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INTRODUCTION

This is a health and well-being consultant's report, and it will look at the 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, and how they are being applied in the United Kingdom in general and the city of London, with emphasis on goals 3, 4, and 17 and local policies attached to them.

In September 2015, at its summit, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a time frame of fifteen years within which they will be met from the year 2015 to 2030 (UN, 2022).

These Goals replaced the previous agenda which was branded Millennium Development Goals which was operated from the year 2000 to 2015. All members of the UN appended their signatures to the SDG agenda. The main crux of the SDG agenda has the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which made a clarion call to all member nations to act towards achieving a global partnership (UN, 2022).

These goals enjoin all nations both poor, middle-income, and rich to contribute to the promotion of prosperity while at the same time protecting the earth. Poverty eradication must go simultaneously with other plans to enhance economic growth and tackle other facets of social needs, such as education, job opportunities, health, and social protection, like fighting inequalities, as well as climate change and protection of the environment. They also laid out modalities on how to handle the post-pandemic recovery (UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2022)

The SDGs are intended to improve upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Though the implementation of these SDGs is not made to be compulsory in member countries, they are expected to fashion out how they will go about achieving them in their respective countries. All the goals are to be qualitatively pursued, and made accessible, with timely data collection (UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2022).

The SDGs accepted the fact that poverty and different deprivations must be tackled simultaneously with plans that would aim at advancing health and education, reducing inequality, and kickstarting economic growth, and at the same time fixing climate change issues and handling the oceans and afforestation (UN, 2022)

The UK has performed so well in meeting these 17 sustainable goals but has performed exceptionally in meeting the targets of Goals 3, 4, and 17.

A brief discussion of the 17 goals

Insights into the seventeen goals are as follows.

Goal 1: Its main target is to eradicate poverty in all its ramifications universally. Presently, 10% of the world's population is unable to afford basic needs, such as health, education, good sanitation, and potable water (UN SDG, 2022).

Goal 2: Aim at eradicating hunger by working to attain food security backed by improved nutrition and encouraging agriculture all over the globe. To this end, it aims to eliminate all facets of hunger by the year 2030 (DHSC, 2021).

Goal 3: This looks at good health and well-being. The aim of this goal is to increase life expectancy and to reduce child and maternal mortality especially, the reduction of communicable and non-communicable diseases (DHSC, 2021).

Goal 4: Quality education: To make education equitable and inclusive and create lifelong opportunities for learning that last a lifetime, by providing equal access to boys and girls aimed at achieving universal access to quality tertiary education (UN SDG, 2022).

Goal 5: Gender equality: This targets the empowerment of women and girls by aiming to grant women equal opportunities, it also focuses on eliminating sexual violence and exploitation of women (UN SDG, 2022).

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation: This aims at making water available for everyone and creating good sanitation for everyone. This is important because 2.2 billion people in the world do not have access to portable drinking water (UN SDG, 2022).

Goal 7: Affordable, reliable, and clean energy: Providing cheap, clean, and guaranteed electricity to as many people as possible in the world. Between the years 2000 and 2018, the percentage of the world population with access to electricity increased from 70% to 90% (UN SDG, 2022).

The SDGs went further with Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth: Encouraging economic growth that is both inclusive and sustainable (DHSC, 2021).

Goal 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure: Aim at creating innovation, setting up very durable infrastructure, and projecting industrialisation that is inclusive (UNDP SDG, 2022).

Goal 10: Minimising inequalities: Inequalities in the world are growing by leaps and bounds and hampering sustainable development and the efforts to curb poverty within many countries and among countries (UNDP SDG, 2022).

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities: This goal aims to create sustainable, safe, and inclusive human habitats and cities. By creating adequate, decent, and cheap houses in a bid to eradicate slums. It is tailored toward underdeveloped countries to help them build standard and durable houses (Agora, 2022).

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production patterns: It aims to maintain production and consumption patterns. It encouraged recycling and waste reduction and created a means for people everywhere to have access to basic information. It also envisaged the efficient application of natural resources and their sustainable management (Agora, 2022).

Goal 13: Climate action: It looks at the ability of countries to adapt and face hazards and natural disasters related to changing climate. It encourages countries to add climate change measures as part of their policies, strategies, and planning. It also accepts that the United Nations framework on climate change is the main avenue for tackling the global reaction to climate change (UNDP SDG, 2022).

Goal 14: Life below water: This targets the reduction of all kinds of pollution in the seas. It also targets the reduction of impacts of acidification of the ocean and the regulation of fish harvesting and dangerous fishing practices (UNDP SDG, 2022).

Goal 15: Life on land: It aims to protect our natural environment like the air we breathe, our weather, crop pollination, and food production. It looks at the issue of deforestation and desertification which have emanated from human activities and changing climate (DHSC, 2021).

Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions: This aims to push for a just, peaceful, and inclusive society. Wars, insecurity, and denial of justice have remained a threat to sustainable development. As of 2018, 70 million people were known to be fleeing from war and persecution all over the world. Killings and the disappearance of persons becomes too regular all over the world. One-fifth of deliveries around the world are not recorded, thereby denying proof of identity and protection of their rights (DHSC, 2021).

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals: This emphasises the need for a strong partnership and cooperation to achieve its set goals. These partnerships are needed at global, regional, national, and local levels. Developed countries need to cooperate with weaker countries to achieve these sustainable development goals (DHSC, 2021).

Detailed Discussion of goals 3, 4, and 17

SDG 3: To strive towards achieving healthy lives and promoting wellness for all ages: This goal focuses on reducing the maternal mortality rate, it also aims at ending preventable deaths of new-borns and children. The elimination of the AIDS epidemic, tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases that are communicable in nature. Reducing mortality from non-communicable diseases is also part of the goal and it also strongly pursues drug abuse eradication and treatment. Reduction of deaths and injuries because of road traffic accidents also targeted access to quality health care at no cost and sexual and reproductive health care. Deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution are also among the targets aimed at being reduced (SDG Tracker, 2018).

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) works towards maintaining a high standard in the UK's health and care system. It aims to eradicate homelessness by supporting local governments to meet up with responsibilities in their locality (DHSC, 2021)

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all: This goal looks at various aspects of education embedded in 10 targets. Seven out of these ten outcomes are expected outcomes while three of them are avenues through which these targets will be achieved. The seven outcomes are 4.1) Free and qualitative education from primary through secondary school. 4.2) Ensuring every boy and girl can access free and quality one-year pre-primary education to make them ready for primary school. 4.3) Creating equal opportunities for both males and females to access vocational and technical education up to the university level for both young and old by the year 2030. 4.4) Increase the number of people with relevant skills for decent work: Increase the number of people both young and old who have the required technical and vocational skills in delivering decent jobs and enterprise by 2030 (UNESCO, 2021). 4.5) Eliminate all discrimination in education: Removing discrimination based on gender in education and make access to education open to everyone including disabled people, indigenous and other

people who are vulnerable, allowing women to be part of leadership and decision-making, eradicating forced marriages and female genital mutilation by the year 2030 (Global Goals, 2022) 4.6) Universal youth literacy: This aims to make a large percentage of adults comprising men and women are literate and all youths by the year 2030. 4.7) Education for sustainable development and global citizenship: To make sure that every learner gets the skills and knowledge that will enhance development, which will include acquiring an education that advances sustainable development and lifestyle, human rights, gender equality advancing a culture of peace and nonviolence, building a concept of world citizenship and recognition of cultural diversity and its contribution towards sustainable development. There are additional three targets to bring these goals to fruition; Target 4a: To establish and improve inclusive and safe schools. Target 4b: Expand education scholarships for developing countries. Target 4c: Increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries (UNESCO, 2022).

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals: This goal emphasises the need for an international alliance for sustainable development. It points out the significance of global macroeconomic stability and the need to raise financial resources for developing countries from international sources and build up effective domestic revenue-collecting modalities Additionally, it emphasises the importance of trade for developing countries and the necessity for fair trade regulations (Eurostat, 2022).

It also points out the importance of access to science, technology, and innovation information derived from the internet. SDG 17 ideally looks at various sectors and international interaction, and how it can be enhanced through cooperation tailored towards achieving the entire SDGs by the year 2030. These partnerships are established based on principles and values, shared perception, and goals that sees the planet as their centrepiece, and this is needed at the local, regional, and national levels (Eurostat, 2022).

UK policies and initiatives identified to meet SDGs 3, 4, and 17:

The UK government has put in place, public health initiatives that are tailored towards reducing the incidents of health inequalities in the country. One such initiative is the Place-based approach in public health, which looked at the causes of health inequalities (GOV.UK, 2021)

In achieving SDG 3; the UK government among other actions has been spending 20% of its public service spending on healthcare. It has tackled the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health challenges on the population like the case of obesity, which is being tackled with the establishment of the office of health promotion (DHSC, 2021)

The second priority the government has faced in the health sector has been the provision of high-quality and sustainable care, promptly and at the appropriate place through the improvement of facilities and modernizing technology (DHSC, 2021). In this direction, the NHS is being supported to deliver on its Cancer Strategy and Long Term Plan cancer by improving its early diagnosis and treatment, with the aim of improving cancer survival with 75% of cases being diagnosed as early as stages 1 and 2, this targets SDG 3.4 (DHSC, 2021)

The third priority is to have a well-supported workforce to help improve healthcare outcomes. This will target funding, staffing, issues of inequalities, and pressure emanating from a growing elderly population. This could be done by employing more staff for the NHS and improving equality and opportunities for NHS staff of diverse backgrounds (DHSC, 2021).

The fourth priority is to protect, improve and level the health of the nation, which will include the reduction of disparities in health. This will help to create a population that is socially and economically active, thereby reducing the pressure on the NHS and the economy (DHSC, 2021).

Achieving SDG 4; Various initiatives were implemented such as pushing up economic growth with an emphasis on improving the skills pipeline, supporting people to work, and improving and levelling up productivity. It is also aiming at levelling standards of education by making sure children and young people all over the UK get the skills, knowledge, and qualifications needed. Giving quality services locally to vulnerable and disadvantaged children in order not to leave them behind (Department for Education, 2021).

The government is also to provide quality education at nursery and kindergarten ages and raise standards for childcare. It also plans to improve the status of technical and higher education as an alternative to an A-levels certificate in gaining admission into the university for a three-year course. Increasing the apprenticeship process to help in curbing the rate of unemployment. Creating more opportunities for adults and young people to get further education by training and retraining them (Department for Education, 2021).

Archiving SDG 17; the UK government showed its seriousness to consolidate, implement and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development by creating the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office in 2020. The office will see the interest of the UK as a positive force in the world. It will be at the vanguard for all UK's international efforts, in areas of achieving greater impact through diplomacy. The office will respond swiftly to crises such as humanitarian disasters overseas and those that affect the welfare of British citizens overseas. It will also promote human rights and democracy through the establishment of common international standards (Department for Education, 2021).

The city of London

This report will, in addition, be looking at the city of London and how it has been able to apply the SDGs in its domain. The city has set up the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC). This commission has the responsibility to promote sustainable development in London. It also offers suggestions on sustainable ways of London-wide strategies. The city of London is credited with having the fifth largest economy among cities in the world and its economy contributes about 22.7 per cent of the total output of the UK's economic output (Manuel, 2018).

The city of London has a population of 8.79 million and it is the third largest city in Europe. Life expectancy in London after the Covid-19 pandemic became 78.8 years for men and 83.4 years for women, which came up to a decrease of 2.5 for men and 1.6 for women. This large population size is being fuelled by immigration and the internal migration of young professionals (UK Population Data, 2021). This large population shows that the commission has a herculean task on its hands.

The city of London and UN Sustainable Development Goals

The London Sustainable Development Commission:

The city of London in England is at the forefront of the execution of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and it has gone ahead to create The London Sustainable Development Commission. This commission was created in 2002 and has been a vehicle through which the city plans to advance sustainable development and to help the city become a perfect example of big-city sustainability (LSDC, 2022).

London's policies related to SDGs 3, 4 & 17.

SDG3: The city of London has put in place the London Health Inequalities Strategy (HIS) Implementation plan 2021-24. London takes health very seriously and accepts the fact that it affects the well-being, ability to study, relationships, work, etc. of the community. This strategy plans that every person living in London should be lifelong, and in good health. It also attempts to correct the unjust and enshrined lopsided differences in health between various groups of people (London Assembly, 2021). It looked at the following:

- A) Healthy Children: Every child in London should have a healthy start in life.
- B) Healthy places: Londoners should live in environments and economy that helps in attaining good mental and physical health.
- C) Healthy Communities: The various London communities are doing well and healthy.
- D) Healthy Living: It is the right of every Londoner to live healthily. By cleaning up the polluted London air with the Ultra Low Emission Zone (London Assembly, 2021).

SDG4: The City of London has put in place some education policies through The Department of Education (DFE), among the policies are:

- A) Fair Access Protocol: This policy made it possible for children to access education very fast and for the most vulnerable ones of primary school age (City of London Corporation, 2022).
- B) Transport Policy: this provides transport for students aged between 16-18 and those between 19-25. It stated that no student should be debarred from education because of transportation (City of London Corporation, 2022).
- C) Safeguarding Policy: This gives guidance to London City staff, and individuals on the protection of children, young people, and adults who may be at risk in relation to their work (City of London Corporation, 2022).
- D) London's Child Obesity Task Force: It has been observed that 40% of children in London are obese, or overweight, but the areas with the highest numbers are found in areas that are deprived. This action is supported strongly by Organisations, such as Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, backed by Public Health England (PHE) and the Association of Directors of Public Health London (ADPH London), and the Association of Directors of Children's Services London (ADCS). T (City of London Corporation, 2022).

SDG17: London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP): This is an enterprise partnership for the city of London. It aims at discovering crucial drives to support and enhance economic growth and the creation of jobs in London. London's Mayor is the chairman of LEAP with other members being nominated by the various London councils (London Councils, 2022)

The London Resilience Partnership:

This is a group of partner organisations that have common interests and are inspired by the action of the Civil Contingencies Act. The Partnership members are made up of public and private sector institutions, such as the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, and transport operators (London Resilience Group, 2022)

The London Resilience Partnership creates a forum for institutions and communities to corporate with one another to prevent, manage and recover and learn from disruption, and adjust to change. Disruptions such as severe shocks could emanate from such incidents as storms, a major fire outbreak, flooding, or a terrorist attack. The resilience partnership is tailored towards reacting to emergencies. They make sure that an arrangement is always in place to respond to acute shocks. They prepare for short-term stresses or emergencies.

The City Resilience Strategy:

This team was set up as a part of the Global Resilience Cities Network, (its former nomenclature was 100 Cities). Its work is to alleviate chronic stresses caused by issues like climate change or social change. It aims at adapting and dealing with long-term stresses confronting the city up to the year 2050, which are mostly handled through policies. Its target is to develop the resilience of the city of London to be able to withstand stress and challenges by being ready to thrive and adapt to the challenges of the future.

Mitigating influences against the execution of the SDGs in London.

1. Social inequality in London, can be noticed with the ever-growing gap between the rich and the poor and making access to housing very inaccessible. The disparities

between London boroughs when it comes to disposable income are very glaring and recent data came up with the scary picture of two in five children living in poverty in the city of London (UNA-UK, 2018).

2. The issue of London's high carbon emissions has been going down, but there is still much room for this to continue to meet up with the set standard of the Paris Agreement (UNA-UK, 2018).
3. 3. Health inequalities: From 2018 to 2020, female life expectancy at birth in deprived areas of London and all of England was 19.3 years lower than that of the least impoverished areas, while male life expectancy was 18.6 years lower. (ONS, 2021).
4. Between 2018 and 2020, the average life expectancy for men without disabilities was 17.6 years at birth, which was lower than the average life expectancy for women (16.8 years less). (ONS, 2021).

Comparison between London and other cities:

Comparing how the city of London with other cities has been able to meet up in the execution of the SDGs is very difficult because the basis of indicators used for the comparison is quite different. As a result of this, cities are not able to compare to see where they can learn from each other (UNA-UK, 2021).

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Recommendations:

Health inequalities in London are so pronounced because of an ever-growing population, as a result, there are ever-increasing challenges in areas such as the environment, social and economic. Health inequalities cannot be addressed separately, deliberate efforts should be made to tackle the rising housing crisis that is emanating from the increasing population of the city, curbing unemployment by creating skills that the citizens need to hold onto stable employment.

The implementation of the SDGs by countries that are signatories is not compulsory, and there are no modalities put in place to enforce its implementation. Many countries are lagging in implementing the SDGs in their domain. I will be recommending that an enforcement mechanism should be put in place to compel all signatories to the SDG document to implement the goals.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Sustainable Development Goals are quite commendable and are filled with noble ideas that aim to improve the world we live in. Such noble goals include among others, the eradication of poverty, safeguarding the planet, empowering women, educating the girl child, and advancing human lives in all ramifications.

The SDGs if well executed will create better living conditions for humanity with better education, health facilities, and better work. The advancement in health provision is already leading to improved life expectancy and cleaner cities.

It should also be pointed out that there is still much work to be done in actualizing the targets of the SDGs, including in areas of climate change, inequalities in health, education, and poverty.

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- When describing how London citizens have benefited from these policies/comparison with the UK (page 11/12) please consider using statistical information. That can benefit your discussion because you are only focused on 3 SDGs and not all 17. So what can you find in terms of the health of population in London, Education opportunities and Partnerships and then supported with statistics.