Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Sustainable Development Goals in the UK

Student: Abdulai Turay

ID: 2018268

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Lecturer: Rita Ukachi-Lois

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Introduction

Sustainable development means growing in a way to meets the needs of the present without sacrificing the capacity of the future generations to do the same. It's essential for a country's economic, ecological, and social well-being, and it's the driving force behind planning. Simply put, the idea underlines the necessity of ensuring that all people, both now and in the future, can meet their fundamental requirements and enjoy a higher quality of life. (UK Parliament, 2011)

According to George and Eleni (2021), Sustainable development aims to protect the environment by providing economic and social growth and well-being to current and future generations.

17 Sustainable development goals

2015 UN Sustainable Development Conference, 193 of the UN's 193 member states agreed to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are based on the 17 sustainable development goals (also called the Global Goals) and provide an ambitious, globally agreed, shared vision for the kind of world we want to live in.

They include:

Goal 1. End Poverty

The aims are:

- Work with allies to advance a global trading, financial, and economic system for robust, enduring, equitable, and inclusive growth.
- Expand the assistance available to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as you continue to execute the Homelessness Reduction Act.
- Create a more successful society by assisting individuals in finding and advancing in employment.
- Encourage improved working conditions, a more equitable labour market, and more earning potential for all.
- By 2030, work to end excessive poverty and help the world's poorest people access reliable, vital services.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

This goal is to:

- Empower Indigenous Peoples, women, Family Farmers, and Fishers to double their agricultural productivity and incomes by 2030 (UN, 2015). This can be partly achieved by ensuring equal access for all producers to land, other inputs and outputs, knowledge, markets, financial services, and opportunities for value-adding and non-farm jobs.
- Eliminate hunger by 2030 and provide year-round, nutritious food to all, with a particular emphasis on the vulnerable and poor, including children.
- Work to advance healthy lifestyles, put a stop to hunger, preserve human dignity, and foster prosperity. To that end, the Global Financing Facility has been strengthened (Gov.UK, 2021).

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

- By 2030, every woman and man will be able to access health education, family planning reproductive health care, and health care services.
- By 2030, all countries should aim to lower the number of avoidable deaths related to children and infants to at least 12 out of 1000 live births, and the number of children under 5 years old to at least 25 out of 1000.
- The goal also calls for the need to make sure everyone has access to health care, including financial protection, medical treatments, and safe and affordable vaccines.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

- Ensure that primary and secondary primary education is free, and equitable, and produces relevant and useful learning outcomes by 2030.
- Increase the number of young people with vocational and technical skills needed for work, quality jobs, and business by a significant amount by 2030.
- Make sure that all children have access to quality pre-school education by 2030, which prepares them for primary education.
- Eliminate avoidable Child and Infant Mortality by 2030
- Ensure affordable and high-quality education for women and men, including through tertiary education by 2030.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

- Make sure women have equitable access to economic assets, including land, land tenure, finance, legacy, and natural resources in accordance with domestic laws.
- The objective is to eliminate any form of discrimination against women and women's bodies around the world.
- Complete all forms of trafficking and sexual exploitation of girls and women, both in private and public sectors.
- Stop all forms of harmful practices, such as FGM, child marriage, and forced marriages.
- Acknowledging and recognizing the value of unpaid labour and domestic work. by providing government services, infrastructure, and social protection programs.
- Encourage shared responsibility within households and families as needed and appropriate for the country.
- By reducing obstacles that prevent members of underrepresented groups from attaining their full potential at work, we can promote inclusion and diversity in the work market. These include statutory rights, flexibility on the part of employers, and openness.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

By 2030, we aim to:

- Make sure everyone has access to safe, clean, and affordable drinking water.
- To eliminate landfills, reduce the amount of toxic chemicals and materials discharged, and halve the amount of untreated wastewater.
- Complete the eradication of open defecation (ODD) and provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation, particularly for women and girls.
- Engage more people in sanitation and water management.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

- By 2030, everyone in developing countries should be able to get access to energy that's sustainable, with SIDS and LDCs getting special attention for their support programs.
- Improve international collaboration to promote access to renewable energy, fossil fuel, and energy efficiency research and development, including enhanced and cleaner technologies, and to encourage investment in clean technology and infrastructure.
- By 2030, everyone should be able to get access to reliable, modern and affordable energy services. (National Geographic Society, 2022)

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

- Maintain economic growth per head in line with local conditions, with LDCs achieving at least 7% annual GDP growth.
- Improve economic performance through innovation, technological innovation, and diversification, with a focus on high-added value and labour-intensive sectors.
- Provide strong growth and competitiveness throughout the whole of the UK.
- Help UK businesses keep their operations running smoothly by making sure they have contingency plans in place with all the different governments, while also keeping our borders safe and making sure everyone pays their taxes and duties.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

- Explore new fields of science and revolutionize the technological capacities of industries across the globe, especially in developing nations.
- Drive innovation and double the number of R&D employees per million population by 2030.
- Increase private and public research and development spending by encouraging sustainable and inclusive industrialization; by 2030, at least double the share of industry in employment and GDP, depending on national circumstances; and at least double it in LDCs.
- Empower human well-being and economic development through the development of quality, dependable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and international infrastructure.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.

- In order to reduce inequalities, policies must be put in place that promote economic, social, and political inclusion for all.
- Independent of their traits, all people and groups existing in our society must be given equal chances.
- Social exclusion needs to be addressed. It's when people don't have access to things like housing, jobs, health care, or even the chance to vote. Social isolation is one of the many shapes that inequality may take.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

- By 2020, the ambition is to accelerate the development and implementation of integrated policies and strategies, with a priority on equity, effective use of resources, mitigating and adapting to climate change, disaster resilience and fully managing disaster risk at all levels. This is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2020. (Bojie et al., 2019)
- All local resident groups must be included in the creation of the mechanisms for public engagement to accomplish this.
- Creating inclusive, safe, and sustainable cities is the only way to achieve this aim, and it calls for the backing of democratic institutions and effective local government.

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- Utilising resources efficiently, providing universal access to basic services, and maintaining a high standard of living is essential for the long-term sustainability of our societies.
- Implement the 10-Year Framework of Sustainable Production and Consumption Programs with the participation of all nations, with industrialized nations leading the way, and considering the talents and developmental potential of developing countries.
- Realise Sustainable Resource Management (SRM) and Effective Utilisation (EUTU) by 2030. By 2030, reduce food losses across the entire supply and production chain, including after-harvest (FPH) losses, and reduce global food waste by half.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

- Make good on developed countries' promise to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to set aside $100 billion per year by 2020 to support developing countries' efforts to combat climate change and ensure they have the financial means to do so.
- Implement and fully activate the Global Climate Fund as soon as feasible.
- Strengthen global resilience to climate-induced risks and disasters including climate mitigation measures in domestic planning and strategies.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

- In order to maintain a healthy and productive marine environment and coastal ecosystem, it is necessary to sustainably manage and protect.
- Strengthen their resilience and take measures to support their recovery.
- Reduce ocean acidity and address it, such as by enhancing scientific cooperation across all sectors.
- Restore fish stocks to maximum sustainable yield levels in the shortest time possible. This means, ending overfishing, regulating harvesting and other harmful fishing practices, and implementing science-driven management plans.

Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

- Stakeholders need to do everything they can to stop deforestation, fix forests that have been damaged, and encourage more reforestation and replanting around the world.
- Encourage the use of ecological management for all kinds of forests. We also need to tackle desertification and fix land and soil that has been affected by drought, flooding, or desertification.

- To stop poaching and trafficking in protected animals and plants and stop the supply and demand of wildlife goods.
- By 2020, we need to start managing or destroying priority species, stop the spread of invasive species, and drastically reduce their impact on land and water.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- Advance the principles of due process of law at both domestic and international levels and guarantee equitable justice for all.
- Cut down illicit funds and weapons transfers by 80% by 2030.
- Strengthen efforts to recover and return stolen assets.
- Reduce corruption in all its forms.
- Create transparent and accountable institutions that are effective.
- Make decision-making inclusive, responsive, and representative at all levels.

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

This is about collaborations and strengthening the means of implementation through:

- The objective is to enhance the collection of domestic taxes and other revenue by increasing the mobilization of domestic resources, particularly through international assistance to developing countries.
- Support the development, implementation, distribution, and use of green technologies in developing countries under concessional and preferential conditions as agreed.
- Support the WTO Doha Development Agenda and a global, open, fair, rules-based, and inclusive multilateral trade system.

Goals 3, 4 and 17

The three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to make sure everyone can live a healthy life and be happy at any age, make sure everyone has access to top-notch education, and promote international collaboration to help everyone get the education they need to succeed in life.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

This goal is to:

Ensure that developing countries can take full advantage of the flexibility provided by TRIPS and the Doha Declaration regarding trade-related intellectual property rights. Promote research and development of vaccines and medicinal products for diseases that affect developing countries. Ensure access to essential medications and vaccines at reasonable prices.

Help boost health spending and train, educate, and retain medical personnel in developing countries, particularly in the least developed and small island developing countries.

Reduce fatalities and injuries in road traffic accidents by 50% by 2020.

Make family planning available to everyone, reproductive health information accessible to everyone, and education accessible to everyone by 2030.

Make reproductive health mainstream in national policies and programs.

Make universal health coverage affordable, safe, reliable, high-quality, and affordable.

Make sure everyone has access to financial risk protection, basic healthcare services, essential medications, and vaccinations.

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of illnesses and deaths caused by harmful substances, pollution, and contamination of air, water, and soil. Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention. (UN, 2023)

How will the UK achieve this:

Strengthen the capacity of all countries, especially developing countries, to respond to national and global health threats through early detection, prevention, and management.

Encourage young people's character, resilience, and well-being at schools and colleges. Improve health and wellbeing through fostering connections between individuals and their environment, as demonstrated by the Children and Nature Programme with DfE and the Mental Health Programme with Public Health England and NHS England.

Ensure public safety, promote world health, and manage international relations, especially the EU withdrawal and maintaining the change of local government public health and adult social services, as well as primary, community, and mental health services in the NHS.

Empower the NHS to deliver world-class, sustainable hospital services while recruiting the right staff.

The Department of Justice and NHS England will work together to make sure that all those who have been convicted of a crime get the help they need when it comes to mental health or addiction.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

As one of the most important SDGs, Governments around the world are aiming to:

To create a society that is tranquil and prosperous, it is necessary to make sure that everyone has access to high-quality education. With the knowledge and skills that come with education, people can keep their health, find jobs, and promote tolerance.

Only 20% of nations made considerable efforts to offer more mental health and psychosocial support to students following the start of classes.

In most countries, there's still a gap between men and women when it comes to the number of kids who meet the minimum reading skills and the number of students who complete high school.

Across the world, more than one-quarter of elementary schools in 2020 did not have access to basic services such as electricity, potable water, and basic sanitary facilities. About half of elementary schools (50%) had access to ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) facilities and accessible infrastructure.

A variety of educators were trained to ensure:

Ensure by 2030 that all students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to sustainable development, including through education on sustainable living, gender mainstreaming, human rights, and the promotion of peace and non-violence. Students

should also learn about global citizenship respect for cultural diversity and the role of culture in promoting sustainability.

Improve and enhance learning environments that are safe, peaceful, inclusive, and effective for all students in child, disability, and gender-sensitive schools.

Increase the number of scholarships by 2020 for higher education enrolment in developing countries, especially LDCs and African countries, covering TEC (Technical, Engineering, and Scientific) programs in developed and developing countries and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) programs.

The UK is taking the following actions:

Deliver T Levels as the benchmark for technical and professional excellence to guarantee that our youth can access a top-notch education no matter what path they pick.

By continuing to address the core causes of digital exclusion and enhancing digital capabilities, promote digital skills and inclusion.

Encourage a diverse and welcoming culture throughout the defence industry so that everyone may realize their potential and the armed services can better represent the society they serve.

Utilize the new prison education reforms effectively and complete the New Futures Network deployment to increase the number of convicts enrolled in school or working throughout their sentences, improving career prospects after release.

Show global leadership in girls' education, which is essential for growth in a number of nations. For example, continue to lead the cross-government global girls' education campaign, Leave No Girl Behind, in collaboration with the FCO.

To guarantee that schools can help students who are at danger of exclusion and that they have access to high-quality education following exclusion, it is important to execute the promises made in response to the Timpson Review. This will improve the educational results for disadvantaged children and young people.

Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Goal 17 is about reviving international collaboration for sustainable development. The 2030 agenda is global and calls for action from rich and poor countries to make sure no one gets left behind. Public-business-civic partnerships are essential. A strong commitment to international cooperation and partnership is the only way to achieve the SDGs.To be effective, everyone must mobilize both current and new resources, and wealthy nations must adhere to their pledges to provide formal development aid.

They include:

1. **Technology:** Strengthen collaboration between North, South, and South-East regions and across the globe in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation. Improve coordination between existing mechanisms, especially at the United Nations, and create a global Technology Facilitation System. Promote the use of eco-friendly technology and its transfer, dissemination, and distribution to developing countries on favourable terms, such as preferential and concessional conditions, as agreed upon. Fully launch the Technology Bank and the framework for LDCs to expand their capabilities in science, tech, and innovation.
2. **Finance:** Empower developing countries to build sustainable debt by coordinating policies that promote debt finance, debt restructuring, and debt relief where

appropriate, and manage the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce their financial burden.

3. **Trade:** Urge the WTO to create a global, rule-based, inclusive, non-discrimination, and fair multilateral trading regime, by concluding negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. Implement measures to significantly increase exports from developing countries, particularly with a focus on doubling the export share of LDCs.
4. **Capacity Building:** Help national strategies to achieve all the SDGs and reinforce global support for effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries, particularly through north-south, south-south, and tripartite cooperation.

SDGS in Bristol and Southwark Councils

Bristol City Council is the governing body for Bristol, England. It's a unitary authority and is unique in the UK in that its executive is managed by a directly elected mayor. There are 34 wards in Bristol, with 70 elected councillors.

Southwark is a young, varied, and quickly expanding borough, it is home to many young adults and people of all racial and cultural backgrounds. Health and welfare, education have significantly improved throughout the borough in recent years.

To meet its SDG on education, Bristol has taken several initiatives to increase higher education participation from a wider range of socio-economic backgrounds, including contextual offers, where candidates from lower-represented backgrounds are invited to apply with a minimum of two grades below the standard requirements. (UN, 2022)

Bristol did not meet the regional or national average for a number of educational indicators in 2019. In the early years education category, the proportion of children aged under five years who achieved the expected level of development was 69.6%, slightly lower than the England average (70.7%). At the GCSE level, the proportion of pupils in Bristol who achieved a pass in English and Mathematics was 59.4%, also lower than the national average of 65.9%.

In Bristol, the proportion of young people going on to higher education is 31.6%, compared to the UK average of 42.2%. South Bristol has the lowest rate of participation, at 22.3%. This includes three of the five worst-performing boroughs in England. However, the proportion of the Bristol population with a higher education degree has increased since 2018, to 56.5%, in 2021, compared to 43.6% for the UK. The proportion of adults who went into education or training over the past four weeks has fallen from 13.6%, in 2020, to 13.4%, in 2019. (UN, 2022)

Southwark Council's schools are all Ofsted rated as either good or outstanding. However, this has not always been the case, and just over a decade ago our schools were ranked 4th out of London's authorities against this measure. There are a number of factors that have contributed to this school improvement transformation, including the efforts of our teachers, governors, pupils, and parents, as well as our own school improvement work. The council has also invested in school buildings, which has resulted in a stunning refurbishment of buildings and a much-improved learning environment that lifts the minds and aspirations of all those in it.

However, Southwark Council is doing well in meeting its SDG in education compared to Bristol. There are 72 publicly funded primary schools in Southwark with reception classes today. They have got 924 extra Reception places and 5,850 extra places across the whole primary school system.

The project plan that is in line with this strategy document offers a coordinated strategy for the entire borough, enabling the admissions process to support any pupil place movement across

schools in a way that is managed efficiently for kids and families. This will allow the number of schools to match capacity.

To avoid disruption and hardship to children, families, communities, and staff, this plan suggests implementing changes all at once. As a result, if a school transfer is necessary, it will only be necessary once. By doing so, families will be able to plan for and find an alternate school for their children as well as assist school-based employees in looking for re-deployment options. (Southwark Council, 2023)

UK Policies

The UK signed up for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, along with all the other countries around the world. The SDGs set out to end poverty by 2030, reduce inequality, fight climate change, and protect the environment. But with just seven years left and halfway to the 2030 goals, the UK isn't quite there yet.

The UK, for example, to reduced food waste by around 15% since 2007, but is currently at a critical point when it comes to access to food and healthy food, which is set to worsen over the next few months. In England, one in every four reception-aged children and two in every five sixth graders are now overweight/obese (Targets 16.2 and 17.4), meaning there's been a dramatic rise in childhood obesity in just the past year. (Global Compact Network UK, 2023)

Recommendation

- Reconcile and reinstate financial commitments (0.7%) for global health, including ambitious financing for the implementation of its policies to end preventable deaths and strengthen health systems, based on the principles of listening and being led by people who have lived with health inequities. (Bond, 2022)
- All funding initiatives must be based on the principle that education is a public benefit and should be based on the principles of equity, excellence, and inclusion. This includes providing free, publicly supported education for a period of 12 years. (Bond, 2021)
- encourages countries to create comprehensive national evaluation systems, enhance existing ones, or both, and plan to take part in regional or international learning evaluations.
- In accordance with national goals, the UK should make sure that all health ODA supports robust, resilient health systems, especially community health systems. It should greatly increase the assistance provided to nations to help them create, fund, and implement long-term human resource plans for health. (Bond, 2021)
- Reduce rough sleeping by improving prevention and crisis intervention and reduce homelessness by giving local authorities the power to enforce their laws.

Conclusion

The 17 SDGs were adopted with the intention of addressing major social, economic, and environmental issues while fostering sustainable development in both developed and developing countries. As a result, the goals focus on problems that have a big effect on people's lives and well-being. The adoption of the 17 SDGs, which are intended to produce major effects by 2030, has set the globe on a more sustainable trajectory since 2015.

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