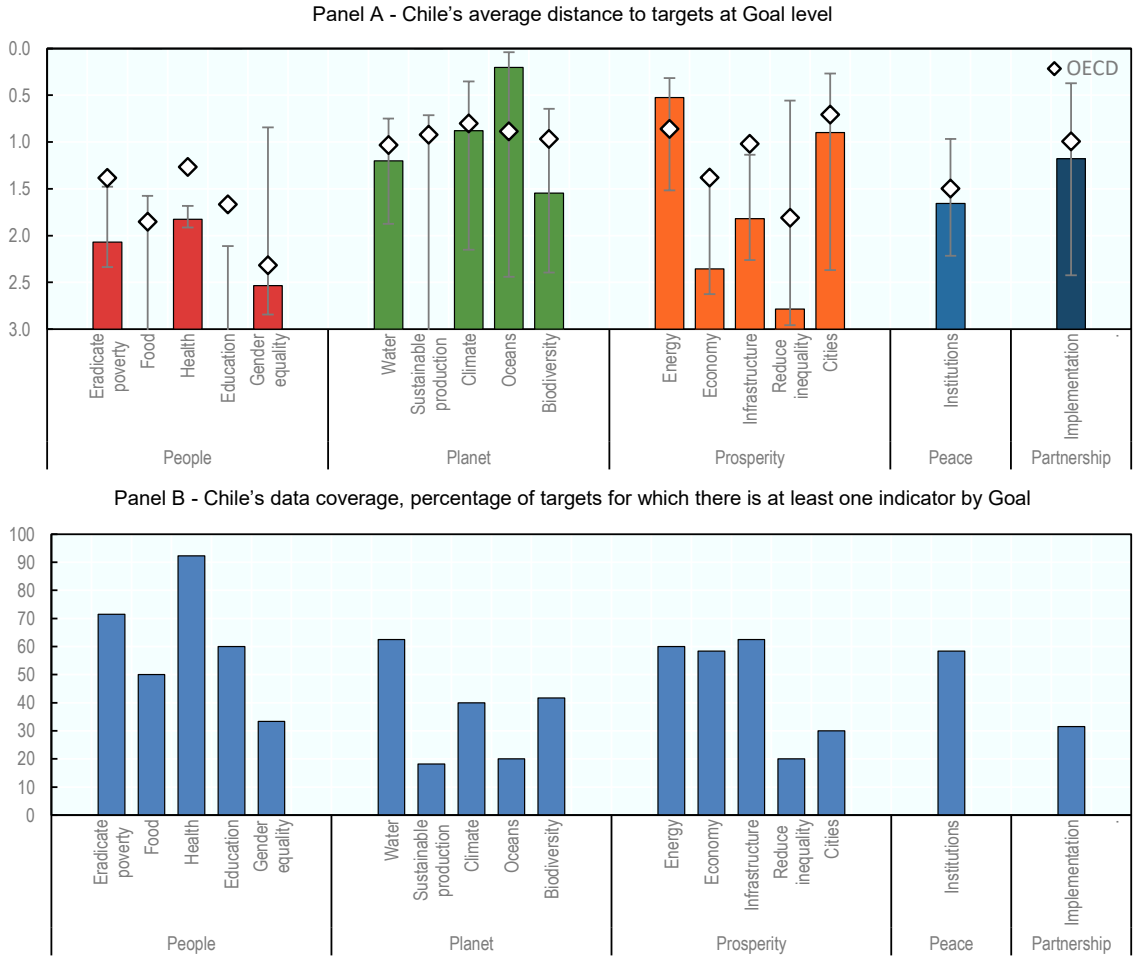
Figure 2.10, Panel A shows that Chile is on average closest to reaching goals on Oceans, Energy, and Cities (goals 14, 7 and 11). On the other hand, Chile is furthest from goals pertaining to People (in particular goals on Food, Education, Gender Equality), as well as goals on Sustainable Production, Economy and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 8 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Chile outperforms on Oceans and Energy (goals 14 and 7). Conversely, Chile is relatively further away on goals such as Sustainable Production and Biodiversity (goals 12 and 15), as well as on goals relating to People and Prosperity (in particular goals 1 on Poverty Eradication, 2 on Food, 3 on Health, 4 on Education, 8 on Economy, 9 on Infrastructure and 10 on Reducing Inequality). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.10, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 14 and 10), Chile's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.10. Chile's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

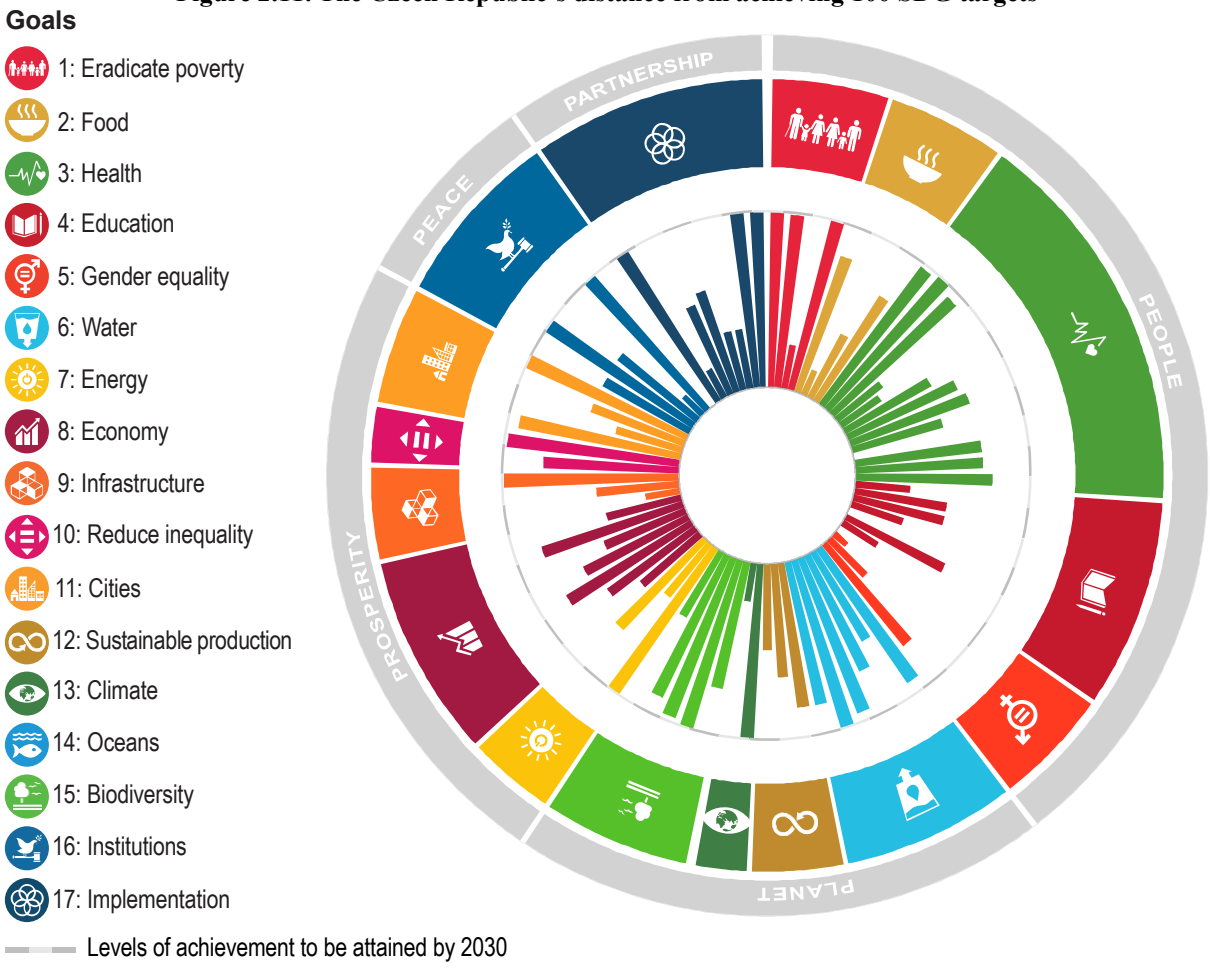
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963044

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – The Czech Republic

Based on 127 available indicators allowing a coverage of 100 of the 169 SDG targets, the Czech Republic has currently achieved 14 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.11). For example, it has already achieved the targets relating to water stress and water cooperation across borders (targets 6.4 and 6.5), has a low unemployment rate (target 8.5) and low government debt (target 17.1). However, some challenges remain; The Czech Republic is still far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 4% of the targets. These include targets relating to tobacco consumption (3.a), inequalities in education (4.5), and share of women in parliament (5.5).

**Figure 2.11. The Czech Republic's distance from achieving 100 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

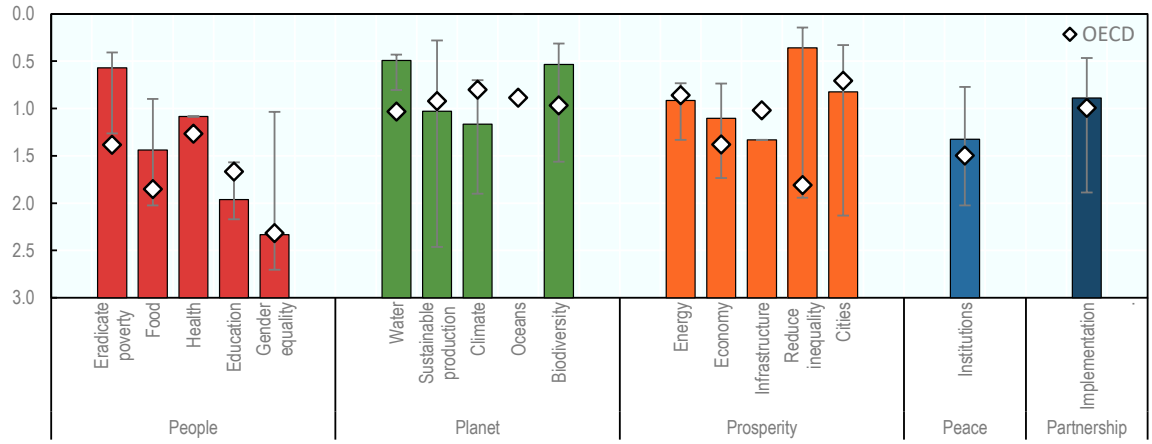
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963063

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

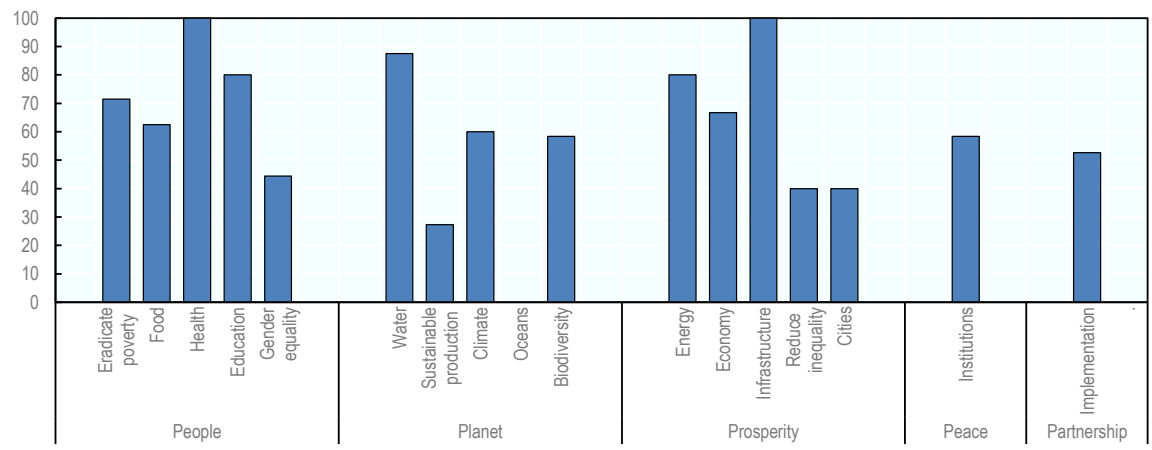
Figure 2.12, Panel A shows that the Czech Republic is on average closest to reaching most goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Water and Biodiversity), as well as the goals on Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequality (goals 1 and 10). Conversely, the Czech Republic is furthest from the goal on Gender Equality (goal 5). Relative to the OECD average, the Czech Republic outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication and Reducing inequality (goals 1 and 10), as well as on Water and Biodiversity (goals 6 and 15). Equally, the Czech Republic is relatively further away average on Education, Infrastructure and Climate (goals 4, 9 and 13). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.12, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production and Reducing Inequality (goals 12 and 10), the Czech Republic's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.12. The Czech Republic's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**

Panel A - the Czech Republic's average distance to targets at Goal level




Panel B - the Czech Republic's data coverage, percentage of targets for which there is at least one indicator by Goal




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

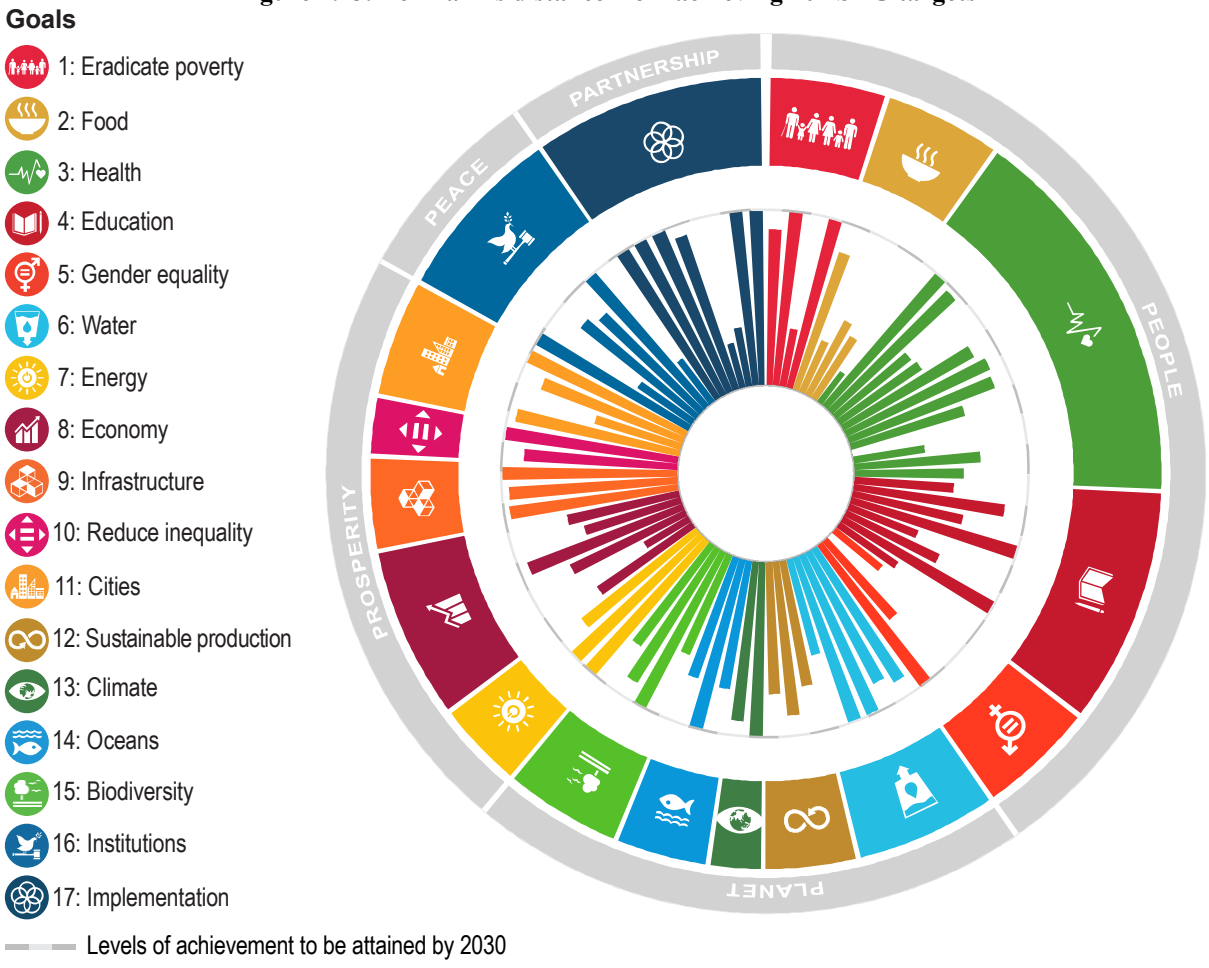
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963082

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Denmark

Based on 127 available indicators allowing a coverage of 101 of the 169 SDG targets, Denmark has currently achieved 20 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.13). For example, Denmark performs well on adult ICT skills, share of researchers and ODA (measuring targets 4.4, 9.5 and 17.2). However, some challenges remain; Denmark is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 2% of the targets. These include targets relating to rates of tobacco consumption and violence against women (measuring targets 3.a and 5.2).

**Figure 2.13. Denmark's distance from achieving 101 SDG targets**



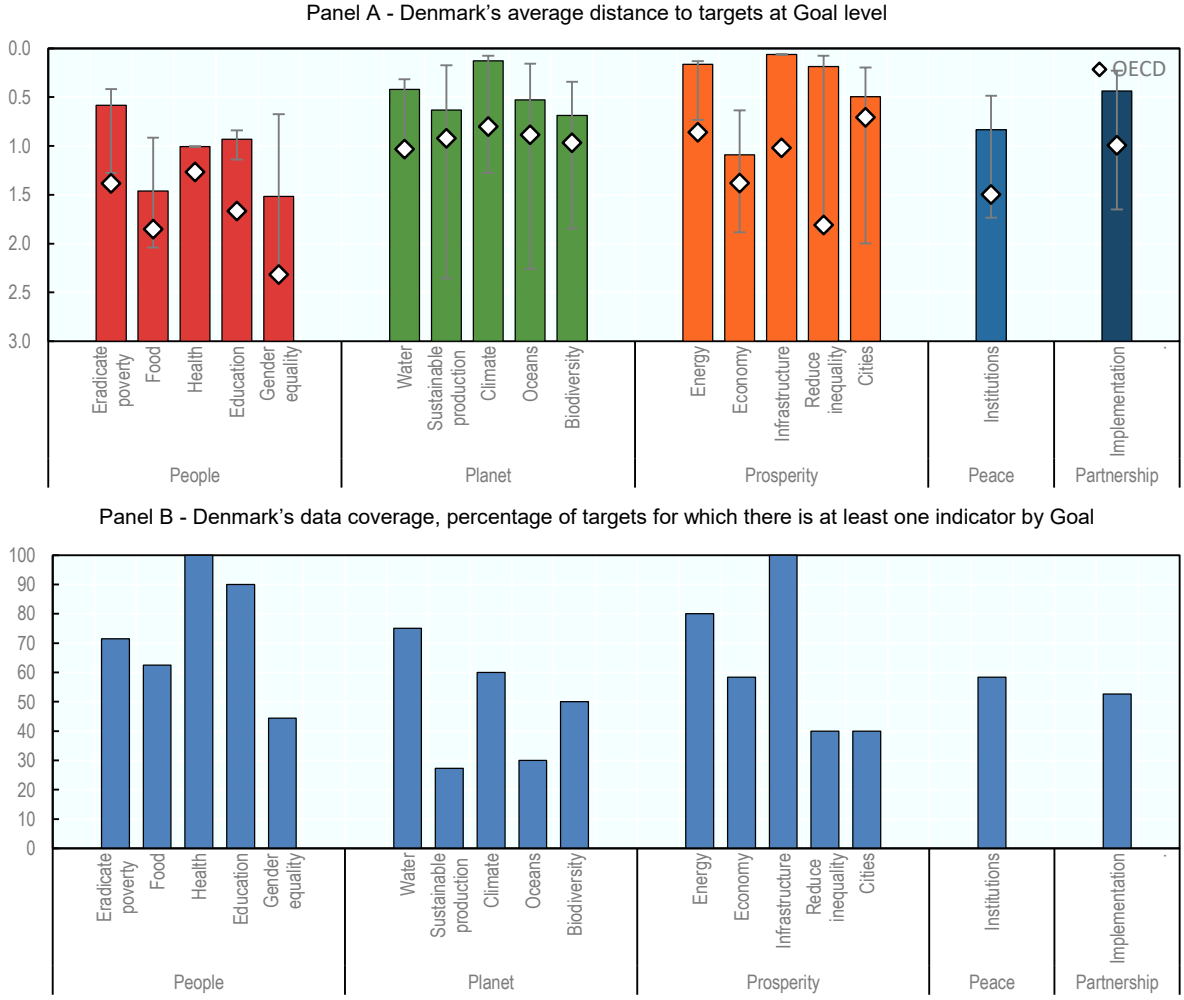

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963101

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.14, Panel A shows that Denmark is on average closest to reaching most goals pertaining to Planet and Prosperity, as well as on Poverty Eradication and Implementation (goals 1 and 17). Denmark is further away from achieving goals on Food and Gender Equality (goals 2 and 5). Relative to the OECD average, Denmark outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Education, Gender Equality, Energy, Infrastructure and Reducing Inequality (goals 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.14, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Denmark's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.14. Denmark's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



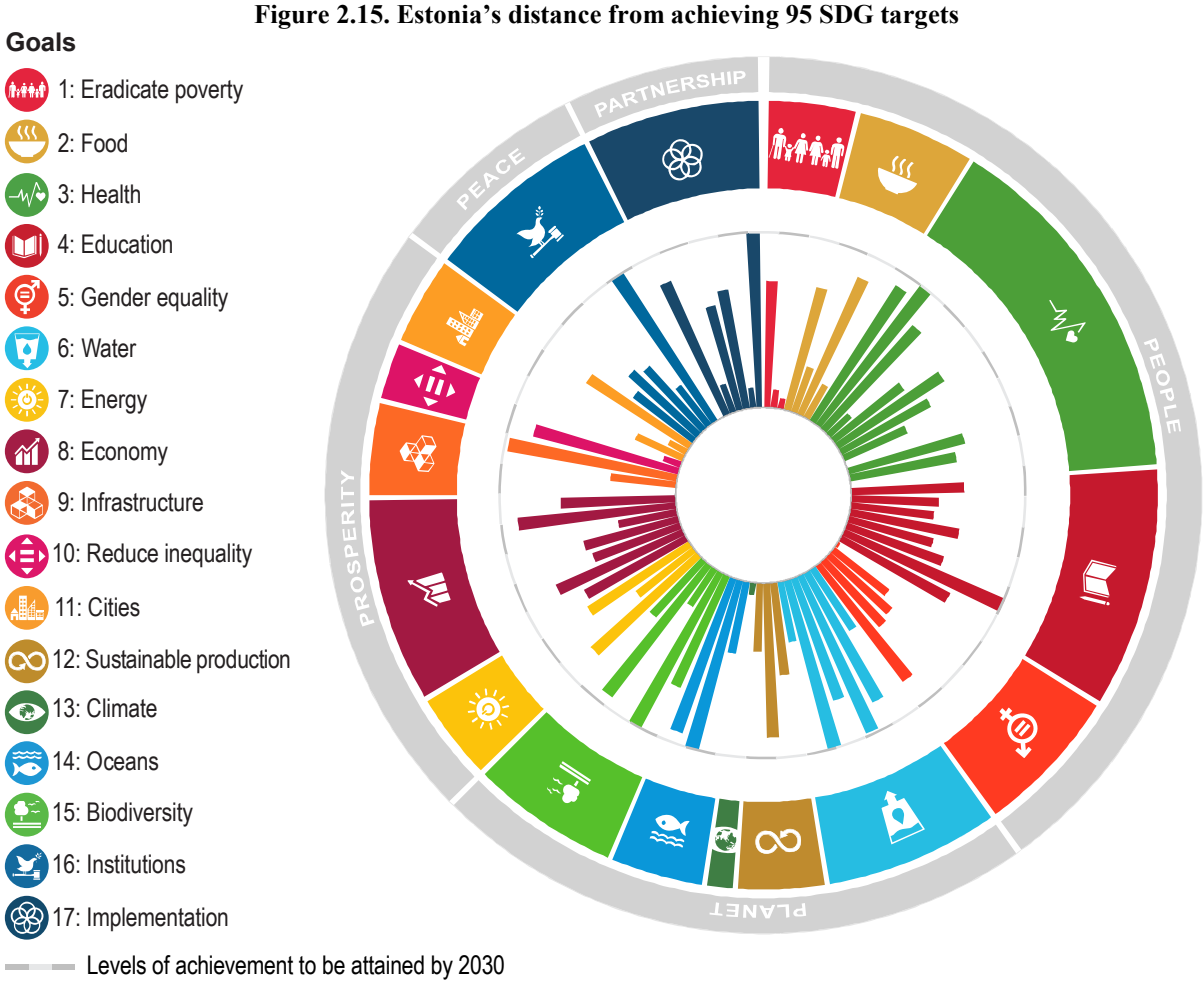

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963120

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Estonia

Based on 120 available indicators allowing a coverage of 95 of the 169 SDG targets, Estonia has currently achieved 8 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.15). For example, Estonia performs well on targets relating to schools access to internet, access to electricity and air quality (measuring targets 4.a, 7.1, and 11.6). However, some challenges remain; Estonia is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 5% of the targets. These include targets relating to mortality from accidental poisoning, tobacco consumption and $CO_2$ intensity (targets 3.9, 3.a and 9.4).

**Figure 2.15. Estonia's distance from achieving 95 SDG targets**



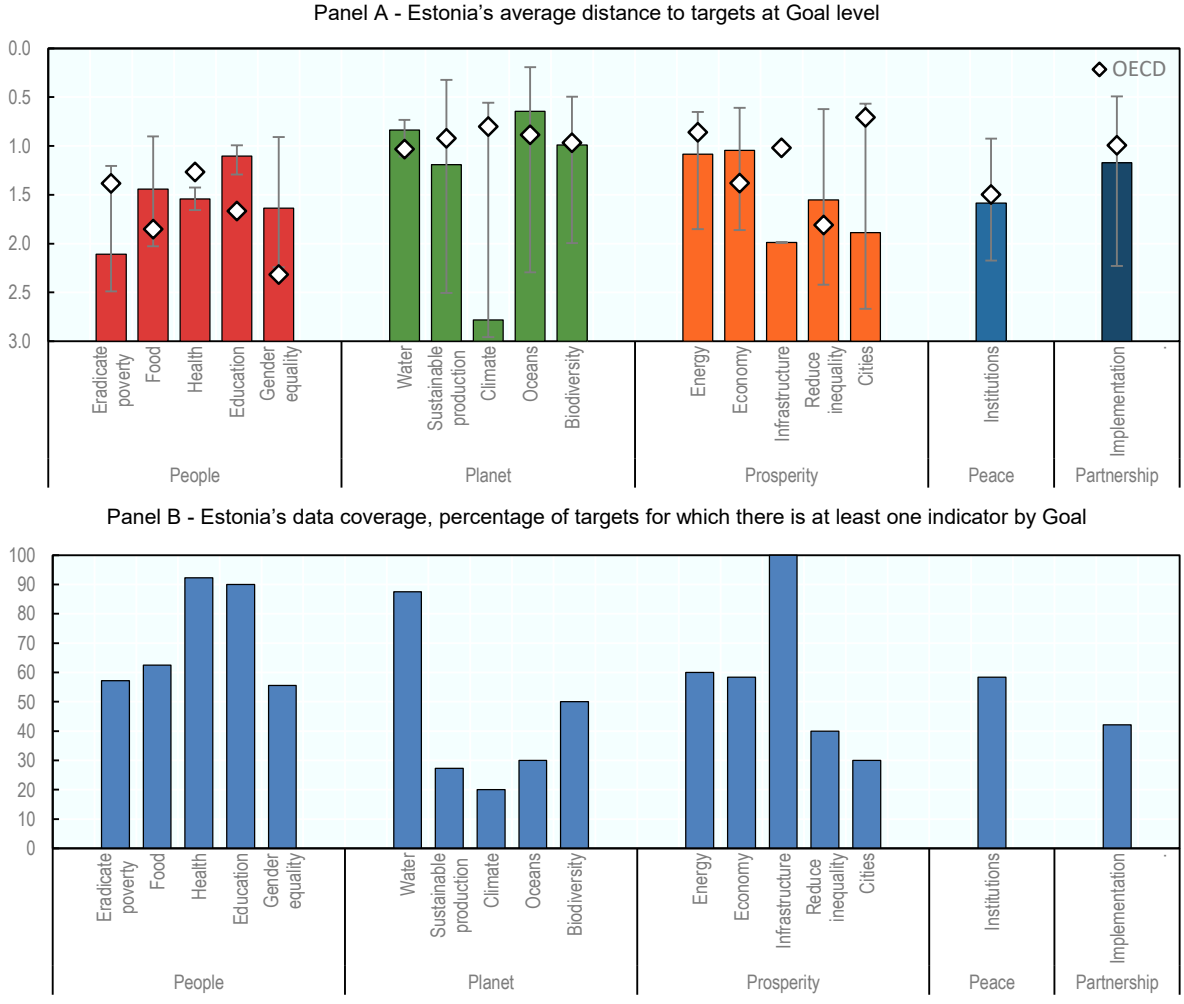

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963139

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.16, Panel A shows that Estonia is on average closest to reaching goals on Oceans, Biodiversity and Water (goals 14, 15 and 6). On the other hand, Estonia is furthest from goals on Poverty Eradication, Climate and Infrastructure (goals 1, 13 and 9). Relative to the OECD average, Estonia outperforms on goals such as Education, Gender Equality and Economy (goals 4, 5 and 8). Conversely, Estonia is relatively further away on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Infrastructure, Cities and Climate (goals 1, 9, 11 and 13). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.16, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Cities, Sustainable Production, Climate and Oceans (goals 11, 12, 13, 14), Estonia's performance could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.16. Estonia's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

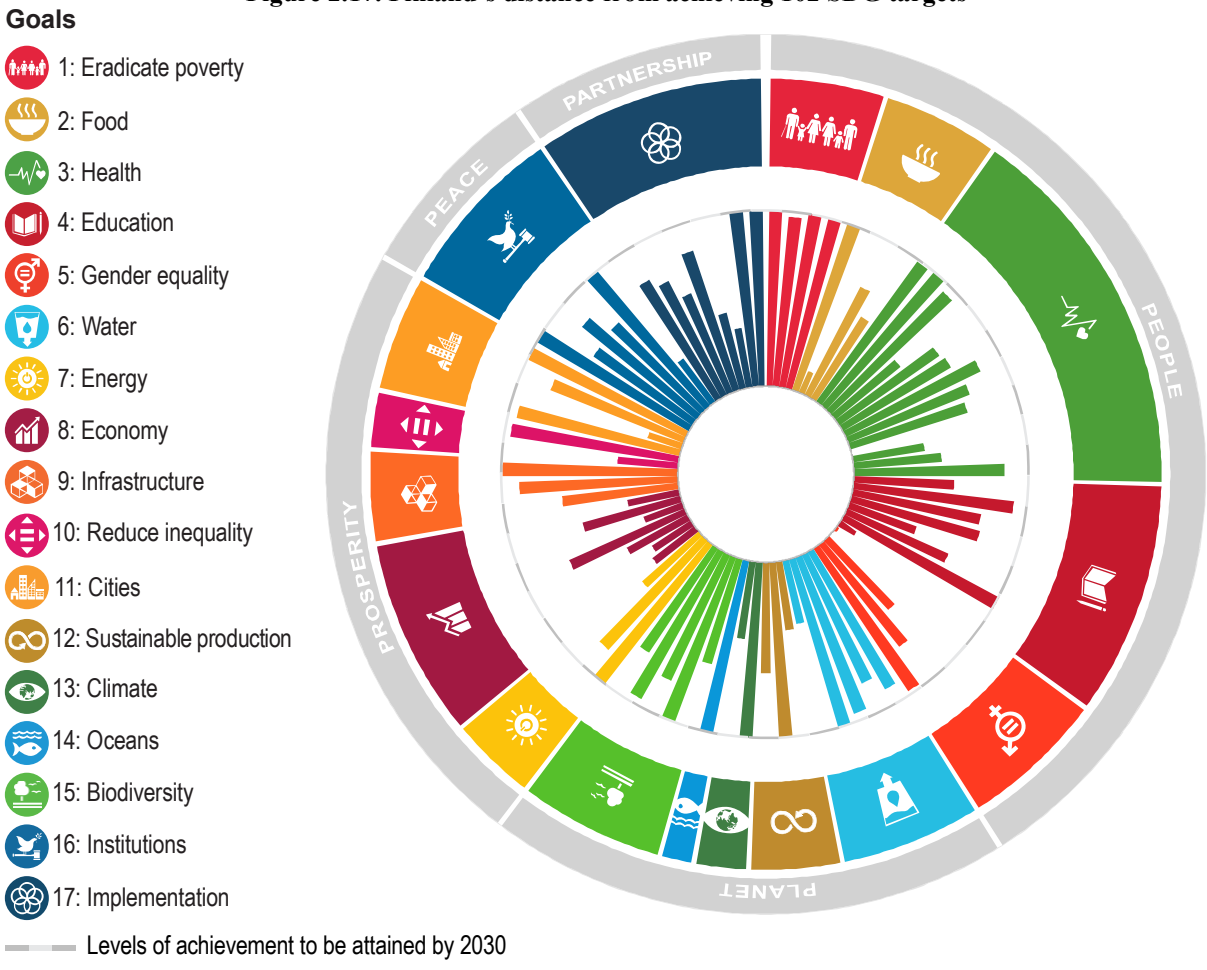
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963158

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Finland

Based on 127 available indicators allowing a coverage of 102 of the 169 SDG targets, Finland has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.17). For example, Finland has already achieved the targets on social protection for the poor, access to clean fuels and air quality (targets 1.3, 7.1 and 11.6). However, some challenges remain; Finland is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 2% of the target. These include targets relating to violence against women and, as in many OECD countries, tobacco consumption and (targets 5.2 and 3.a).

**Figure 2.17. Finland's distance from achieving 102 SDG targets**



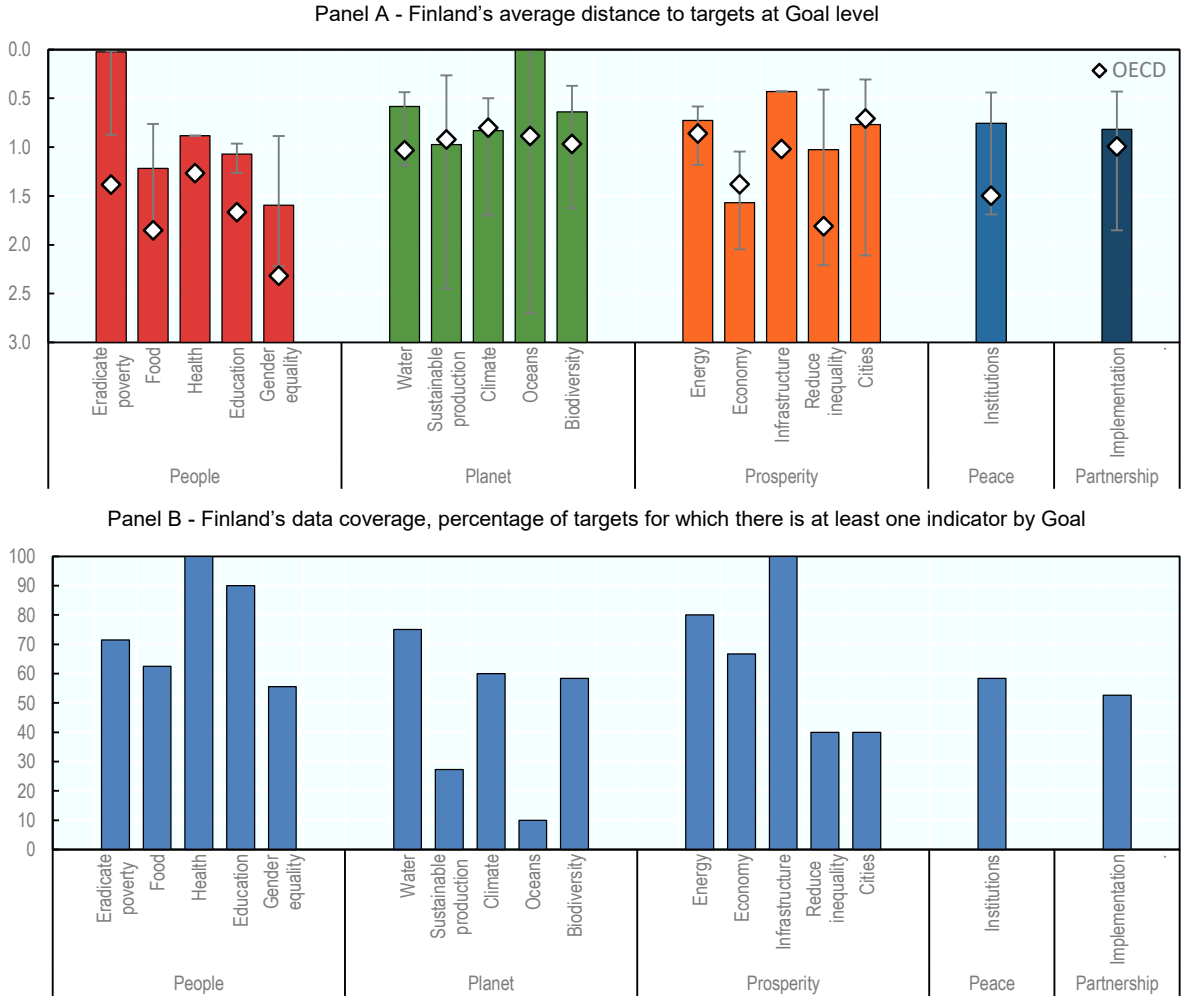

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963177

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.18, Panel A shows that Finland is on average closest to most goals pertaining to Planet as well as on Poverty Eradication and Infrastructure (goals 1 and 9). Finland is further away from achieving goals on Gender Equality and Economy (goals 5 and 8). Relative to the OECD average, Finland outperforms on goals relating such as Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Institutions (goals 1, 5, 14, 10 and 16). Conversely, Finland is relatively further away on Economy (goal 8). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.18, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality, Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Finland's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.18. Finland's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

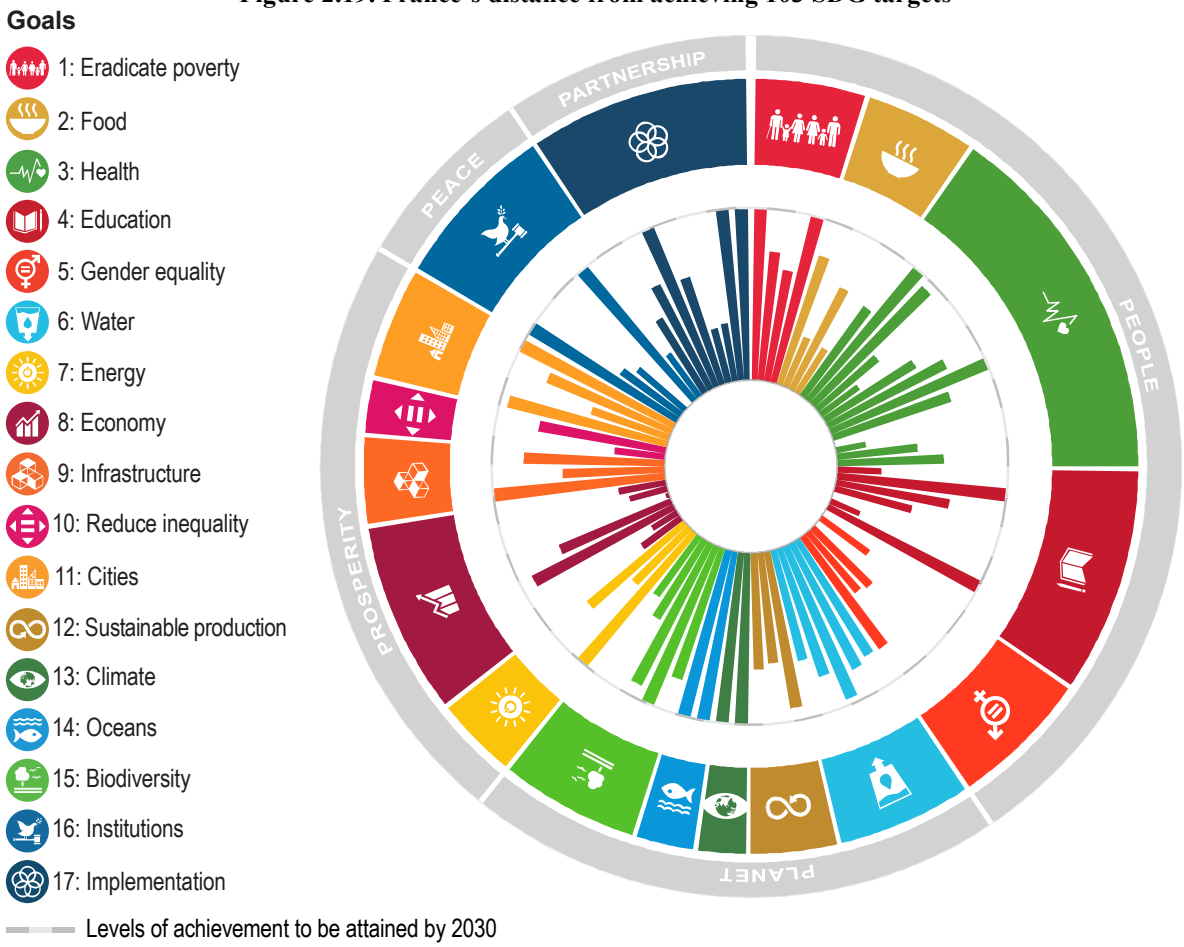
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963196

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – France

Based on 129 available indicators allowing a coverage of 103 of the 169 SDG targets, France has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.19). For example, France has already achieved the targets on maternal, infant and neonatal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2), and has among the best results in the OECD on CO2 intensity (targets 9.4 and 13.2) and on participation rates in pre-primary education (target 4.2). However, some challenges remain; France is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 4% of the targets. These include targets on tobacco consumption, on disparities in education and on violence against women (targets 3.a, 4.5 and 5.2).

**Figure 2.19. France's distance from achieving 103 SDG targets**



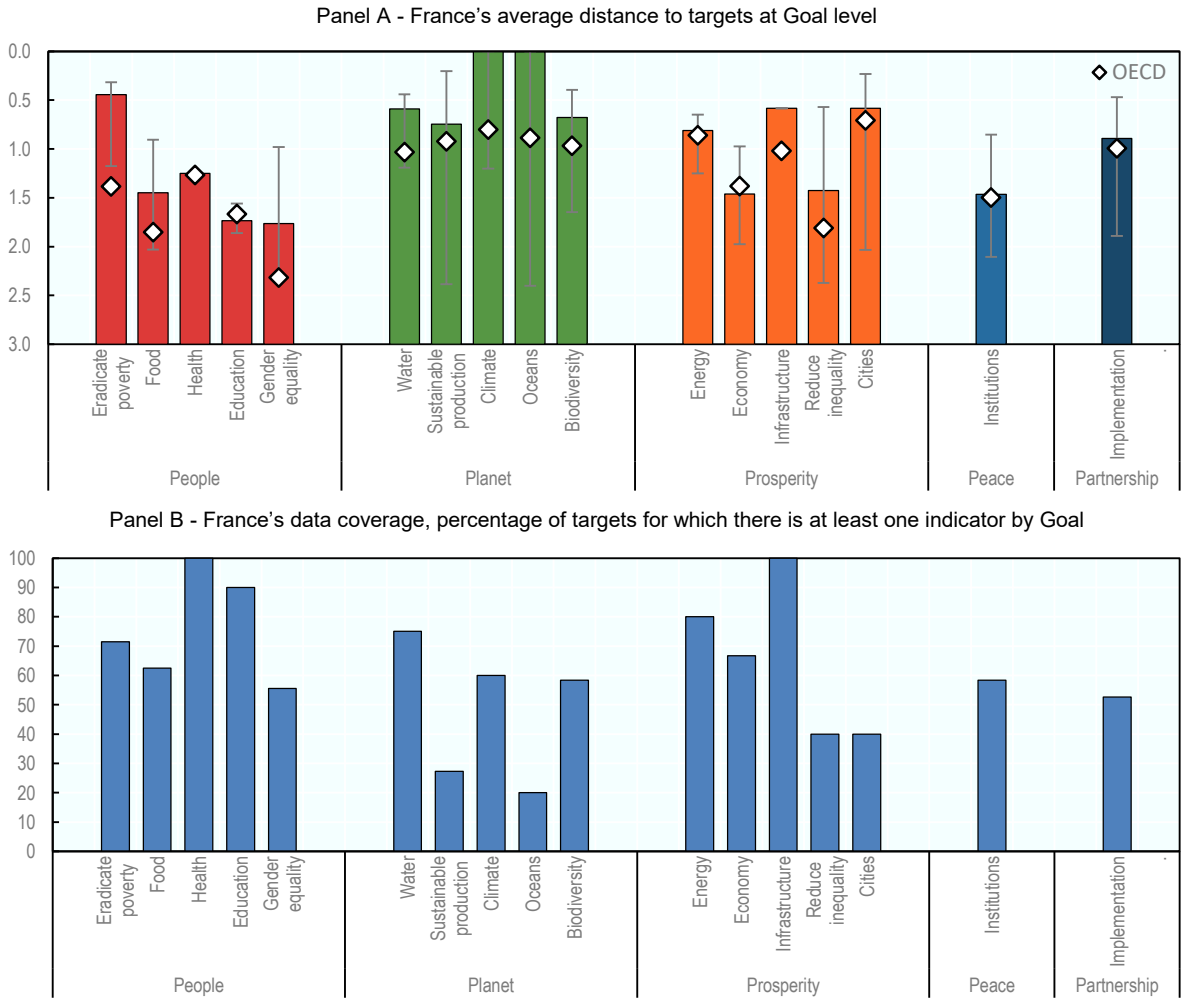

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963215

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.20, Panel A shows that France is on average closest to reaching goals relating to Planet, as well as goals on Poverty Eradication, Infrastructure and Cities (goals 1, 9 and 11). France is further away from achieving goals on Gender Equality and Education (goals 5 and 4). Relative to the OECD average, France outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Infrastructure, Climate and Oceans (goals 1, 9 13 and 14). Conversely, France is slightly further away on Education and Economy (goals 4 and 8). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.20, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), France's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.20. France's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



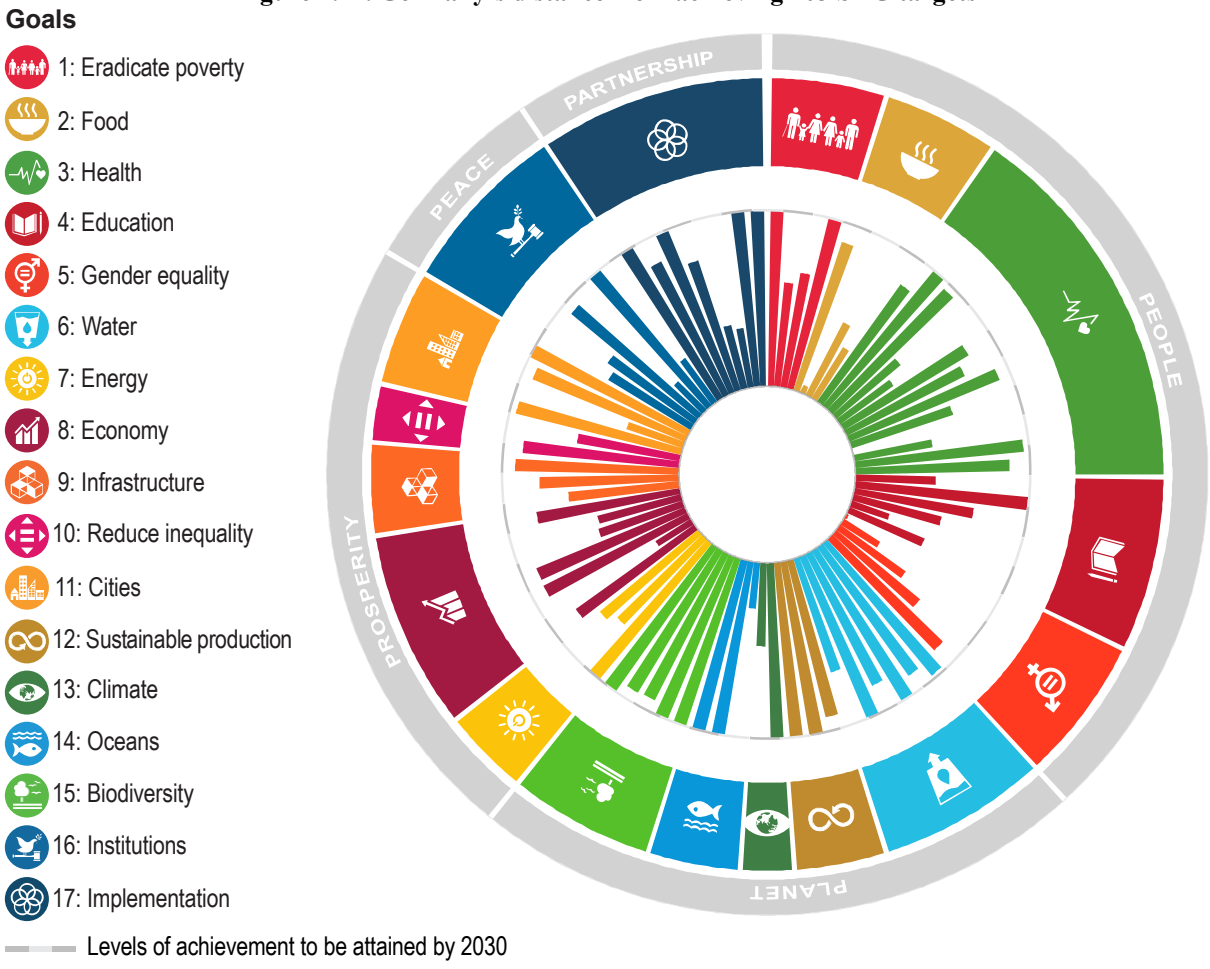

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963234

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Germany

Based on 128 available indicators allowing a coverage of 103 of the 169 SDG targets, Germany has currently achieved 20 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.21). For example, Germany performs well on targets relating to access to electricity, unemployment rate and recycling of municipal waste (targets 7.1, 8.5 and 11.6). However, some challenges remain; Germany is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 1% of the targets. Targets further from achievement include those related to obesity rate, tobacco consumption and legal frameworks governing gender equality (measuring targets 2.2, 3.a and 5.1).

**Figure 2.21. Germany's distance from achieving 103 SDG targets**



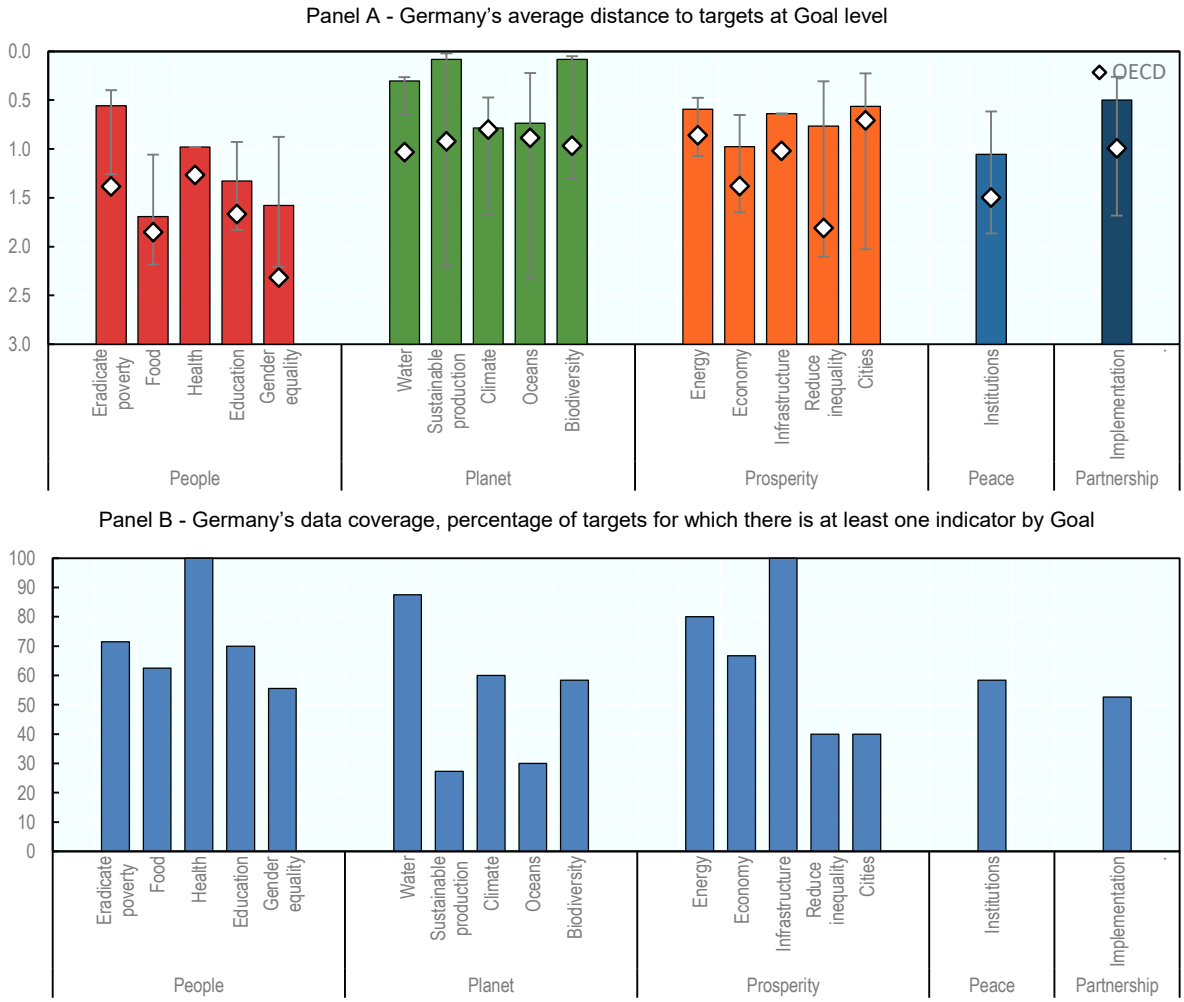

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963253

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.22, Panel A shows that Germany is on average closest to reaching goals on Eradicating Poverty, Water, Cities, Sustainable Production, Biodiversity and Implementation (goals 1, 6, 11, 12, 15 and 17). Germany is further away from goals relating to Food, Education and Gender Equality (goals 2, 4 and 5). Relative to the OECD average, Germany outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality, Sustainable Production and Biodiversity (goals 1, 5, 12 and 15). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.22, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Germany's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.22. Germany's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



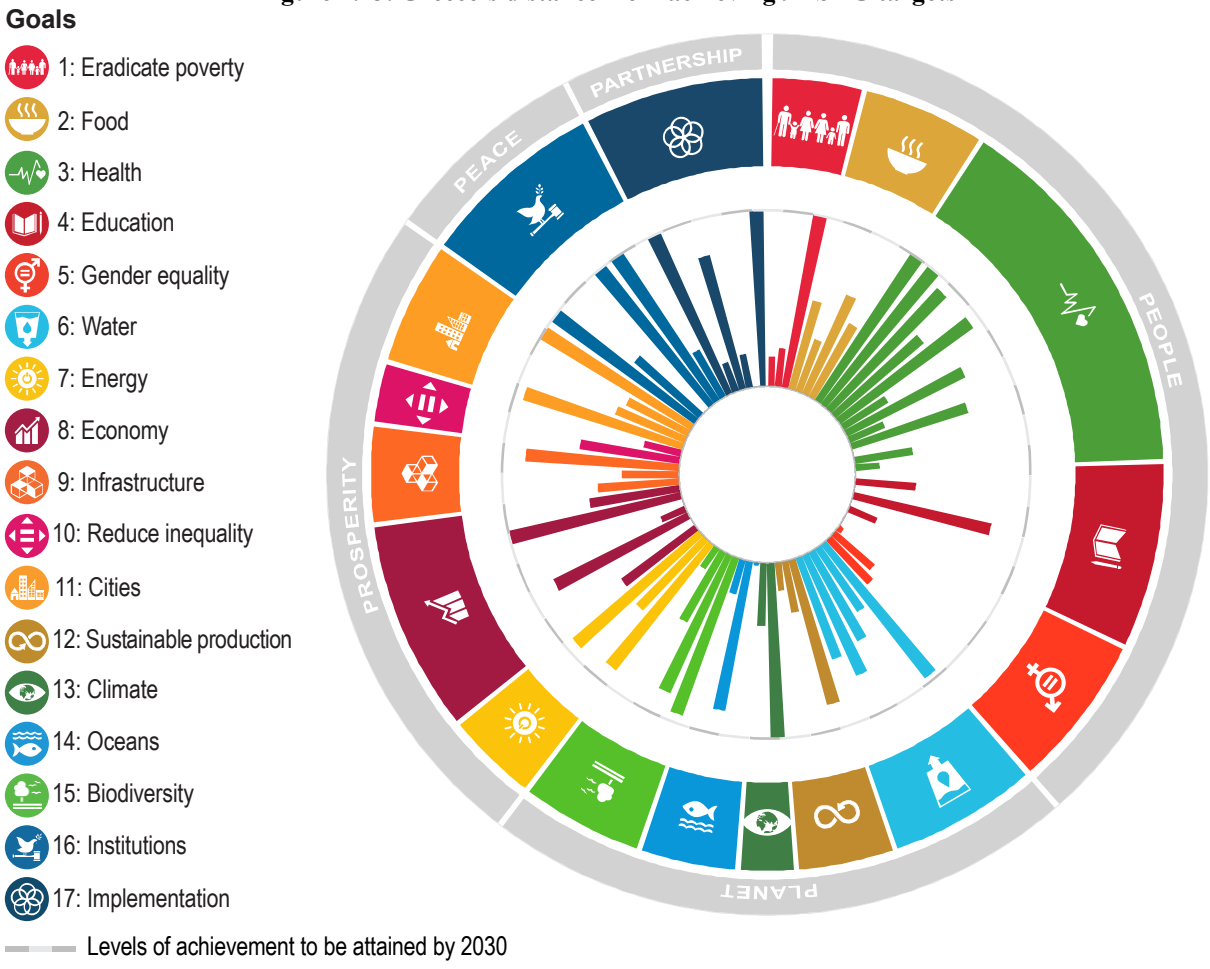

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963272

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Greece

Based on 122 available indicators allowing a coverage of 97 of the 169 SDG targets, Greece has currently achieved 10 of the 2030 targets, and some of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.23). For example, Greece has already achieved the targets on neonatal, infant and maternal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2), Health and safety of employees and access to electricity (targets 8.8 and 7.1). However, some challenges remain; Greece is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 11% of the targets. These include tobacco consumption, which is the highest rate in the OECD at 27% of the population who are daily smokers, lifelong education and unemployment rate (targets 3.a, 4.3 and 8.5).

**Figure 2.23. Greece's distance from achieving 97 SDG targets**



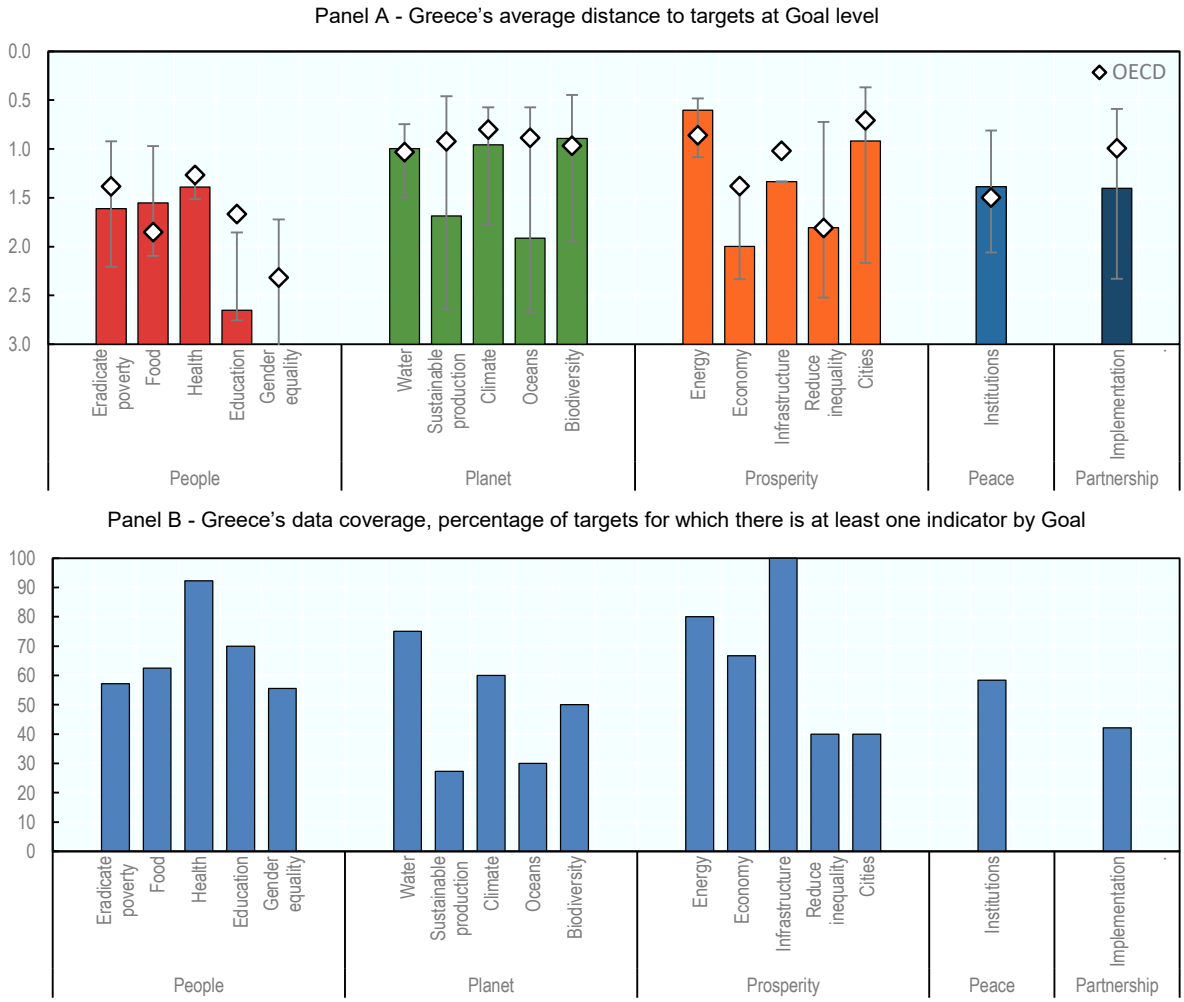

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963291

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.24, Panel A shows that Greece is on average closest to reaching the goal on Energy (goal 7). On the other hand, Greece is furthest from goals on Education, Gender Equality and Economy (goals 4, 5 and 8). Relative to the OECD average, Greece outperforms on Energy (goals 7). Conversely, Greece is relatively further away on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Education, Gender Equality, Oceans, Economy and Implementation (goals 1, 4, 5, 14, 8 and 17). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.24, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Greece's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.24. Greece's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



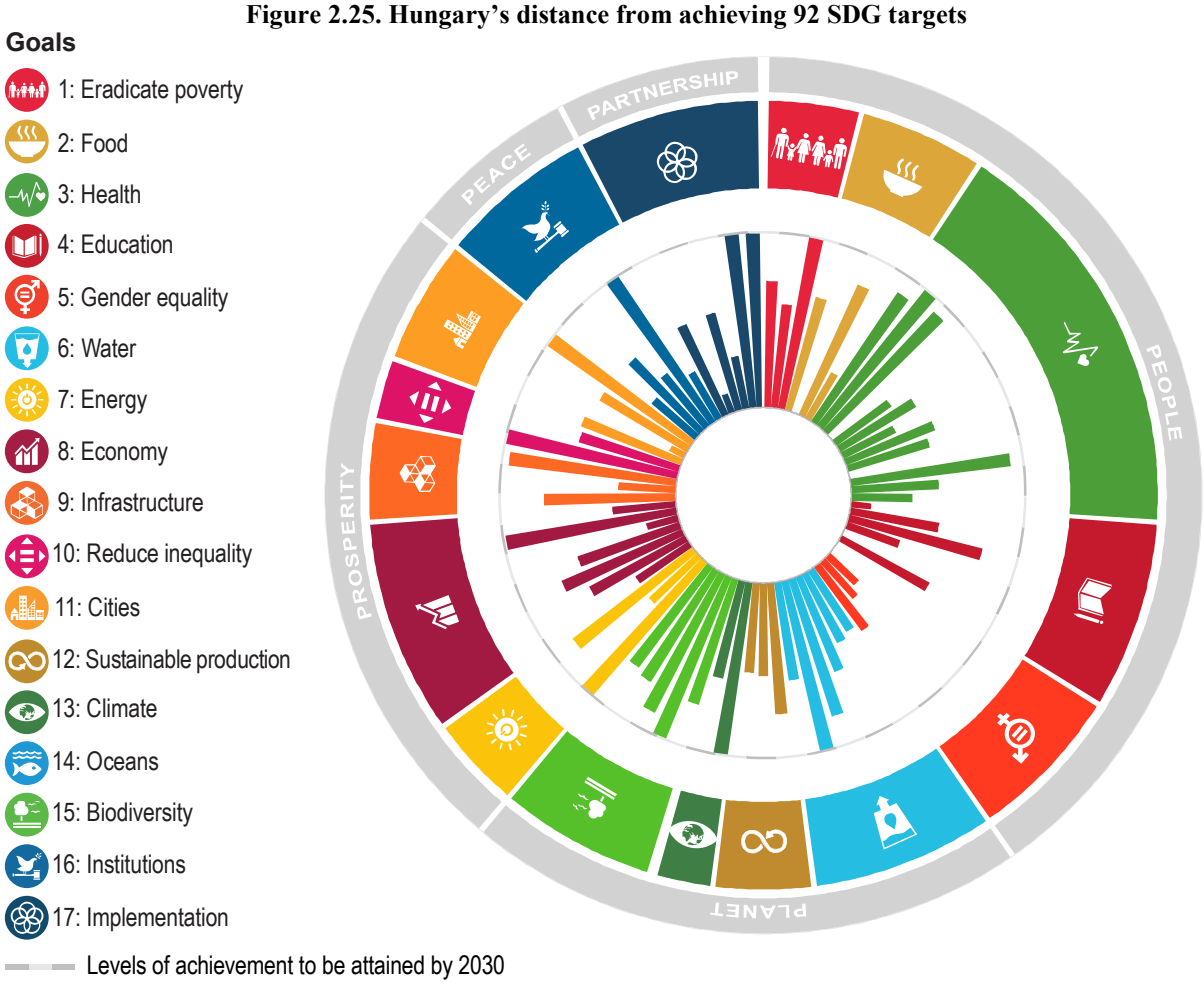

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963310

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Hungary

Based on 119 available indicators allowing a coverage of 93 of the 169 SDG targets, Hungary has currently achieved 12 of the 2030 targets, and some of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.25). For example, Hungary has already achieved the targets on neonatal, infant and maternal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2) water stress and growth rate of the bottom 40% of the population (targets 6.4 and 10.1). However, some challenges remain; Hungary is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 8% of the targets. These include suicide rate, share of women in parliament and feelings of safety (targets 3.4, 5.5 and 16.1).

**Figure 2.25. Hungary's distance from achieving 92 SDG targets**



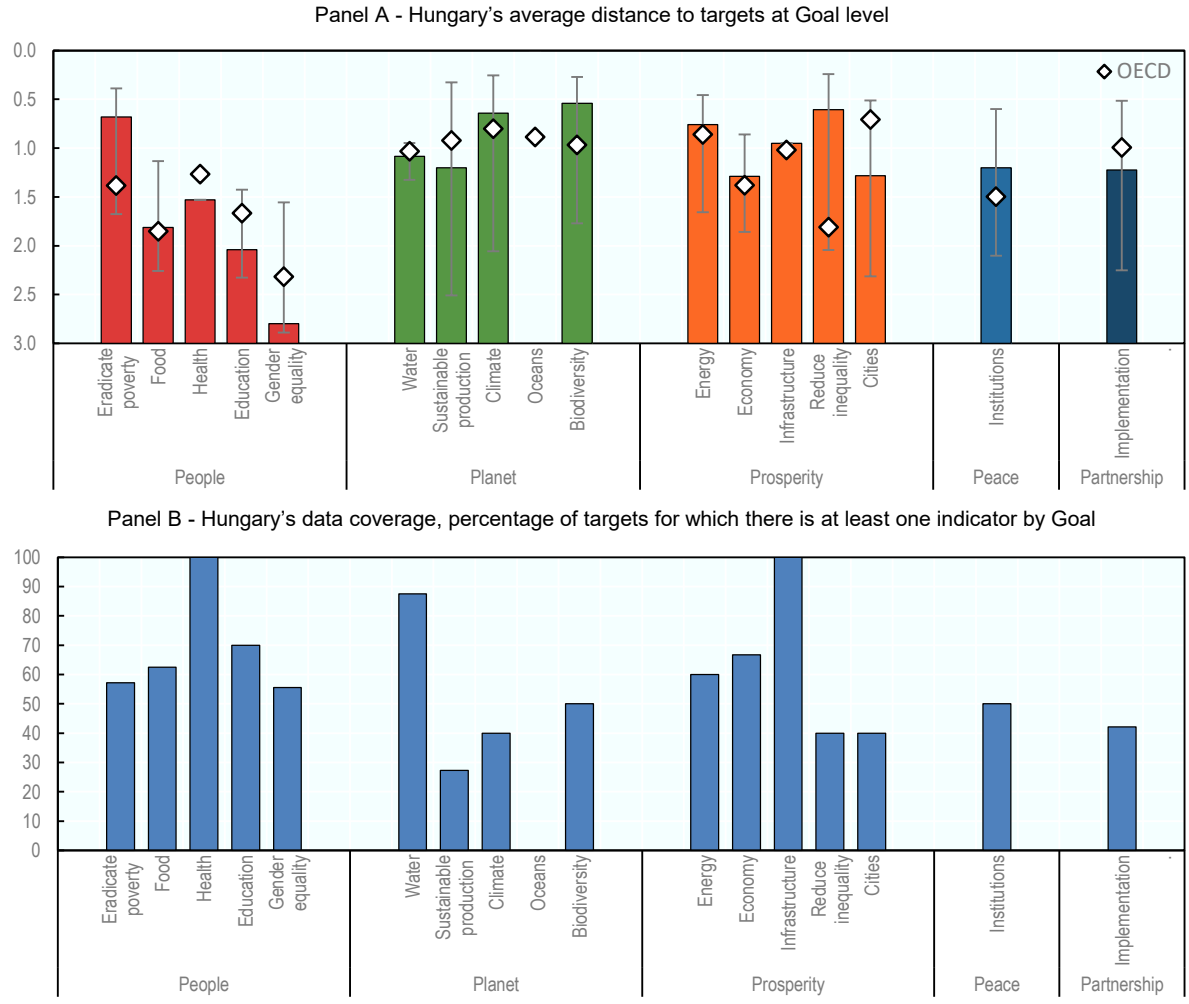

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963329

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.26, Panel A shows that Hungary is on average closest to reaching goals on Poverty Eradication, Reducing Inequality, Climate and Biodiversity (goals 1, 10, 13 and 15). On the other hand, Hungary is furthest from goals on Education and Gender Equality (goals 4 and 5). Relative to the OECD average, Hungary outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Reducing Inequality, Climate and Biodiversity (goals 1, 10, 13 and 15). Conversely, Hungary is relatively further away on goals such as Health, Education, Gender Equality and Cities (goals 3, 4, 5 and 11). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.26, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Climate, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 13, 10 and 11), Hungary's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.26. Hungary's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

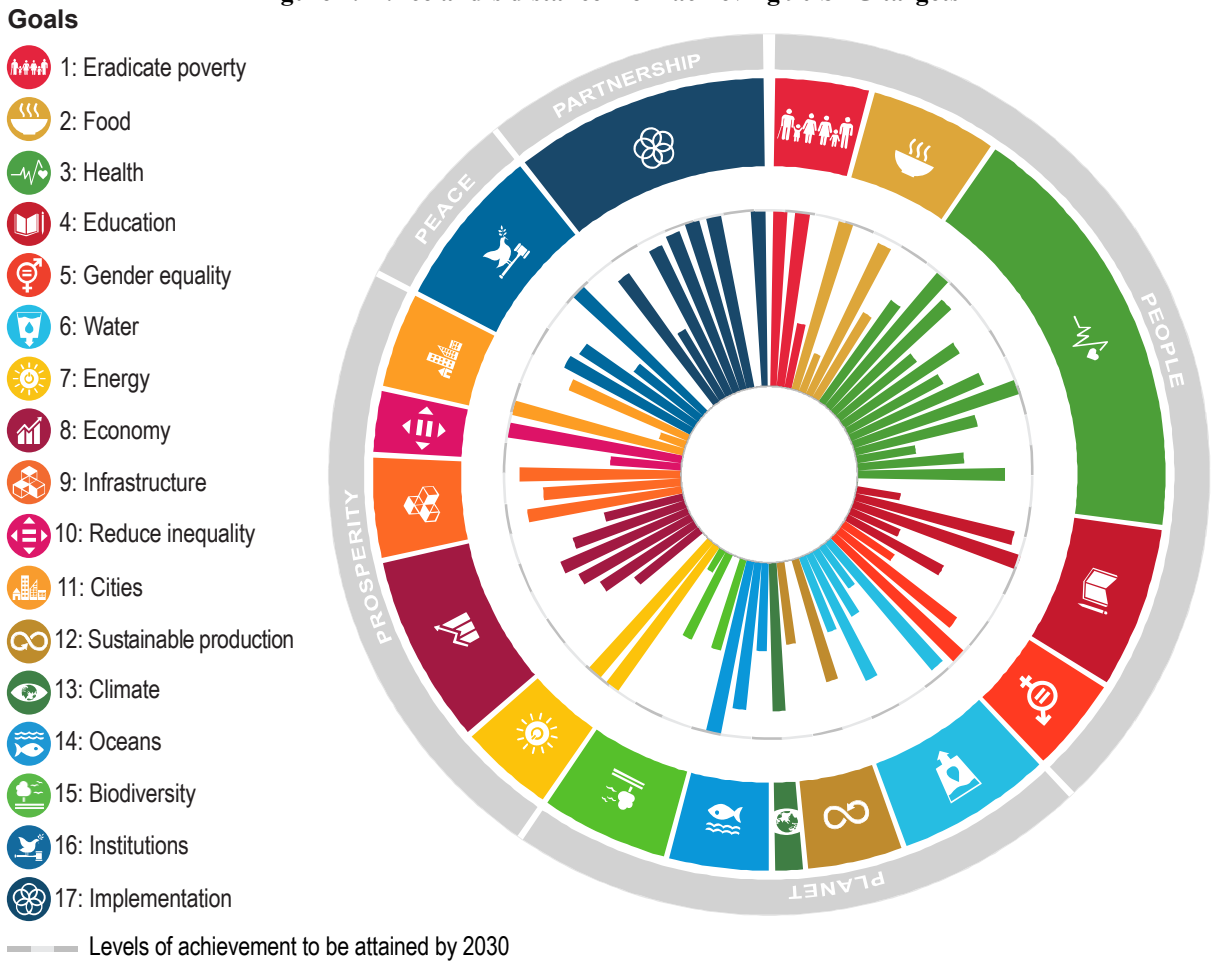
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963348

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Iceland

Based on 111 available indicators allowing a coverage of 90 of the 169 SDG targets, Iceland has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.27). For example, Iceland has already achieved the targets on adult information and communication technology skills, share of renewable energy consumption and air quality (measuring targets 4.4, 7.2 and 11.6). However, some challenges remain; Iceland is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 5% of the targets. These include energy intensity and compliance with conventions relating to hazardous waste (targets 7.3 and 12.4).

**Figure 2.27. Iceland's distance from achieving 90 SDG targets**



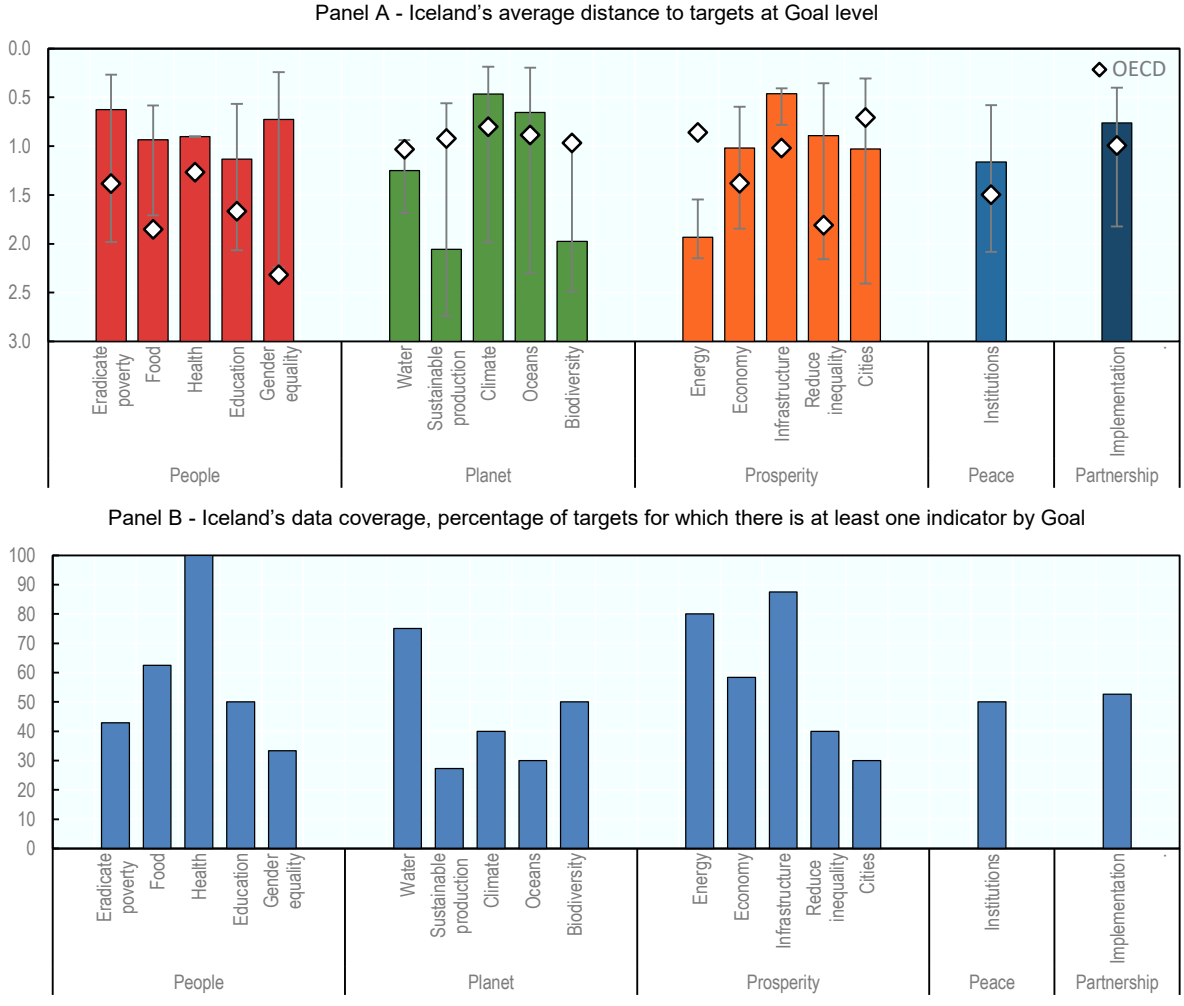

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963367

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.28, Panel A shows that Iceland is on average closest to reaching goals on Poverty Eradication, Climate and Infrastructure (goals 1, 13 and 9). On the other hand, Iceland is furthest from goals on Energy, Sustainable Production and Biodiversity (goals 7, 12 and 15). Relative to the OECD average, Iceland outperforms on all goals relating to People as well as goals on Economy, Infrastructure, and Reducing Inequality (goals 8, 9 and 10). Conversely, Iceland is relatively further away on goals such as Energy, Cities, Sustainable Production and Biodiversity (goals 7, 11, 12 and 15). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.28, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 14 and 11), Iceland's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.28. Iceland's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

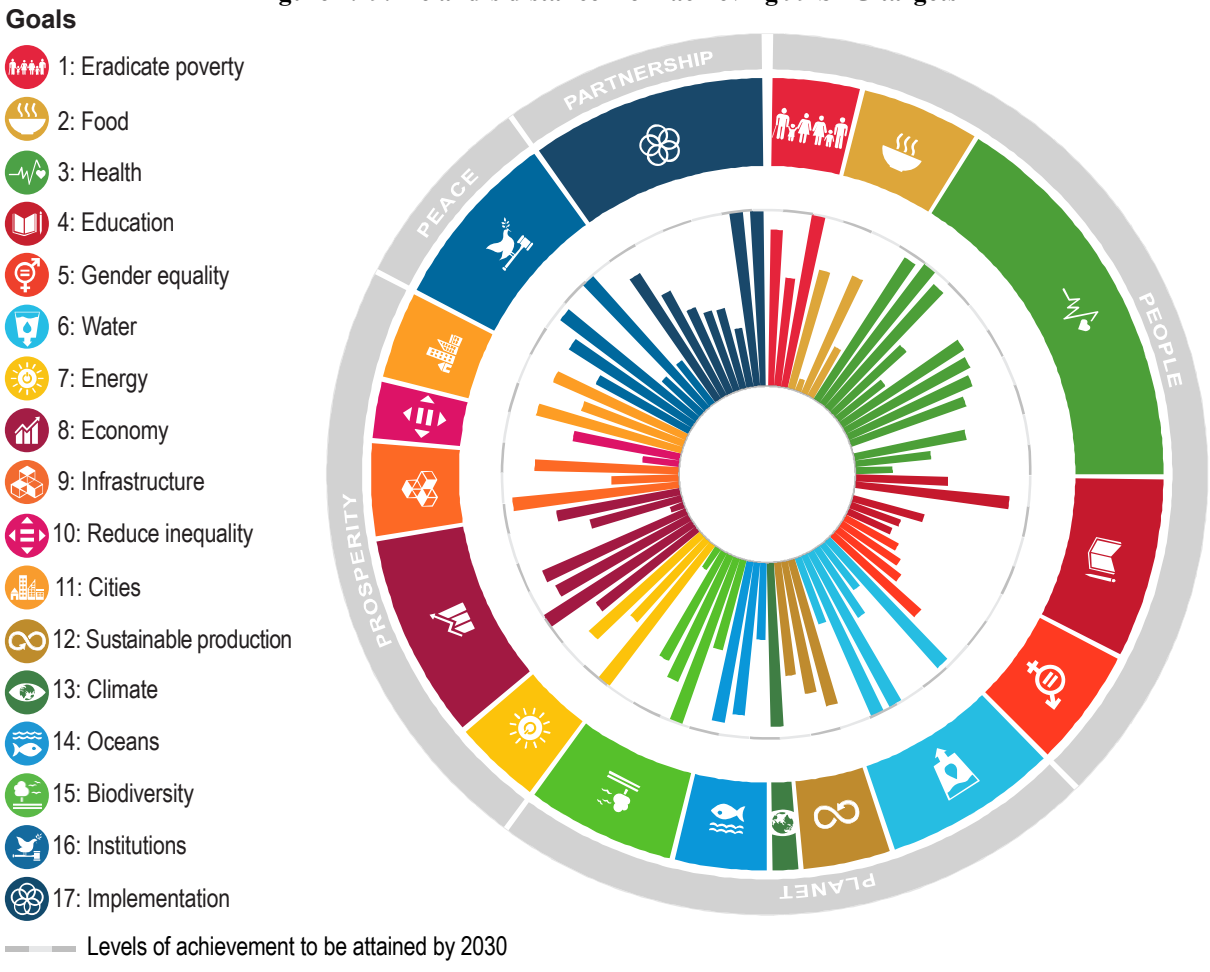
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963386

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Ireland

Based on 126 available indicators allowing a coverage of 99 of the 169 SDG targets, Ireland has currently achieved 10 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.29). For example, Ireland has already achieved the targets relating to water stress, GDP productivity, and $CO_2$ intensity (targets 6.4, 8.2 and 9.4). However, some challenges remain; Ireland is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 2% of the targets. These include tobacco consumption, and participation in lifelong learning (targets 3.a and 4.3).

**Figure 2.29. Ireland's distance from achieving 99 SDG targets**



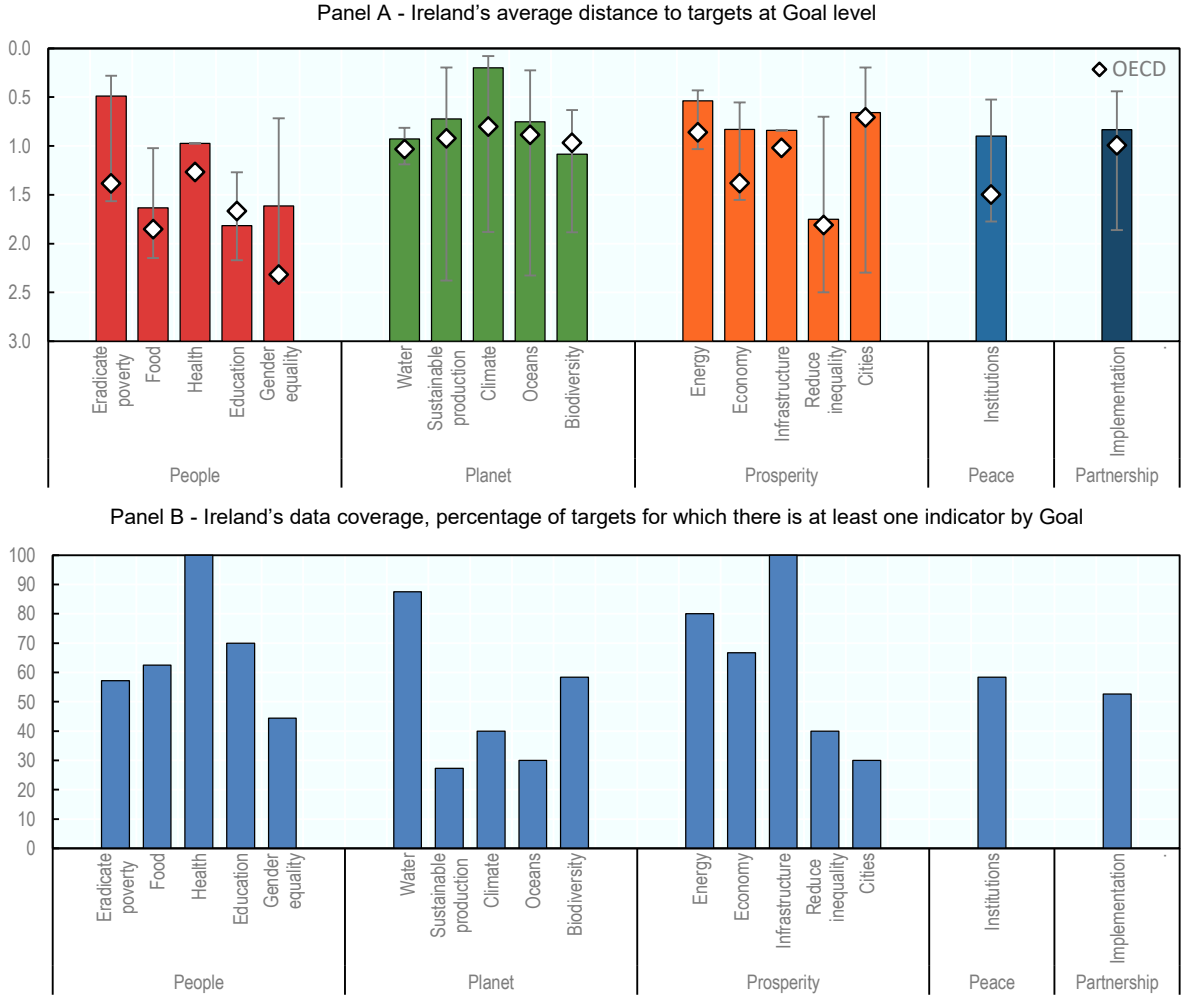

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963405

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.30, Panel A shows that Ireland is on average closest to reaching goals on Poverty Eradication, Energy, Climate and Cities (goals 1, 7, 13 and 11). Ireland is further away from achieving goals on Food, Education, Gender Equality and Reducing Inequality (goals 2, 4, 5 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Ireland outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality, Climate and Institutions (goals 1, 5, 13 and 16). It is relatively further away on Education and Biodiversity (goals 4 and 15). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.30, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Climate, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 14, 13 and 11), Ireland's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.30. Ireland's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



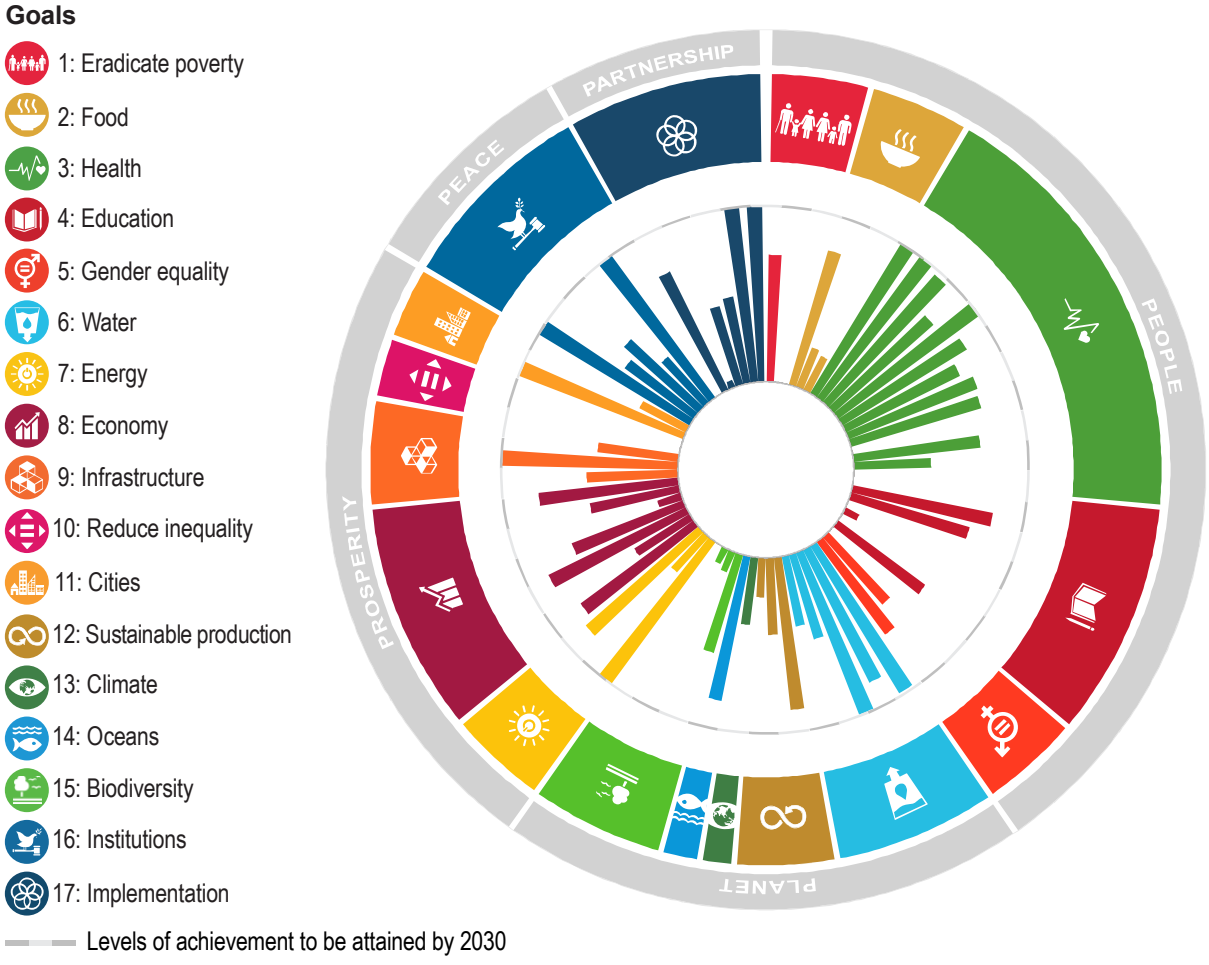

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963424

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Israel

Based on 104 available indicators allowing a coverage of 81 of the 169 SDG targets, Israel has currently achieved 10 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.31). For example, Israel has already achieved the targets relating to neonatal, infant and maternal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2), alcohol consumption and research and development employment and expenditure (targets 3.5 and 9.5). However, some challenges remain; Israel is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 12% of the targets. These include relative income poverty rate, students' basic skills in mathematics and socio-economic disparities in education (targets 1.2, 4.1 and 4.5).

**Figure 2.31. Israel's distance from achieving 81 SDG targets**



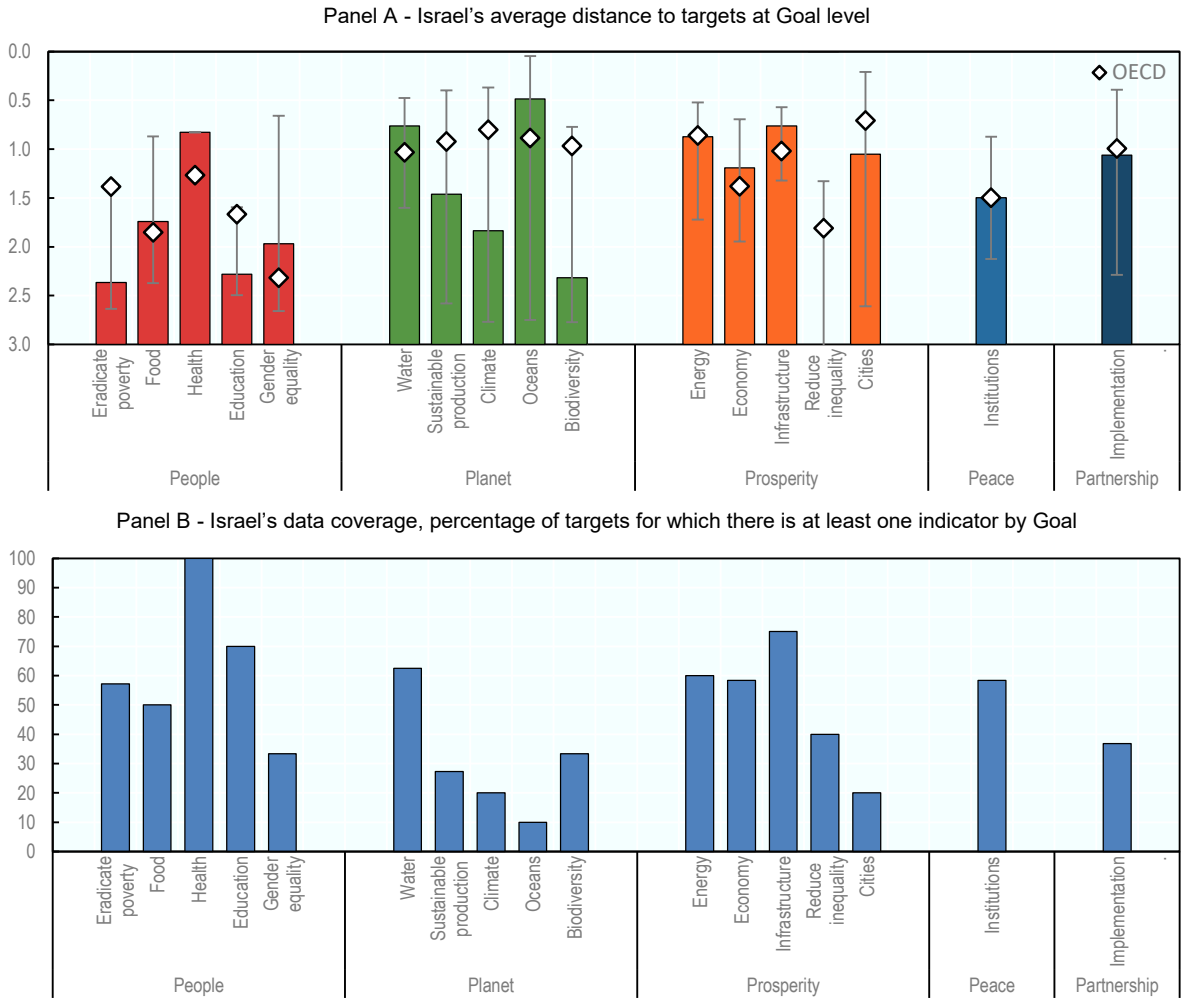

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963443

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.32, Panel A shows that Israel is on average closest to reaching goals on Health, Water and Oceans (goals 4, 6 and 14). On the other hand, Israel is furthest from goals on Poverty Eradication, Education, Biodiversity and Reducing Inequality (goals 1, 4, 15, and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Israel outperforms on goals such as Health, Water and Oceans (goals 3, 6 and 14). Conversely, Israel is relatively further away on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Education, Reducing Inequality, Climate and Biodiversity (goals 1, 4, 10 13 and 15). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.32, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Climate, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 13, 14, 10 and 11), Israel's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.32. Israel's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

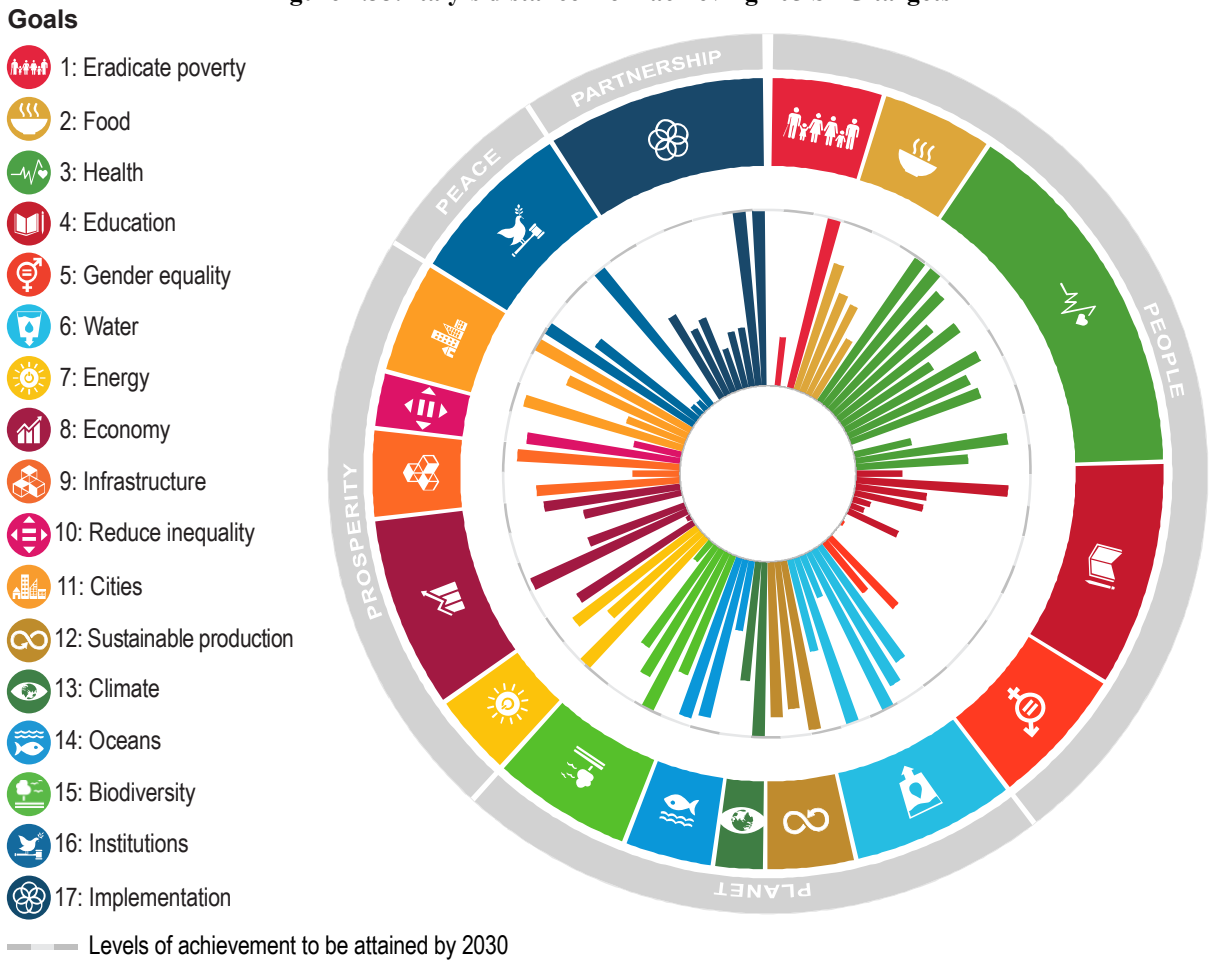
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963462

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Italy

Based on 131 available indicators allowing a coverage of 105 of the 169 SDG targets, Italy has currently achieved 12 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.33). For example, Italy has already achieved the targets on sanitation, access to electricity and clean fuels and land area covered by trees (targets 6.3, 7.1 and 15.1). However, some challenges remain; Italy is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 8% of the targets. These include targets relating to teachers training, violence against women, and share of youth not in education, employment or training (targets 4.c, 5.2 and 8.6).

**Figure 2.33. Italy's distance from achieving 105 SDG targets**



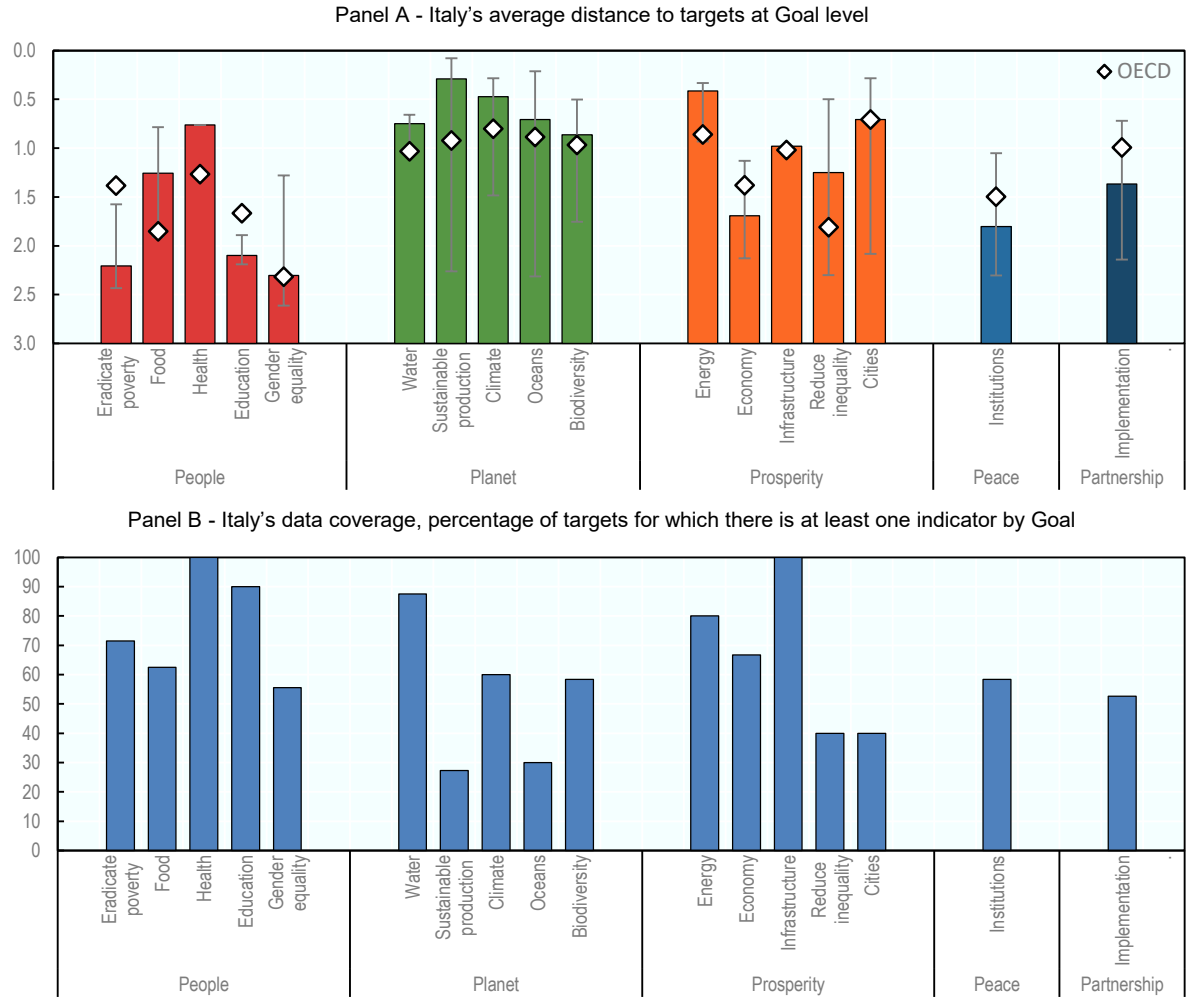

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963481

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.34, Panel A shows that Italy is on average closest to reaching some goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Sustainable Production, Climate and Oceans), as well as goals on Energy (goals 7). On the other hand, Italy is furthest from goals on Poverty Eradication, Education and Gender Equality (goals 1, 4 and 5). Relative to the OECD average, Italy outperforms on goals such as Food, Health, Energy, Reducing Inequality and Sustainable Production (goals 2, 3, 7, 10 and 12). Conversely, Italy is relatively further away on Poverty Eradication, Education, Economy, Institutions and Implementation (goals 1, 4, 8, 16 and 17). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.34, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 14 and 11), Italy's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.34. Italy's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

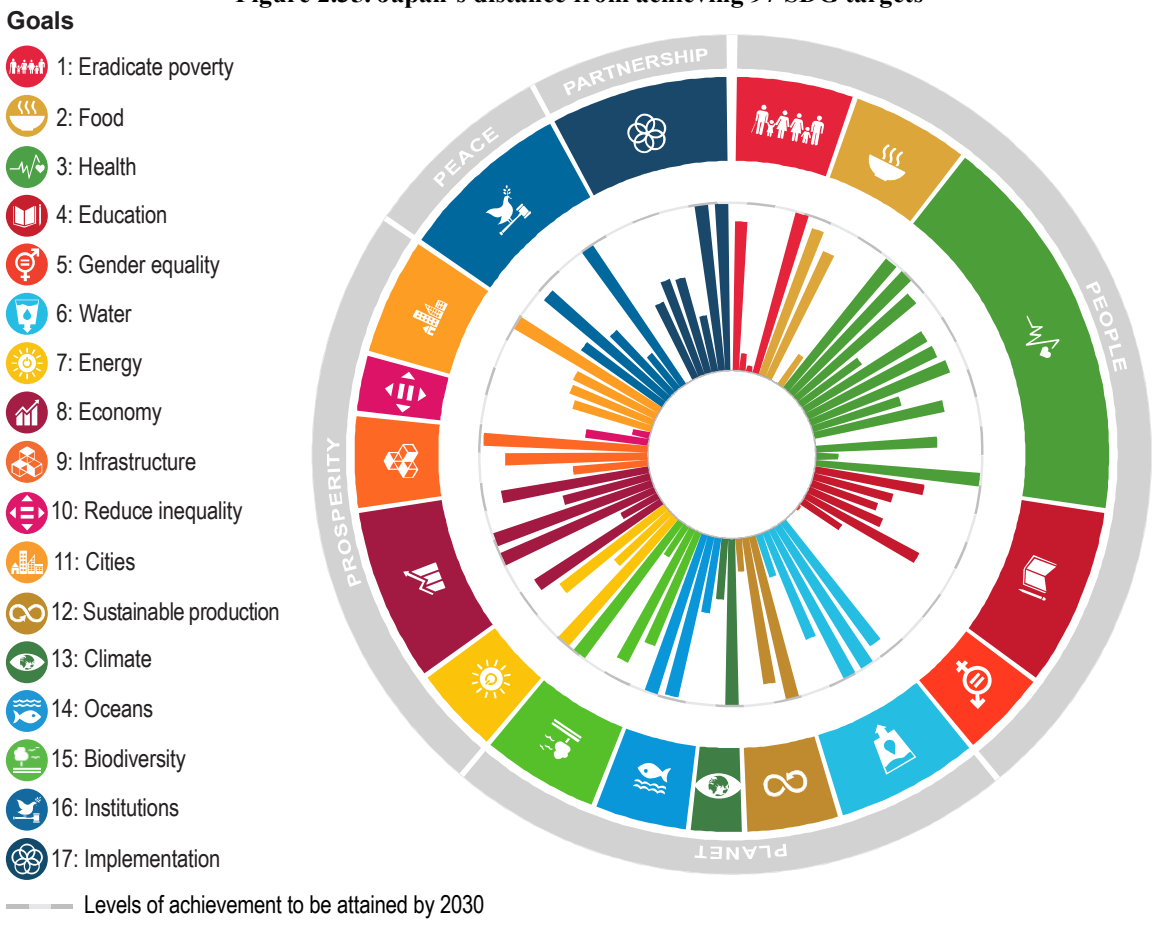
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963500

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Japan

Based on 120 available indicators allowing a coverage of 97 of the 169 SDG targets, Japan has currently achieved 15 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.35). For example, Japan has already achieved the targets relating to connection to public sewage treatment (target 6.3), has one of the lowest unemployment rates among OECD countries (target 8.5) and relatively low domestic material consumption intensity (targets 8.4 and 12.2). However, some challenges remain; Japan is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 6% of the targets. For instance, Japan has high environmental pressure on soils (target 2.4), a high suicide rate (target 3.4) and a small proportion of seats held by women in the parliament (target 5.5).

**Figure 2.35. Japan's distance from achieving 97 SDG targets**



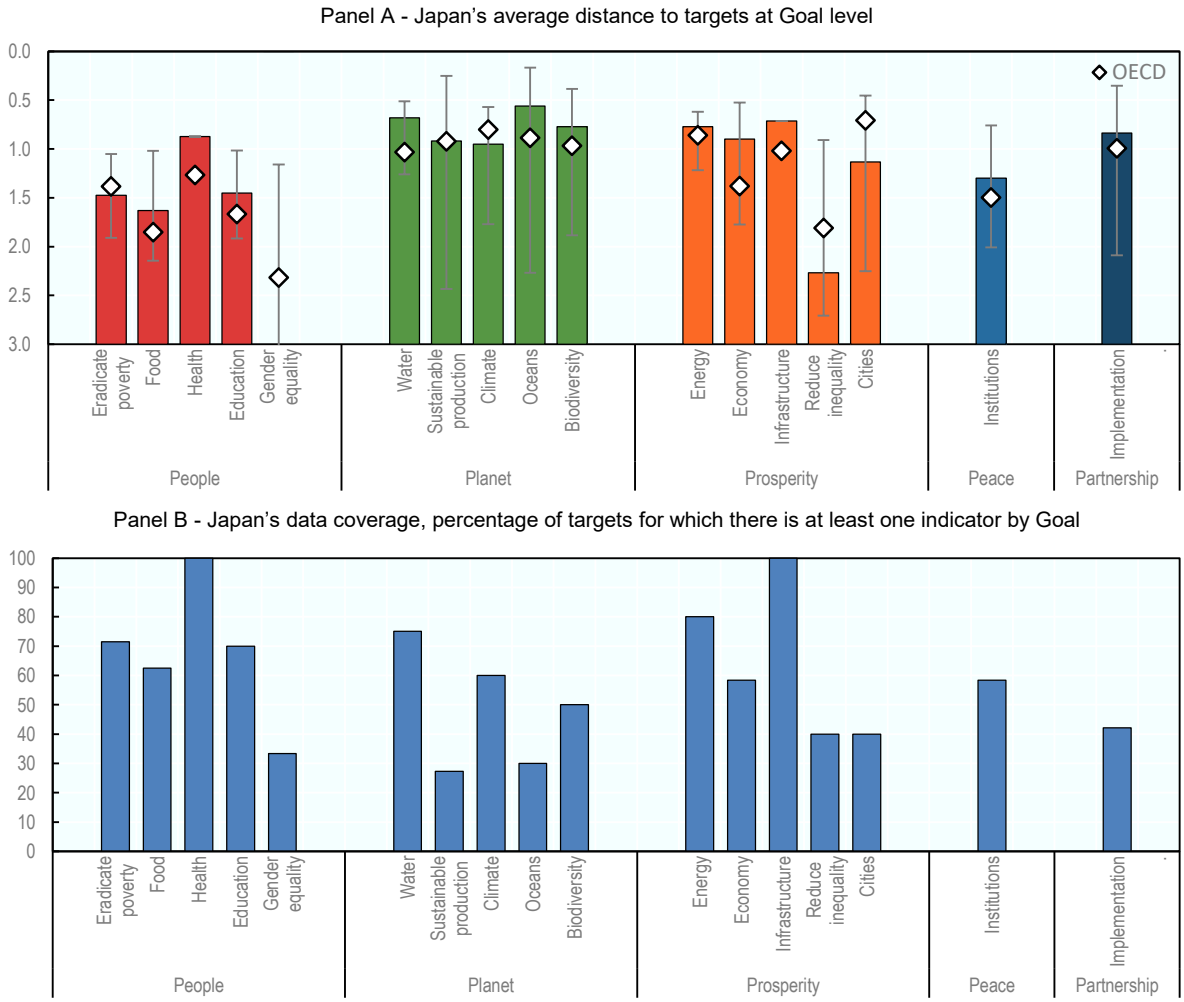

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963519

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.36, Panel A shows that Japan is on average closest to reaching goals on Water and Infrastructure (goals 6 and 9). On the other hand, Japan is furthest from the goals on Gender Equality and Reducing Inequality (goals 5 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Japan outperforms on goals such as Health, Water, Oceans, Economy and Infrastructure (goals 3, 6, 14, 8 and 9). Conversely, Japan is relatively further away on Gender Equality, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 5, 10 and 11). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.36, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Gender Equality, Sustainable Production and Oceans (goals 5, 12 and 14), Japan's performance on People and Planet could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.36. Japan's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



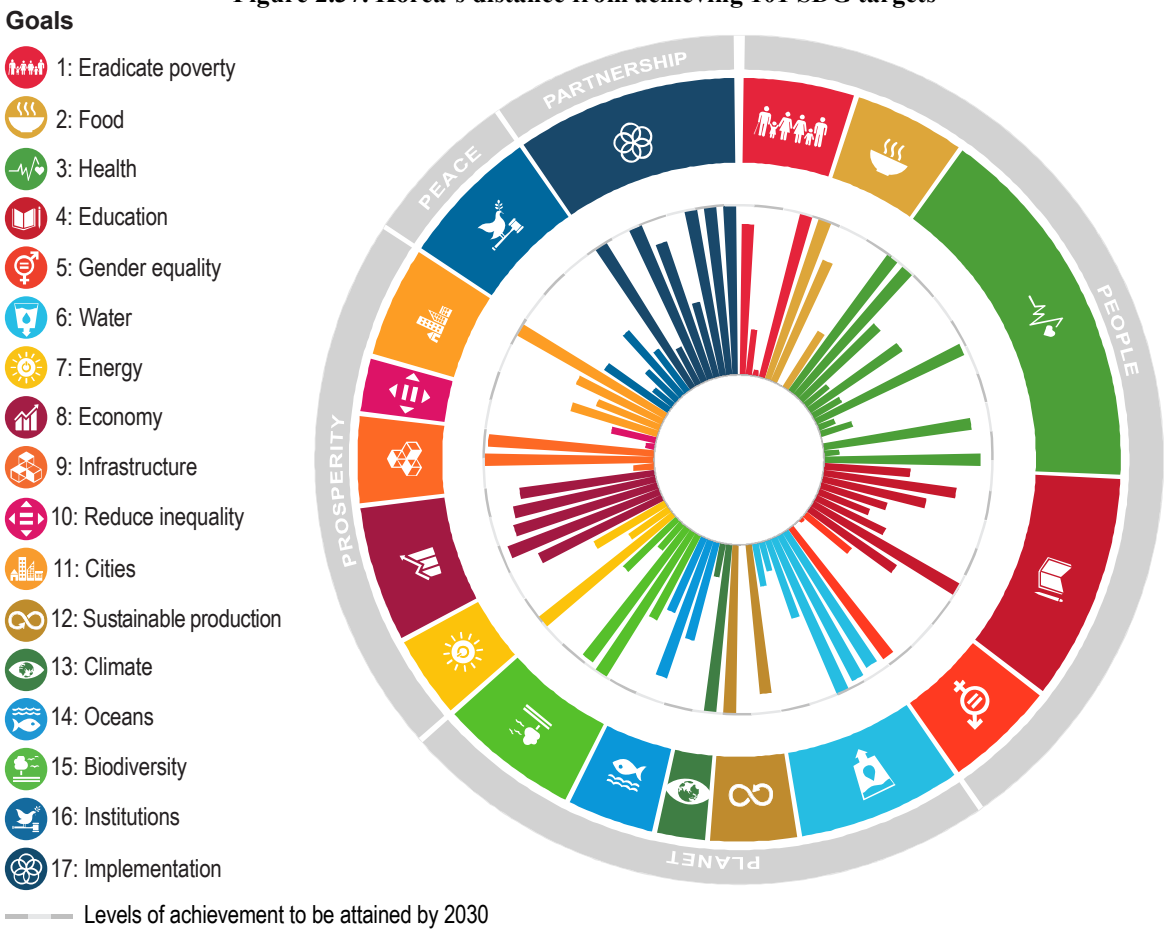

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963538

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Korea

Based on 126 available indicators allowing a coverage of 101 of the 169 SDG targets, Korea has currently achieved 18 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.37). For example, Korea has already achieved the targets on connection to public sewage treatment (target 6.3) and on enhancing scientific research (target 9.5) and has among the highest recycling rates among OECD countries (targets 11.6 and 12.5). However, some challenges remain; Korea is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 7% of the targets. For instance, Korea has the highest share of population with large household expenditures on health among OECD countries, a small proportion of seats held by women in the parliament and high rates of tobacco consumption (targets 3.8, 5.5 and 3.a).

**Figure 2.37. Korea's distance from achieving 101 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963557

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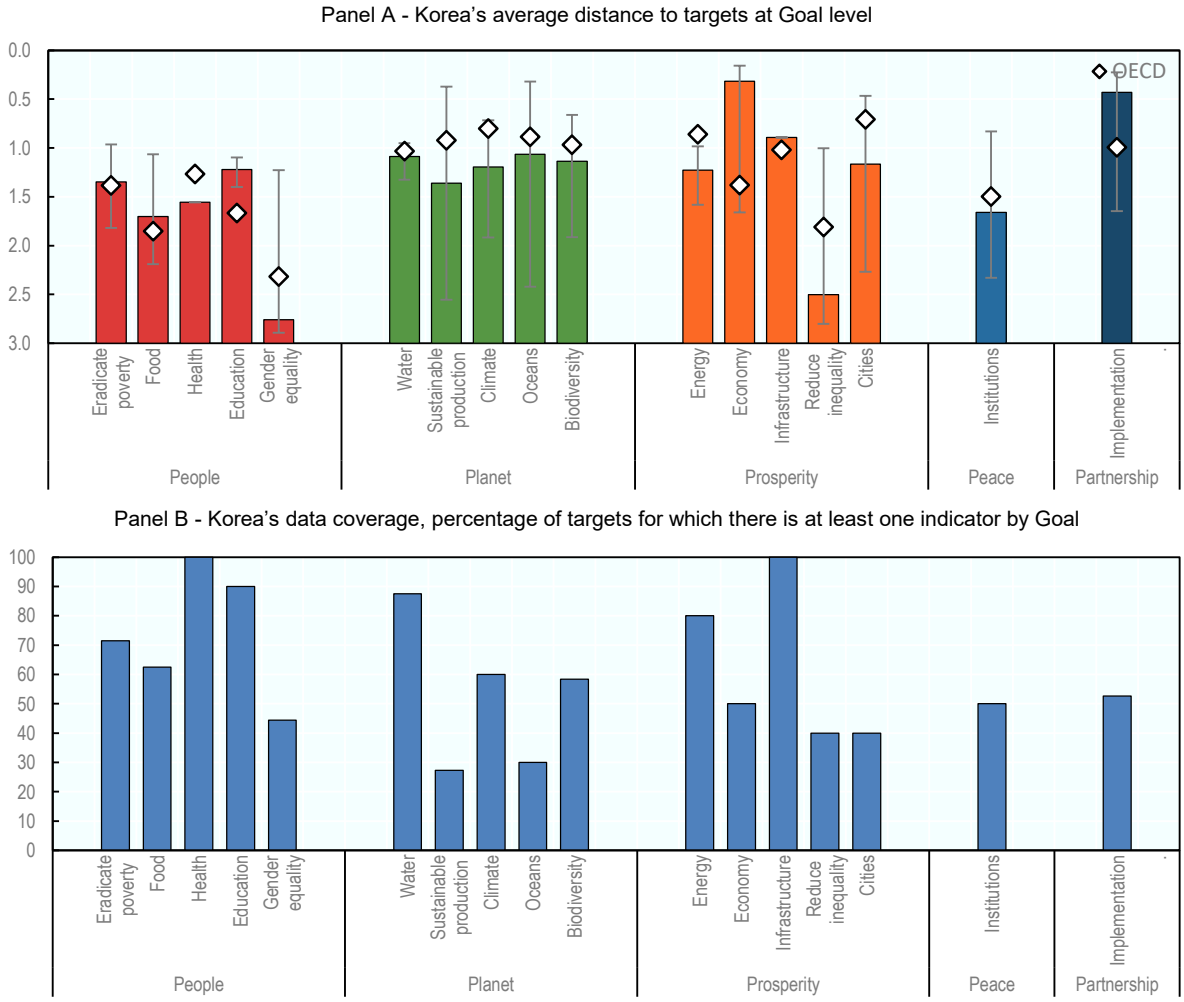
Figure 2.38, Panel A shows that Korea is on average closest to reaching goals on Economy and Implementation (goals 8 and 17). On the other hand, Korea is furthest from the goals on Gender Equality and Reducing Inequality (goals 5 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Korea outperforms on goals such as Education, Economy, Infrastructure and Implementation (goals 4, 8, 9 and 17). Conversely, Korea is relatively further away on goals such as Climate, Energy Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 13, 7, 10 and 11). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.38, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 14 and 10), Korea's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.38. Korea's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



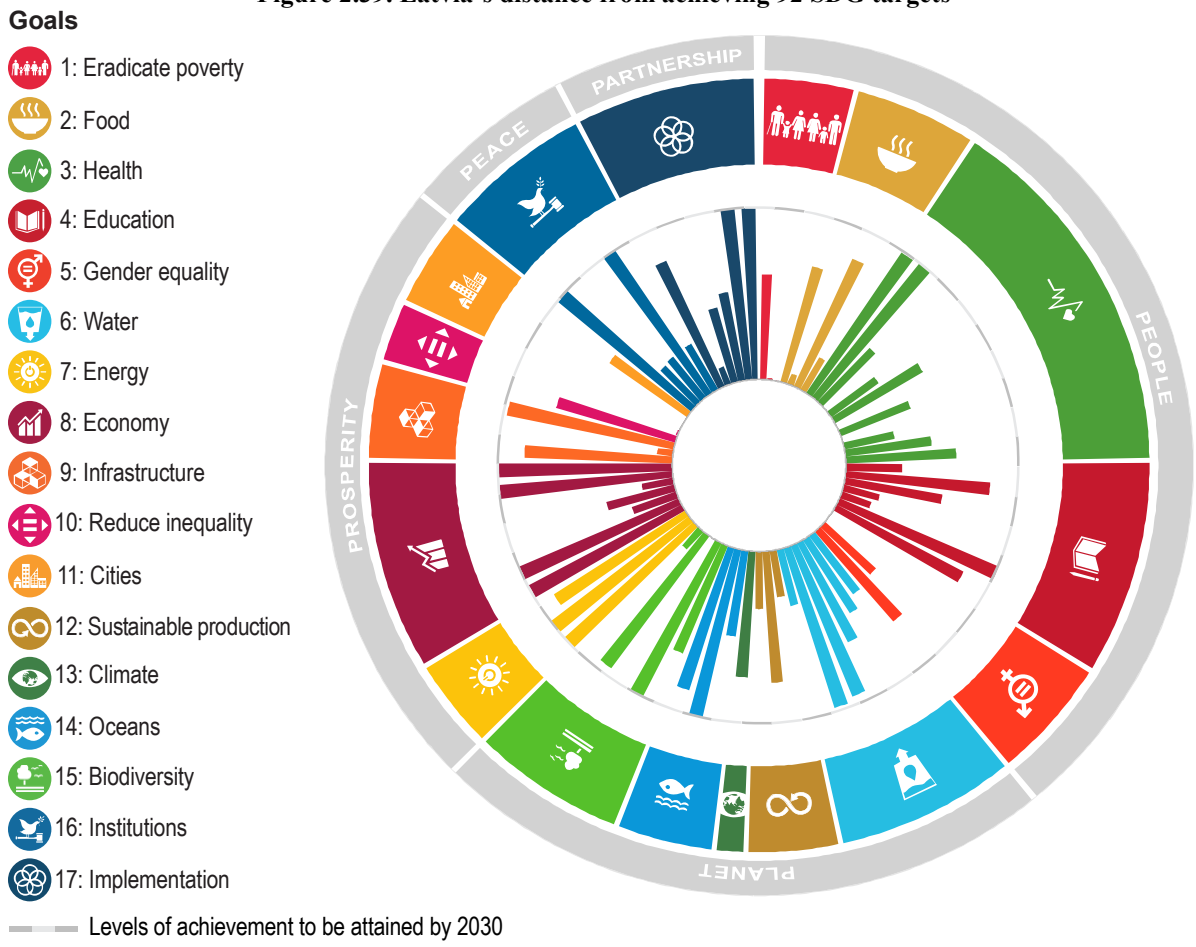

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963576

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Latvia

Based on 115 available indicators allowing a coverage of 92 of the 169 SDG targets, Latvia has currently achieved 13 of the 2030 targets, and some of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.39). For example, Latvia has both high GDP and productivity growth (targets 8.1 and 8.2). However, some challenges remain; Latvia is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 10% of the targets. For instance, Latvia has a high mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease, among the highest rate of tobacco consumption among OECD countries, and a significant share of dwellings without access to basic sanitation (targets 3.4, 3.a and 11.1).

**Figure 2.39. Latvia's distance from achieving 92 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963595

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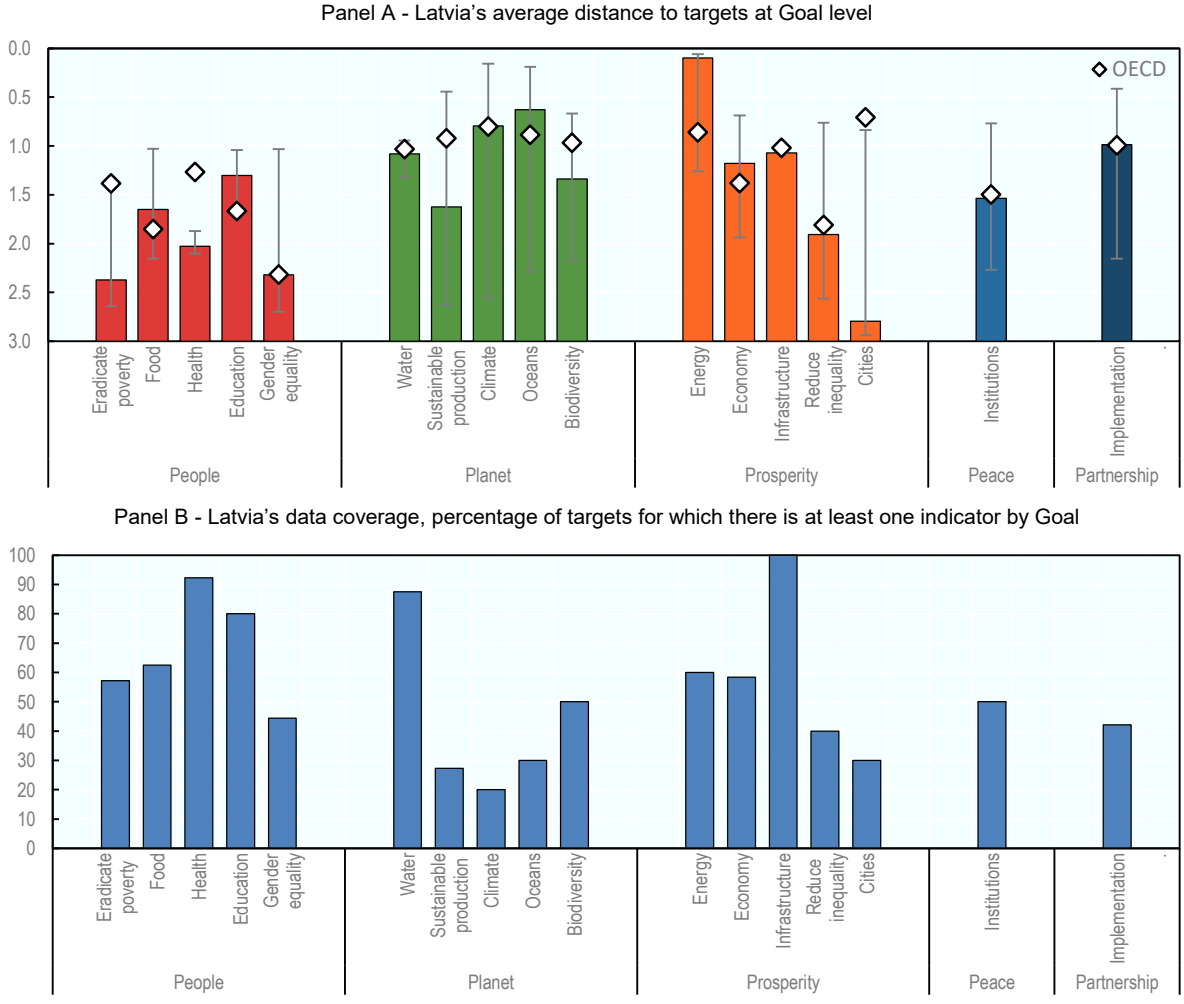
Figure 2.40, Panel A shows that Latvia is on average closest to reaching goals on Oceans and Energy (goals 14 and 7). On the other hand, Latvia is furthest from goals pertaining to People (in particular goals on Poverty Eradication, Health, Gender Equality), as well as on Cities (goal 11). Relative to the OECD average, Latvia outperforms on Oceans and Energy (goals 14 and 7). Conversely, Latvia is relatively further away on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Health, Sustainable Production, Biodiversity and Cities (goals 1, 3, 12, 15 and 11). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.40, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Climate, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 13, 14 and 11), Latvia's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.40. Latvia's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



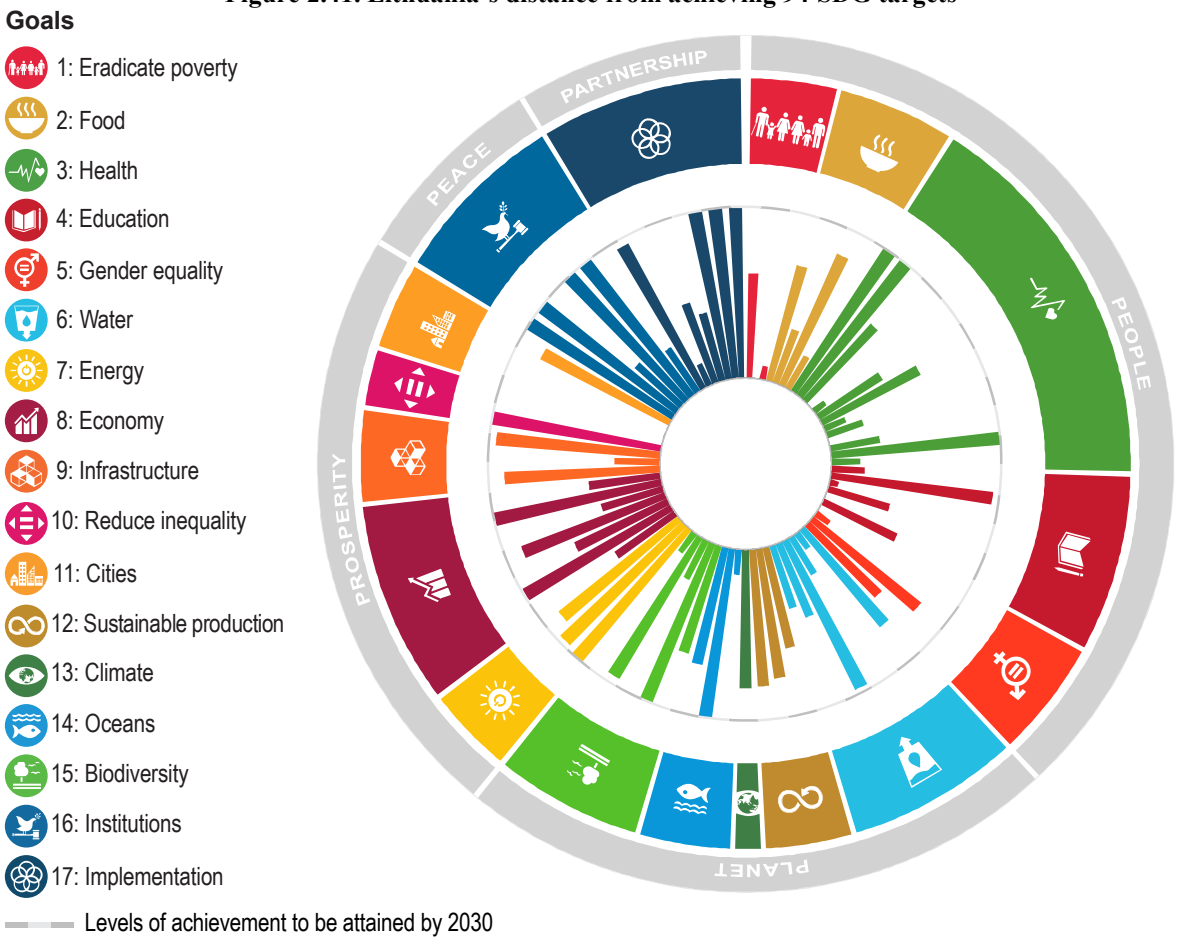

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963614

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Lithuania

Based on 118 available indicators allowing a coverage of 94 of the 169 SDG targets, Lithuania has currently achieved 16 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.41). For example, Lithuania has a very low water stress (target 6.4), low $CO_2$ intensity (target 9.4) and a high GDP growth rate (target 8.1). However, some challenges remain; Lithuania is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 8% of the targets. For instance, Lithuania has a high incidence of tuberculosis (target 3.3), a high rate of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (target 3.4) and a significant share of dwellings without access to basic sanitation (target 11.1).

**Figure 2.41. Lithuania's distance from achieving 94 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963633

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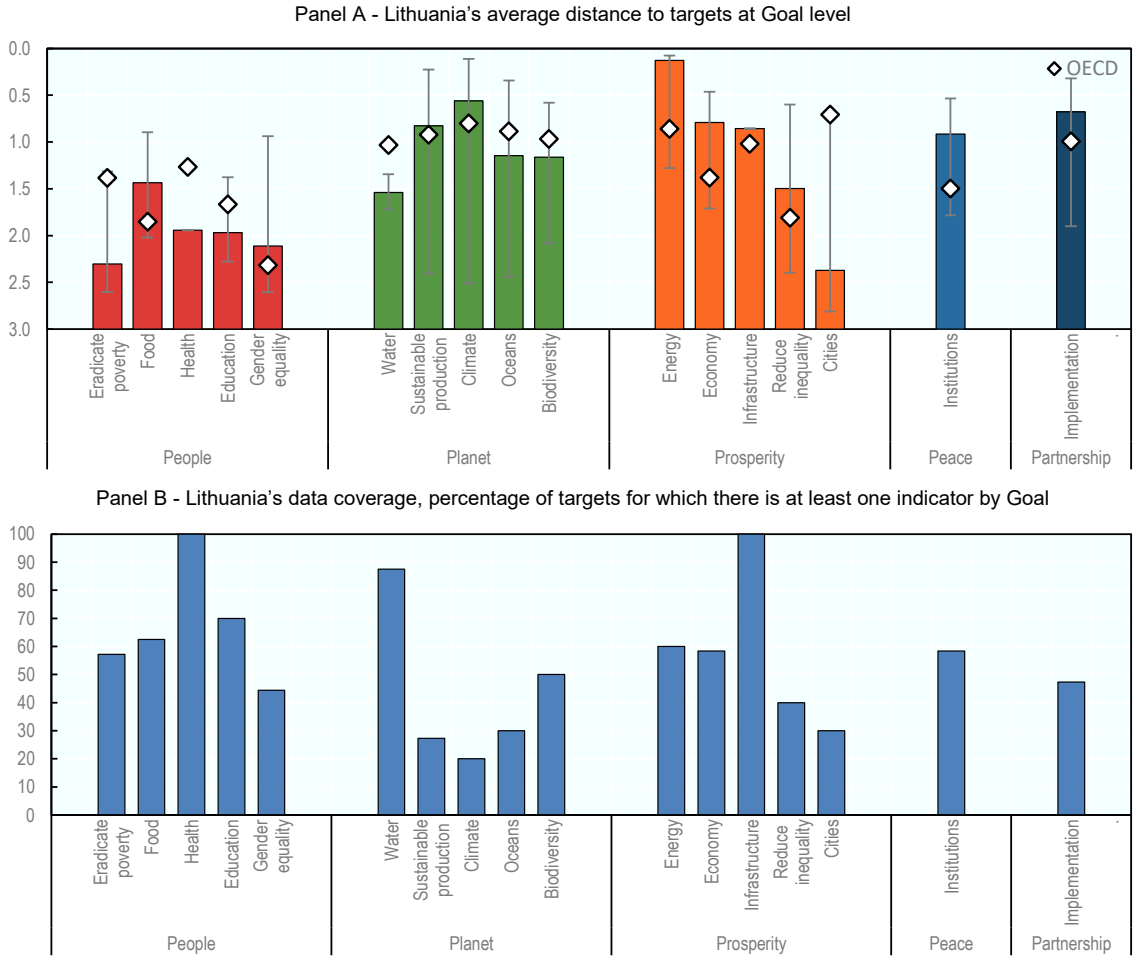
Figure 2.42, Panel A shows that Lithuania is on average closest to reaching goals on Sustainable Production, Climate, Energy, Economy and Implementation (goals 12, 13, 7, 8 and 17). On the other hand, Lithuania is furthest from Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality and Cities (goal 1, 5 and 11). Relative to the OECD average, Lithuania outperforms on goals such as Climate, Institutions and Implementation (goals 13, 16 and 17), as well as on goals relating to Prosperity (in particular goals 7 on Energy, 8 on Economy and 10 on Reducing Inequality). Conversely, Lithuania is relatively further away on goals such as Poverty Eradication, Health, Education, Water and Cities (goals 1, 3, 4, 6 and 11). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.42, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Climate, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 13, 14 and 11), Lithuania's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.42. Lithuania's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

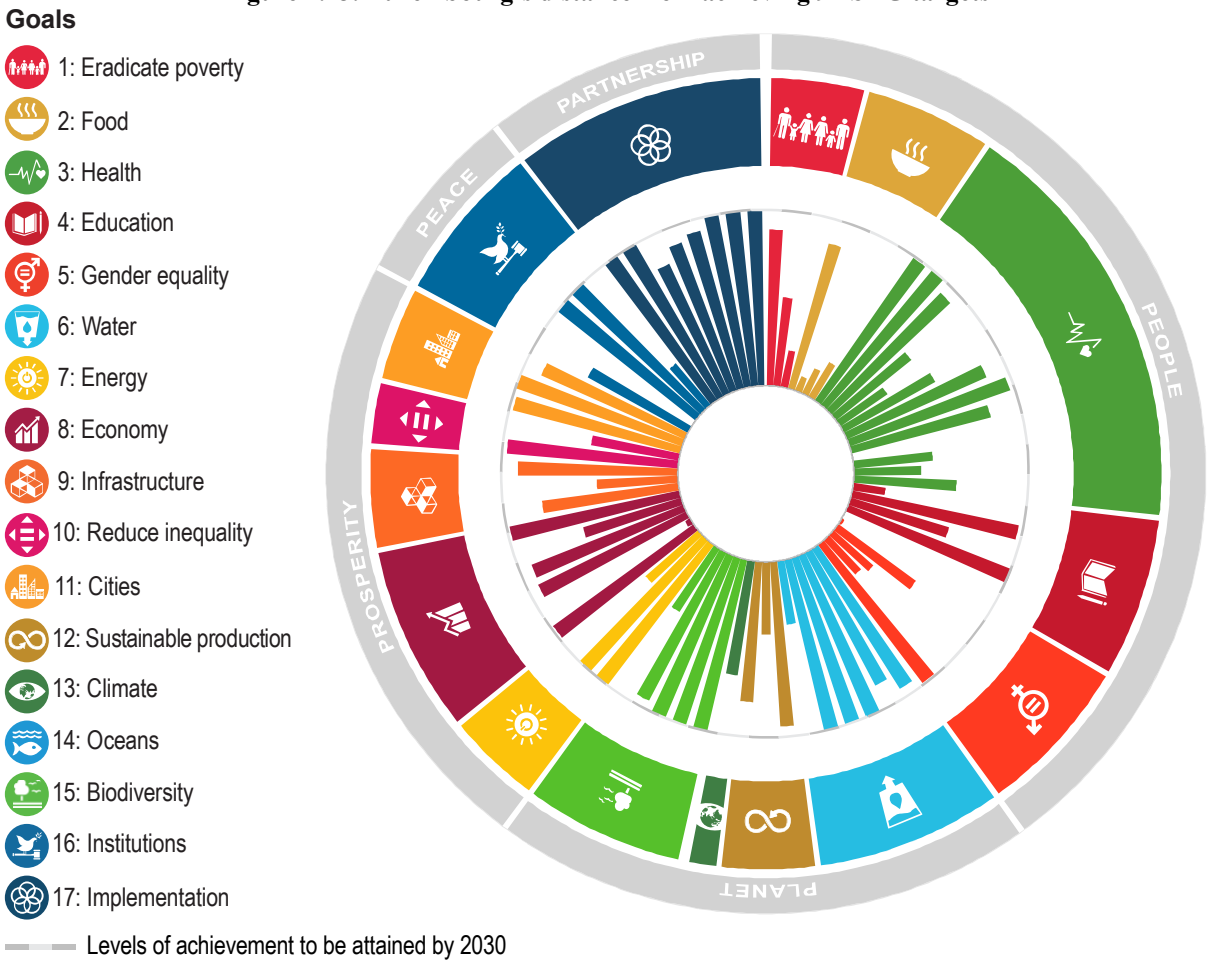
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963652

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Luxembourg

Based on 117 available indicators allowing a coverage of 93 of the 169 SDG targets, Luxembourg has currently achieved 18 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.43). For example, Luxembourg records a high share of adult population with ICT skills, a high share of protected areas, and has already achieved the targets on official development assistance (targets 4.4, 15.1 and 17.2). However, some challenges remain; Luxembourg is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 3% of the targets. For instance, there are high socio-economic disparities in education and a significant share of unsentenced detainees (targets 4.5 and 16.3).

**Figure 2.43. Luxembourg's distance from achieving 92 SDG targets**



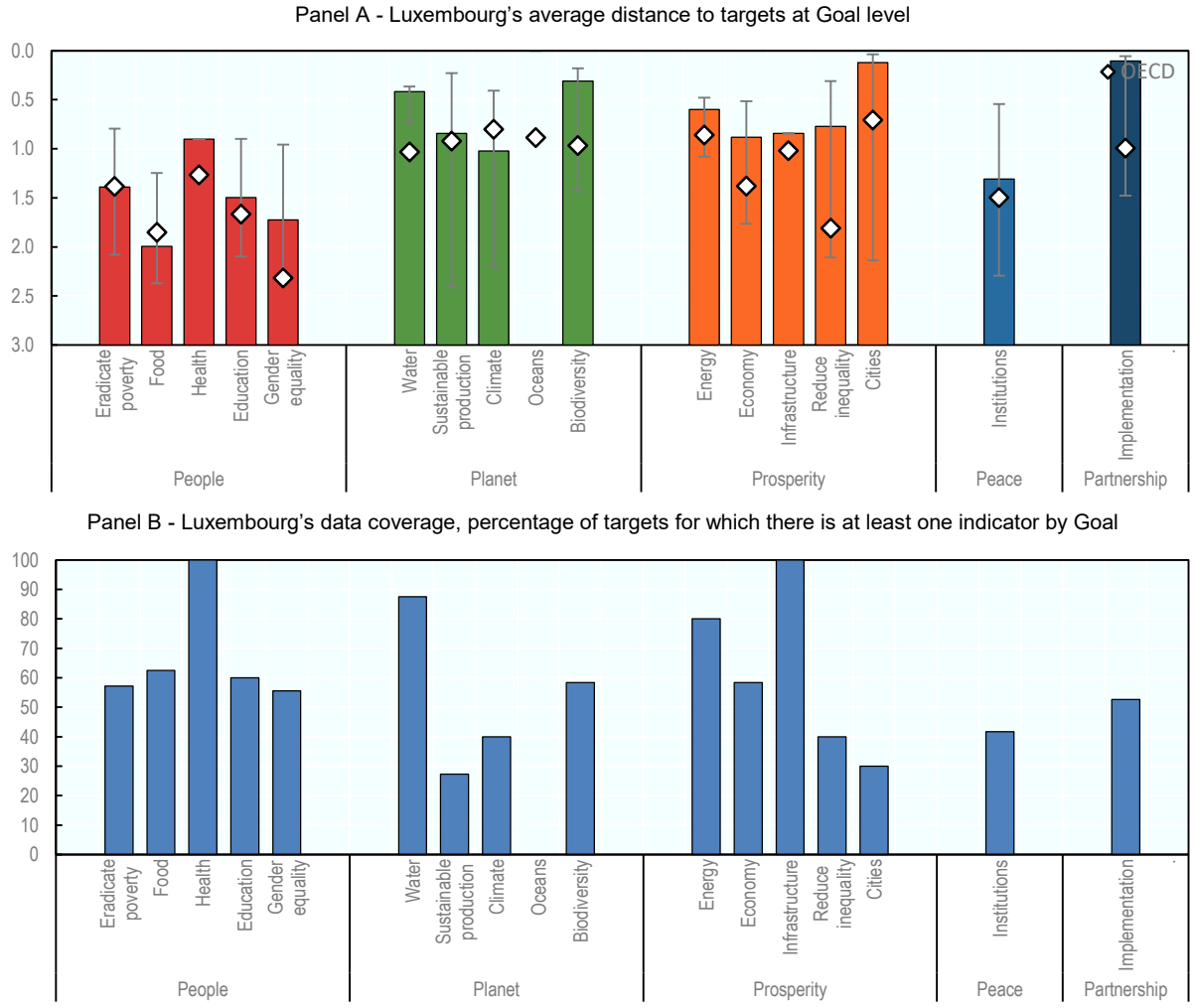

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963671

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.44, Panel A shows that Luxembourg is on average closest to reaching goals on Cities (11), Implementation (9) and Biodiversity (15), and further from reaching goals on Food (2), Gender Equality (5) and Education (4). Relative to the OECD average, Luxembourg outperforms on goals such as Reducing Inequality (10), Water (6), Implementation (17) and Gender Equality (5). Conversely, Luxembourg is relatively further away on goals relating to Climate (13) and Food (2). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.44, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Climate and Cities (goals 12, 13 and 11), Luxembourg's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.44. Luxembourg's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

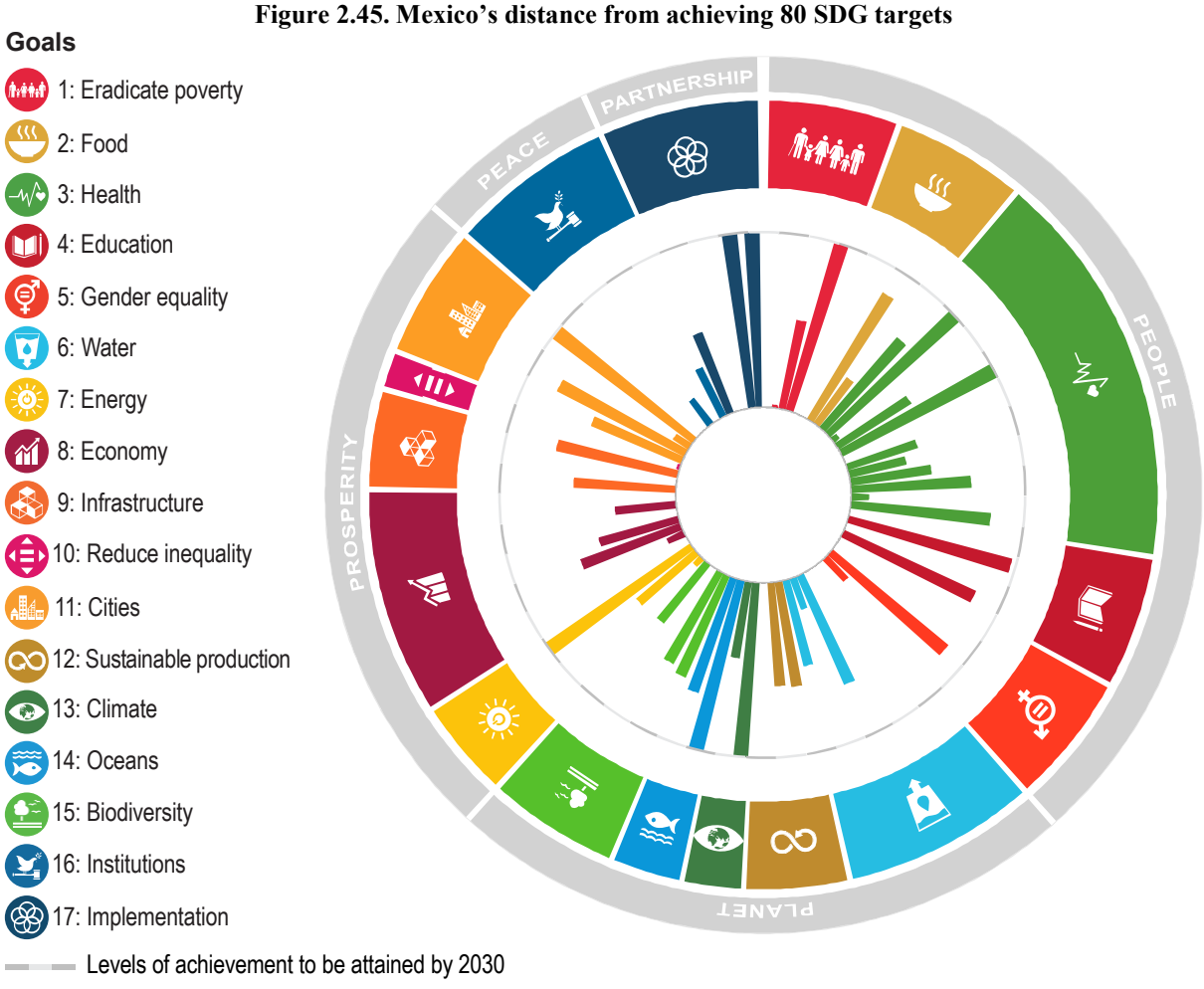
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963690

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Mexico

Based on 103 available indicators allowing a coverage of 80 of the 169 SDG targets, Mexico has currently achieved 10 of the 2030 targets, and some of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.45). For example, Mexico has relatively low rates of alcohol consumption, low energy intensity and a low unemployment rate (targets 3.5, 7.3 and 8.5). However, a significant number of challenges remain; Mexico is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 28% of the targets. For instance, Mexico has a high prevalence of food insecurity (target 2.1), poor access to improved drinking water sources (target 6.1) and a rather low recycling rate (targets 11.6 and 12.5).

**Figure 2.45. Mexico's distance from achieving 80 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963709

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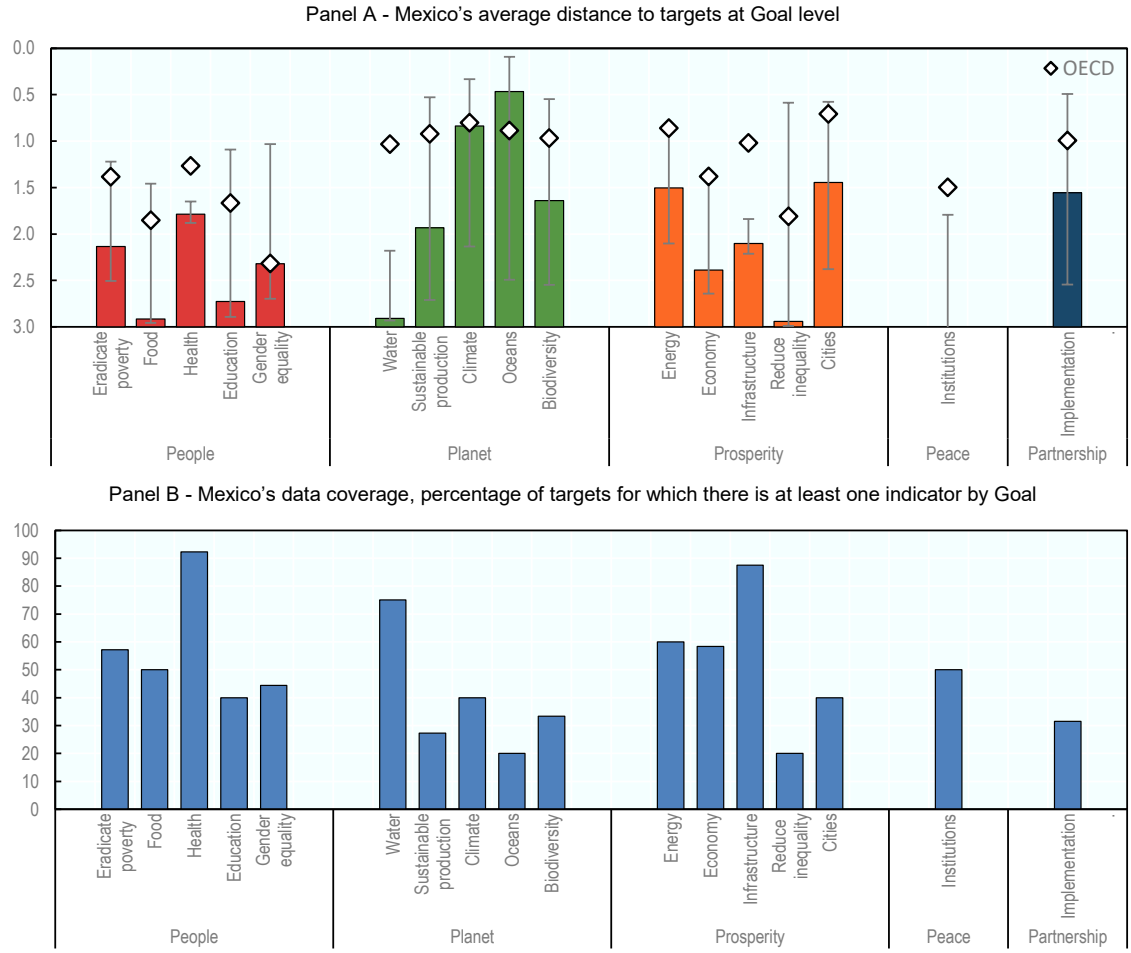
Figure 2.46, Panel A shows that Mexico is on average closest to reaching goals on Oceans (14) and Climate (13). On the other hand, Mexico is furthest from goals on Food (2), Water (6), Reducing Inequality (10) and Education (4). Relative to the OECD average, Mexico outperforms on Oceans (14). Conversely, Mexico is relatively further away on goals such as Institutions (16), Water (6), Food (2), Sustainable Production (12) and Reducing Inequality (10). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.46, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 14 and 10), Mexico's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.46. Mexico's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

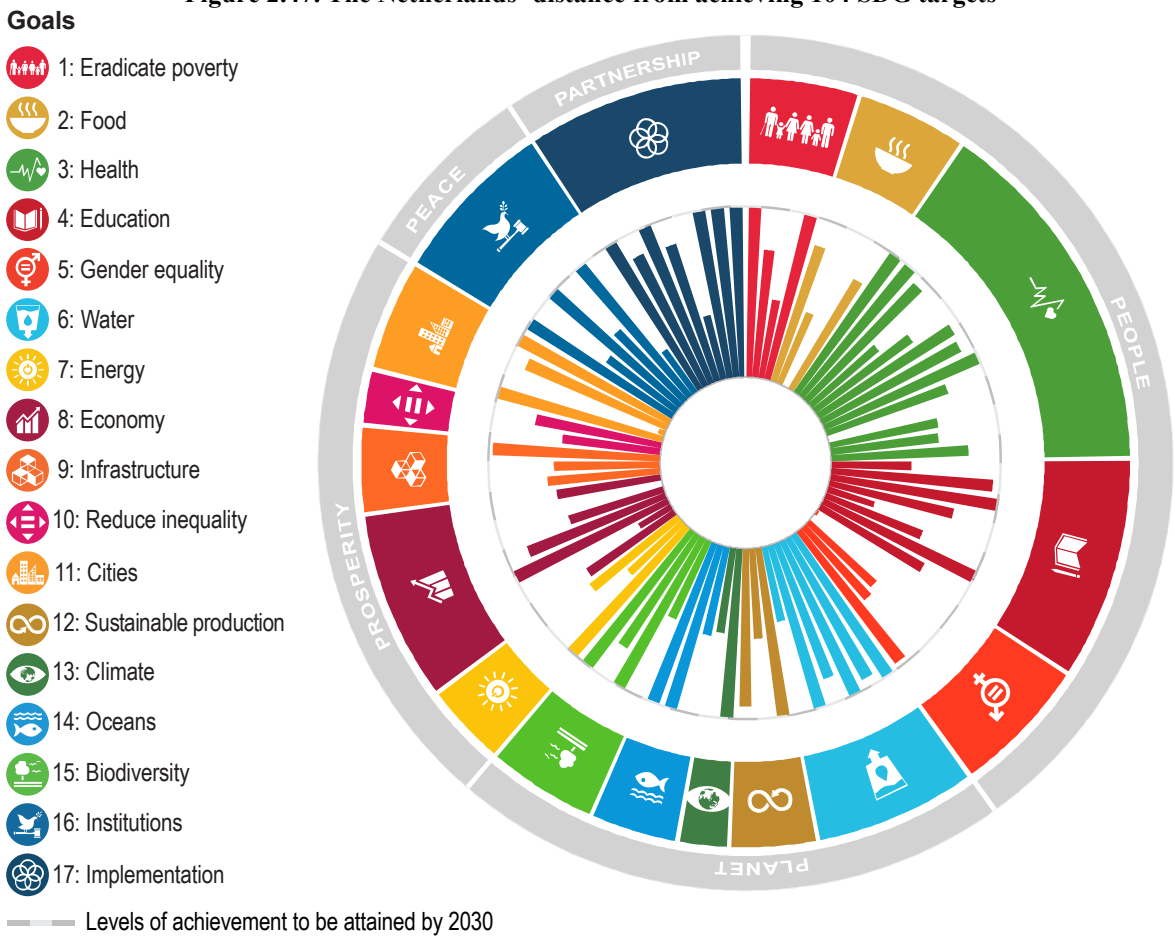
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963728

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – The Netherlands

Based on 128 available indicators allowing a coverage of 104 of the 169 SDG targets, the Netherlands has currently achieved 26 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.47). For example, The Netherlands has a high participation rate of adults in lifelong learning (target 4.3), the OECD lowest domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (targets 8.4 and 12.2) and high connection to public sewage treatment (target 6.3). However, some challenges remain; The Netherlands is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 3 % of the targets. For instance, there is a high environmental pressure on soils (target 2.4) and high rates of tobacco consumption (target 3.a).

**Figure 2.47. The Netherlands' distance from achieving 104 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963747

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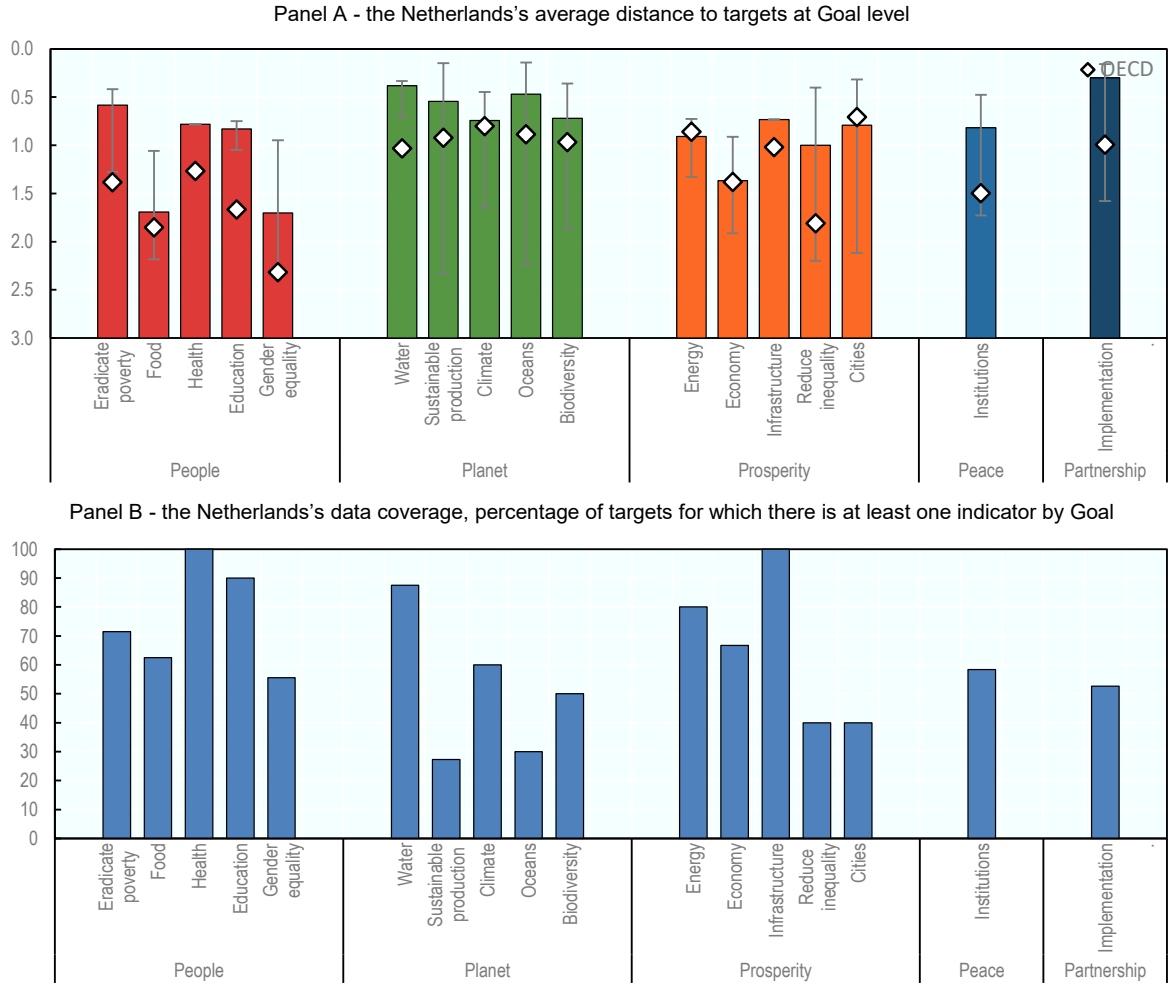
Figure 2.48, Panel A shows that the Netherlands is on average closest to reaching goals pertaining to Planet (goals on Water, Sustainable Production, Climate, Oceans and Biodiversity), as well as goals on Poverty Eradication and Implementation (goals 1 and 17). Relative to the OECD average, the Netherlands outperforms on goals such as Infrastructure, Reducing Inequality, Institutions and Implementation (goals 9, 10, 16 and 17), as well as on Poverty Eradication, Health, Education and Gender Equality (goals 1, 3, 4 and 5) and on Water, Sustainable Production, Oceans and Biodiversity (goals 6, 12, 14 and 15). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.48, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), the Netherlands' performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.48. The Netherlands's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

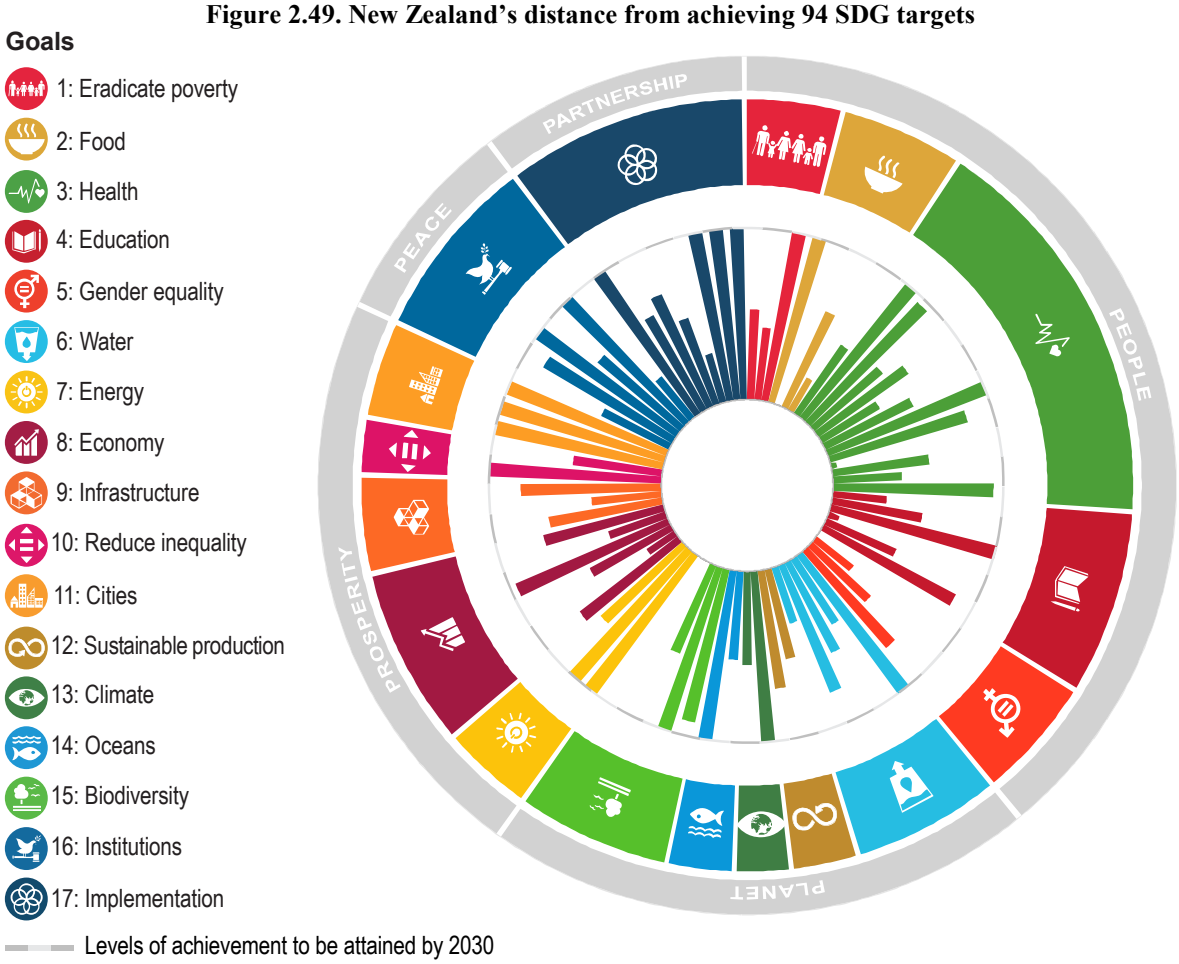
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963766

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – New Zealand

Based on 115 available indicators allowing a coverage of 94 of the 169 SDG targets, New Zealand has currently achieved 22 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.49). For example, New Zealand has a high share of renewable energy in energy consumption (target 7.2), low exposure to air pollution in metropolitan areas (target 11.6) and a high participation rate of adults in lifelong learning (target 4.3). However, some challenges remain; New Zealand is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 4% of the targets. For instance, obesity rates are high (target 2.2) and significant issues remain regarding the state of biodiversity (target 15.5).

**Figure 2.49. New Zealand's distance from achieving 94 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).

*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963785

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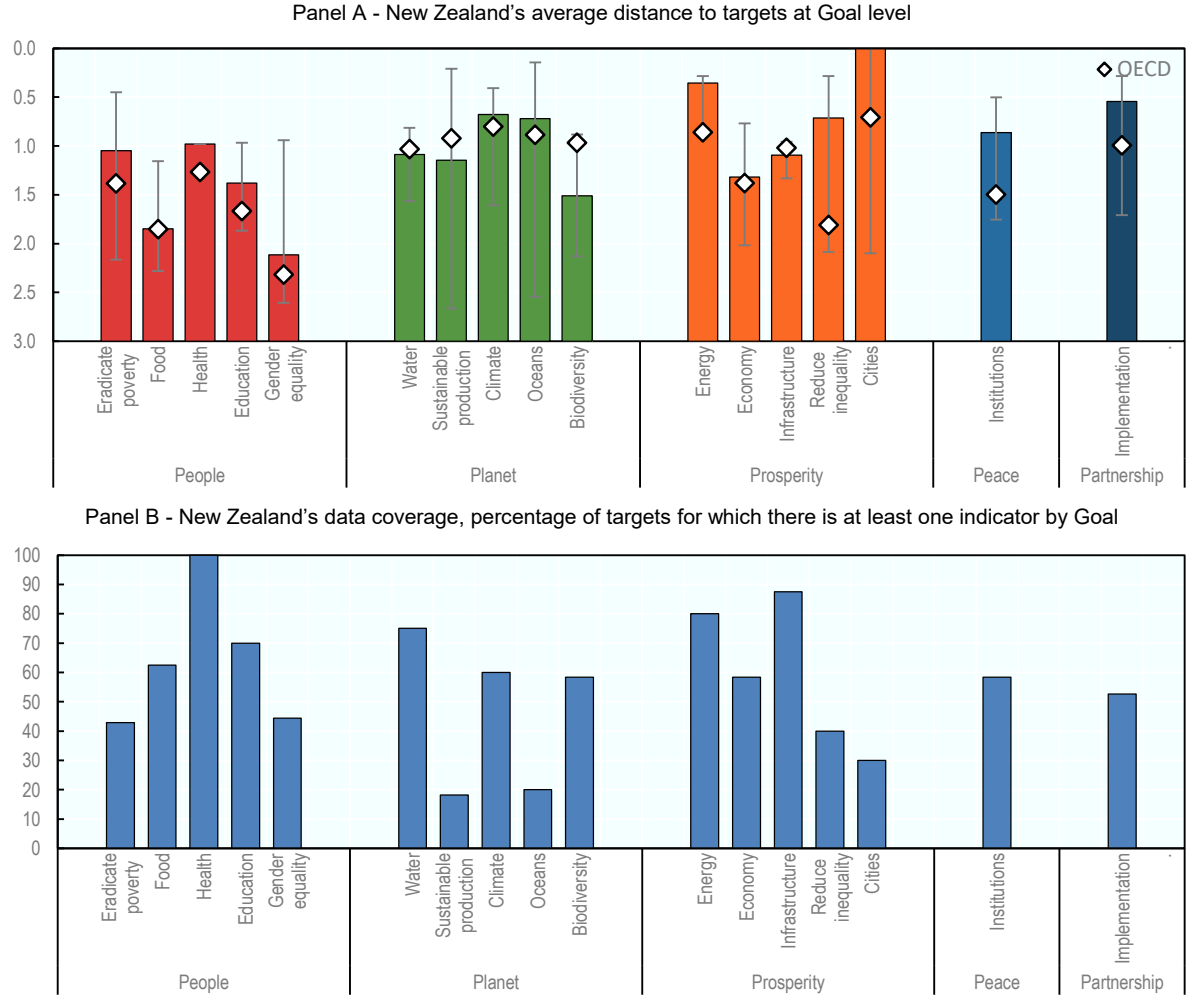
Figure 2.50, Panel A shows that New Zealand is on average closest to reaching goals on Cities (11), Energy (7), and Implementation (17). On the other hand, New Zealand is furthest from achieving Gender Equality (5). Relative to the OECD average, New Zealand outperforms on goals such as Reducing Inequality (10), Cities (11) and Institutions (16). Conversely, New Zealand is relatively further away on Biodiversity (15) and Sustainable Production (12). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.50, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Cities (goals 12, 14 and 11), New Zealand's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.50. New Zealand's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



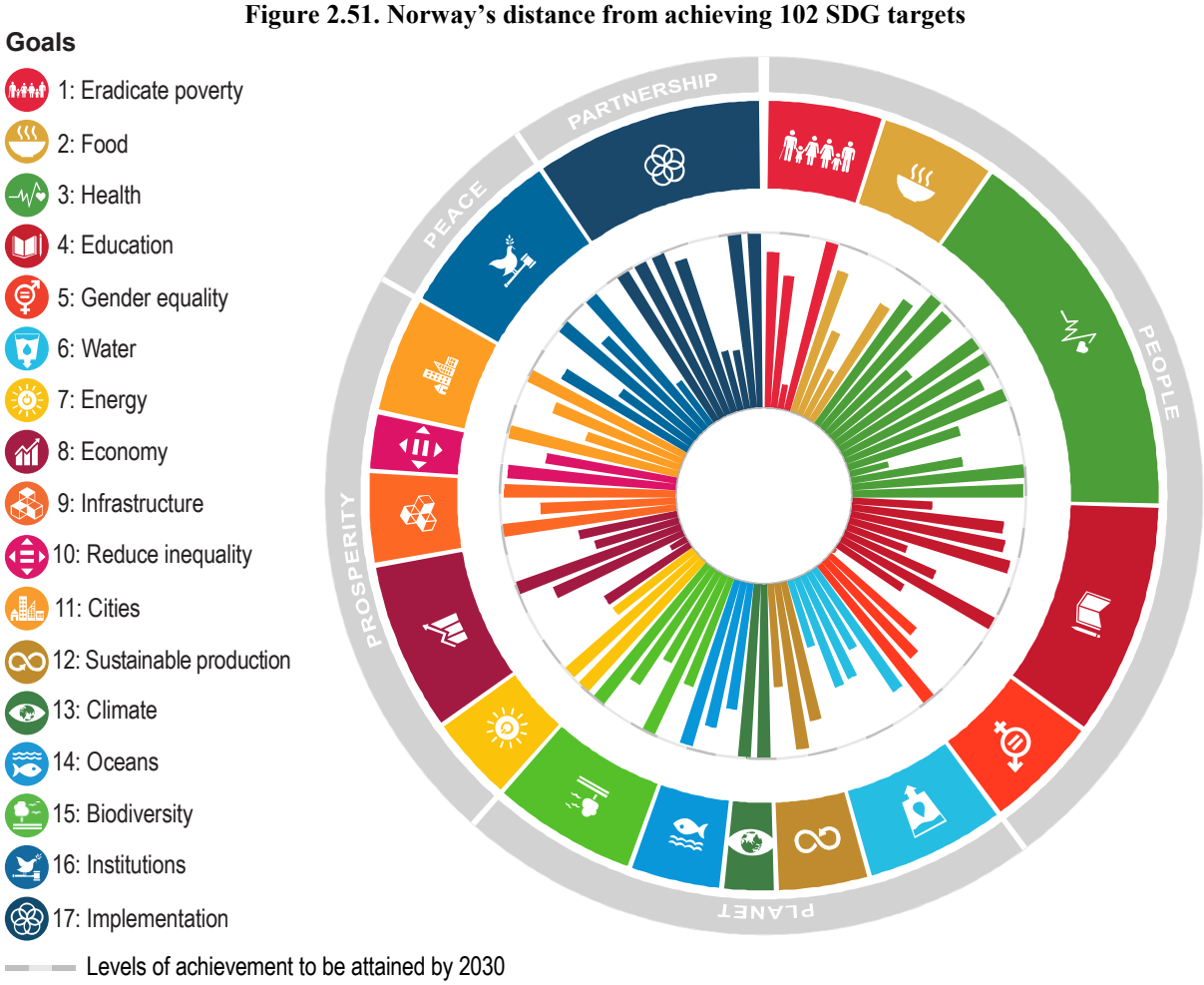

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963804

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Norway

Based on 127 available indicators allowing a coverage of 102 of the 169 SDG targets, Norway has currently achieved 25 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.51). For example, Norway has the lowest death rate from traffic accidents across OECD countries (target 3.6), among the best results in the OECD on $CO_2$ intensity (9.4 and 13.2) and has achieved target 17.2 on official development assistance. However, some challenges remain; for instance, there is a high mortality rate from accidental poisoning (target 3.9) and participation in organized learning is lower than the OECD average (target 4.2).

**Figure 2.51. Norway's distance from achieving 102 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

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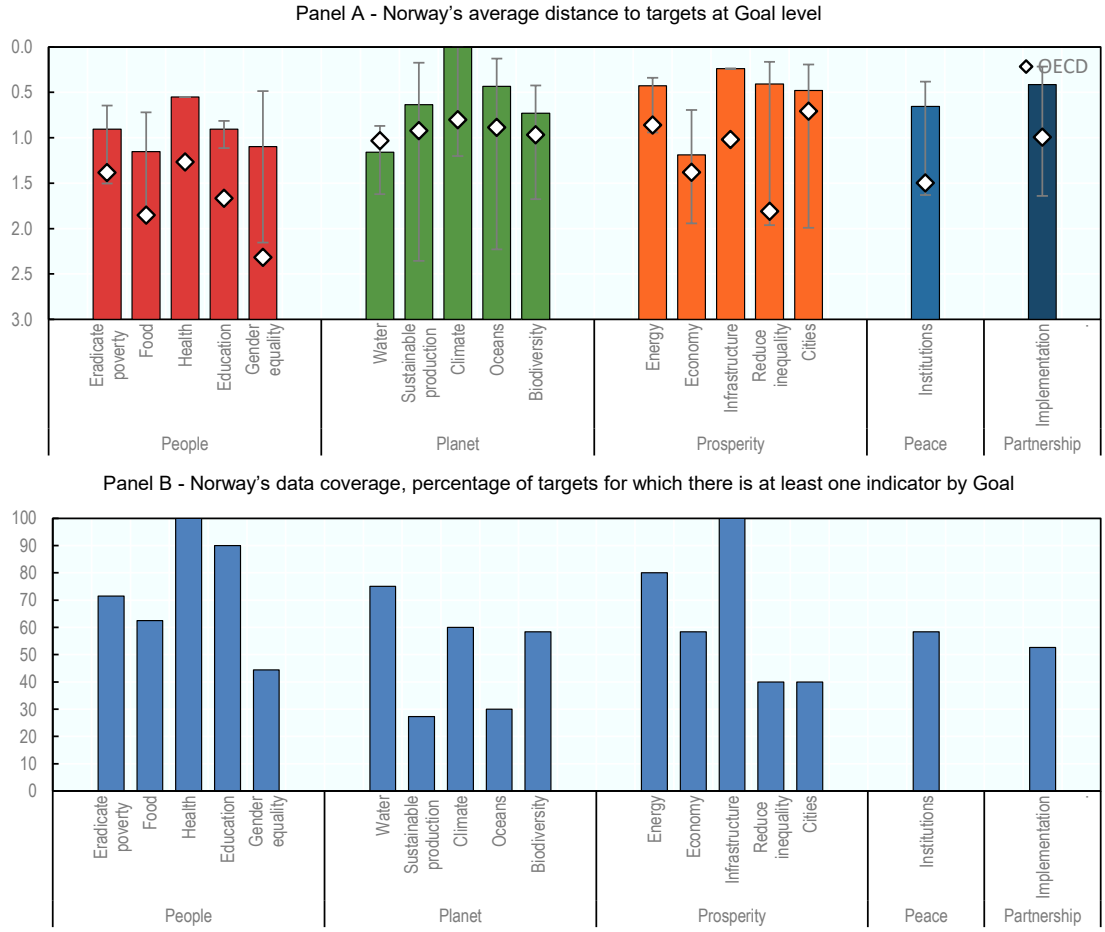
The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.52, Panel A shows that Norway is on average closest to reaching some goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Sustainable Production, Climate, Oceans and Biodiversity) and some goals pertaining to Prosperity (in particular goals on Energy, Infrastructure, Reducing Inequality and Cities), as well as goals on Health, Institutions and Implementation (goals 3, 16 and 17). Relative to the OECD average, Norway outperforms on goals such as Institutions and Implementation (goals 16 and 17), as well as on all goals relating to People, on goals relating to Planet (goals 12 on Sustainable Production, 13 on Climate, 14 on Oceans, 15 on Biodiversity) and on goals relating to Prosperity (goals 7 on Energy, 9 on Infrastructure, 10 on Reducing Inequality, 11 on Cities). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.52, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Norway's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.52. Norway's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

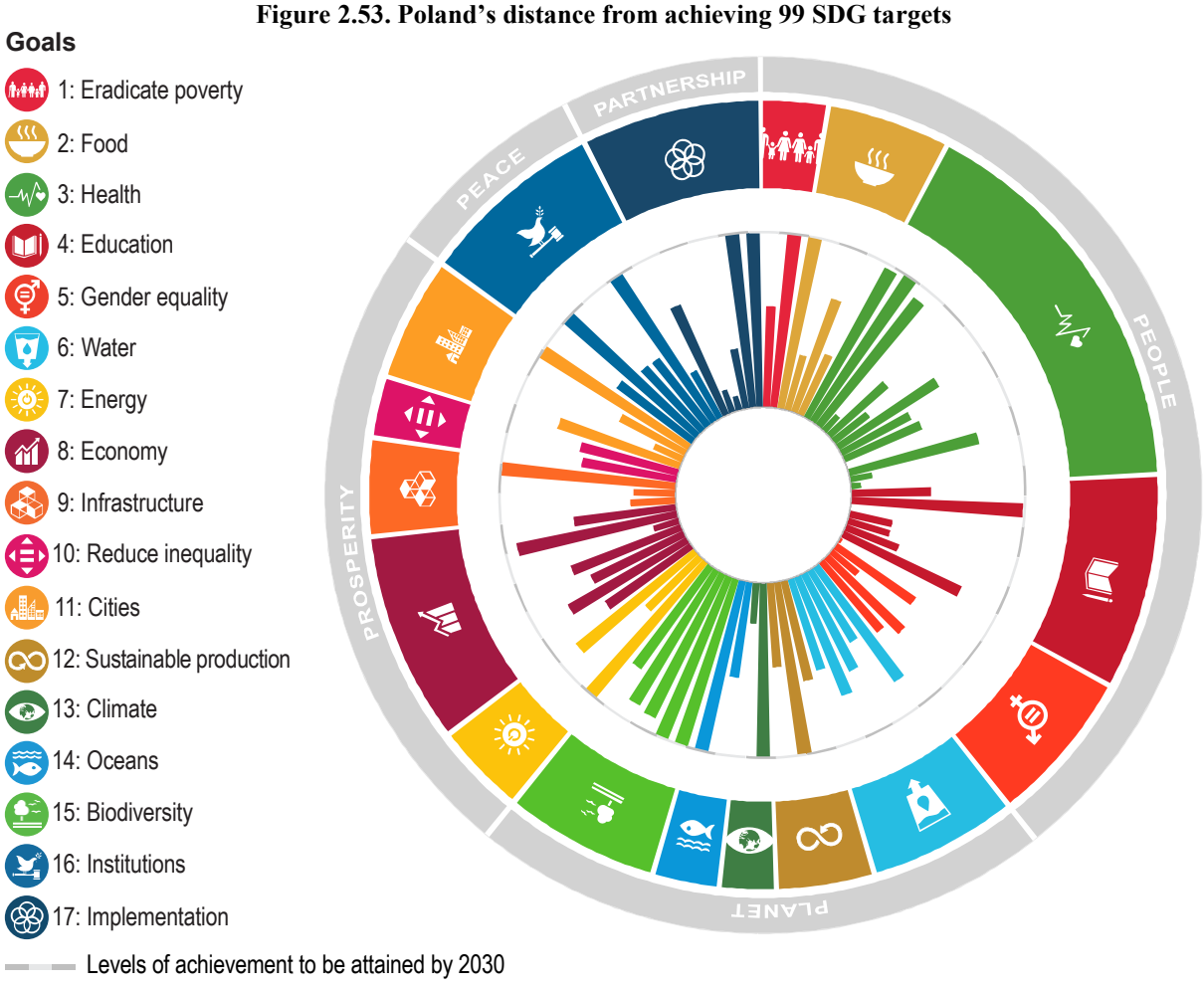
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963842

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Poland

Based on 123 available indicators allowing a coverage of 98 of the 169 SDG targets, Poland has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.53). For example, Poland complies with the four main conventions and protocols on hazardous waste (target 12.4), has strong GDP growth (target 8.1), and very few unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (target 16.3). However, some challenges remain; Poland is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 2% of the targets. For instance, Poland has a high tobacco consumption rate and a rather low participation rate of adults in lifelong learning (targets 3.a and 4.3).

**Figure 2.53. Poland's distance from achieving 99 SDG targets**



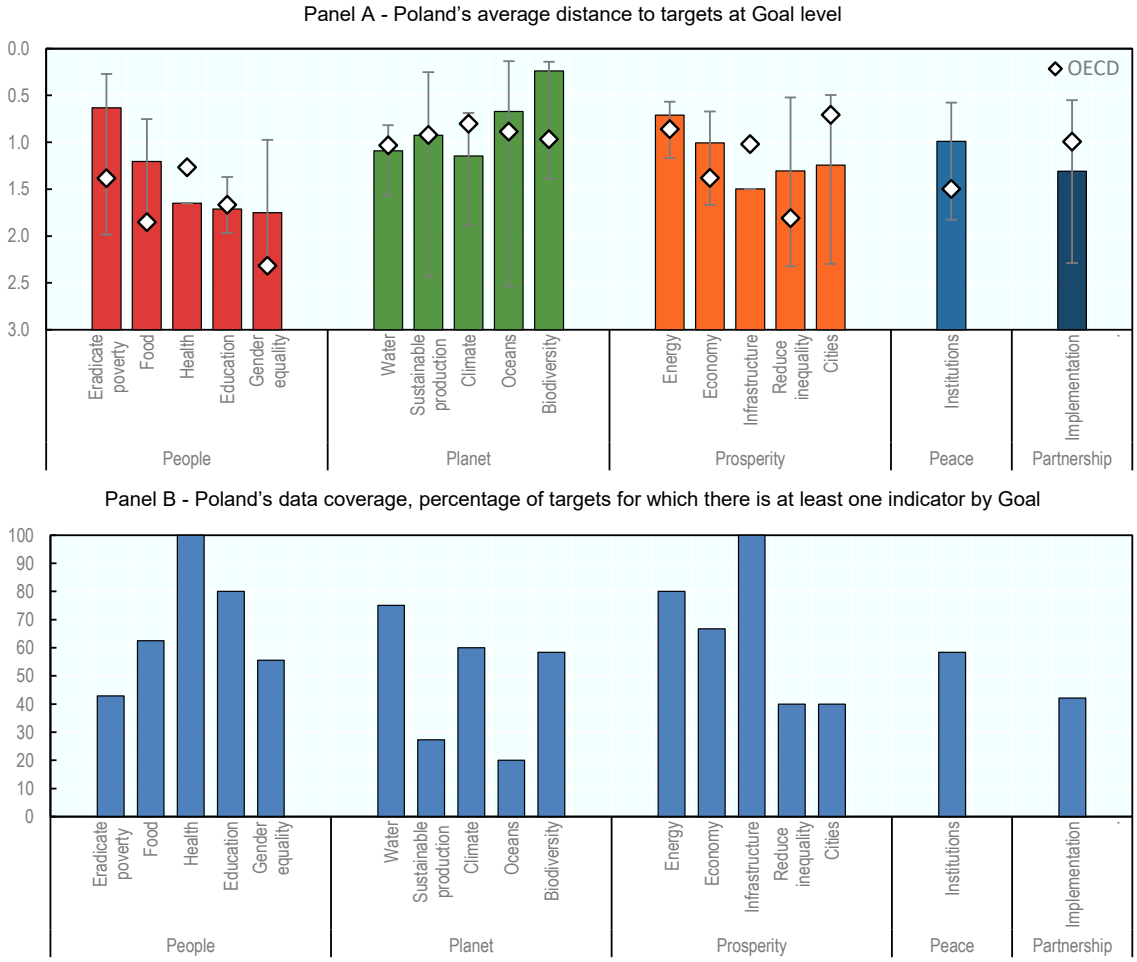

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963861

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.54, Panel A shows that Poland is on average closest to reaching some goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Oceans and Biodiversity), as well as goals on Poverty Eradication and Energy (goals 1 and 7). Relative to the OECD average, Poland outperforms on goals such as Economy, Reducing Inequality and Institutions (goals 8, 10 and 16), as well as on goals relating to People (in particular goals 1 on Poverty Eradication, 2 on Food and 5 on Gender Equality) and on goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 12 on Sustainable Production, 14 on Oceans and 15 on Biodiversity). Conversely, Poland is relatively further away on goals such as Health, Climate, Infrastructure, Cities and Implementation (goals 3, 13, 9, 11 and 17). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.54, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Poland's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.54. Poland's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

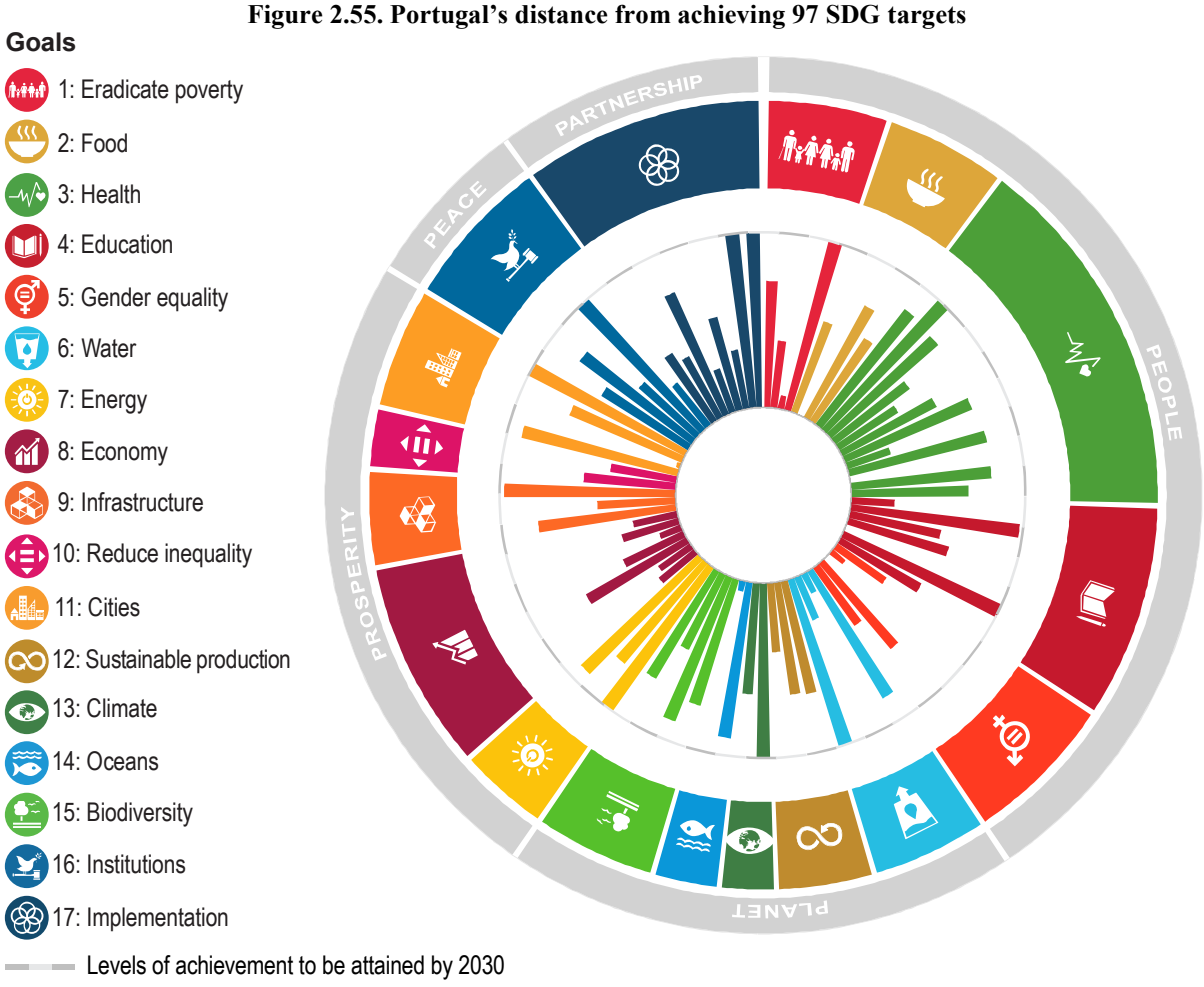
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963880

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Portugal

Based on 124 available indicators allowing a coverage of 98 of the 169 SDG targets, Portugal has currently achieved 11 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.55). For example, Portugal has a high share of local breeds classified as not at risk of extinction (target 2.5), and has achieved targets on maternal and neonatal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2). However, some challenges remain; Portugal is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 4% of the targets. For instance, Portugal faces a high obesity rate (target 2.2), a high share of the population has large health expenditures (target 3.8) and tobacco consumption remains an issue (target 3.a).

**Figure 2.55. Portugal's distance from achieving 97 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

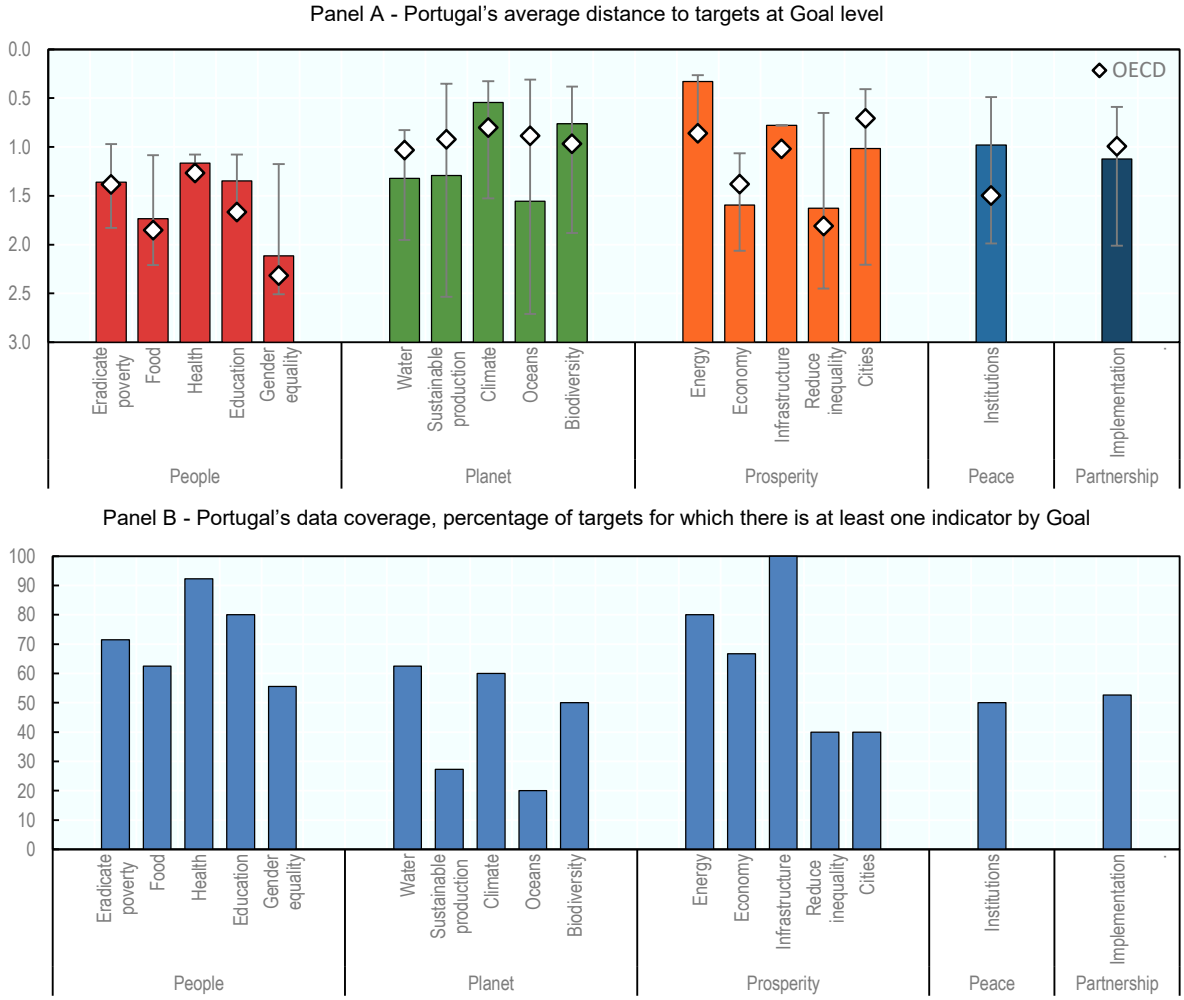
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963899

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.56, Panel A shows that Portugal is on average closest to reaching goals on Climate, Biodiversity, Energy and Infrastructure (goals 13, 15, 7 and 9). Relative to the OECD average, Portugal outperforms on goals such as Climate, Energy and Institutions (goals 13, 7 and 16). Conversely, Portugal is relatively further away on Sustainable Production and Cities (goals 12 and 11).

However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.56, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Portugal's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.56. Portugal's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**



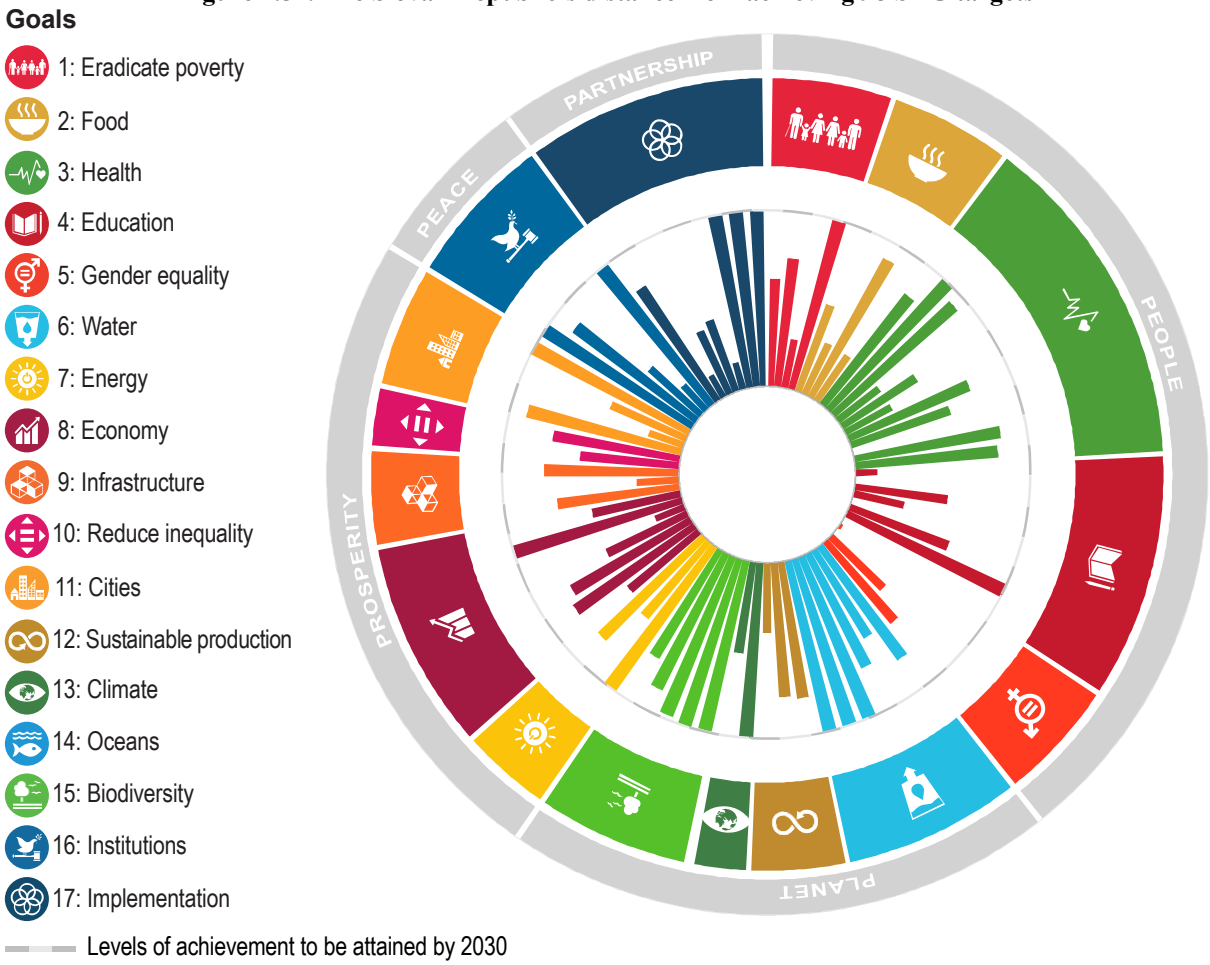

*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963918

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – The Slovak Republic

Based on 124 available indicators allowing a coverage of 98 of the 169 SDG targets, the Slovak Republic has currently achieved 15 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.57). For example, it has already achieved the targets on water stress (6.4), has a low incidence of AIDS (3.3) and strong GDP growth (8.1). However, some challenges remain; The Slovak Republic is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 5% of the targets. For instance, there are high disparities in education (target 4.5), violence against women is high (target 5.2) and, as in many OECD countries, tobacco consumption is of concern (target 3.a).

**Figure 2.57. The Slovak Republic's distance from achieving 98 SDG targets**



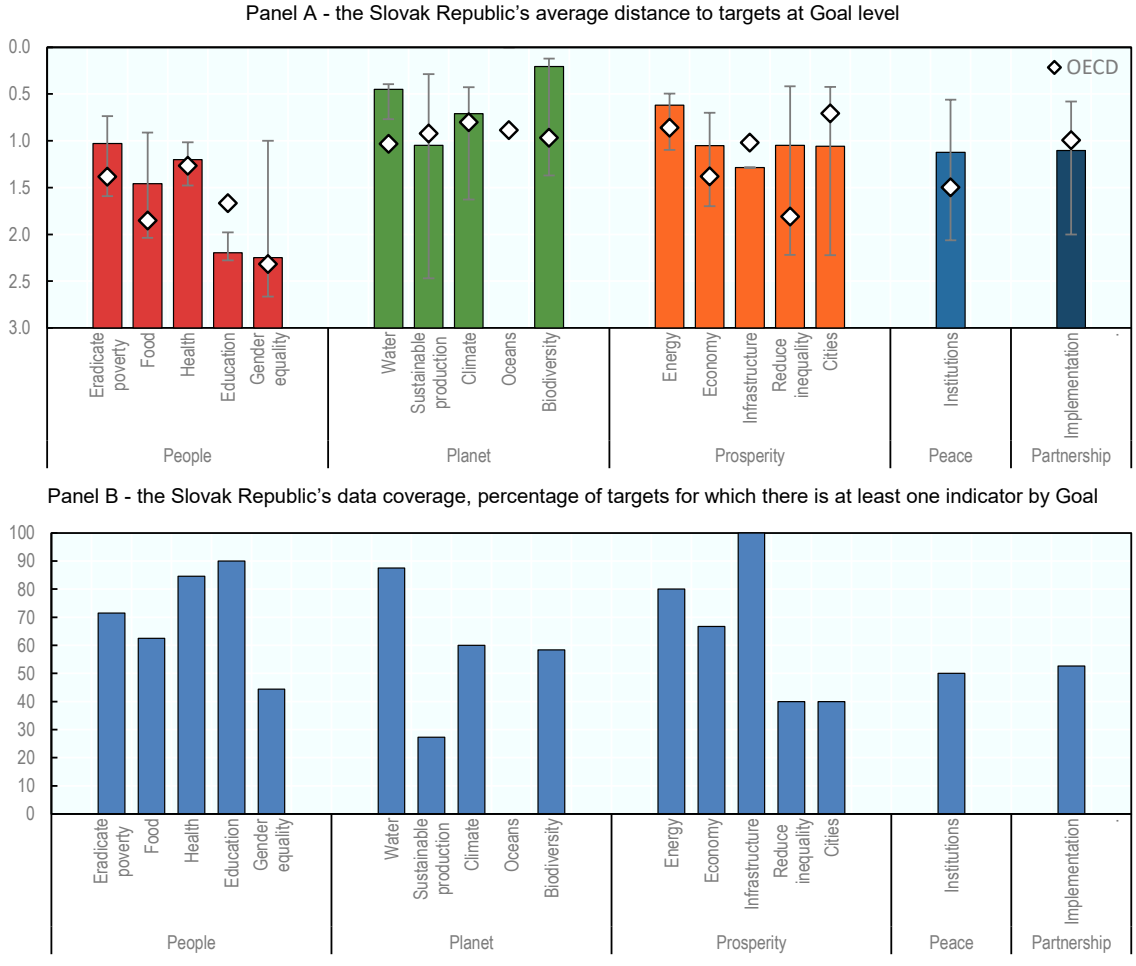

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963937

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.58, Panel A shows that the Slovak Republic is on average closest to reaching some goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Water, Climate and Biodiversity), as well as the goal on Energy (7). On the other hand, it is furthest from the goals on Education (4) and Gender Equality (5). Relative to the OECD average, the Slovak Republic outperforms on goals such as Poverty Eradication (1), Water (6), Energy (7), Economy (8), Reducing Inequality (10), Climate (13) and Institutions (16). Conversely, it is relatively further away on goals such as Education (4), Sustainable Production (12), Infrastructure (9) and Cities (11). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.58, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production (12), Reducing Inequality (10) and Cities (11), the Slovak Republic's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.58. The Slovak Republic's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

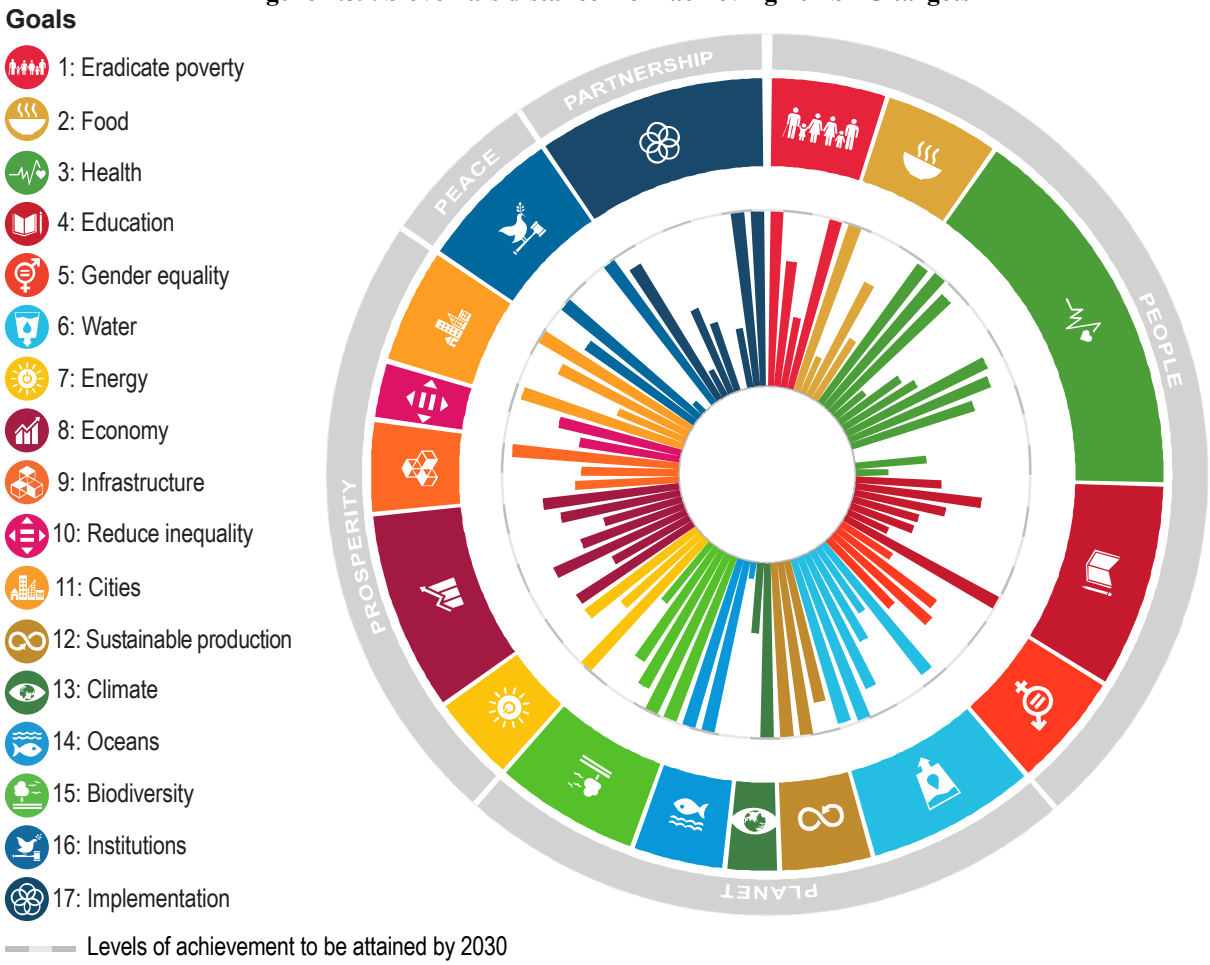
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963956

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Slovenia

Based on 128 available indicators allowing a coverage of 102 of the 169 SDG targets, Slovenia has currently achieved 20 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.59). For example, Slovenia has already achieved the targets on water stress (target 6.4), complies with the four main conventions and protocols on hazardous waste (target 12.4), and has a high recycling rate (target 12.5). However, some challenges remain; Slovenia is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 4% of the targets. These include one of the lowest vaccination coverage rates in the OECD (target 3.b) as well as a high rate of suicide (target 3.4).

**Figure 2.59. Slovenia's distance from achieving 102 SDG targets**



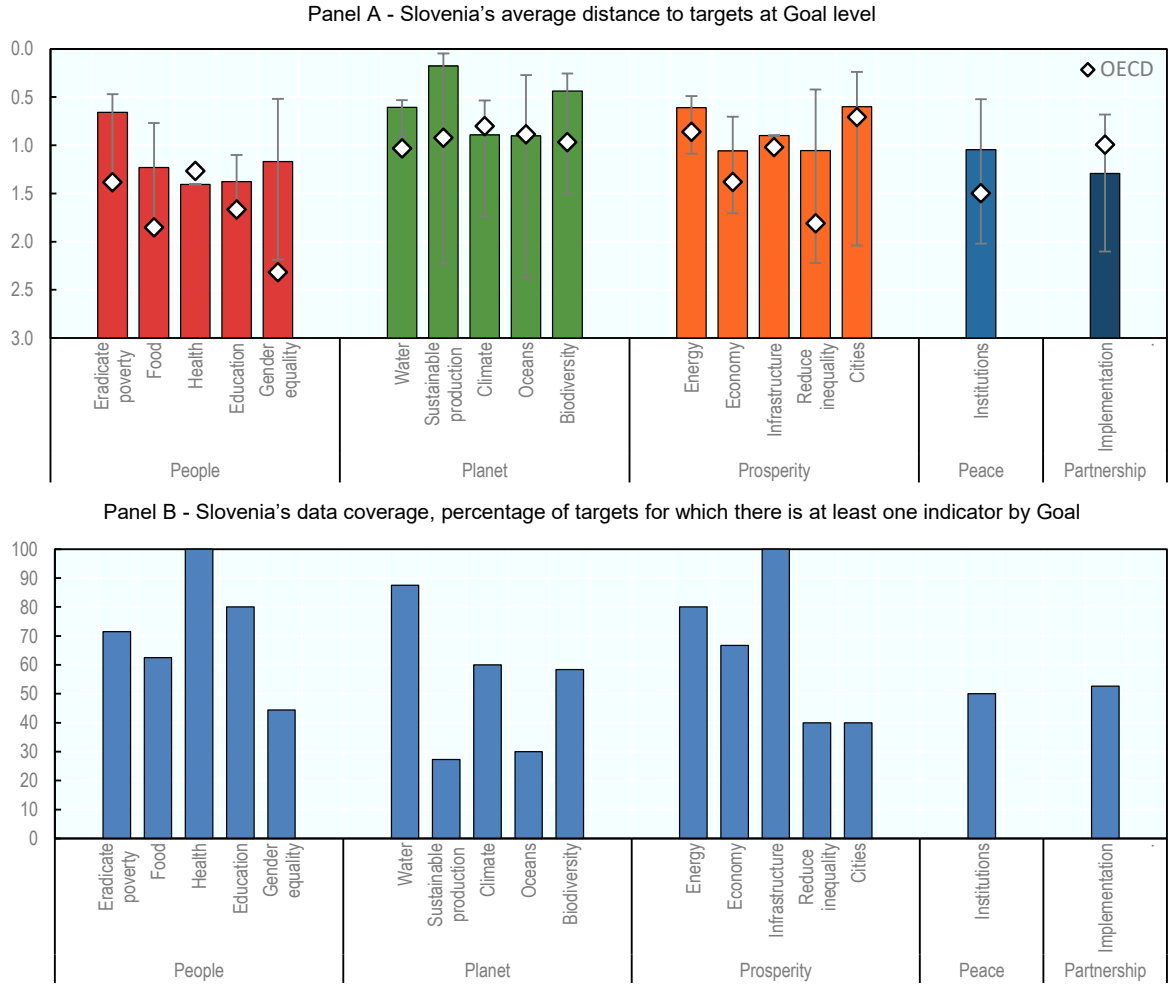

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963975

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.60, Panel A shows that Slovenia is on average closest to reaching some goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on water, Sustainable Production and Biodiversity), as well as goals on Poverty Eradication, Energy and Cities (goals 1, 7 and 11). Relative to the OECD average, Slovenia outperforms on goals such as Energy, Economy, Reducing Inequality and Institutions (goals 7, 8, 10 and 16), as well as on some goals relating to People (in particular goals 1 on Poverty Eradication, 2 on Food and 5 on Gender Equality) and on goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 6 on Water, 12 on Sustainable Production and 15 on Biodiversity). Conversely, Slovenia is below average on Health (goal 3). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.60, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 14 and 10), Slovenia's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.60. Slovenia's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

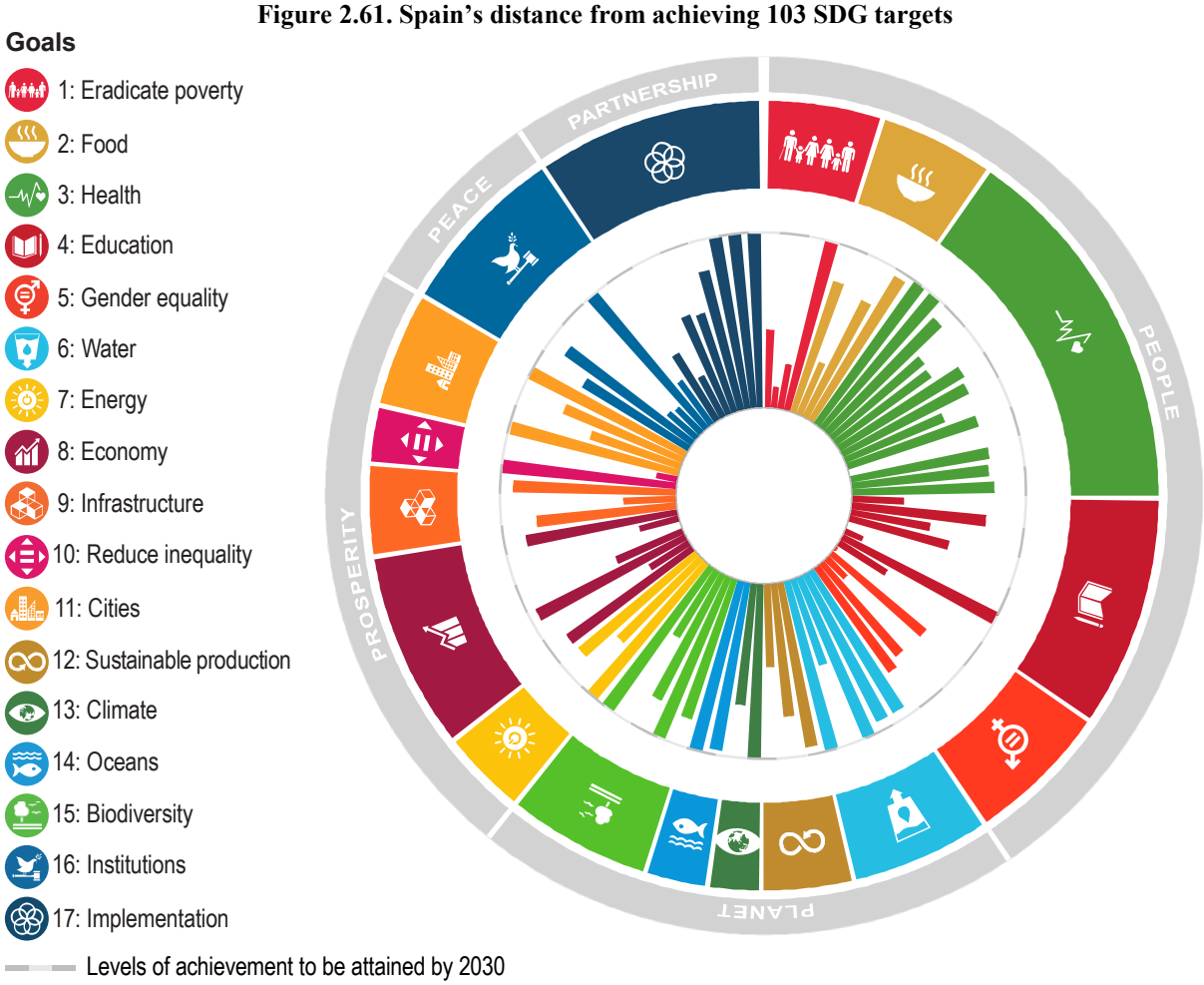
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933963994

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Spain

Based on 129 available indicators allowing a coverage of 103 of the 169 SDG targets, Spain has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.61). For example, Spain has already achieved the targets on maternal, infant and neonatal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2) and a responsible use of forest resources (target 15.2). However, some challenges remain; Spain is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 2% of the targets. These include target 8.6 on youth not in education, employment or training, target 4.5 on disparities in education and target 3.a on tobacco consumption.

**Figure 2.61. Spain's distance from achieving 103 SDG targets**



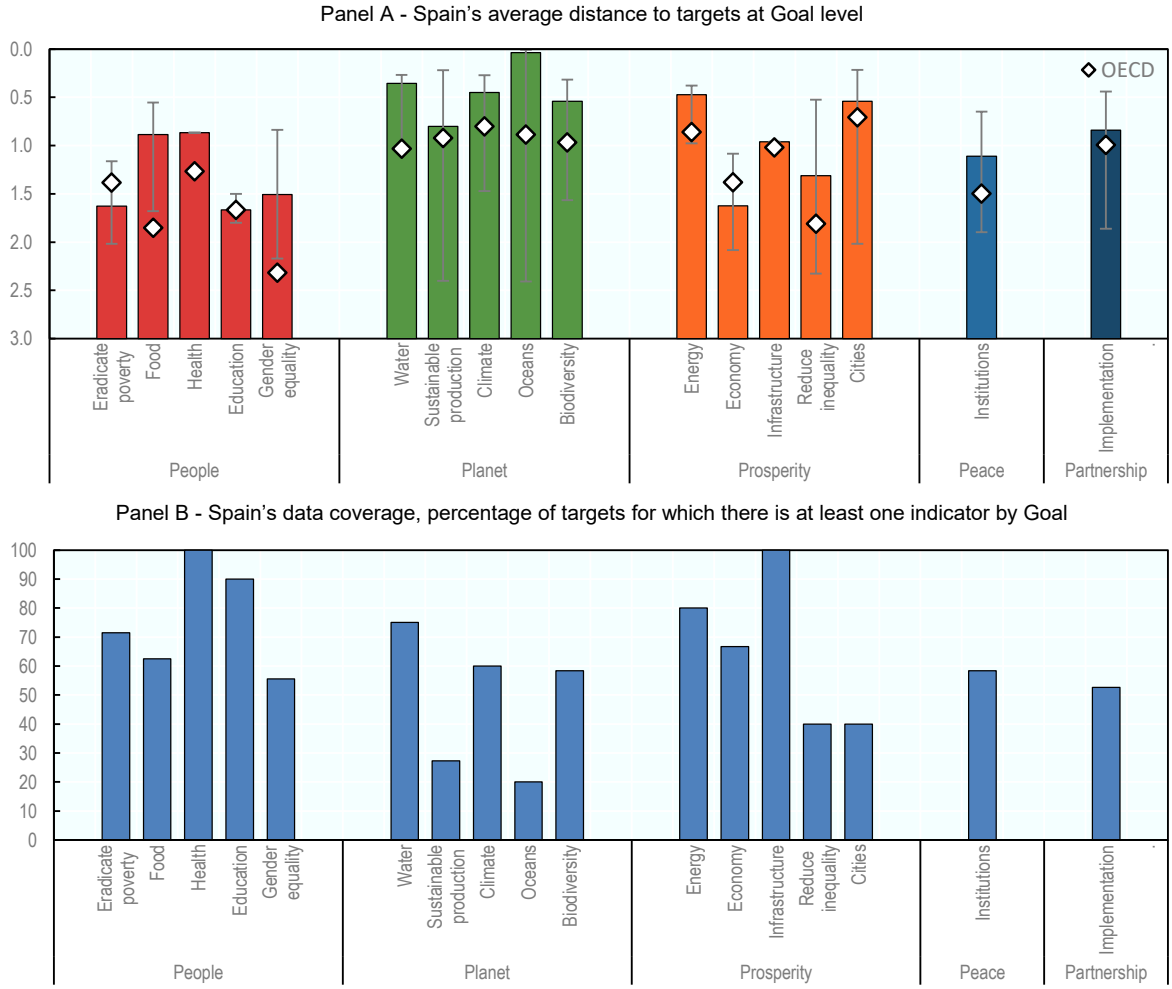

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964013

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.62, Panel A shows that Spain is on average closest to reaching goals pertaining to Planet (goals on Water, Sustainable Production, Climate, Oceans and Biodiversity), as well as goals on Energy and Cities (goals 7 and 11). Relative to the OECD average, Spain outperforms on goals such as Energy, Reducing Inequality, Institutions and Implementation (goals 7, 10, 16 and 17), as well as on goals relating to People (in particular goals 2 on Food, 3 on Health and 5 on Gender Equality), on goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 6 on Water, 13 on Climate, 14 on Oceans and 15 on Biodiversity). Conversely, Spain is relatively further away on Poverty Eradication and Economy (goals 1 and 8). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.62, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 14 and 10), Spain's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.62. Spain's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

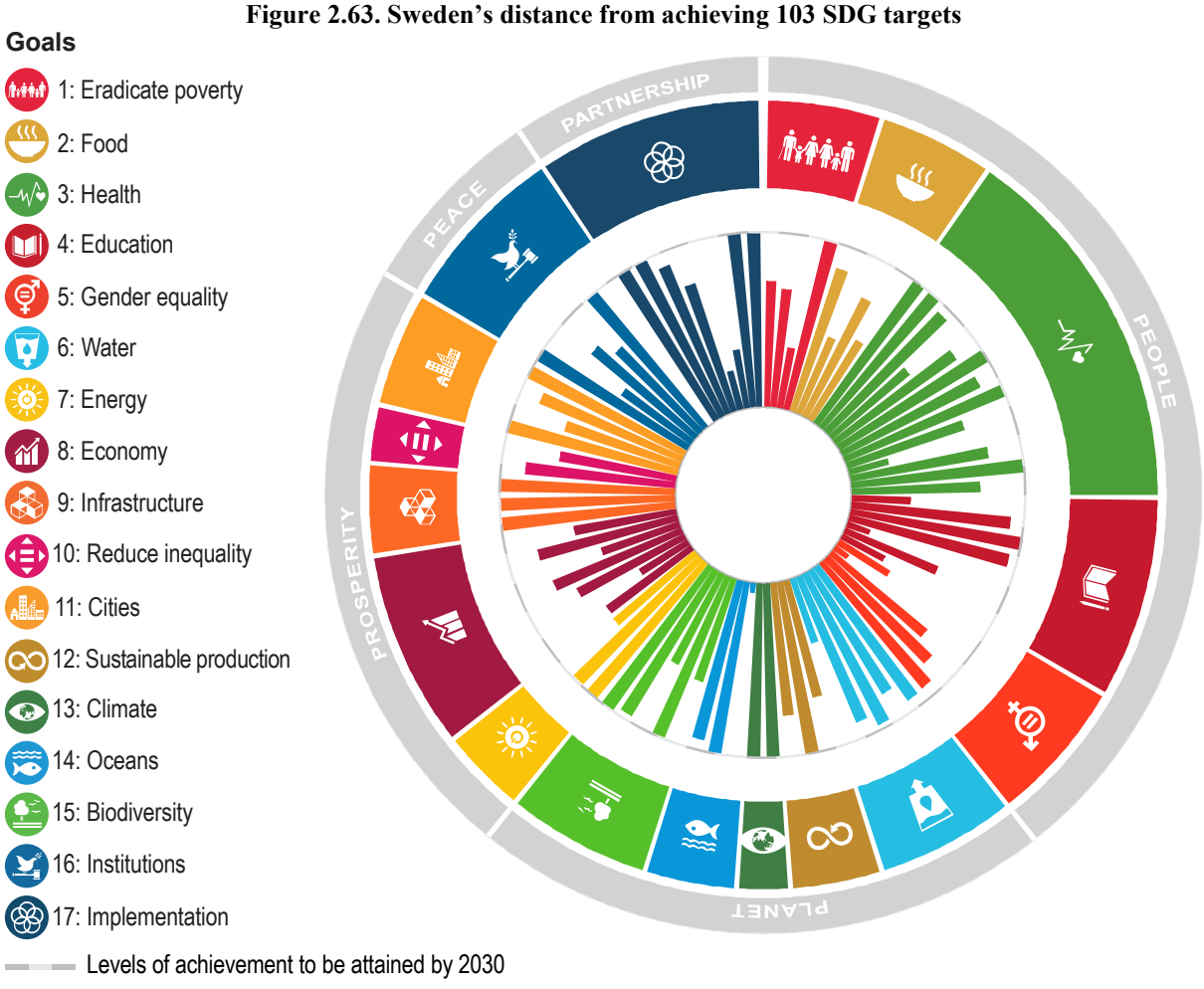
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964032

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Sweden

Based on 127 available indicators allowing a coverage of 103 of the 169 SDG targets, Sweden has currently achieved 23 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.63). For example, Sweden has already achieved the targets on exposure to air pollution and official development assistance to developing and least developed countries (targets 11.6 and 17.2) and has among the best results in the OECD on $CO_2$ intensity (targets 9.4 and 13.2). However, some challenges remain; for instance, with respect to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (target 14.4), Sweden could better engage in international co-operation and cross-country initiatives.

**Figure 2.63. Sweden's distance from achieving 103 SDG targets**



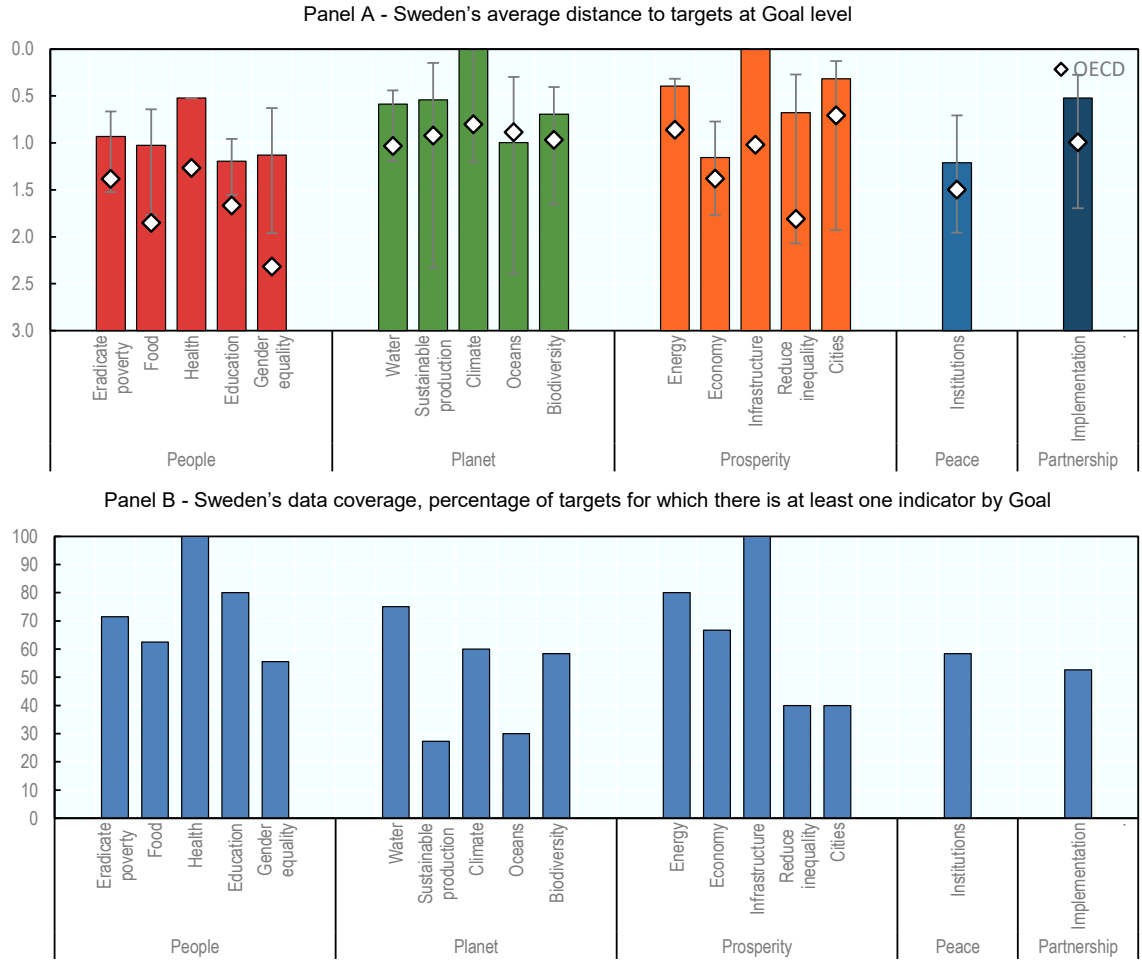

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964051

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.64, Panel A shows that Sweden is on average closest to reaching goals on Climate (13), Infrastructure (9), Cities (11) and Energy (7), and furthest away from achieving goals on Institutions (16), Education (4) and Economy (8). Relative to the OECD average, Sweden outperforms most on goals such as Infrastructure (9), Reducing Inequality (10), Food (2), Health (4) and Climate (13). Conversely, Sweden is relatively further away on Oceans (goal 14). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.64, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality, Cities (goals 12, 14, 10, 11), Sweden's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.64. Sweden's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

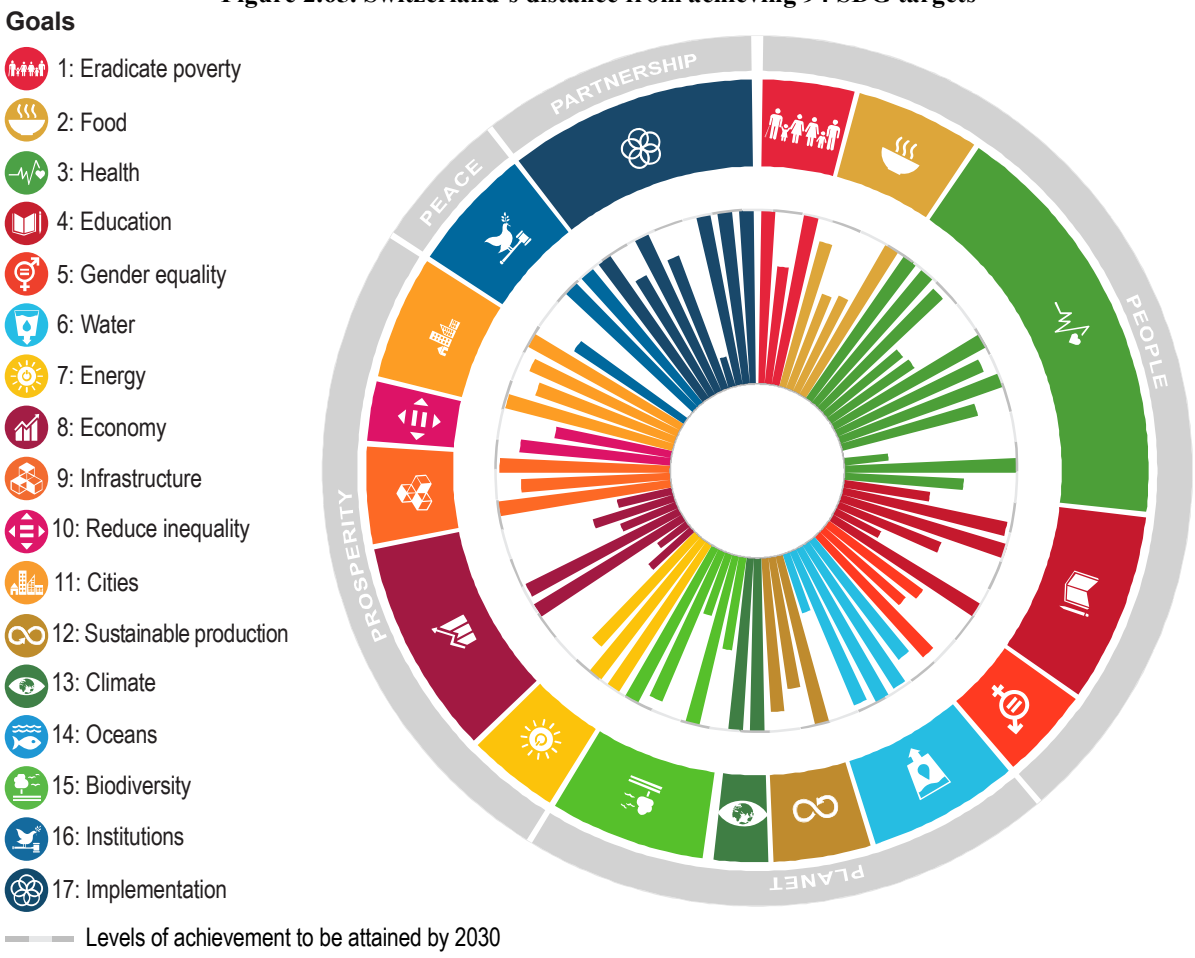
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964070

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Switzerland

Based on 119 available indicators allowing a coverage of 94 of the 169 SDG targets, Switzerland has currently achieved 26 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.65). For example, Switzerland has a low death rate due to road traffic accidents (target 3.6), has a high participation rate in formal and non-formal education (target 4.3) and has among the best results in the OECD on $CO_2$ intensity (targets 9.4 and 13.2). However, some challenges remain; Switzerland is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 2% of the targets. For instance, there is a high share of unsentenced detainees among the prison population (target 16.3) and tobacco consumption is relatively high (target 3.a).

**Figure 2.65. Switzerland's distance from achieving 94 SDG targets**



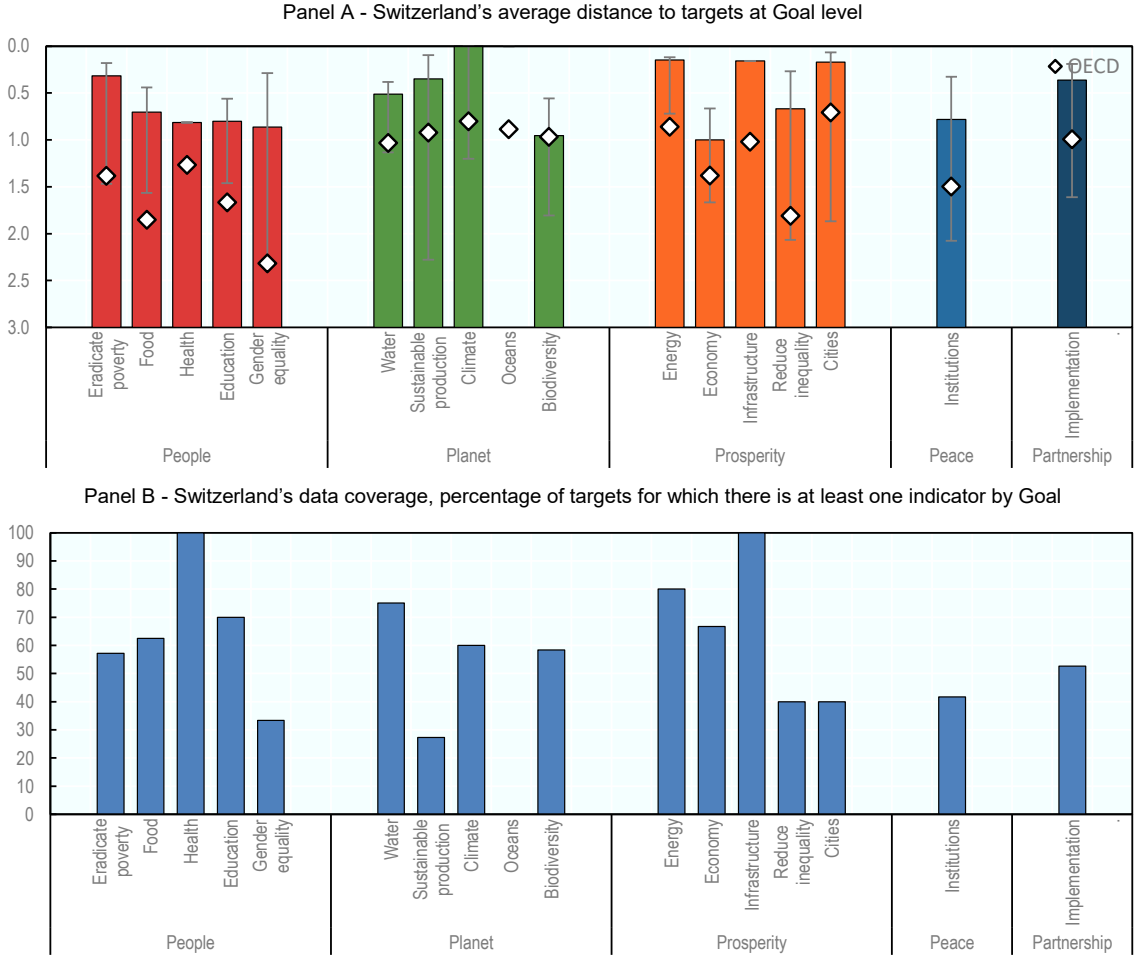

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964089

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.66, Panel A shows that Switzerland is on average closest to reaching some goals on Climate (13), Energy (7), Infrastructure (9), Cities (11) and Eradicating Poverty (1), and is further away on Economy (8), Gender Equality (5) and Health (3) goals. Relative to the OECD average, Switzerland outperforms on goals such as Institutions and Implementation (goals 16 and 17), as well as on all goals relating to People, on some goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 6 on Water, 12 on Sustainable Production and 13 on Climate) and on all goals relating to Prosperity. However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.66, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Gender Equality (5), Sustainable Production (12) and Reducing Inequality (10), Switzerland's performance on People, Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.66. Switzerland's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

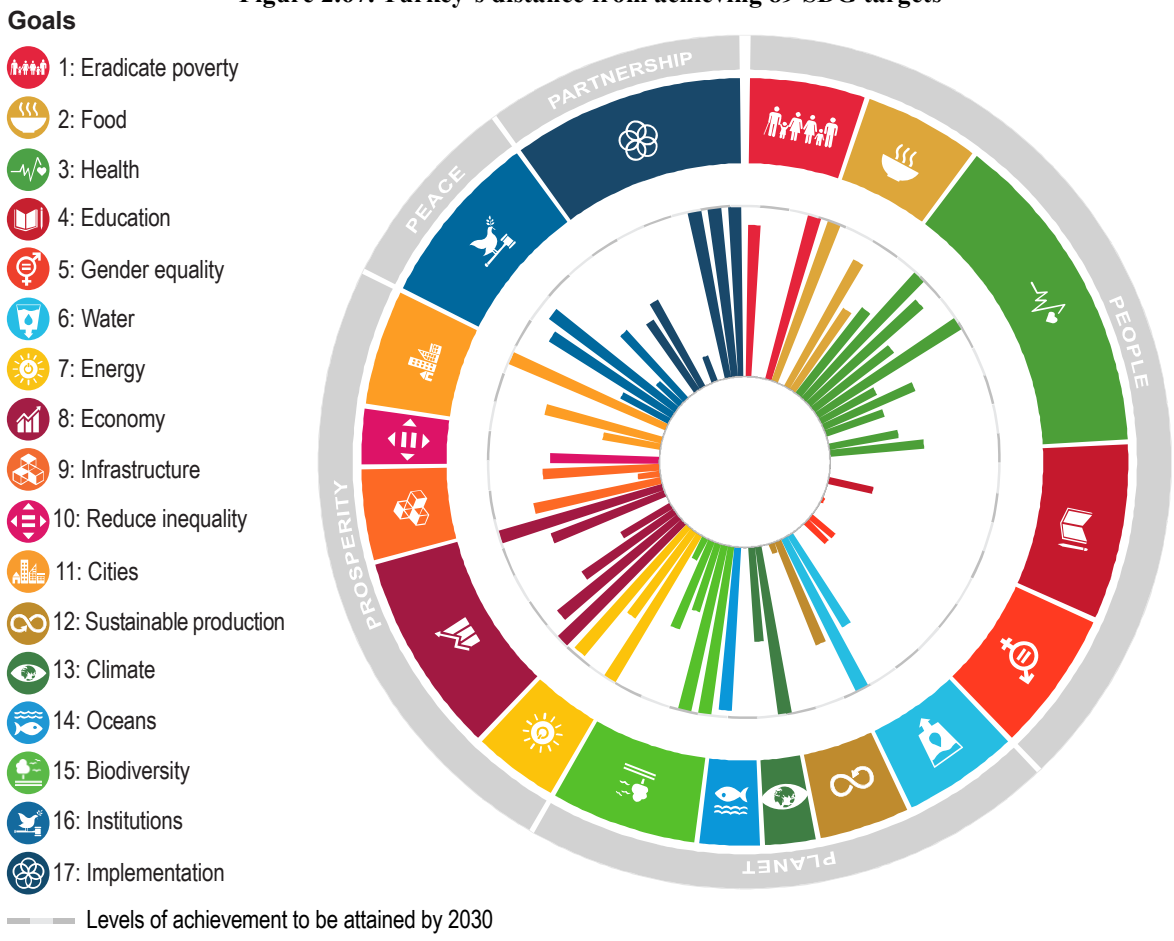
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964108

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – Turkey

Based on 108 available indicators allowing a coverage of 89 of the 169 SDG targets, Turkey has currently achieved 15 of the 2030 targets, and some of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.67). For example, Turkey has already achieved the targets on maternal, infant and neonatal mortality (targets 3.1 and 3.2), has a strong GDP growth (target 8.1) and among the lowest alcohol consumption rates across OECD countries (target 3.5). However, a significant number of challenges remain; Turkey is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting some 23% of the targets. For instance, there are relatively few physicians per capita (target 3.c), many students do not achieve minimum proficiency level in mathematics (target 4.1) and there is a significant gender pay gap (target 5.4).

**Figure 2.67. Turkey's distance from achieving 89 SDG targets**



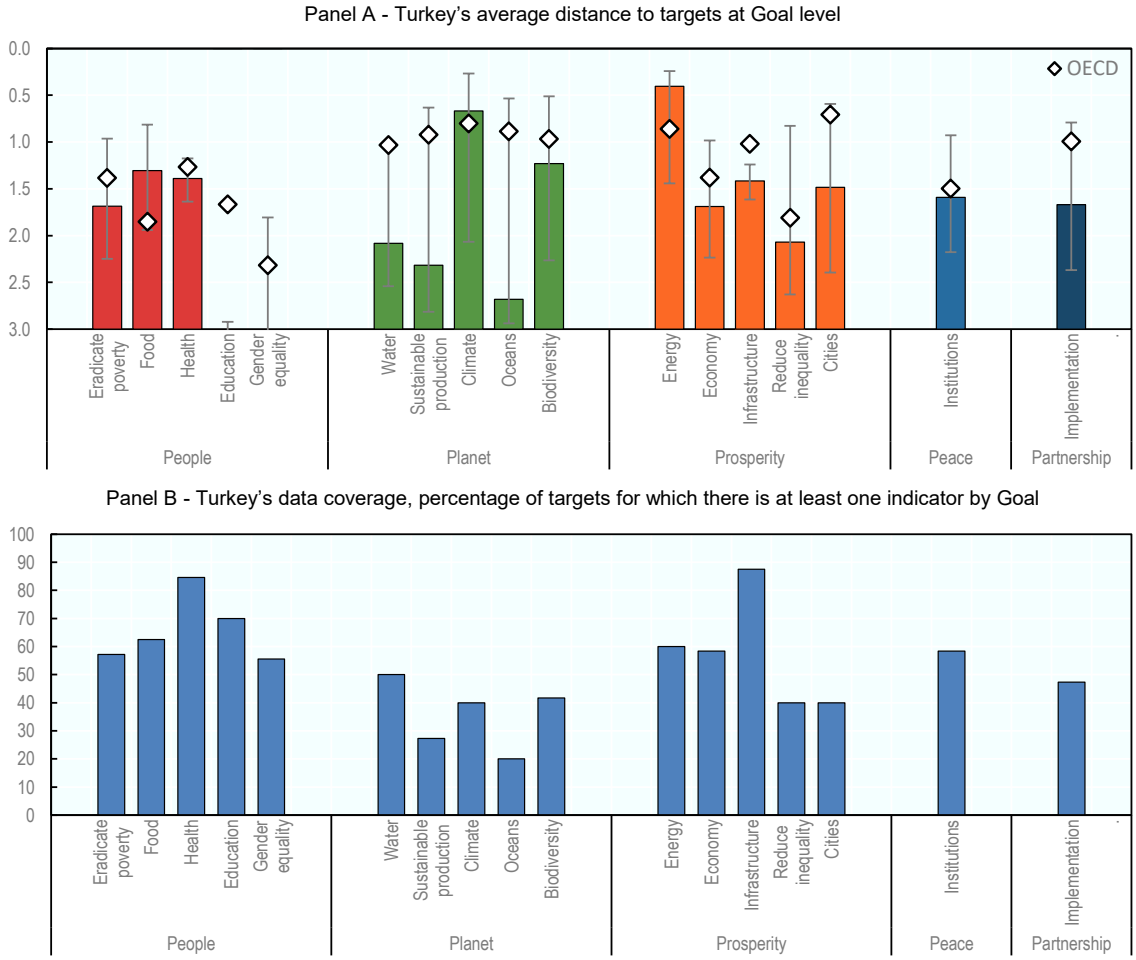

*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964127

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

Figure 2.68, Panel A shows that Turkey is on average closest to reaching goals on Climate and Energy (goals 13 and 7). On the other hand, Turkey is furthest from some goals pertaining to Planet (in particular goals on Water, Sustainable Production, Oceans), as well as goals on Education, Gender Equality and Reducing Inequality (goals 4, 5 and 10). Relative to the OECD average, Turkey outperforms on goals such as Food, Climate and Energy (goals 2, 13 and 7). Conversely, Turkey is relatively further away on goals such as Education, Gender Equality, Infrastructure, Cities and Implementation (goals 4, 5, 9, 11 and 17), as well as on goals relating to Planet (in particular goals 6 on Water, 12 on Sustainable Production and 14 on Oceans). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.68, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans, Reducing Inequality and Cities (goals 12, 14, 10 and 11), Turkey's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.68. Turkey's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

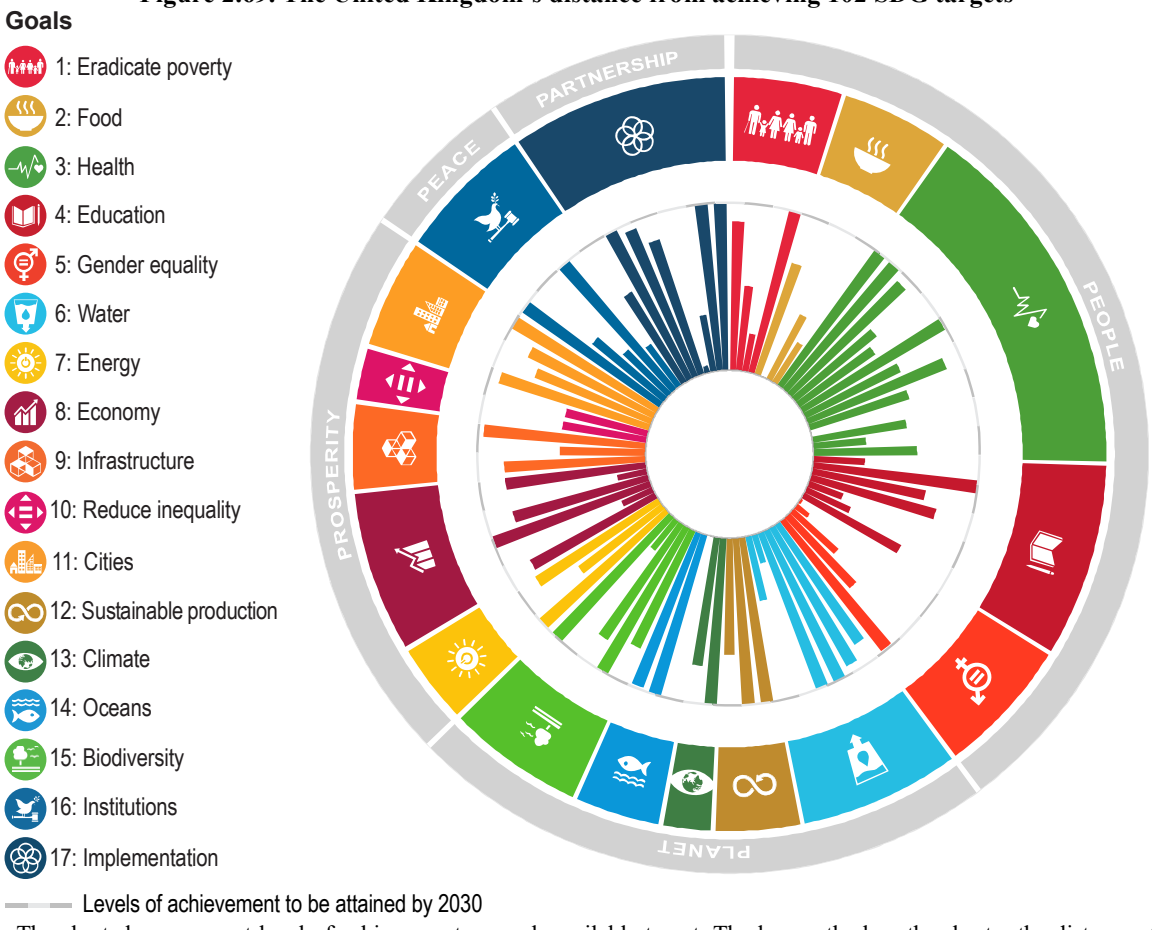
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964146

## Measuring distance to the SDG targets – The United Kingdom

Based on 127 available indicators allowing a coverage of 102 of the 169 SDG targets, the United Kingdom has currently achieved 17 of the 2030 targets, and many of the remaining distances to targets are small (Figure 2.69). For example, the United Kingdom reports a relatively low death rate from traffic accidents (target 3.6), high participation rate in organized learning (target 4.2) and has achieved target 17.2 on official development assistance. However, some challenges remain; the United Kingdom is still very far (i.e. more than 3 standardised distances away) from meeting 2% of the targets. For instance, obesity rates are high (target 2.2), tobacco consumption is of concern (target 3.a) and policies and practices against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing could be improved, notably in international co-operation and engagement in cross-country initiatives (target 14.4).

**Figure 2.69. The United Kingdom's distance from achieving 102 SDG targets**




*Note*: The chart shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach 2030 target (dotted circle). Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).
*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

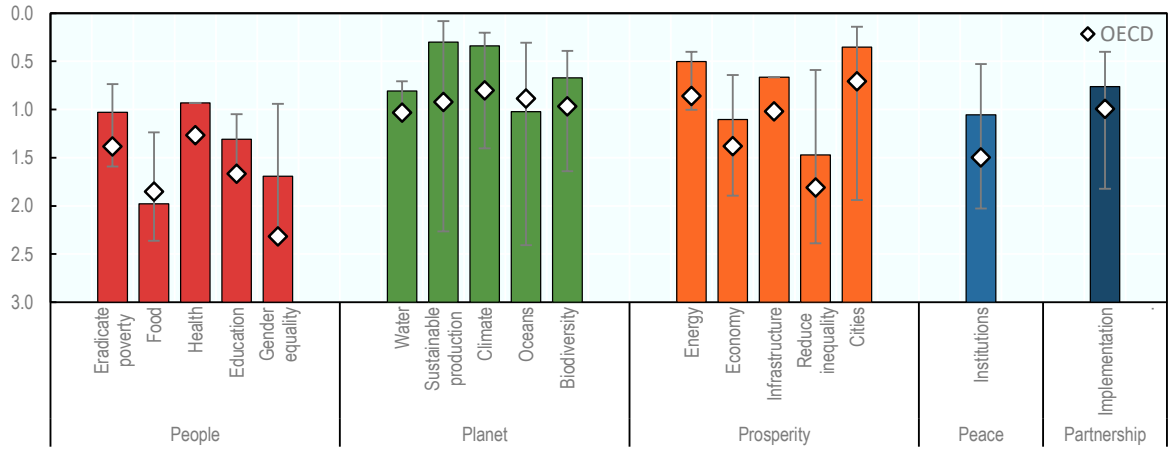
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964165

The *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets* Study is intended as an analytical tool to assist countries in identifying strengths and weaknesses across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and as such differs in nature from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or other reporting processes. To ensure international comparability, indicators used in the Study are based on the *UN Global List of Indicators on SDGs* and are sourced from the *UN SDG Database* and OECD databases. VNRs typically use national indicators that reflect national circumstances and can be more up-to-date.

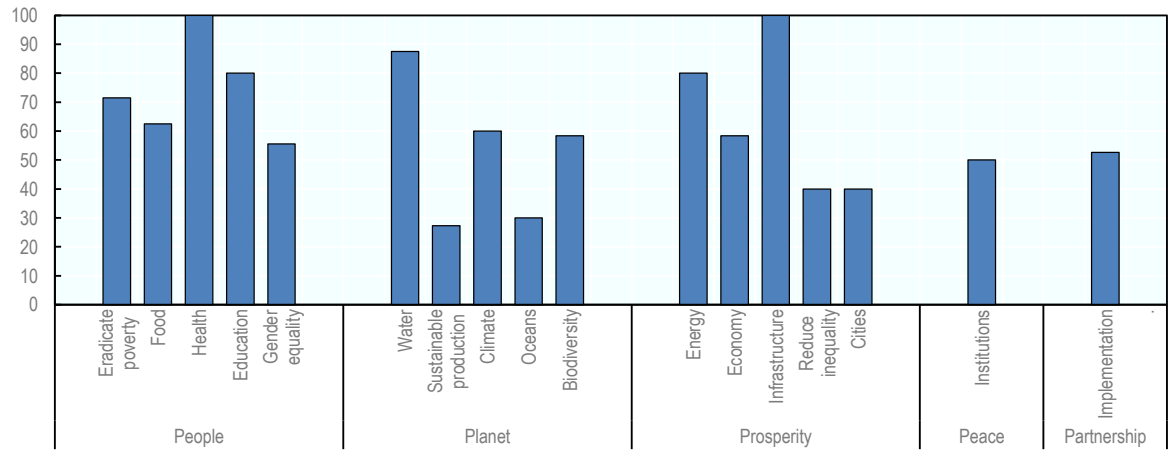
Figure 2.70, Panel A shows that the United Kingdom is on average closest to reaching goals on Sustainable Production (12), Climate (13), Cities (11) and Energy (7). Relative to the OECD average, the United Kingdom outperforms on goals such as Gender Equality (5), Sustainable Production (12), Institutions (16) and Climate (13). However, considerable effort by the international statistical community will be key to fill the data gaps and allow a more accurate assessment (see Figure 2.70, Panel B). For example, if missing data were available on Sustainable Production, Oceans and Reducing Inequality (goals 12, 14 and 10), the United Kingdom's performance on Planet and Prosperity could change from current assessments.

**Figure 2.70. The United Kingdom's distance from targets and data coverage, by goal**

Panel A - the United Kingdom's average distance to targets at Goal level




Panel B - the United Kingdom's data coverage, percentage of targets for which there is at least one indicator by Goal




*Note:* Panel A shows the average distance the country needs to travel to reach each SDG. Distances are measured in standardised units (see Chapter 3 for details) with 0 indicating that the level for 2030 has already been attained: and 3 is the distance most OECD countries have already travelled. Bars show the average country performance against all targets under the relevant Goal for which data are available, and diamonds show the OECD average. Whiskers show uncertainties due to missing data, ranging from assuming that missing indicators are all 3 standardised distances from the 2030 target level to assuming that they are already at the target level. Panel B shows the share of targets covered by at least one indicator out of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda, according to the 17 goals and 5Ps.

*Source*: See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964184

# Chapter 3. The methodology behind measuring distance to the SDG targets

*The complexity of the 2030 Agenda, with 17 Goals, 169 targets and 244 indicators on the UN Global Indicator List, makes assessing performance on SDGs a difficult undertaking. In order to measure the distance of OECD countries to SDG targets, the study uses a unique methodology allowing comparisons across goals and targets. This chapter describes the methodology used, including the selection of indicators and the setting of numerical values for the targets. In addition, it details the methodology used for assessing trends over time and performance on the transboundary targets of the 2030 Agenda.*

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

## 3.1. Methodology for measuring distance to the SDG targets

The goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda cover a broad range of issues, with different metrics, target values and levels of ambition. In order to assess and compare progress right across the Agenda, this Study focuses on measuring the distance that OECD countries need to travel in order to meet the SDG targets by 2030. This methodology is based on three steps, with decisions made at each of these steps affecting analysis and results. In the first step, indicators are selected, based on the *UN Global Indicator List* (United Nations, 2017[1]). Second, in order to measure distances, a target end-value is set for each indicator. Finally, a normalisation method is used based on a modified z-score procedure; this procedure measures distance from a fixed end-point in a standardised way for each indicator, based on the idea of peer group comparisons. This section presents the methodological rationale for the choices made at each step, alongside a series of robustness checks. Additionally, this section details the approach used to assess trends over time and to assess performance on transboundary targets.

The Study has been kept as simple as possible in order to meet its aims, which are described in Chapter 1. All OECD countries are included in the Study and have been treated equally on all indicators. This choice may seem uncontroversial but has, in some ways, far-reaching implications. For example, some OECD members have not subscribed to UN targets on Official Development Assistance, which were designed to apply to economically advanced countries; yet, where data are available, this Study assesses these countries on the same scale as others. The need for simplifications reinforces the point made earlier that the results of this Study should not be taken as providing a definitive assessment, but rather as a means of advancing thought and action on SDGs performance and measurement.

## 3.2. Identifying suitable data sources to measure performance on SDG targets

The starting point for this Study's dataset was the *UN Global Indicator List*, a choice made after consulting with OECD Member Countries, including delegates to the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy. By adhering as closely as possible to the *UN Global Indicator List*, we limit the extent to which additional judgement and interpretation of the SDG targets is required. Nevertheless, the *UN Global Indicator List* and *UN Global Database* (UN Statistics Division, 2018[2]) do not provide an "off the shelf" solution for SDGs monitoring in OECD countries, and considerable data processing is still needed. In fact, the *UN Global Database* is still work in progress, and even metadata do not always match the data series presented. The degree of harmonisation and quality of data used in this Study are also enhanced by using OECD data sources, where these align closely with the indicators in the *UN Global Indicator List*. The addition of a limited number of well-established OECD indicators as proxies enables us to expand coverage of the SDG targets where no UN data currently exist.

In order to assess OECD countries' distances to the SDG targets, and in order to remain aligned with the *UN Global Indicator List* and its architecture, this Study uses one data series[1] for each indicator in the *UN Global Indicator List*. This is in the case, for example, for indicator "3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme", whose purpose is to monitor coverage of the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended vaccines related to DTP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis), Measles, Pneumococcal conjugate and HPV (Human Papillomavirus). The *UN Global Database* includes three data series for this indicator, referring to the proportion

of the target population covered by 3 doses of DTP (DTP3), measles-containing-vaccine second-dose (MCV2), and pneumococcal conjugate third dose (PCV3). An ideal indicator would be the share of the population which has received all three vaccinations; as this data is not available in the *UN Global Database*, we use the lowest coverage rate of the three vaccinations for each country, which gives the highest possible share of people receiving all three vaccinations.

Using data from the *UN Global Database* may seem straightforward, but requires many decisions along the way. The selection principle used here is the country-coverage criterion, i.e. that data should be available for at least 20 OECD countries, with at least one non-EU member country. Applying this criterion, we identified 217 data series available for 104 indicators from the *UN Global Indicator List*; for 53 of these indicators, the *UN Global Database* includes between 2 and 17 different data series. For these indicators, in order to apply our principle of having only one data series for each indicator in the *UN Global Indicator List*, we selected the most relevant data series for the purpose of the Study. This was done by checking the available data, by consulting with OECD experts or by building a composite indicator based on several series. As an example, for indicator "3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution", the *UN Global Database* includes 6 data series: crude and age standardised mortality rate attributed to ambient, household, and ambient and household air pollution. For the purpose of the Study, OECD experts advised to use the "Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to ambient air pollution", on the grounds that ambient air pollution is more relevant for developed countries, and that the age standardised rate is a better measure for monitoring progress on target 3.9: "By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination".

Availability of data used in this Study differs across countries. Of the 132 indicators selected for the Study, 59 indicators are available for all 36 OECD countries, 47 indicators are available for between 30 to 35 countries, and 26 indicators are available for fewer than 30 countries.

All data used for this Study are sourced from the *UN Global Database* and OECD databases. For OECD data, the selection of data series rested on an extensive consultation with all OECD directorates and programmes in order to identify the most relevant and up-to-date data. Sources were selected based on the following criteria:

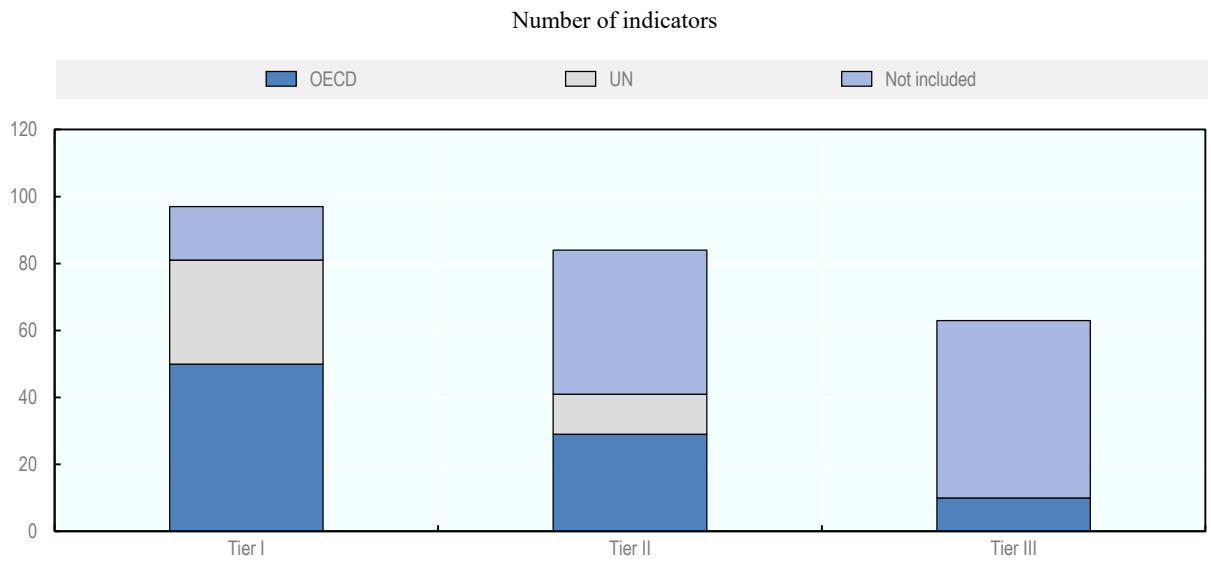
1. The Study uses data from OECD databases that are comparable with the *UN Global Indicator List* definitions when they provide better coverage and precision than the data in the *UN Global Database*. For example, under target 8.2, the indicator for productivity growth is "8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person". This indicator is available in the *UN Global Database*, but OECD data on "annual growth rate of real GDP per hour worked" meet more demanding international statistical standards, using a more precise definition of productivity that is harmonised across OECD countries.[2] This category encompasses 57 of the 132 indicators used in this Study (around 43% of the total).
2. In cases where no comparable OECD data are available, the Study uses the data from the *UN Global Database*. As an example, the indicator on the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population, which is used for monitoring target 2.1 on ending hunger and ensuring access to healthy and safe nutrition, is drawn from the *UN Global Database* and sourced from the Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO), the custodial agency for this indicator. This category includes 43 indicators (i.e. around 33%) of those featured in the Study.

3. When no data are available in the *UN Global Database*, the Study uses OECD data as proxies. For example, indicator "1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age" is used to monitor target 1.2 "By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions". As the *UN Global Database* does not have data satisfying the minimum country requirement applied here (at least 20 OECD countries, not all EU), this Study relies on the OECD series for "relative income poverty rate". This category includes 32 indicators (around 24% of those used in total).

Figure 3.1 shows the distribution of indicators according to their source, presented by the UN tier classification (IAEG-SDGs, 2019[3]).[3] In total, across all tiers, 43 of the indicators used in this Study are drawn from the *UN Global Database* and 89 from OECD databases. Of the 244 indicators (including duplicate indicators) in the *UN Global Indicator List*, data meeting the country-coverage criterion mentioned above are missing for 112 indicators.

**Figure 3.1. Distribution of indicators used in this Study by source and tier**




*Source*: See detailed metadata at www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf and (IAEG-SDGs, 2019[3]), *Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators*, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964203

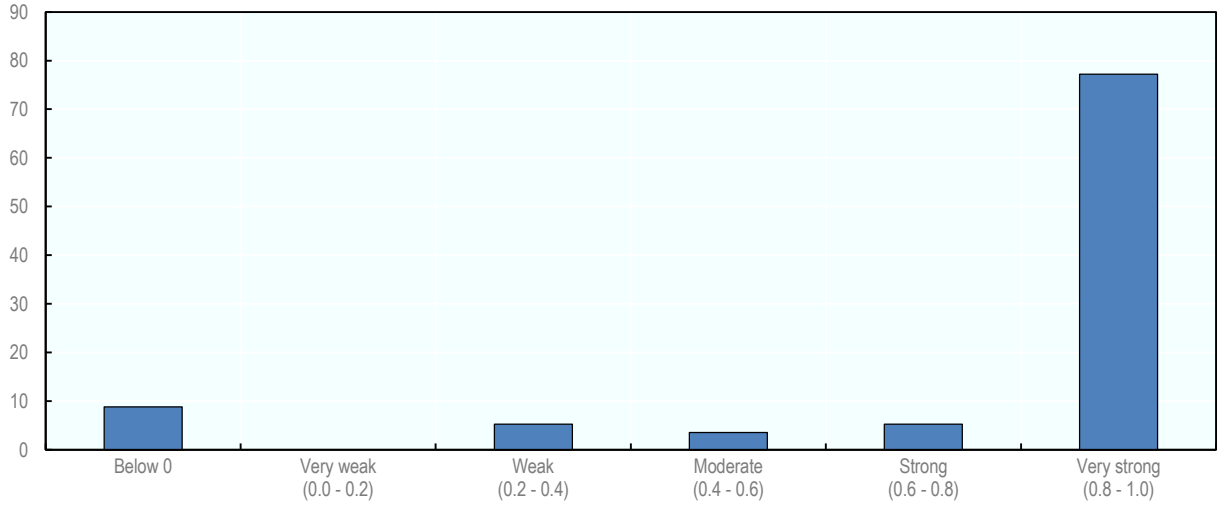
### *3.2.1. How closely correlated are the indicators used in this Study sourced from OECD databases with those in the UN Global Database?*

The indicator selection methodology described above gives preference to established OECD datasets where these are believed to be of higher quality and consistency than those in the *UN Global Database*. To provide some sense of the impact this choice is likely to have on the overall Study findings, Figure 3.2 presents the correlation between indicators computed on the two sources, for all OECD countries with data available in

both sources. More than four-fifths of the indicators from OECD databases have a strong or very strong correlation with those from the *UN Global Database*. The lower correlation observed for some indicators is explained by differences between the data sources, such as different definitions or units of measurement. For example, the UN Global List Indicator 1.a.2 is the "Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)". In OECD data sources, information is available based on this exact definition, whereas the *UN Global Database* provides information only on the proportion of total government spending on education. While the correlation between the two is low (-0.04), OECD data are used as the preferred source since they adhere more closely to the definition specified in the *UN Global Indicator List*.

**Figure 3.2. Correlation between indicators sourced from OECD and UN Global databases**

Share of the 59 Global List indicators that have various strength correlations between OECD and UN data




*Note*: Distribution of the highest correlation (for either Spearman or Pearson coefficients) observed between indicators computed on the bases of OECD and the UN Global databases, for all available data across countries and over time. Correlations (positive and negative) are grouped as "very weak" (0-19), "weak" (20-39), "moderate" (40-59), "strong" (60-79) and "very strong" (80-100) based on Evans' guidelines (Evans, 1996[4]).
*Source*: OECD calculations.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964222

### *3.2.2. Missing data: How do missing indicators and incomplete coverage affect results?*

The indicators used for this Study cover 62% of all the SDG targets across OECD countries, i.e. 105 of the 169 targets are covered in this Study by at least one indicator. However, coverage is uneven across goals, with those pertaining to Health (3), Infrastructure (9) and Education (4) covered best, and those for Oceans (14) and Sustainable Production (12) worst, with only 30% of targets covered (see Figure 1.2 in Chapter 1). This incomplete indicator coverage may lead to misleading conclusions when analysing the results by countries, with possible effects on both the aggregated results and the normalised value used (based on the standard deviation).

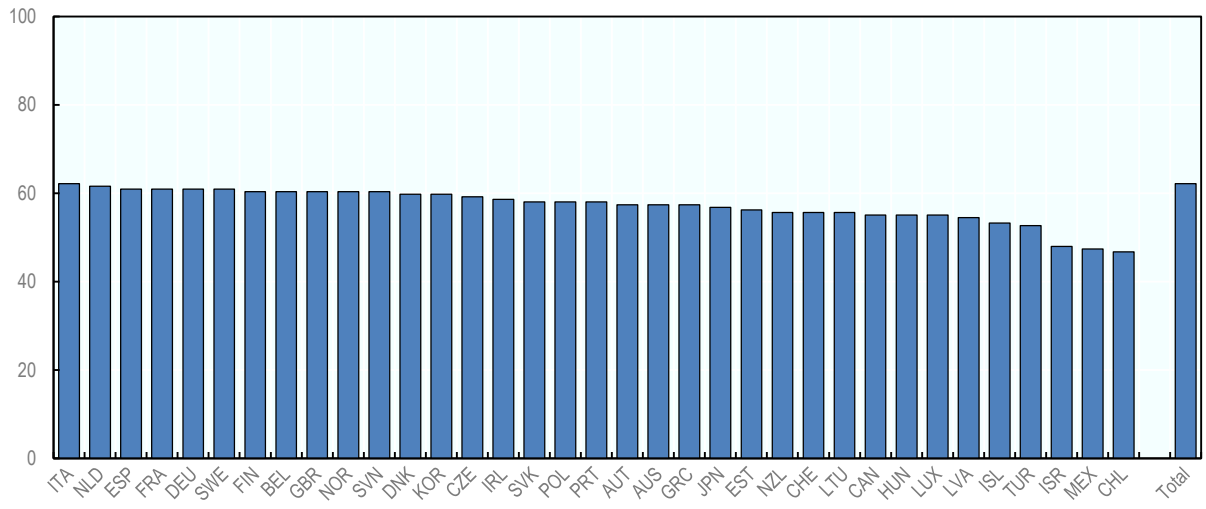
The first effect is due to the aggregation of distances at the goal and 5P level; the fewer the available data for targets pertaining to a specific goal, the greater the uncertainty about the true distances from targets for that goal (see Figure 1.4 in Chapter 1).

The second effect of missing data is the potential for bias when measuring of the standard deviation, which is used for normalisation of distance to target (see next section). For example, if countries that perform similarly on one indicator are overrepresented in the sample, while countries that perform differently are underrepresented, the standard deviation will understate the true dispersion of performance across OECD countries; as a result, both the OECD average value and the distance to target for individual countries will be affected.

Figure 3.3 shows the share of targets assessed in this Study for all OECD countries. At the country level, coverage ranges from 47% of targets covered by at least one indicator in Chile, to 62% coverage in Italy, with an average of 58%. Although this is an improvement in coverage relative to previous editions and to other measurement initiatives, significant data gaps for all OECD countries clearly remain.

**Figure 3.3. Indicators that are missing across OECD countries**

Percentage of targets covered by at least one indicator by country




*Source*: OECD calculations.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964241

## 3.3. Setting target levels

The Study evaluates countries' performance by examining the distance that each OECD country would have to travel in order to achieve each SDG target by 2030. This implies setting a numerical target (end value) for every indicator. Wherever possible, these targets are derived directly from the wording of the SDGs themselves, as, for example, in the case of target 1.1: "By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day". This was possible for 47 of the 132 indicators used in the Study. In five other cases, the targets in the wording of the SDGs relative to the starting position, such as for target 1.2: "By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions". However, for the remaining 80 indicators, targets are not explicitly set by the 2030 Agenda, and must be derived through other methods. To do so, this Study adopts a three-step approach. As a first preference, target

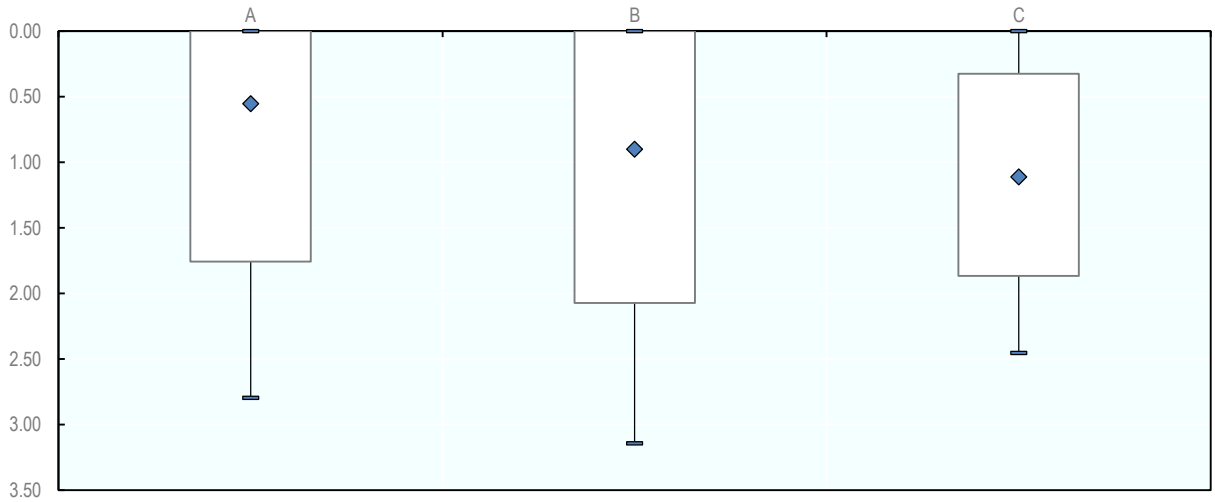
end values are based on international agreements and expert opinion, whether absolute (19) or relative (2) – the sources for these are detailed in the Study metadata.[4] Where this is not possible, but there is still a clear normative direction to the indicator (i.e. higher/lower values of the indicators unambiguously imply better performance), the top-performing OECD countries are used to set a benchmark value (36). Finally, where there is neither international consensus on a target end value nor a clear normative direction to the indicator, then no target end value is set (23), and the indicator is excluded from the normalisation procedure and from the aggregated normalised results presented in Section 1.3.2 of Chapter 1. Instead, average values are detailed in Box 1.3 and Section 1.3.2 under "challenges in measuring distance". These different types of target levels are detailed in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1. Types of targets**

| | Type of target level | Means of setting 2030 end-value | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | SDG-based, absolute target in the future | End-value referred to in SDGs, e.g. infant mortality at 12 per 1 000 lives | 47 |
| A2 | SDG-based, target relative to starting position | End-value referred to in SDGs, e.g. reduce by half the proportion of people living in poverty | 5 |
| B1 | Other international agreement or shared aspirations, absolute target in the future | End-value set by International Agreements, Good Practices or other Established Frameworks, e.g. reduce PM2.5 pollution to less than 10 micrograms per cubic meter (WHO) | 19 |
| B2 | Other international agreement or shared aspirations, target relative to starting position | End-value set by International Agreements, Good Practices or other Established Frameworks, e.g. double the share of renewables in consumption (IRENA) | 2 |
| C | No explicit value; performance benchmarked against OECD top performers | End-value set at the 90th percentile of OECD countries in 2010 | 36 |
| D | No normative direction | | 23 |

In order to examine the implicit level of ambition implied by these different types of targets, Figure 3.4 considers how OECD countries' distances from achieving the target, for each of these three groups of targets, how distributed. The figure shows how targets explicitly set in the Agenda (types A1 and A2) differ in their ambition from those based on current best performers (target type C) and on other international agreements or conventions (target types B1 and B2). For type A targets, the OECD median distance from the target end-values is 0.6 standard deviations (i.e. countries are relatively close, on average, to meeting these targets). For both types B and C, the median distance is greater, respectively at 0.9 and 1.1 standard deviations, and with a different range of scores (with B-type targets having the largest range). This implies that the B- and C-type targets are generally more ambitious than the targets explicitly set in the 2030 Agenda, and that the performances of OECD countries are more diverse in the case of B-type targets compared to A-type targets.

**Figure 3.4. Distribution of distances from SDG targets across OECD countries, by type of targets**




*Note*: The chart shows the distribution of distances across OECD countries. Black dots show the median distance; box boundaries show the first and third quartiles of the distribution of countries' performances, and the whiskers show the 10th and 90th percentiles.
*Source*: OECD calculations.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964260

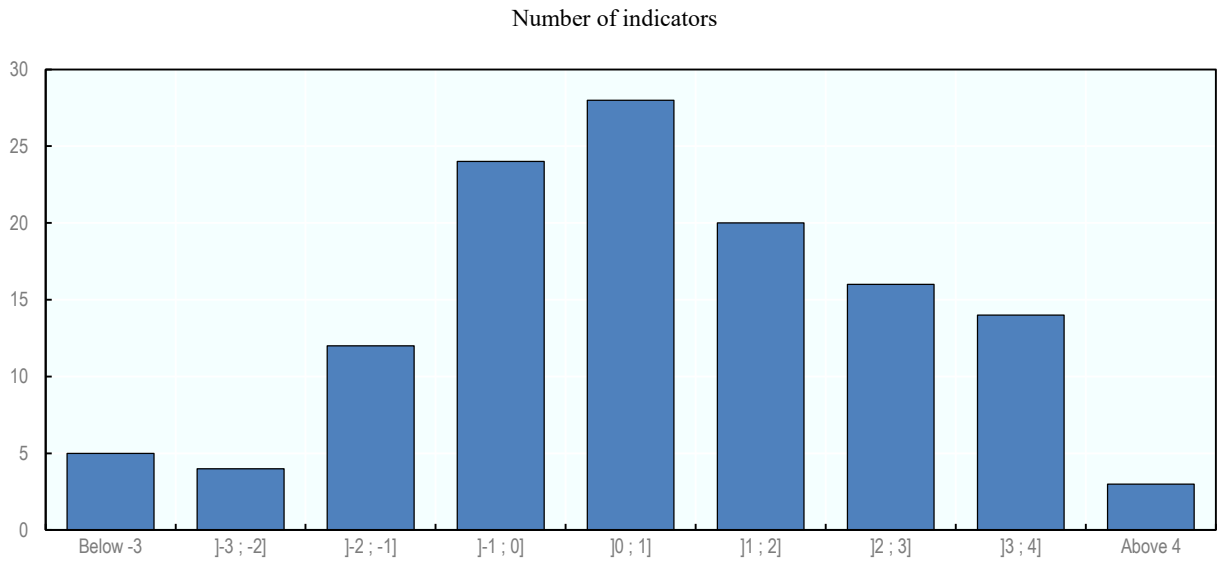
## 3.4. The normalisation procedure

Providing a high-level picture of OECD countries' distances to targets across a vast array of indicators requires a common scale to allow comparison, as the indicators have different measurement units. The overarching objective of normalisation is to allow comparisons across the transformed indicators, such that an extra unit of attainment is of equal value across all indicators and countries, despite differences in current levels of achievement (Jacobs, Smith and Goddard, 2004[5]). In this Study, indicators have been normalised in order to assess the distance to be travelled to achieve the 2030 targets using a modified z-score method (described below). The OECD average distance is the population-weighted average of distances across all countries, using population in 2016 as weights.

Distance to target has been measured as the "standardised difference" between a country's current position and the target end-value. For each indicator, the standardised measurement unit is the standard deviation observed among OECD countries in the latest available year. The underlying assumption, implicit in using the standardisation, is that the group of OECD countries share enough commonalities to make a comparative normalisation method meaningful. When performances are widely spread across countries, the standard deviation is high; suggesting that there is greater scope to improve performance; and conversely it will the standard deviation will be small if all countries have very similar performances. The "standardised distance" from target therefore is inversely related to the distribution of observations – the wider the spread of scores, the larger the standard deviation and the shorter the distance to target, measured in standard deviation units.

When normalising indicators, special consideration should be given to the effect of extreme values, as they may unduly influence the final estimates, i.e. very skewed data might impact the measured distances of all countries. This raises the question of whether the "standardised distance" is a meaningful measure for assessing the distance from achieving the target when data are not normally distributed, i.e. heavily skewed. Several considerations support the choice of the normalisation method used here. First, as discussed in *The Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators* (OECD/EU/JRC, 2008[6]), the effect of skewed data is less pronounced using modified z-scores than with other normalisation procedures such as the ratio-scale.[5] Second, most countries' distances from target are spread across a rather small range (see section 3.4.1), implying that outliers do not have a significant impact. In fact, Figure 3.5 shows that for most indicators used in this Study, skewness is close to zero.

**Figure 3.5. Distribution of skewness in OECD countries' distances to SDG targets**



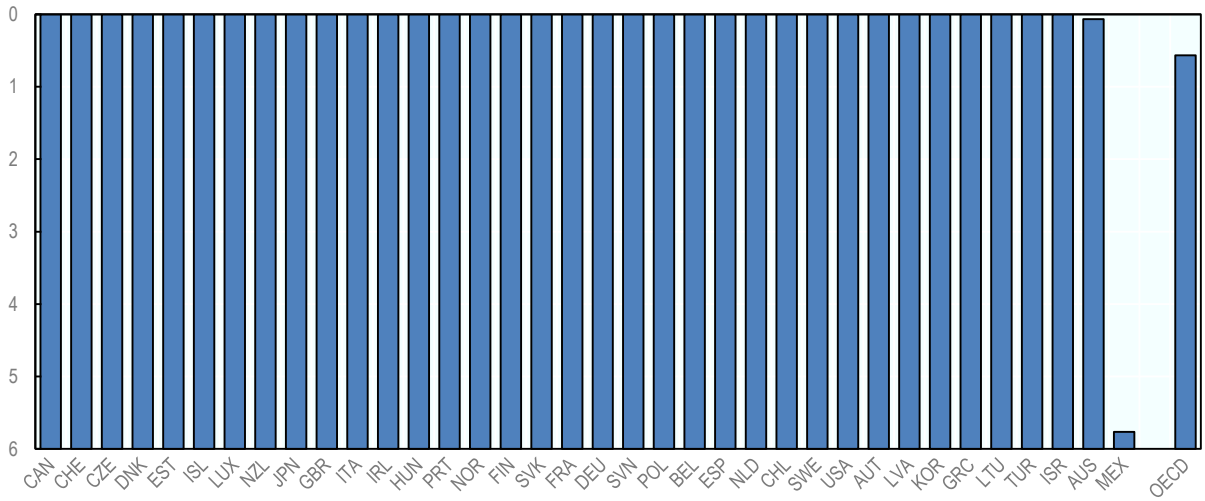

*Note*: Skewness is a measure of asymmetry of a distribution. For a unimodal distribution, negative skew indicates that the tail is on the left side of the distribution, and positive skew indicates that the tail is on the right.
*Source*: OECD calculations.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964279

In order to understand empirically the impact of an "outlier", we assess the sensitivity of the normalisation method used here on one of the most skewed data series included in this Study. Indicator 3.3.5 "Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases" has a relatively skewed distribution, as most OECD countries do not suffer from neglected tropical diseases. For instance, 90% of OECD countries have less than 2.6 people per 100 000 requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases while there are 1 300 cases per 100 000 inhabitants in Mexico. Normalised distances calculated for this indicator, shown in Figure 3.6, reflect this skewness, but still remain within a manageable range (between 0 and 6 standard deviations, see next Section on the distribution of scores). When the outlier country (Mexico) is removed from the dataset, very similar countries' score are observed for almost all OECD countries. The distance would increase by more than 0.1 standard deviations for only three countries (Turkey, Israel and Australia).

**Figure 3.6. Example of skewed distribution of results**

Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (indicator 3.3.5), normalised values




*Note*: Z-scores for individual countries and the OECD average; these z scores range from 5.8 (Mexico) to 0 (most countries have achieved the target).
*Source:* OECD calculations.

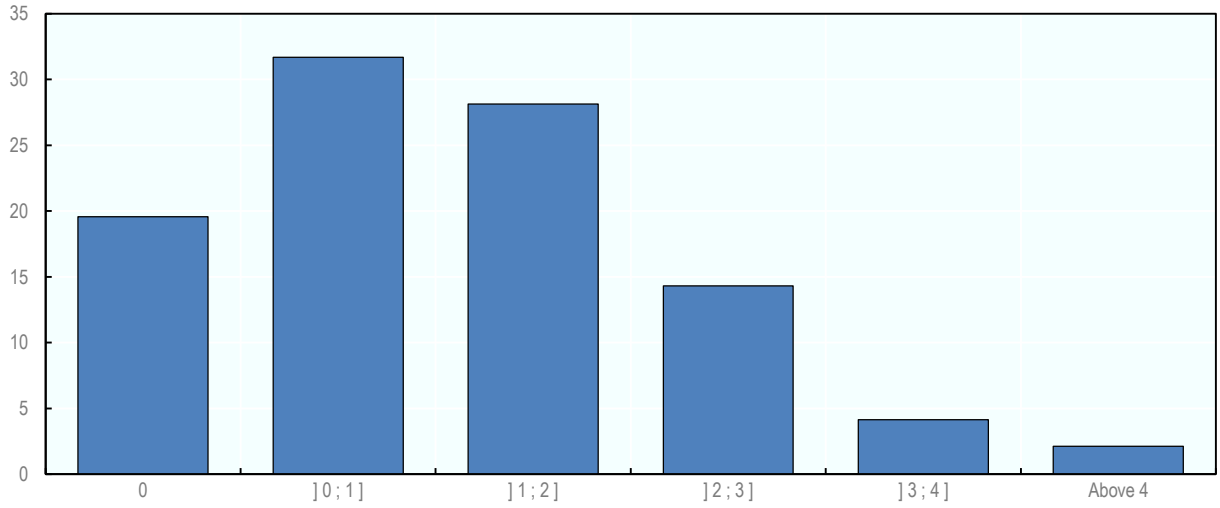
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964298

### *3.4.1. Distribution of OECD countries' distances from targets*

While the modified z-score methodology used for normalising indicators is robust compared to alternatives, it is also useful to look more closely at the distribution of empirical results. As there are no obvious boundaries on possible results from a z-score normalisation, the spread of normalised scores provides an indication of the effects of the methodology of the assessment of countries' position. Figure 3.7 shows that all measured distances from targets fall within a relatively limited range. Indeed, across all OECD countries, almost 95% of them are less than three standardised units away from the 2030 targets.

**Figure 3.7. How OECD countries vary in their distance to SDG targets**

Percentage of scores falling into each category




*Note*: The chart shows the distribution of OECD countries' current distance to target in standardized units for each distance; the y-axis shows the number of indicators and the x-axis shows distance to targets. For instance, 50% of the distances are one standardized unit away from the desirable level of achievement or less. The number of observations is 3 053, i.e. 36 countries times 110 indicators.
*Source*: OECD calculations.

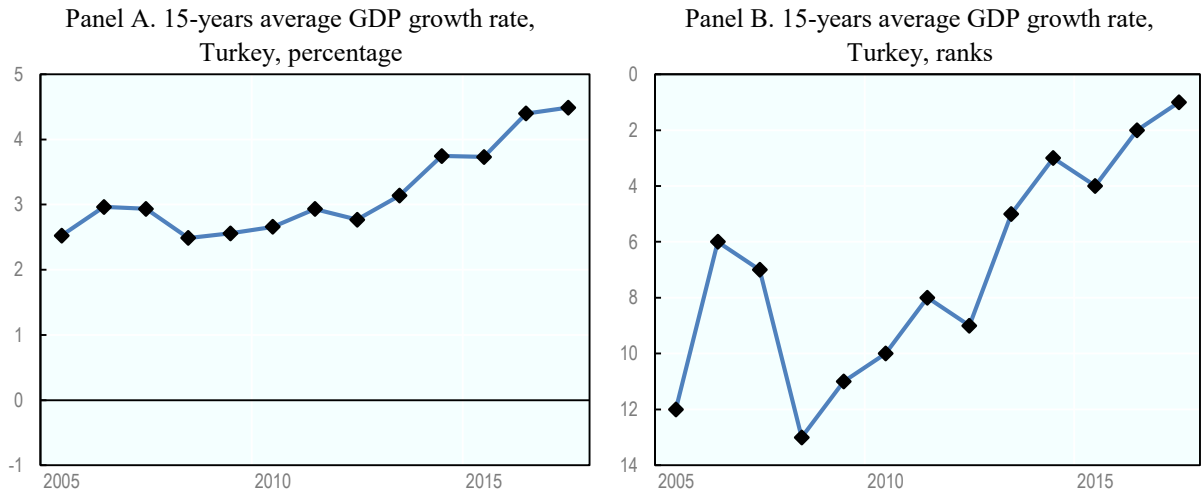
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964317

## 3.5. Measuring trends

As discussed in Section 1.3.3 in Chapter 1, trends are summarised by computing the Spearman (rank) correlation coefficient between the observed values of each indicator (in their original units of measurement) and time (expressed in years). Thus, a significant positive correlation (approaching 1.0) indicates a positive overall trend of the indicator over time, while a significant negative correlation (approaching -1.0) indicates a negative overall trend. Non-significant correlations (around 0) indicate that no consistent trend could be determined over the time period assessed (5 to 10 years). More concretely, the trend is described as a "movement away from the SDG target" if the correlation coefficient (corrected for the normative direction of each indicator) is below -0.20 and significant at the 10% level. The trend is described as a "progress toward SDG targets" if the correlation coefficient is above 0.20 and significant at 10% level. When the coefficient is between -0.20 and 0.20, or when it is not significant, we consider this as "no consistent trend could be identified".

Figures 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10 below illustrate these three different cases, showing different OECD countries' performances for indicator 8.2.1, the 15-year average GDP growth rate measuring performance for target 8.2. For Turkey, the Spearman correlation coefficient between indicator 8.2.1 and time is 0.73 and significant at 10% (see Figure 3.8), and so it is considered as moving towards the target, i.e. a positive trend. The correlation coefficient is -0.97 in Greece and significant at 10% (Figure 3.9), so it is classified as moving away from the SDG target. Finally, as the correlation coefficient for Japan is -0.15 and not significant at 10% (Figure 3.10), the country is considered as belonging to the group "no consistent trend could be identified".

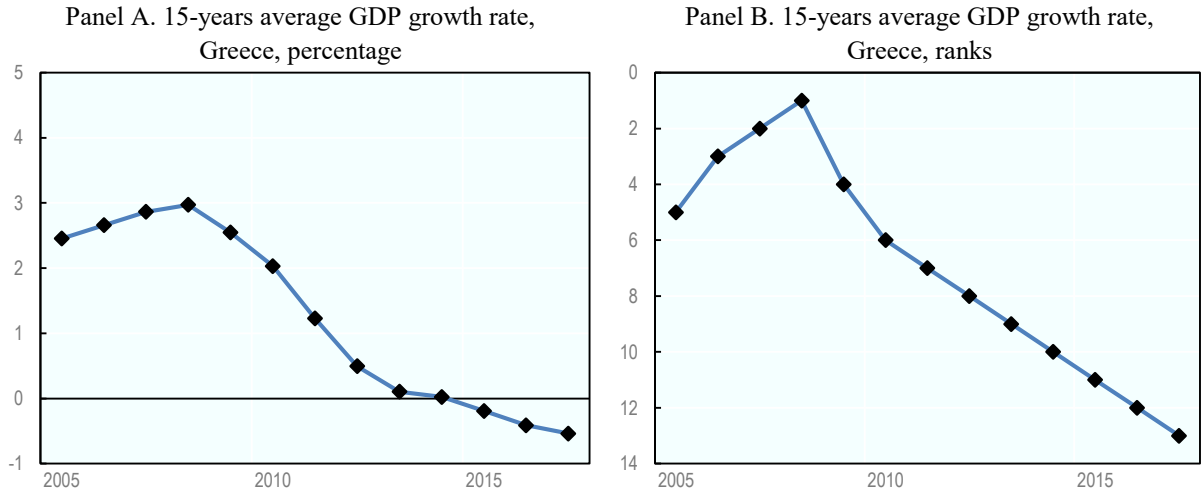
**Figure 3.8. Progress towards the SDG target of GDP growth rates**




*Source:* (OECD, 2017[7]), *OECD National Account Statistics* (database), https://doi.org/10.1787/na-data-en.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964336

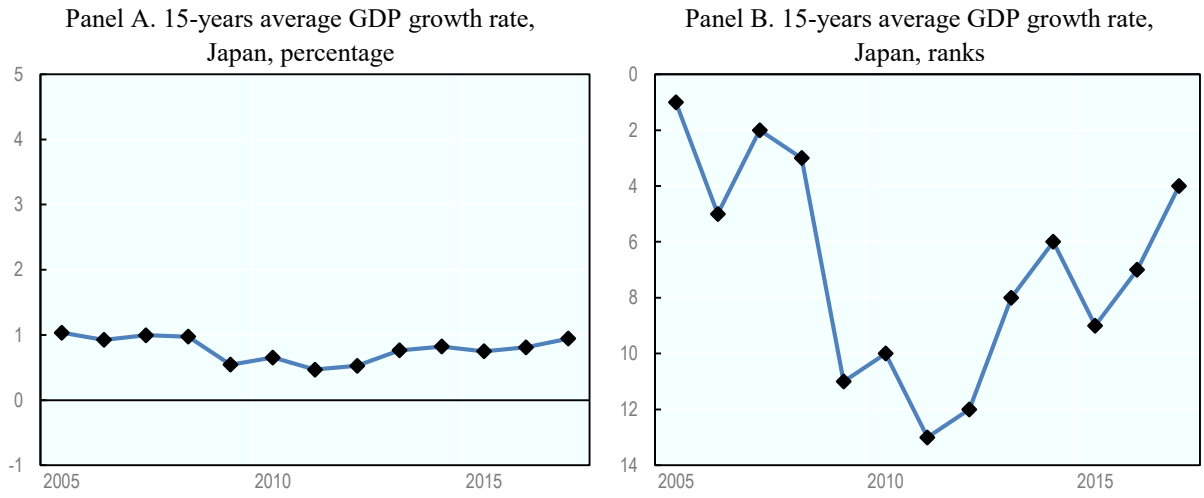
**Figure 3.9. Movement away from the SDG target of GDP growth rates**




*Source:* (OECD, 2017[7]), *OECD National Account Statistics* (database), https://doi.org/10.1787/na-data-en.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964355

**Figure 3.10. No consistent trend identified on the SDG target of GDP growth rates**




*Source:* (OECD, 2017[7]), *OECD National Account Statistics* (database), https://doi.org/10.1787/na-data-en.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933964374

Wherever possible, data series are tracked from 2005 to the latest available year. However, in practice, some of the available time series are shorter (see Annex 1.A for details for each indicator). Thus, the minimum requirements for inclusion in this analysis are at least five years' time-span, with at least three observations over that five-year period.

## 3.6. Measuring OECD countries' performances on SDG transboundary targets

Measuring OECD countries' transboundary effects is a complex undertaking.[6] As a first step in this undertaking, this Study relies on a simplified approach, which rest on identifying which SDG targets are considered as having inherently transboundary components, and how these are covered in the global SDG measurement framework. In addition to relying on the general methodology used in this Study to assess the distance from achieving SDG targets, this approach allows identifying data gaps in the UN Global Indicators standing in the way of measuring the integrated and interdepended nature of the 2030 Agenda.

Transboundary effects could be considered in all situations when any country is affecting any other country, in any way, and at any time. This approach would however presents an unmanageable challenge for measurement, one that cannot be met with the information currently available. This Study relies on a simpler approach. In order to identify which targets of the 2030 Agenda have transboundary elements inherent within them, each target is subjected to a simple test: *If (OECD) country A acts to achieve SDG target X, are these actions likely to have direct effects on other countries, or on a global public good?* This simplification implies that:

- This Study only considers transboundary effects that are embedded within the actions called for by the 2030 Agenda. This means that, to identify transboundary effects, the wording of each of the 169 SDG targets is considered to assess whether countries' individual efforts to meet those targets could have knock-on

effects for other countries' abilities to achieve the SDGs. For example, many of the SDG targets directly call for "international co-operation", or various forms of support to be provided to developing countries. From the perspective of an OECD country, targets that aim to improve outcomes in developing nations are, by definition, transboundary. Thus, the approach used here excludes actions that are not directly envisaged by the wording of the SDG targets themselves (e.g. domestic policies that might have an impact on other countries, such as certain types of subsidies, but are not explicitly mentioned in the SDGs, are not considered as 'transboundary').

- This approach also excludes targets with a universal phrasing, such as target 1.1, which calls for eliminating extreme poverty *for all people, everywhere*. For the purposes of this Study, these targets are considered as domestic commitments, i.e. a target that is up to each country to achieve for their own citizens.[7] In the case of poverty reduction, the global commitment of the Agenda is embodied in "means of implementation" targets, such as target 1.a, which calls for mobilisation of ODA to achieve the goal of eliminating extreme poverty at a global level. Target 1.a is hence considered as transboundary in this Study. Other examples of transboundary targets are that of improving resource efficiency in production and consumption (target 8.4), as countries' actions in this field will directly impact environmental outcomes elsewhere; or reducing the incidence of communicable disease (target 3.3), as actions in this field by a country will directly reduce global communicable disease risk by reducing the probability of exposure.
- Finally, the approach used here considers only the effects that *OECD countries* might have on other countries (whether OECD members or not) or on global public goods, while excluding the transboundary effects associated to actions of non-OECD countries. This choice is driven by the scope of this Study, which is limited to OECD countries.

Applying these decision rules, 97 targets out of all the 169 SDG targets are identified in this Study as having a transboundary component. For each target identified as transboundary, this Study then considers whether the indicators on the *UN Global Indicator List* capture the transboundary nature of the target. The "distance to target" for these indicators are presented in Section 1.3.4 of Chapter 1, as well as a mapping of data gaps for the transboundary targets identified.

## Notes

[1] Using one data series for each indicator means there is only one value for each country for which data are available.

[2] The indicators included in the *UN Global Database* are sometime further from the indicators agreed by the IAEG that can be found in OECD databases. For example, *UN Global List Indicator* 1.a.2 is defined as the "Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)" by the IAEG-SDGs; in OECD data, information is available following this exact definition, whereas the *UN Global Database* only includes data on the proportion of total government spending on education.

[3] As mentioned in Section 1.2 in Chapter 1, the Global Indicator List distinguishes between three categories: briefly, tier I includes indicators which are methodologically established and data are available for most countries, tier II those where methodology is clear but data are not regularly

produced by countries, and tier III those where there is currently no established methodology or standards.

[4] See www.oecd.org/sdd/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metadata.pdf for detailed metadata.

[5] The ratio-scale (Min-Max) is a normalisation method which assigns indicators a range of 0 to 1 by subtracting the minimum value and dividing by the range of the indicator values (OECD/EU/JRC, 2008[6]).

[6] A forthcoming working paper will discuss in detail the challenges of capturing the transboundary effects inherent within the 2030 Agenda, and suggest a methodology to lay the foundations for this work (Shinwell, forthcoming).

[7] Similarly, actions by a country to adequately prepare children for primary education (target 4.2) or to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (target 3.4) are considered as "domestic" (i.e. as having no transboundary element) even if these actions might lead to good practices or new health goods that could bring benefit other countries at some later stage.

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# Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019

## AN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE OECD COUNTRIES STAND

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set a broad and ambitious programme for the world to achieve by 2030. With 17 Goals, underpinned by 169 Targets, the complex and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda presents national governments with huge challenges for implementation. To assist countries, the OECD has developed a unique methodology allowing comparison of progress across SDG goals and targets. Based on the UN Global List of 244 indicators, this study evaluates the distance that OECD countries need to travel to meet SDG targets for which data is currently available. This 2019 edition of the study presents the latest results for OECD countries, both on average and individually, as well as new exploratory approaches to assessing progress over time and transboundary aspects of the SDGs. By providing a high-level overview of countries' strengths and weaknesses in performance across the SDGs, this study aims to support member countries in navigating the SDGs and in setting their own priorities for action within the broad 2030 Agenda.

Consult this publication on line at ***https://doi.org/10.1787/a8caf3fa-en***.

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