

Creating a space for place and multi-dimensional well-being: lessons learned from localizing the SDGs

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▶ To cite this version:

Eleanor J Sterling, Pua ala Pascua, Amanda Sigouin, Nadav Gazit, Lisa Mandle, et al.. Creating a space for place and multi-dimensional well-being: lessons learned from localizing the SDGs. Sustainability Science, 2020, 15 (4), pp.1129-1147. 10.1007/s11625-020-00822-w. hal-03034178

HAL Id: hal-03034178

https://hal.science/hal-03034178

Submitted on 1 Dec 2020

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FRONT MATTER

Title

Full title: Navigating Multidimensional Measures of Sustainability and Well-Being Across Scales Short title: Multidimensional Measures of Sustainability and Well-Being

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Abstract

Achieving sustainable development globally requires multi-scale and interdisciplinary efforts and perspectives. Global goals shape national-level priorities and actions, creating cascading impacts realized at the local level through international aid and implementation of programs intended to achieve progress towards these metrics. We compare the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to regionally-developed dimensions of Pacific Well-being. Some dimensions related to human health and access to infrastructure and finances are well represented in the SDGs, whereas others, such as those regarding connections between people and connections to place, are not. We identify challenges in applying SDG indicators at the local level and provide lessons learned for national-level reporting to foster equitable and holistic approaches and outcomes for sustainability: Enhance systems-based approaches to policy and management; Draw on locally-relevant well-being definitions to develop indicators; Develop indicators on the connections between both people and place, and on Indigenous and local knowledge; Recognize potential biases towards easy-to-measure metrics; and Carefully consider how data are collected.



Manuscript Template

MAIN TEXT

 Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). adopted by the United Nations in 2015, lays out a shared vision for a more prosperous, equitable, and environmentally sustainable world where no one will be left behind. The SDGs are the result of a complex and extensive negotiation process (1) and encompass 17 broad and conceptually interlinked global goals, each with underlying targets and nested indicators (Fig. 1). While the SDGs are presented as an indivisible whole, in practice there is little guidance or detail regarding potential or realized trade-offs and synergies between and across the goals (2). Achieving the interrelated SDGs will require systems approaches, explicitly considering the structure (elements and interactions), purpose, and emergent behavior of complex adaptive systems (3). This can facilitate a better understanding of how (i) various SDG goals, targets, and indicators interconnect (2, 4); (ii) SDGs are underpinned by biodiversity and ecosystem services or nature's contributions to people (5); and (iii) SDGs impact human well-being at the local scale. An analysis by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) finds that efforts to maximize SDGs relating to energy, economic growth, industry and infrastructure, sustainable consumption and production, poverty, food security, and cities could produce trade-offs for nature that in turn negatively affect human well-being and the achievement of interlinked goals (5). Global frameworks do ultimately impact local communities through the direction of financial resources and through on-the-ground implementation of development strategies. Ignoring complex interactions within and across social-ecological systems risks increased potential for misdiagnosis and implementation of interventions with unintended and potentially negative outcomes for communities at local scales (6).

National-level reporting agencies (such as National Statistics Offices) are in a unique position to be able to address interrelationships across goals while also setting national priorities, programs, targets, and associated indicators based on their country's geographic, political, technological, and other development-related contexts (2). With this in mind, national-level reporting agencies should be able to identify metrics (including goals and targets) that are relevant to people of that nations' varied viewpoints, aspirations, and cultural settings. One critical viewpoint to consider, especially given Member States' commitment to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda, is that of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), who manage or have tenure rights over more than a quarter of the world's land surface and whose participation and inclusion in environmental governance enhance environmental conservation, restoration, and sustainable use for broader society (5). Indigenous and local expert observations and knowledge are based upon and highlight the interconnections between parts of a system (7), and could help to connect across hierarchically structured global metrics (Fig. 1).

In addition, measurement of multidimensional well-being can be an integrated way for countries to assess culturally-relevant progress towards disparate sustainable development goals (4, 8). A multidimensional well-being lens focuses by definition at a systems level, on both humans and non-humans, and builds on context-specific perceptions of health and well-being. Using a well-being lens can also provide insights into the power dynamics among social groups, community decision-making, and the drivers of change (9), and allows social values and priorities to inform policies and management (10). Recognizing this point, several groups and organizations across multiple locations have attempted to operationalize a multidimensional well-being focus for monitoring societal progress that is aligned to specific local contexts with sensitivity across a broad range of human dimensions. For instance, in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Government has structured national budgeting around well-being, and will assess progress using indicators of intergenerational well-being (11). Other examples include "buen vivir" and associated Indigenous concepts in Central America (12), "ubuntu" value systems in eastern

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Africa (13), Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Index (14), Melanesian Well-being Indicators (15), the United Kingdom National Wellbeing Measures (16), and the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (17).

In order to explore how the SDGs can best support local human well-being and environmental health, we systematically compare the SDG indicators with a list of regionally-derived well-being factors for the Pacific Islands (18) (hereafter "Factors"), which were developed by biological and social scientists and community members and organizers who all collaborate with communities from across the Pacific Islands on resource management or cultural vitality. The Pacific Islands region is distinguished by its high biological and cultural diversity, and by historical and contemporary resilience to environmental and social variability (19, 20). The Factors are grouped into eight dimensions (hereafter "Dimensions") (Tables 1, S1). Collectively the list encompasses critical components of well-being and social-ecological resilience across the Pacific and is intended as a dynamic/living product, which can be adapted relative to needs and priorities of the groups that use it.

Here we seek to answer three main questions: (i) what are the overlaps and gaps between the SDG indicators and the Pacific Islands Well-being Dimensions?; (ii) to what extent are the SDG indicators applicable for measuring well-being at the local level in the Pacific?, and (iii) based on the above, what are the trade-offs or challenges in national reporting and implementing of SDGs? Our analysis of overlaps and differences between local and global scales and approaches can assist decision makers to navigate the synergies and trade-offs between the SDGs, and result in better-informed efforts at different scales (Fig. 1). In closing, we provide a set of lessons learned for SDG indicator development and reporting at the national scale.

Results

Gap Analysis

We coded linkages between SDG indicators and Well-being Factors and identified 447 linkages that were made by at least two individual coders. The greatest number of linkages to the SDGs were from Factors within two Well-being Dimensions: *Human Health* (n=140) and *Access to Infrastructure, Civic Services, and Financial Resources (Infrastructure/Finance)* (n=126) (Figs. 2, S1). Within *Human Health*, the Factors with the greatest number of linkages were related to physical health (n=47) and individual and/or collective security and safety (n=26). For *Access to Infrastructure, Civic Services, and Financial Resources*, the Factors with the highest number of linkages were related to access to and use of health infrastructure and services (n=25) and equitable access to and use of financial resources and services in vulnerable populations (n=18) (for further detail see table S2). Only a handful of SDG indicators were associated with Wellbeing Dimensions *Connectedness to People and Place (People & Place)* (n=3) and *Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Skills, Practice, Values, and Worldviews (Indigenous and Local Knowledge)* (n=2). The greatest number of linkages were found with those SDG indicators within SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being (n=101) (fig. S2).

To understand how effectively each Well-being Dimension was represented by the SDGs, we calculated the percentage of Factors in each Dimension that were linked to at least one indicator (Fig. 3). Of the 89 Factors scored (table S1), 62 (70%) have linkages with at least one SDG indicator. All individual Factors within three Dimensions, *Sustainability Management*, *Infrastructure/Finance*, and *Human Health* were linked to at least one SDG indicator, as shown in Fig. 3. Only 20% of the Well-being Factors in the Dimension *People & Place* and 25% of the *Indigenous and Local Knowledge* Factors were linked with an SDG indicator.

Through the coding activity and subsequent small working group discussions, we identified concepts present in the SDG indicators that had strong bearing on well-being but were not clearly articulated in the regionally-derived Factors. These topics were woven into an updated iteration of the Well-being Factors (table S1, new additions in bold) through the creation of four new Factors (e.g., *Access to and use of education-related infrastructure and services*), strengthening of existing Factors (e.g., expanding the Factor on individual or collective security to focus on social and economic risks in addition to environmental risk), and in revisions to the

framing and language used. Gender and other forms of social equity are part of several Wellbeing Factors, but do not have distinct Dimensions or Factors.

Applicability, Trade-off, and Indicator Measurement Challenges Analyses In addition to identifying overlaps and gaps between SDG indicators and Factors, we also drew on our experience working with communities across the Pacific, using a systems approach to assess if SDG indicators would be applicable to measure the Factors at the local scale, and if there are any potential trade-offs or measurement challenges. We deemed 160 SDG indicators, or 99% of the 162 indicators analyzed (see Methods, table S3), to have trade-off and applicability issues in some way at the local level, encapsulated in 913 coder assessment comments in total from across the 14 coders. We summarized the comments into seven categories that describe the nature of trade-offs and measurement challenges (Table 2).

Perceived practical challenges to indicator measurement encompassed issues such as 'Disaggregation', 'Feasibility', 'Links to Target', and 'Scale". For instance, in terms of 'Disaggregation', SDG 14.5.1: "protected area in relation to marine areas" may be more applicable with greater specificity in detail on governance type or spatial measures (e.g., include the proportion of protected area covered by customary marine tenure, which is not traditionally counted under "protected areas" but is increasingly being considered via categories such as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures promulgated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature). Further, the spatial extent itself is arbitrary if it does not account for ecological characteristics, such as habitat type (sand flat, seagrass, mangrove, reef, etc.) and the life histories of species that may inhabit the protected area. Several SDG indicators pose potential 'Feasibility' issues, which can arise from lack of technical capacity and/or insufficient methodologies to meaningfully and accurately collect data. For example, different localities may have limited technical ability and resources to comprehensively track financial flows, and flows of goods and services (e.g., indicators 16.4.1, 16.4.2) resulting in large data gaps.

In 'Links to Target' challenges, an existing indicator might measure one link to a target and overlook other important aspects of the target. For instance, SDG 15.7.1 on the proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked does not adequately cover all aspects of the target it is nested under, which aims to enhance global support to combat poaching, including through increased capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities. Regarding 'Scale' challenges, as one example SDG 2.5.1 measures the number of genetic resources for food and agriculture saved in medium or long term conservation facilities. These facilities tend to be *ex situ* and are often difficult for communities to access when needed. This could impede food security at the local scale if local conservation facilities such as community seed banks do not receive attention.

The greatest number of the 'Focus/Bias' category coder assessments were characterized by cultural biases towards a particular knowledge system to the exclusion of other ways of knowing. In the 'Social Harm Trade-off' category, these biases translated into the potential for unfavorable and unintended consequences of, for instance, overlooking social-cultural values and norms surrounding concepts such as poverty, food security, or livelihoods. For example, coders identified a bias towards formal employment, which could promote the uptake of lowwage employment at the expense of traditional subsistence livelihoods. In addition, indicator 8.3.1 measures the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sectors with the intent to identify informal labor markets that take advantage of marginalized individuals where legal and social protection is limited. However, intent does not always equal impact -- the idea that work within the informal economy is inherently problematic could lead to degradation of subsistence labor, including fishing, which is increasingly recognized as substantial and valuable, and should be included in labor statistics (21). In the 'Environmental Harm Trade-off' category, coder assessments related to indicators that could encourage environmental degradation. For instance, coder assessments classified as 'Environmental Harm Trade-off' identified that indicator 9.2.1 (concerning manufacturing value as a proportion of GDP) could also promote nonenvironmentally friendly manufacturing practices and encourage unsustainable use of natural resources over their conservation.

Across all categories of challenges, many coder assessment comments identified tradeoffs and measurement challenges with indicators that emphasize monetary transactions for goods and services. This prompted us to undertake an additional analysis to assess the extent to which indicators rely on "monetary economy-based" metrics to denote success. Out of 162 indicators, 25 (15%) included components focusing on or directly relating to the monetary economy. In our analysis, coder assessments fell into one or both of two groupings: failure to convey the full breadth of well-being and diversity of local perspectives, and failure to encompass the nature and quality of economic growth. In the first grouping, coder assessments pointed out that indicators related to monetary compensation (e.g., indicator 8.5.1 regarding hourly earnings of employees) overlook other aspects of an individual's livelihood that may be key in subsistence communities. Monetary economy-based indicators can risk over-representing single perspectives on, and contribution to, sustainability (challenges of both 'Focus/Bias' as well as 'Scale'). For example, emphasis on industries (e.g., indicator 9.b.1 regarding the proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added) may overlook other important community or Indigenous activities that make strong contributions to social cohesion and community wellbeina.

In the second grouping, failure to encompass the nature and quality of economic growth, coders found that a focus on measuring changes in monetary economy-based indicators fails to convey other important factors. For instance, coder assessments regarding indicator 8.4.2 (related to domestic material consumption), pointed out that this indicator encourages material consumption growth which could lead to greater use of natural resources. It does not measure other factors such as the sustainability of such growth, including its environmental impact and potential for social harm. Coders also raised the point that focusing on expenditures for activities intended to promote sustainable development overlooks the potential negative impacts of these activities -- more funds being spent does not necessarily imply success or beneficial impacts. For example, coder assessments regarding indicator 17.17.1 (concerning the amount of dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships) does not lend any insight into whether these partnerships were equitable or effective. These indicators are relatively easily measured, but may not be meaningful on their own.

Overall, coder assessments underscored that very few indicators, or sets of indicators under a target, adequately addressed the potential for trade-offs or other feedbacks between goals, pointing to an important next step for SDG reporting efforts. The assessments also noted that some indicators could better reflect trade-offs and be better adapted to local use with minor modifications such as greater disaggregation, whereas others might be best addressed through reporting on metrics more relevant to local and national contexts. Coders called out already existing language useful to address these problems, such as is found in indicator 1.2.2: Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions (emphasis added).

Discussion

Meeting the interconnected SDGs at a global level, while also supporting local and regional sustainable development, entails a careful framing of what success looks like (5). Our research shows that, in the context of the Pacific, there are overlaps but also significant gaps between local and regional conceptions of well-being and the globally-derived SDGs. Furthermore, internationally generated indicators may result in trade-offs and measurement challenges in local or regional contexts. While the SDGs themselves result from extensive negotiations and represent fixed global commitments, the implementation of the global sustainability agenda hinges on each country's sustainable development policies, plans, and programs. Our analysis highlights opportunities for national reporting organizations to describe and achieve progress toward these goals and targets in culturally and locally attuned ways.

Assessing the Overlaps and Gaps

Cross-referencing the Pacific Island Well-being Factors with SDG indicators yielded important insights regarding overlaps and gaps between regional and global scales. Our analysis shows

that some Well-being Dimensions are very well-represented in global metrics. In fact, all individual Factors within three Dimensions, *Sustainability Management*, *Infrastructure/Finance*, and *Human Health*, were linked to at least one SDG indicator.

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However, other Dimensions of locally important well-being, including People & Place and Indigenous & Local Knowledge, are under-represented or are only obliquely referenced in the SDG indicators. These are problematic omissions. The People & Place Dimension encompasses important reciprocal relationships humans maintain with one another and with the environment (5, 22, 23). These relationships, which are often paired with corresponding social and cultural norms, codes of conduct, and responsibilities, manifest in different ways based on the socialcultural setting. The relationships contribute to individual/community well-being and environmental sustainability (18, 24, 25). For instance, varivagana is an important cultural concept in Simbo, Solomon Islands, centered on generosity and reciprocal obligations across social networks (26); in Hawai'i laulima emphasizes collective action supported by strong social networks (23). Connections and networks within communities can facilitate knowledge transfer and learning as well as exchange of resources, particularly in times of need, and their composition can have an outsized impact on support, self-organization, and resilience in the face of challenges (6). A growing number of international efforts aim to articulate and evaluate these types of connections, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Better Life Initiative metrics on support networks (27). These could serve as models for national agencies in reporting on these critical connections.

Furthermore, in many places around the world, connections between people cannot be discussed in the absence of connections to place. In developing the Pacific Well-being Factors (18), community visioning workshop participants emphasized that relationships between people and their related connections to a place are fundamental to healthy communities. For instance, the Fijian term vanua (lit. land) encompasses the interconnectedness of all living things (including people) and their surrounding environment as well as the associated knowledge, practices, and skills that maintain those interactions (28), a concept mirrored throughout the Pacific (e.g., whenua in Māori, fanua in Samoan) (29). The value systems associated with "alternative" economies, such as those that draw heavily on subsistence and other place-based practices, often inform cultural norms oriented around long-term sustainable interactions between humans and their environment (22). There is also an emerging literature on the concept of "solastalgia" - the sense of loss when people's connection to place is disrupted because of changes to that place that can lead to grief, anguish, and ill-health (30). Synthesis of these important values into global goals and policies and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in environmental governance is crucial to sustaining well-being in place-based communities and broader society (5).

The *Indigenous and Local Knowledge* Dimension concerns the processes by which Indigenous Peoples and local communities develop, refine, and transmit knowledge. Traditional occupations based on Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), such as subsistence fishing and farming, relate directly to food security and sovereignty and are also crucial for social cohesion, the perpetuation of place-based practices, and the maintenance of knowledge, values, and cultural protocols associated with those practices (*31*). However, ILK is impacted by a number of factors, including government policy: for example, numerous governments treat wildlife harvest practices on Indigenous territories (e.g. subsistence hunting and fishing) as unsustainable and characterize these practices as illegal poaching (*32*). An absence of ILK consideration in resource management planning can result in cascading negative impacts on communities involved in environmental management (*7, 18, 32*).

Our comparison between the SDGs and Pacific Well-being Factors also uncovered gaps in the latter, specifically related to labor rights, education-related infrastructure, corruption, and harassment (table S1, new additions in bold). While gender and other forms of social equity are considered to be cross-cutting issues and feature in several Well-being Factors, gender equity does not have separate Dimensions or Factors because of its broadly applicable relevance (33). In practice this made it difficult to undertake the gap analysis with specific SDG gender-equity indicators, and underscores the challenges for national level reporting agencies in grappling with cross-cutting concepts that can be unintentionally omitted.

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Gauging Applicability, Trade-offs and Measurement Challenges of Globally Developed Indicators at the Local Level

Our analyses revealed not just gaps in connections between the regional Well-being Factors and SDG indicators; we also found that 99% of assessed indicators presented potential trade-offs or measurement challenges that could be problematic in some way for local-level use in Pacific Islands. The implementation process established for the SDGs anticipates this outcome, which is why countries have the freedom to develop tailored reporting tools built on indicators that are most relevant to their situations (2). We identified measurement challenges that range from relatively minor issues (e.g., concerns about interpretation) to more fundamental issues, including troubling trade-offs. With the former, small changes to some indicators (e.g., providing greater disaggregation information on governance type) might result in increased relevance at the local level. However, significant trade-offs arise when there are differing values at the global versus local scales.

Many indicators are based on social norms that may not be applicable in all cultural contexts, and good intentions can actually lead to trade-offs within a system, resulting in social harm. For example, existing SDG education indicators ignore informal learning opportunities, such as when children learn from helping their parents with work, where they can gain local knowledge to enhance productivity, adaptation, and resilience over the long term [e.g., (34)]. We found that prioritizing formal employment in order to improve social and legal protections for workers creates a trade-off for subsistence-oriented traditional occupations. This can perpetuate the systematic disenfranchisement and further marginalization of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the ILK systems that underpin aspects of resilience, particularly in rural areas. National reporting agencies should follow the guidance of the International Labour Organization and recognize traditional occupations, such as subsistence farming and fishing, within the scope of "productive employment" and "decent work."

Furthermore, we found that some indicators could drive activities that harm rights and access for IPLCs. For instance, several SDG indicators imply that central and national governments should safeguard natural or cultural heritage, when in many regions such maintenance is more likely to be supported at the local level [e.g., Melanesia (34)]. Indicators prioritizing strict protected areas may promote the rights of central government at the expense of IPLCs. This can lead to disenfranchisement, community displacement, and potentially the replacement of effective local stewardship with ineffective/absentee management (35).

Similarly, some indicators (e.g., ownership or secure rights of land as outlined in SDG 1.4.2. relying on legally recognized documentation to land) are based on privatization and individual land rights, ideas that may clash with culturally-mediated relationships to and interactions with place (36). Legally recognized documentation is not standard for land tenure systems in all communities and there may be other ways to articulate that communities "perceive their rights to land as secure". Resource privatization (for example, with the introduction of individual fishing quotas in Kodiak Alaska as described in (36)), can have divisive, negative impacts on the cultural norms, values, and lifestyles that contribute to maintaining reciprocal relationships and well-being across people and place. We, the authors, have observed that in Indigenous communities the term "rights" is often paired with the term "responsibilities" (22, 37). Placing emphasis on property or access rights without reference to responsibility could break down existing stewardship structures, for instance collective or communal resource management systems (7). Adaptive understandings of access and ownership will be increasingly important as communities around the world begin to experience the impacts of global climate change (for instance those losing their ancestral lands to sea-level rise).

Our analysis also indicated that the SDG indicators tended to center the monetary economy as a development pathway, which may fail to align with local norms and values and reflects a lack of a systems approach in considering the many interacting factors at play. We found that an overemphasis on the monetary economy can cause social or cultural harm by devaluing other important forms of reciprocity-oriented social norms (38). Economic assumptions such as individual maximization are often at odds with Indigenous and local perspectives on collective well-being and with long-standing community practices in which the non-monetary

benefits of reciprocal human and environmental interactions may outweigh financial incentives or returns (39). One such imperiled value encompasses the knowledge and practice of growing and sharing food within and across communities, which ultimately impacts food security and sovereignty (37). Economic models that commodify natural resources and prioritize optimization and utility can lead to unsustainable resource use, which, in turn, may result in both environmental and social harm (33, 40). This may lead to policies, regulations, and management actions that prioritize individualistic pursuits of benefits (i.e., income generation) at the expense of social norms, community cohesion, and community trust which in turn can drive political and social instability (37). In addition, prioritizing ecosystem services that are the most easily assessed using monetary valuation techniques can diminish the importance of other values of nature, for instance relational, intrinsic, cultural heritage, and subsistence values (31). A systematic review of the literature on well-being outcomes of marine protected areas found disproportionate focus on economic indicators of well-being, and limited representation of indicators from other social and cultural domains, raising the prospect that the most quantifiable indicators have come to dominate the scholarship on well-being outcomes (41). We note that this unevenness may stem from societal bias towards economic outcomes and the consequent abundance of relatively easily gathered data on economic indicators.

Stressing financial attributes, for instance with SDG indicators focusing disproportionately on quantifying economic status or income level with an emphasis on GDP-driven indicators (42, 43), causes an imbalance in how countries are perceived (15) and can change the way people are perceived within their own community. Indicators that run counter to social norms potentially limit the ability to collect accurate data, and may also have long term impacts on communities such as "deficit thinking" in response to vulnerability frameworks (44).

Monetary prioritization can facilitate negative trade-offs with other aspects of well-being and it is important to focus on the nature and quality of growth, rather than volume of growth alone (4). Undesirable types of growth include *voiceless growth*, which suppresses democracy and includes growth that comes as a result of political repression and/or authoritarian regimes that silence dissenting voices; and *rootless growth*, which is detrimental to cultural identity, and includes instances when growth amplifies the power of the cultural majority which it uses to impose cultural uniformity (e.g., by negatively impacting cultural minority groups through actions such as choosing a national language). A disproportionate focus on economic growth also fails to take into account that above a certain income level more growth does not necessarily lead to greater well-being (4).

Key lessons learned

Building on the remarkable work already undertaken in the context of SDGs, we offer five lessons learned, which will be relevant to national reporting agencies charged with developing locally and nationally-relevant reporting and implementing tools. We provide overarching lessons to address the most critical challenges identified in our work.

- 1. Enhance systems-based approaches to designing and evaluating policy and management. A growing literature is acknowledging and investigating the interrelationships among the SDGs, and within other policies that impact well-being sectors (5, 45). This systems approach allows for identification, mapping, and leveraging synergies between and across multidimensional measures of sustainability and well-being. Seeking to understand the cross-sectoral synergies for policy and action can produce co-benefits across goals and targets, and improve indicators and datasets for national-level reporting. At the same time, intent does not equal impact. People developing or choosing to use an indicator should carefully consider the broader context and anticipate the dynamic interactions within complex adaptive systems that might lead to negative consequences for human well-being and environmental health.
- 2. Draw on locally-relevant definitions of well-being to develop monitoring and evaluation indicators. Nations should spend more effort and attention on understanding what well-being means to their citizens in order to collectively move towards sustainability. Reporting bodies should be attentive to local and national priorities and values and recognize the importance of co-created knowledge and action. This helps

- avoid unintended harmful consequences in complex adaptive systems of development interventions based on globally defined standards or approaches. In locations with high cultural diversity and/or low social cohesion, identifying commonalities and focusing on indicators around those is a good place to start.
- 3. Foster identification and use of meaningful indicators on the connections between both people and place, and on Indigenous and local knowledge. Understanding the ways people connect with place and with one another is essential for sustainable outcomes. Small changes to some indicators (e.g., providing greater disaggregation information on governance type such as community-conserved areas as well as government-led protected areas) might result in increased relevance at the local level, whereas larger efforts need to be made where there are significant disconnects in values. For instance, indicators that measure collective well-being and not just individual well-being would be important to consider.
- 4. Recognize potential biases towards easy-to-measure metrics. To paraphrase Elliot Eisner, not everything that is easily measurable is important and not everything that is important is easily measured. For instance, focusing sustainability efforts on data-rich areas to the exclusion of other biologically and culturally important areas may unintentionally contribute to the continued marginalization of IPLCs and their ability to determine their own development priorities. Furthermore, reporting agencies should consider options beyond existing standardized quantitative metrics that may miss important place-based nuances (46) and opt for a combination of qualitative and quantitative metrics. This may include a focus on not just endpoints, like population sizes of species, but also on the processes that contribute to effective population management such as local knowledge and social relationships (18).
- 5. Carefully consider how data are collected. Global goals shape national-level priorities and actions, creating cascading impacts realized at the local level through international aid and implementation of programs intended to achieve progress towards these metrics. Consequently, data collection should be conducted with empathy, follow place-based cultural protocols, align with standards of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (see, for example, guidelines developed by the International Society of Ethnobiology), and be mindful of power dynamics within and across scales. Ultimately the successful implementation of indicators can depend on how and in what context data are collected rather than the specifics of the indicator itself.

Conclusion

Despite differences in framing or intention, efforts at global, national, sub-national, and local scales have significant potential to draw inspiration from one another and compare indicators to enable adaptive learning and evaluation. Transformative sustainable development requires interlinked policy objectives across sectors such that synergies can emerge during planning and implementation (6, 47). Identifying synergies and differences between indicators used at local and global scales and related approaches can result in stronger conceptualization and implementation at each scale (Fig. 1). Cross-scale comparison is not without its challenges; however, as we have shown, coordinated efforts can identify common ground leading to complementary metrics tailored to each scale. The critical role of international frameworks like the SDGs in national-level priority settings underscores the importance of indicators that acknowledge and address diverse community-based perspectives and cultural contexts. In the face of increasing calls for coordination across sectors to link goals and interventions, national level agencies can take a systems approach that addresses potential synergies and trade-offs across the SDGs. Our analysis points to areas of focus for further work, for instance on metrics connecting people and place.

Lessons learned from our analyses can inform national-level reporting on existing indicators, monitoring and reporting criteria developed by international funders and conservation and development implementers, and new agreements under negotiation (e.g., post-2020 biodiversity agenda discussions). While our work focuses on the Pacific Islands, the participatory process, the expert elicitation approach, and analytical method we used, as well as the key

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lessons learned, are transferable to other geographic areas with existing well-being frameworks. We recommend complementary regionally-focused analyses to further clarify and weave local values, cultural practices, and Indigenous priorities into monitoring and evaluation programs across scales.

Materials and Methods

SDG indicators

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446 447 We compiled the 232 SDG indicators as of March 2017. Our analyses examined the local applicability of these key indicators; consequently, we screened the indicator list before our analyses to eliminate those that were only intended to be measured across nations (e.g., SDG 1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030). Of note, due to removal of redundant and national level indicators, we did not include any indicators under SDG 13: Climate Action. The resulting list had 162 SDG indicators (table S3).

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Pacific Island Well-being Factors

These analyses use a list of Well-being Factors (table S1), developed by biological and social scientists and community members and organizers who all collaborate with communities from across Pacific Islands on resource management or cultural vitality, to assess the local applicability of international indicators (Fig. 4). Taken together, these Factors represent our current understanding of the critical dimensions of well-being and biological and cultural resilience in different communities across the Pacific. Our comparative analyses used the 89 well-being Factors and eight overarching Dimensions, including detailed descriptions and placebased examples of each Factor drawn from an iterative process involving community visioning workshops and small working group triangulation (18).

In 2016, our small team of researchers organized and executed a series of visioning workshops in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, and Hawai'i, engaging Indigenous Peoples and local community members and conservation professionals who work closely with them. Workshop participants brought a diverse array of experience with resilience and well-being through policy, management, and/or implementation via place-based practices. During a series of interactive and deliberative discussions. participants were asked to describe what "a good life" looks like in each of their communities. Building on the workshop results, a small working group of researchers and conservation professionals convened to further triangulate and contextualize results drawn from across the region. The working group process led to further framework iterations. Ultimately, the results of the community visioning workshops combined with the small group work resulted in a framework of Factors organized into eight thematic Dimensions (18). For further detail on the development of the Well-being Factors see (18). The Well-being Factors will continue to evolve relative to the needs and priorities of communities in the Pacific. Additional Factors were identified as part of this research, and additional Dimensions could be identified in future iterations of the list.

Coding: Cross-referencing SDG Indicators and Well-being Factors

Comparisons of SDG Indicators and Well-Being Factors was undertaken using a multi-stage expert elicitation approach with a multi-disciplinary team of coders. Twenty-two coders undertook a pilot coding of all indicators and Well-being Factors using custom tailored excel spreadsheets during a workshop in 2017. We then developed a custom, web-based coding interface and proceeded in three major stages of coding. First, a subset of eight coders practiced with the interface to determine ease of use. Second, a group of 15 coders (see below for coding team description) conducted a gap analysis between the SDG indicators and the Factors. In this stage. every indicator was coded by at least four individuals. Coders were asked to independently assess each indicator in their assigned subset against each of the 89 Factors. Coders determined which indicators had a strong link with the Factors, meaning the indicator could be an effective and accurate measure for that Factor. Coders had the ability to choose multiple Factors for an indicator; similarly, a Factor could be linked with multiple indicators. Coders noted if there

were no corresponding Factors for an indicator. Third, coders used a systems approach to assess if the indicator was relevant and well-aligned with community decision making needs in the Pacific Islands. If indicators were considered potentially problematic in relation to components or relationships with a system, coders identified the reason(s) using a basic typology of common indicator issues (Tables 2, 3); coders were able to select multiple issues or none at all. They provided detailed comments to justify the ways in which indicators may not be aligned with Well-being Factors. This draft typology of trade-off and measurement challenges, based on initial coding trials, was developed in working groups between 2015 and 2017 and aligns with the within SDG interaction scores proposed by (2) ranging from indivisible to consistent to cancelling.

Coders: A total of 15 individuals participated in coding a comparison between SDGs indicators and the Well-being Factors. The coding team belongs to a variety of academic disciplines and professional backgrounds, including natural sciences (both terrestrial and marine), social sciences, and community-based natural resource management. They collectively possess considerable professional and lived experience spanning diverse areas of the Pacific. Coders were assigned indicators that align to their expertise wherever possible and were encouraged to opt out of coding a particular indicator if they felt it to be outside their expertise.

Analyses

To assess our question on links between SDG indicators and well-being indicators, we only included links that were noted by two or more of the four coders, leaving a total of 447 verified links. As previously mentioned, a unique characteristic of the coding team was that all have key experience in one or more Pacific Islands and collectively they represent highly diverse academic disciplines and professional backgrounds. These diverse perspectives were valuable in providing an interdisciplinary and holistic context for our analyses. It also means that it would be unrealistic to expect consensus across replicates. We extracted basic descriptive statistics from the resulting database. After determining that the indicator linkages were unevenly distributed across Dimensions, we took a more granular look to understand which specific Factors were and were not well-represented by the SDG indicators (table S2; fig. S3). Table S2 provides a full list of specific Factors with a high number of linkages to the SDG indicators, and those with no linkages.

To assess our questions on applicability and trade-offs and measurement challenges between SDG indicators and Pacific Island Well-being Factors, we used methods in qualitative data analysis including pairwise comparisons and inductive content analysis. We also ensured that every coding exercise was done independently by at least two people with the results discussed amongst at least four people and undertook member checks (where manuscript authors reviewed results and analyses at multiple stages) to validate the qualitative data and analysis (48). We extracted all coder assessments and conducted a qualitative three-stage analysis. In the first stage, three coders used inductive logic (49) to review the assessments, test against the draft typology, and identify patterns within categories. In the second stage a team of four coders reviewed every assessment against the categories, noting where category descriptions were not sufficient and recommending greater detail. This resulted in rich descriptions of the trade-offs and measurement challenges between the international metrics and the Well-being Factors. In the third stage, four coders conducted a detailed scan of the comments to extract examples to illustrate the categories, including comments that noted the emphasis on monetary economybased aspects (i.e., monetary transactions for goods and services) of the indicators. A team of 6 coders further coded all 162 indicators to identify indicators with monetary economy-based components or criteria and undertake an additional analysis to assess the extent to which indicators rely on "monetary economy-based" metrics to denote success.

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Acknowledgments

The material is based upon work conducted by the Assessing Biocultural Indicators Working Group supported in part by SNAPP: Science for Nature and People Partnership, a collaboration of The Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Additional support came from the National Science Foundation (NSF) under Grants No. EF-1427091, 1427453, and 1444184. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. SC received support from the InSHS-CNRS program "Soutien à la Mobilité Internationale-2018". We thank Ana Porzecanski for comments on drafts of the manuscript and members of the SNAPP working group for input.

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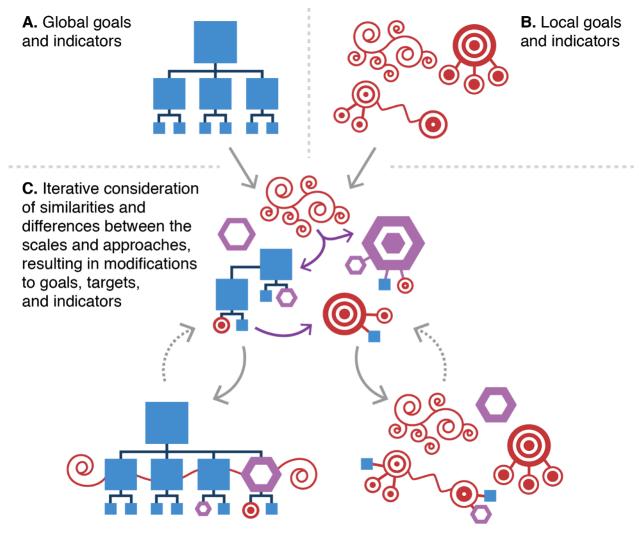


Fig. 1. Approaches to development of goals and indicators: learning across scales. (A) Global goals and indicators are frequently derived using a consensus process and result in highly hierarchical systems where categorized overarching outcomes can be reached through achieving sub-goals and targets (represented by blue boxes). (B) Indigenous and local perspectives that drive action can result from expert observations and lived and experienced knowledge that emphasize the interconnections between parts of a system (represented by red graphics). (C) Iterative consideration of similarities and differences between these scales and approaches can result in stronger efforts at both the local and global scales (represented by hybrid colors and shapes).

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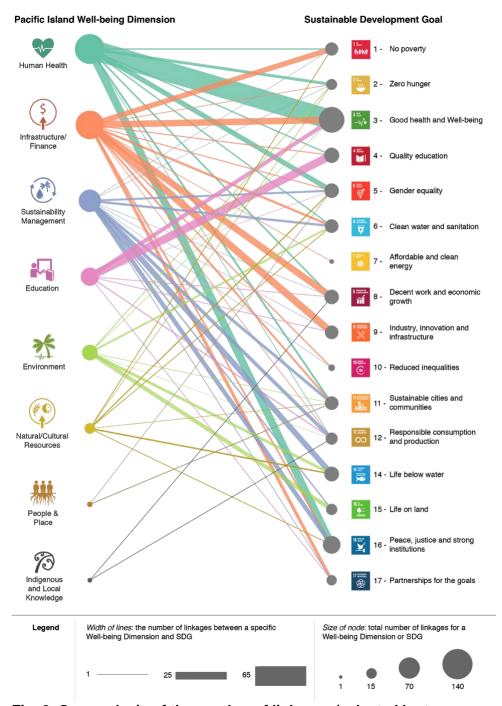


Fig. 2. Gap analysis of the number of linkages (selected by two or more coders) between Well-being Dimensions and the SDGs, encompassing each linkage made between an underlying Well-being Factor and an SDG indicator. The corresponding circle size and line width are proportional to the number of linkages; larger circles and thicker lines represent Dimensions or SDGs with a greater number of linkages.

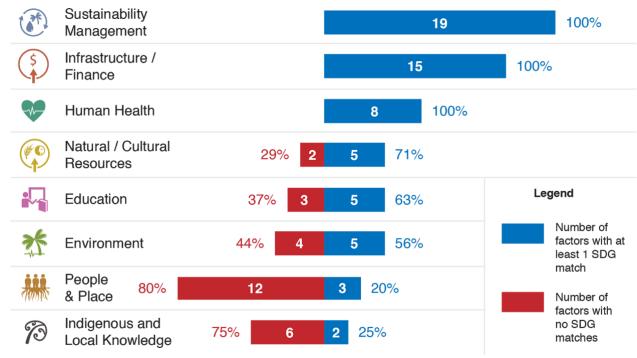


Fig. 3. Analysis of Well-being Dimensions and links between the underlying Factors and at least one SDG indicator. Bar length represents the total number of Pacific Island Well-being Factors in each Dimension; percentages represent proportion of Factors within each Dimension that have at least one SDG linkage (blue) or no SDG linkages (red).

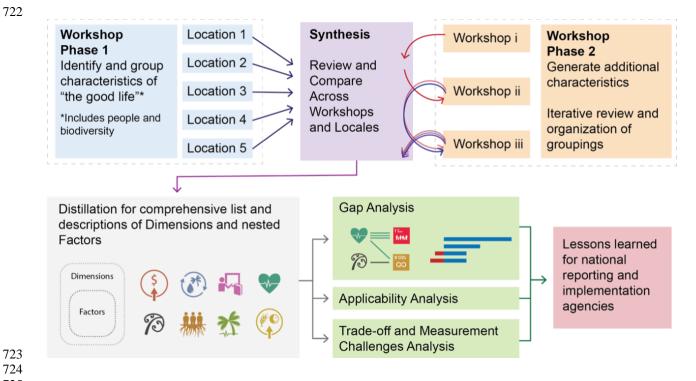


Fig. 4. Iterative process used to develop dimensions and nested factors, and subsequent analyses. As noted in (18), during Phase 1 workshops across multiple locations, a team identified and conceptually grouped characteristics of "the good life", including people and biodiversity. Through an iterative process the team synthesized the results and brought versions of the synthesis to Phase 2 workshops to generate additional characteristics and to review

organization of groupings. A subset of the team then distilled the results into a comprehensive list with descriptions of the Dimensions and nested Factors. The authors of this article compared this list with 162 SDG indicators (table S3) to undertake three analyses: a gap analysis, an applicability analysis, and a trade-off and measurement challenges analysis. These resulted in lessons learned for SDG national reporting and implementation agencies.

Table 1. The eight Pacific Islands Well-being Dimensions, including the number of underlying Factors in each Dimension, an associated icon, and a brief description of each. A complete list of Factors can be found in table S1 and in (18).

Pacific Islands Well-being Dimensions (abbreviations in parentheses) and No. of Factors Sustainability Management	Description Sustainability management includes all processes and governance structures involved in extractive and non-extractive
19 Factors	resource use, sustainability, and enforcement of rules, norms, and actions collectively involved in management of natural/cultural resources. Management coordinates, balances, and equitably accounts for multiple resource users and uses of a place. This is based on the best available knowledge, which may stem from multiple sources. Sustainability management encourages adaptability, accountability, prosperity, empowerment, and equitable access to resources and benefit sharing.
Access to Infrastructure, Civic Services, and Financial Resources (Infrastructure/ Finance) 15 Factors	Equitable access to, and use of, infrastructure, civic services, and financial resources is critical to support activities that communities deem important for well-being. This could include development of livelihood opportunities, microcredit schemes, and other community services. Where communities perceive a need, this may include proximity to roads, public transportation, water supplies, waste management, communication systems (phone networks, internet), access to civic infrastructure (clinics, schools, and government offices) and their corresponding civic services, and access to markets for trade and sustainable tourism.
Human Health 8 Factors	Physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health are critical components of the well-being of individuals, families, and communities and may be reflected in adaptability or resourcefulness in response to change. Knowledge of what supports healthy people exists across multiple dimensions of wellness.
Access to Natural and Cultural Resources (Natural/Cultural Resources) 7 Factors	The ability to physically, appropriately, and equitably access a place for non-extractive or extractive sustainable use of natural and cultural resources. Access is sufficient to fulfill values and needs for subsistence, health, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, emotional, or economic purposes. Recognition can be formalized by policy, law, or through customary practices.

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Education	Access to knowledge, networks, and qualifications from both
8 Factors	formal and informal educational systems includes appropriate and contextualized sources of knowledge, well trained and supported educators, and clean, safe, and inclusive facilities. This Dimension also includes scientific and technical information that may be useful to communities, including for sustainable resource management, waste management, health, and wellness. Local forms of knowledge described in other categories also play a
	significant role in this category.
Environmental State (Environment)	Includes the ecological, biological, physical, chemical, and human components of the environment and their interrelationships, functionalities, and resilience to change.
9 Factors	runctionalities, and resilience to change.
Connectedness to People and Place (People & Place)	Connectedness to place has strong bearing on cultural identity, rootedness and belonging, sense of responsibility and stewardship, social engagement, and natural resource management. Connectedness to place encompasses historical,
15 Factors	physical, emotional, and spiritual bonds between people and their local environment. It is often informed and driven by knowledge of events and history, and experiences of survival and thriving in place. Connection to people includes relationships based on material (e.g., food, resources, land) or immaterial (e.g., trust, labor, knowledge, time, kinship, social alliances) circulation among individuals and within and across households and communities.
Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Skills, Practice, Values, and Worldviews (Indigenous and Local Knowledge)	Indigenous and local knowledge, skills, practices, values, and worldviews are dynamic, adaptive, and transmitted across and between generations. They are embedded within a worldview and ethos, and often include spiritual connections to place, including to specific species, landscapes, and ancestors.
8 Factors	
%	

Table 2. Trade-off or measurement challenge categories and descriptions, including the number of indicators classified under each category; this reflects responses for the 160 indicators (out of 162 analyzed) considered to have trade-off or measurement challenges. Note: A single indicator can be listed under multiple categories.

Trade-off or Measurement Challenge	Description of Trade-off or Measurement Challenge	No. of Indicators
Focus/Bias	The indicator may focus on one value system at the expense of locally-important criteria, or exhibit bias towards one system, strategy, priority, or agenda to the exclusion of others. This could include, for instance, lack of recognition of different management, governance, education, or health systems and strategies.	120

Globally relevant indicators may not be feasible to	
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The indicator is set at a scale or unit of measurement that	
may be meaningful at the national or global scale, but is	
not so at the local level, making it challenging to	
accurately or appropriately ascertain local progress.	67
The indicator itself may be appropriate at the local level,	
but the suggested element measured does not	
adequately convey locally-important characteristics.	67
The indicator may be inappropriate to local contexts and	
measuring this indicator has the potential to cause social	
or cultural harm.	83
The indicator may not adequately account for negative	
environmental harm.	24
	not so at the local level, making it challenging to accurately or appropriately ascertain local progress. The indicator itself may be appropriate at the local level, but the suggested element measured does not adequately convey locally-important characteristics. The indicator may be inappropriate to local contexts and measuring this indicator has the potential to cause social or cultural harm. The indicator may not adequately account for negative environmental externalities and making decisions based mainly on this indicator has the potential to cause

Supplementary Materials

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figs. S1- S3 tables S1- S3

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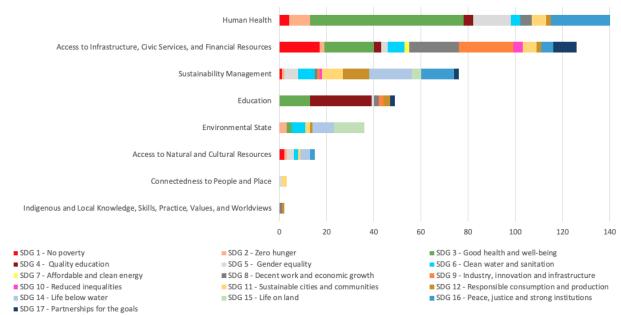


Fig. S1. Number of SDG indicators linked with Well-being Factors, by Dimension (includes only linkages made by two or more coders).

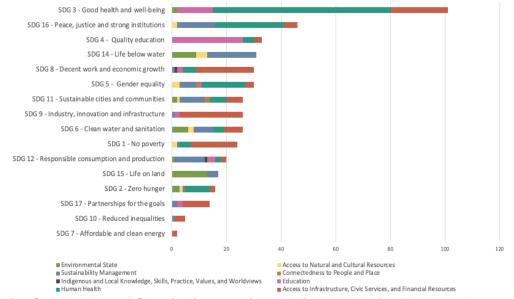


Fig. S2. Number of SDG indicators linked with Well-being Factors, by Goal (includes only linkages made by two or more coders).

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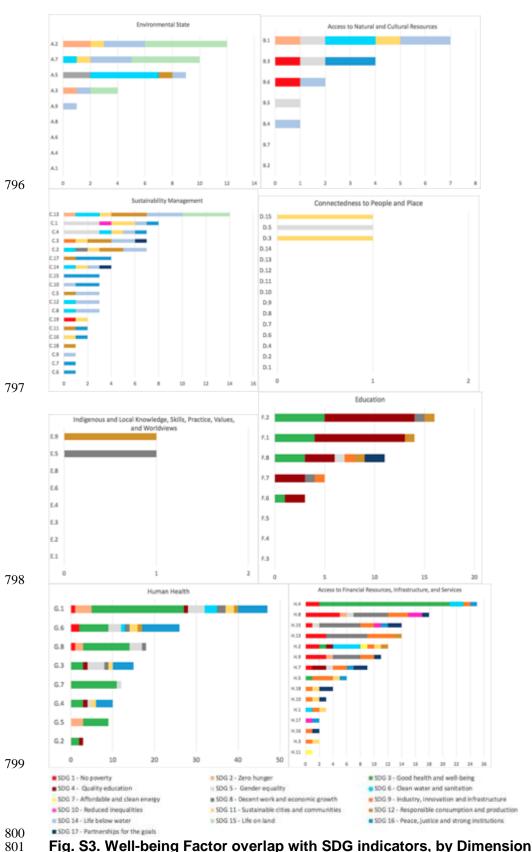


Fig. S3. Well-being Factor overlap with SDG indicators, by Dimension and underlying Factor. The Well-being Factors are represented by the letter/number designations laid out in table S1.

Supplementary Tables

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Table S1. Pacific Island Well-being Factors nested within eight overarching Dimensions.

Developed through an iterative process including community visioning workshops and small group work, the table below depicts a total of 93 Pacific Island Well-being Factors nested within eight overarching Dimensions and includes Dimension descriptions. The four Factors highlighted in bold indicate new additions as a result of this coding activity.

Dimension A: Environmental State

Dimension description: Includes the ecological, biological, physical, chemical, and human components of the environment and their interrelationships, their functionalities, and resilience to change.

- A.1 Ability of ecological systems to reorganize or recover after disturbance
- A.2 State/status of biologically and culturally important populations, species, and varieties
- A.3 Proportion of native species in danger of extinction
- A.4 Extent, range, and control of invasive species
- A.5 State/status of non-biological culturally important resources (water sources, rock quarries, clay deposits, etc.)
- A.6 Level of habitat diversity for land- and seascapes
- A.7 Proportion of functionally intact ecosystem(s) across land- and seascapes
- A.8 Status of ecosystem connectivity
- A.9 Local perceptions of the aesthetics of environmental surroundings

Dimension B: Access to Natural and Cultural Resources

Dimension description: The ability to physically, appropriately, and equitably access a place for non-extractive or extractive sustainable use of natural and cultural resources. Access is sufficient to fulfill values and needs for subsistence, health, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, emotional, or economic purposes. Recognition can be formalized by policy, law, or through customary practices.

- B.1 Access to and agency over a sufficient quality and quantity of natural and cultural resources
- B.2 Appropriate access to cultural resources, supported and recognized by local and/or national rules
- B.3 Customary rights and tenure, supported by national or regional-level laws
- B.4 Legal rights that are known, respected, and practiced
- B.5 Customary rights and responsibilities that are known, respected, and practiced
- B.6 Community access to resources they are entitled to based on social relationships including kinship
- B.7 Knowledge of culturally significant places, sites, landscapes, and species

Dimension C: Sustainability Management

Dimension description: Sustainability management includes all processes and structures involved in extractive and non-extractive resource use, sustainability, and enforcement of rules, norms, and actions collectively involved in management of natural/cultural resources. Management coordinates, balances, and equitably accounts for multiple resource users and uses of a place, based on the best available knowledge, which may stem from multiple sources. Sustainability management encourages adaptability, accountability, prosperity, empowerment, and equitable access to resources and benefit sharing.

- C.1 Presence of a local sustainability ethos
- C.2 Presence of a national sustainability ethos
- C.3 Relevant and well-defined boundaries (i.e. land or seascape units, community boundaries, use-rights, decision-making processes)
- C.4 Extent of overlap between decision-making boundaries and ecological processes
- C.5 Identification and involvement of stakeholders and stakeholder groups in decision making
- C.6 Well-defined decision-making roles and processes
- C.7 Representation of local and traditional values in stakeholder decisions
- C.8 Equitable decision-making outcomes within or across social groups
- C.9 Agency across local, regional, and national scales
- C.10 Well-coordinated interactions between institutions, and between individuals within institutions
- C.11 Accountability across institutions and stakeholders including both formal and informal measures to limit corruption
- C.12 Transparent management, governance systems, or governance norms
- C.13 Resource planning and management towards sustainable land and seascapes
- C.14 Local compliance with resource management rules
- C.15 Presence and implementation of appropriate consequences to rule breaking (relative to local norms)
- C.16 Presence and implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms
- C.17 Local perceptions of management outcomes
- C.18 Presence of adaptive practice (practices informed by evidence, knowledge, experience)
- C.19 Adaptability or capacity to respond to shorter-term impacts (e.g. natural disasters) or longer-term impacts (e.g. climate change)

Dimension D: Connectedness to People and Place

Dimension description: Connectedness to place has strong bearing on cultural identity, rootedness and belonging, sense of responsibility and stewardship, social engagement, and natural resource management. Connectedness to place encompasses historical, physical, emotional, and/or spiritual bonds between people and their local environment. It is often informed and driven by knowledge of events and history, and experiences of survival and thriving in place. Connection to people includes relationships based on material (e.g., food, resources, land) or immaterial (e.g., trust, labor, knowledge, time, kinship, social alliances) circulation among individuals and within and across households and communities. A highly-connected system is one in which there is trust, cohesion, respect, and a high degree of connectedness to place.

- D.1 Knowledge of traditional place names or landscape terms
- D.2 Local perceptions of ecological and environmental risks
- D.3 Knowledge and practice of social and cultural norms related to place-based practices
- D.4 Connections within and between communities and social groups
- D.5 Knowledge and practice of individual and collective rights and obligations towards people and place
- D.6 Knowledge and practice of genealogical connections related to rights, access, and management of land and seascapes

- D.7 Reciprocity and exchange within and between communities
- D.8 Reciprocity between people and place
- D.9 Cooperation and social cohesion
- D.10 Intergenerational connections including practices of respect
- D.11 Connection to ancestors
- D.12 Religious or spiritual practices and connections to entities (living and non-living)
- D.13 Makeup and extent of migration, diaspora, and other forms of mobility
- D.14 Effects of environmental, social, and cultural change on identity
- D.15 Community-level engagement in activism and advocacy

Dimension E: Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Skills, Practice, Values, and Worldviews

Dimension description: Indigenous and Local Knowledge, skills, practices, values and worldviews are dynamic, adaptive, and transmitted across and between generations. They are embedded within a worldview and ethos, and often include spiritual connections to place, including to specific species, landscapes, and ancestors.

- E.1 Use of local biodiversity in cultural practices
- E.2 Knowledge and practice of cultural expressions
- E.3 Use and vitality of local language(s)
- E.4 Knowledge and practice of culturally significant social interaction norms
- E.5 Inter- or intra-generational transmission of knowledge, skills, practice, values, and belief
- E.6 Innovation in knowledge and practice based on tradition

E.7 Presence of locally and culturally informed processes for knowledge management

- E.8 Indigenous and / or local knowledge, protected by legislation, where appropriate (i.e. intellectual property rights)
- E.9 Knowledge of socio-ecological connections, interdependence, and feedbacks

Dimension F: Education

Dimension description: Access to knowledge, networks, and qualifications from both formal and informal educational systems includes appropriate and contextualized sources of knowledge, well trained and supported educators, and clean, safe, and inclusive facilities. This Dimension also includes scientific and technical information that may be useful to communities, such as for sustainable resource management, waste management, health and wellness, among others. Local forms of knowledge described in other categories also play a significant role in this category.

- F.1 Quality of formal education
- F.2 Access to and use of formal education pathways
- F.3 Role of local knowledge in formal education
- F.4 Role of local language in formal education
- F.5 Local beliefs or values towards formal and informal education
- F.6 Diverse (formal and informal) learning opportunities
- F.7 Access to and use of vocational training
- F.8 Access to and use of technical and scientific information

Dimension G: Human Health

Dimension description: Physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health are critical components of the well-being of individuals, families, and communities and may be reflected in adaptability or resourcefulness in response to change. Knowledge of what supports healthy people exists across multiple Dimensions of wellness.

- G.1 Physical health
- G.2 Spiritual health
- G.3 Emotional health
- G.4 Mental health
- G.5 Individual and/or collective self-sufficiency and resourcefulness
- G.6 Individual and/or collective security and safety
- G.7 Diverse sources of health and wellness knowledge
- G.8 Familial or community-based support for individual or collective health

Dimension H: Access to Infrastructure, Civic Services, and Financial Resources

Dimension description: Equitable access to, and use of, infrastructure, civic services, and financial resources is critical to support activities that communities deem important for well-being. This could include development of livelihood opportunities, conservation programs, and other community services. Where communities perceive a need, this may include proximity to roads, public transportation, water supplies, waste management, communication systems (phone networks, internet), access to civic infrastructure (clinics, schools, and government offices) and their corresponding civic services, and access to markets for trade and sustainable tourism.

- H.1 Presence of adaptable, flexible, and or resilient infrastructure or services
- H.2 Access to and use of physical infrastructure and services
- H.3 Access to and use of affordable housing
- H.4 Access to and use of health infrastructure and services
- H.5 Access to and use of transportation infrastructure and services

H.6 Access to and use of education-related infrastructure and services

- H.7 Access to and use of communication tools and infrastructure
- H.8 Equitable access to and use of financial resources and services in vulnerable populations
- H.9 Access to and use of markets
- H.10 Access to and use of green infrastructure
- H.11 Access to and use of sustainable energy sources
- H.12 Access to and use of biosecurity infrastructure and services
- H.13 Access to and use of diverse sources of income generation
- H.14 Access to safe, secure, and locally-desirable occupations
- H.15 Equitable access to financial resources and infrastructure, recognized locally or nationally
- H.16 Local ability to control, manage, or influence external funding sources
- H.17 Financial or other resources derived from community members living overseas, in diaspora, or those who have migrated

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Table S2. List of the two Well-being Factors with the highest number of linkages to SDG indicators for each Dimension (if more than two factors are listed it is the result of factors having the same number of linkages), as well as Well-being Factors that were not linked with any SDG indicators. (See fig. S3 for summary).

Pacific Well-being Dimension	Factors with the Highest Number of Linkages to SDG indicators	Factors with No Linkages to SDG indicators
Environmental State	A.2 State/status of biologically and culturally important populations, species, and varieties	A.1 Ability of ecological systems to reorganize or recover after disturbance
	A.7 Proportion of functionally intact ecosystem(s) across land- and seascapes	A.6 Level of habitat diversity for land- and seascapes
		A.8 Status of ecosystem connectivity
Access to Natural and Cultural Resources	B.1 Access to and agency over a sufficient quality and quantity of natural and cultural resources	B.2 Appropriate access to cultural resources, supported and recognized by local and/or national rules
	B.3 Customary rights and tenure, supported by national or regional-level laws	B.7 Knowledge of culturally significant places, sites, landscapes, and species
Sustainability Management	C.1 Presence of a local sustainability ethos	n/a
	C.13 Resource planning and management towards sustainable land and seascapes	
Connectedness to People and Place	D.3 Knowledge and practice of social and cultural norms related to place-based practices	D.1 Knowledge of traditional place names or landscape terms
	D.5 Knowledge and practice of	D.2 Local perceptions of ecological and environmental risks
	individual and collective rights and obligations towards people and place	D.4 Connections within and between communities and social groups
	D.15 Community-level engagement in activism and advocacy	D.6 Knowledge and practice of genealogical connections related to rights, access, and management of land and seascapes
		D.7 Reciprocity and exchange within and between communities
		D.8 Reciprocity between people and place
		D.9 Cooperation and social cohesion
		D.10 Intergenerational connections including practices of respect
		D.11 Connection to ancestors
		D.12 Religious or spiritual practices and connections to entities (living and non-living)

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Indigenous and Local Knowledge,	E.5 Inter- or intra-generational	D.13 Makeup and extent of migration, diaspora, and other forms of mobility D.14 Effects of environmental, social, and cultural change on identity E.1 Use of local biodiversity in
Skills, Practice, Values, and Worldviews	transmission of knowledge, skills, practice, values, and belief	cultural practices
	E.9 Knowledge of socio-ecological connections, interdependence, and	E.2 Knowledge and practice of cultural expressions
	feedbacks	E.3 Use and vitality of local language(s)
		E.4 Knowledge and practice of culturally significant social interaction norms
		E.6 Innovation in knowledge and practice based on tradition
		E.8 Indigenous and / or local knowledge, protected by legislation, where appropriate (i.e. intellectual property rights)
Education	F.1 Quality of formal education (S)	F.3 Role of local knowledge in formal education
	F.2 Access to and use of formal education pathways (S)	F.4 Roll of local language in formal education
		F.5 Local beliefs or values towards formal and informal education
Human Health	G.1 Physical health	n/a
	G.6 Individual and/or collective security and safety	
Access to Infrastructure, Civic Services, and Financial Resources	H.4 Access to and use of health infrastructure and services	n/a
	H.8 Equitable access to and use of financial resources and services in vulnerable populations	

Table S3. List of 162 SDG indicators used in this analysis

Indicator	Description
1.1.1	Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)
1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3.1	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
1.4.1	Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

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1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with
	legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as
	secure, by sex and by type of tenure
1.5.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed
	to disasters per 100,000 population
1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk
	reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment
2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based
	on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the
	median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards)
	among children under 5 years of age
2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation
	from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children
	under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)
2.3.1	Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry
	enterprise size
2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous
	status
2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
2.5.1	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
	secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities
2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at
	unknown level of risk of extinction
3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio
3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
3.2.1	Under-five mortality rate
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate
3.3.1	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age
	and key populations
3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population
3.3.3	Malaria incidence per 1,000 population
3.3.4	Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population
3.3.5	Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical
	diseases
3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or
	chronic respiratory disease
3.4.2	Suicide mortality rate
3.5.1	Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and
	rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders
3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol
	per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in
	litres of pure alcohol
3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries
3.7.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their
	need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000
	women in that age group
3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of
0.0.1	essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive,
	maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable
	diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most
	disadvantaged population)
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3.8.2	Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income
3.9.1	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of
	hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH)
	services)
3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged
	15 years and older
3.b.1	Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their
	national programme
3.b.3	Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential
2 1	medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis
3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution
3.d.1	International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency
4.1.1	preparedness Proportion of children and young people; (a) in grades 2/2; (b) at the end of
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum
	proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex
4.2.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on
7.2.1	track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex
4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary
	entry age), by sex
4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education
	and training in the previous 12 months, by sex
4.4.1	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications
	technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill
4.5.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and
	others such as disability status, Indigenous Peoples and conflict-affected,
	as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be
4.0.4	disaggregated
4.6.1	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level
4.7.1	of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex
4.7.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are
	mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula,
	(c) teacher education and (d) student assessment
4.a.1	Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for
	pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted
	infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking
	water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing
	facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)
4.c.1	Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary;
	and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum
	organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-
	service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country
5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and
	monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older
	subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or
	former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and
	by age

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(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults
Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider
Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy
Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road
Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport
Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment
Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added
Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit
CO2 emission per unit of value added
Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants
Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure
Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added
Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology
Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the
bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population
Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law
Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination
Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted
Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in
urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)
Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities
Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

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11.a.1	Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs,
	by size of city
12.3.1	Global food loss index
12.4.2	Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste
	treated, by type of treatment
12.6.1	Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
12.8.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for
	sustainable development (including climate change education) are
	mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher
	education; and (d) student assessment
12.b.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented
	action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools
14.1.1	Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density
14.3.1	Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative
	sampling stations
14.4.1	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing
	States, least developed countries and all countries
15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area
15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that
	are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
15.2.1	Progress towards sustainable forest management
15.3.1	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area
15.4.1	Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity
15.4.2	Mountain Green Cover Index
15.5.1	Red List Index
15.7.1	Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live
16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past
	month
16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age
. 5.2.2	and form of exploitation
16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced
	sexual violence by age 18
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported
	their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized
	conflict resolution mechanisms
16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United
	States dollars)
16.4.2	Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or
	context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with
	international instruments
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16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months
16.5.2	Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months
10.01	
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
16.6.2	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age
16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months
16.a.1	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services
17.6.2	Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed
17.7.1	Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet
17.9.1	Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries
17.12.1	Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States
17.15.1	Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation
17.17.1	Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships

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