

Linking LCA and SDG

16

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



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

1.1 Introduction

This goal aims to build just and inclusive societies that are free from violence and feel safe for all people, no matter their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation. This requires building inclusive public institutions that can deliver quality public infrastructure, fair economic policies and inclusive environmental protection. Though the private sector has traditionally little influence over governing systems, there are many themes that companies can institute within the scope of business practices that can align well. Therefore, a company can enhance pre-existing justice systems and contribute positively to this goal.

This goal incorporates governments, civil society and communities to implement solutions. Freedom to express views should be guaranteed, people should contribute to the decisions that affect their lives and laws and policy should reflect this. The justice system should be well-functioning and able to resolve disputes.

National and international institutions should be accountable to deliver basic services to families and communities equitably without corrupt activities (Economic and Social Council, 2021).

The world is still far away from achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Millions of people live in fragile, and conflict affected states. Human trafficking, bribery, corruption and a lack of inclusivity in decision-making positions can take place within business operations.

1.2 Targets and indicators of SDG 16

This goal has the main aim of delivering just, fair and equal institutions that are not discriminatory in nature. The several themes under this goal includes:

- Crime, violence and abuse
- Access to justice
- Effective, strong and accountable institutions
- Effective law and policy development

There are no environmental LCA impact categories that link to the targets in this goal because the nature of justice is mostly related to the way justice systems manage social topics.

Table 1. The targets and indicators defined for SDG 16

Target	Indicator
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	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 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	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 and form of exploitation
	16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

<p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>	<p>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</p> <p>16.3.2 Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population</p>
<p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p>	<p>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)</p> <p>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</p>
<p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p>
<p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>	<p>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</p> <p>16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services</p>
<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>16.7.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan</p> <p>16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and</p>

	responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	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 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime &	16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1 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

1.3 Classifying the links between SDG targets and LCA impact categories

1.3.1 Target 16.1, 16.2 and 16.5 reduction of crime including violence, abuse, fraud and organised crime and corruption

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Social LCA:

- **Worker's child labour:** when a company contributes to this topic, they are eliminating the use of child labor in its entire value chain and can demonstrate this. This affects target 16.2 by ending abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children. A negative contribution would include evidence of child labour and children in hazardous working environments within the companies.
- **Worker's forced labour:** when a company contributes to this topic, they are eliminating forced labour in their supply chain and value chain and can demonstrate this. This links to the reduction of abuse, exploitation and trafficking which usually takes place in these circumstances. Usually working adults are forced to accept a job and are unable to leave the situation. This links with target 16.2.
- **Small-scale entrepreneurs' child labour:** when a company contributes to this topic, they are working to eradicate child labour and proactively raise awareness of related issues. This affects target 16.2 by ending abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children. A negative contribution would include evidence of child labour and children in hazardous working environments within the companies.

1.3.2 Target 16.3 and 16.7 access to responsive, participative and equal justice

Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

These targets are associated with governing systems which is out of the scope of LCA. However, some links can be made internal justice systems such as company policy, procedure and management.

Social LCA:

- **Worker's discrimination:** when a company contributes to this topic, they are engaged in preventing discrimination and promoting a non-discriminatory workplace through company policies that are inclusive of all employees. This links to target 16.7
- **Worker's freedom of association and collective bargaining:** when a company contributes to this topic, they are ensuring that workers are able to defend their interests and negotiate collectively with other parties. This ensures that the market does not take advantage of exploiting workers upstream and that they are representative. This links to target 16.7.
- **Local communities' community engagement:** when a company contributes to this topic, they are ensuring that they are in open dialogue with community members about their operations. This links to participative decision-making outlined in target 16.7.

1.3.3 Target 16.4, 16.6, 16.8, 16.9 and 16.10 Develop effective, strong and accountable institutions and effective law and policy development

Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

These targets refer to the efficacy of governance systems. This is outside of the scope of business operations and therefore there are no links with a company's actions.

1.3.4 Overview of links

In Figure 1 the overview of the links between LCA impact categories and SDG 16 is shown.

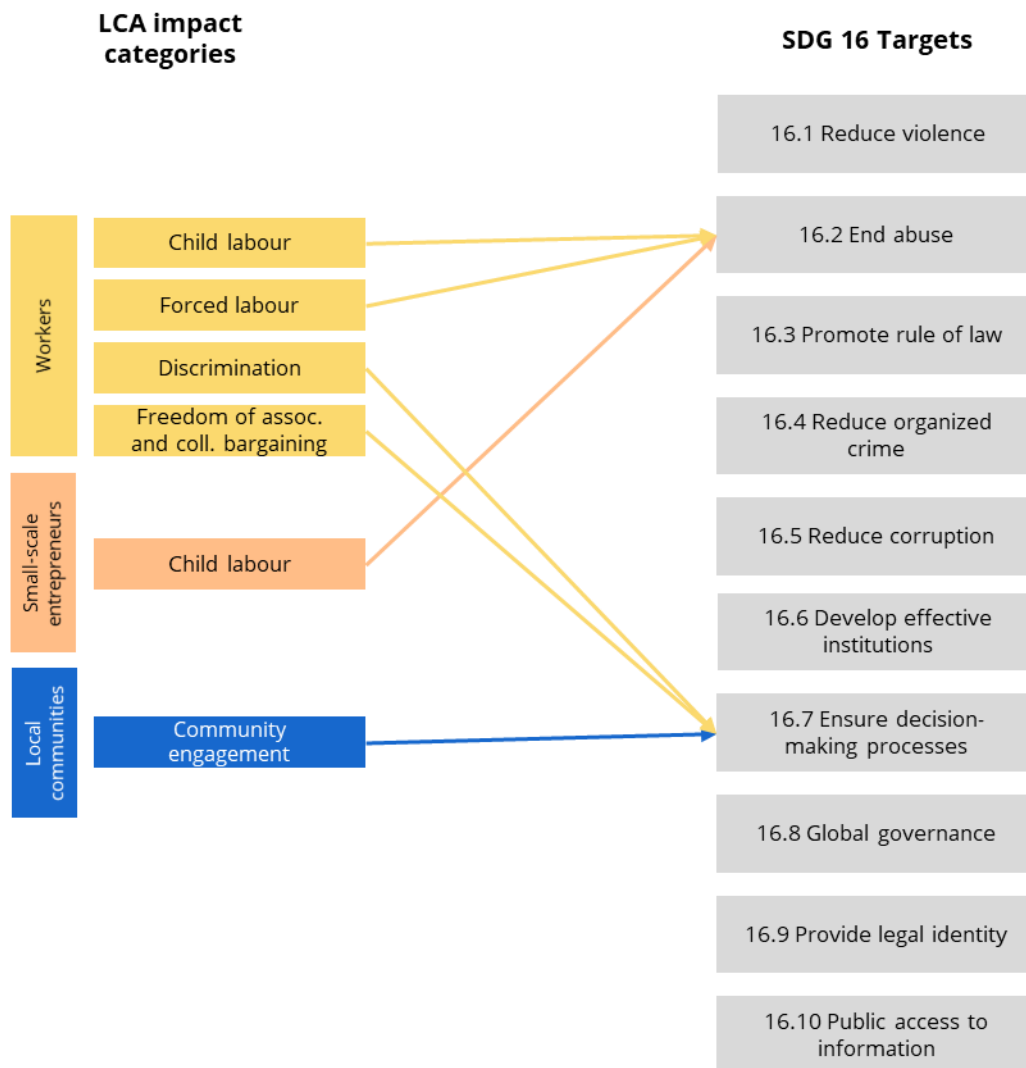


Figure 1 Overview of links between LCA impact categories and SDG targets for SDG 16

1.4 Characterizing the relation between LCA and SDG 16

In this paragraph, the nature of the relation between the impact categories and the targets of SDG 16 are defined. This step determines the score needed to qualify as a contribution to a target, per target and impact category. The first section describes how environmental impact category indicator results can be linked; the second section does the same for social metrics.

1.4.1 Social LCA

Table 2: Social topic linking to SDG

Stakeholder	Social topics	Rationale	Requirements to be counted as a contribution to SDG 6
Workers	<u>Child labour</u>	SDG target 16.2 Eliminating child labour from the supply chain ends abuse, exploitation and trafficking as part of reducing crime.	+2 The company has made eliminating the use of child labor in its own organization, its entire value chain including clients a top priority and can demonstrate the success of its approach.
			+1 The company or facility has a management system in place to raise awareness of issues associated with child labor within its organization, its subcontractors and its tier 1 suppliers, with the aim to address the root courses of child labor in the region it operates, and takes action as appropriate, like improving the accessibility to schools.
			-1 Incidents of child labor but no incidents referring to the worst forms of child labor or children in hazardous work have been discovered within the company or facility and a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion has been developed.
			-2 Incidents of child labor, including the worst forms of child labor and children in hazardous work have been discovered
	<u>Forced labour</u>	SDG target 16.2 Eliminating forced labour from the supply chain ends abuse, exploitation and trafficking as part of reducing crime.	+2 The company has made eliminating the use of forced labor in its own organization and its entire value chain, including its customers a top priority and can demonstrate the success of its approach.
			+1 The company or facility has a management system in place that successfully eliminates the use of forced labor in its own organization, its subcontractors and its tier 1 suppliers.

		-1	Incidents of forced labor have been discovered within the company or facility and a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion has been developed
		-2	Incidents of forced labor have been discovered within the company or facility, and a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion has not been developed.
Discrimination	SDG target 16.7 Promoting a non-discriminatory work environment and preventing discriminatory internal business policies enables inclusivity within the business.	+2	The company or facility has a management system in place that pro-actively promotes non-discrimination in its organization and the entire supply chain. The commitments, performance, progress and effectiveness of programs are reported publicly. The top management of the company or facility have publicly recognized non-discrimination as a key priority.
		-2	Incidents are reported revealing discrimination is frequently occurring or is part of the companies' culture and procedures.
Freedom of association and collective bargaining	SDG target 16.7 Workers are able to defend their interests and negotiate collectively. They are represented preventing exploitation incidents.	+2	The company or facility engages in a dialogue with the collective representation of workers and incorporates their views into management decisions in a structured and well-defined manner.
		+1	The company informs workers of decisions that could affect their position, before they are taken and recognizes and listens to the collective representation of organized workers in negotiations when they provide feedback.
		-2	Incidents have been discovered, that show that the company or facility prevents workers' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining and a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion has not been developed.

Local communities	Community Engagement	SDG target 16.7 Open dialogue with community members is made with regards to consultation about business operations. This includes the group in decision-making about the community.	+2	The company or facility has a system or mechanism in place to enforce the policy to inform, consult involve and “collaborate” with the local community, (the level “collaborate” in the IAP classification).
			+1	The company or facility has a system or mechanism in place to enforce the policy to inform, consult and involve the local community.
Small-scale entrepreneurs	<u>Child labour</u>	SDG target 16.2 Eliminating child labour from the supply chain ends abuse, exploitation and trafficking as part of reducing crime.	+2	Company actively and publicly engages and invests in public private partnerships that have a proven track record in addressing the root causes of child-labour in its entire supply chain.
			+1	The company or facility has a management system in place to raise awareness of issues associated with child labour within the community from which the company sources, which addresses the root courses of child labour in the region it operates and takes action as the appropriate.
			-1	Incidents of child labour, but no incidents referring to the worst forms of child labour, have been reported in the community from which the company sources, or are prevalent in the region from which the company sources, but the company has developed a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion.
			-2	Incidents of child labour, including incidents referring to the worst forms of child labour, have been discovered in the community from which the company sources, or are prevalent in the region from which the company sources and the company is doing nothing to stop this.

1.5 Scoring matrix for SDG 16

Based on the tables above, the following summary can be made as a checklist for determining if the LCA results can support a contribution to SDG 16.

Table 3: Scoring matrix for determining whether the LCA results can indeed support SDG 16

SDG 16	Red flag (-1, -2) or blocking (🚫)		Contributing		
Target 16.2					
<u>Child labour (workers)</u>	🚫	-1		+1	+2
<u>Forced labour</u>	🚫	-1		+1	+2
<u>Child labour (small-scale entrepreneurs)</u>	🚫	-1		+1	+2
Target 16.7					
Discrimination	-2			+1	+2
Freedom of association and collective bargaining	-2			+1	+2
Community engagement				+1	+2

1.6 References

Economic and Social Council (2021) *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*. Advanced Unedited Copy. UN General Assembly.