

Linking LCA and SDG 17

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

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

17.1 Introduction

The last SDG highlights the need for global partnerships and cooperation between countries and sectors, which is essential to reach the goals. This SDG functions as the means of implementation for all other SDGs, as it focusses on and supports the implementation of all other SDGs. This also makes that SDG 17 interconnects with all other SDGs.

SDG 17 encourages developed countries to provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries, and to collaborate for example with regards to policy making. While some of the targets are developing into the right direction, there are still challenges to overcome. For example, a growing part of the world's population, currently more than half of the people, is connected to the internet, on the other hand financial resources for development remain scarce (United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD),2020).

17.2 Targets and indicators of SDG 17

The targets for SDG 17 are broken down into five main categories:

- **Finance:** financial governance, and the (financial) support of developing countries. Generally, financial aspects have little overlap with LCA, especially when it is on the level of countries and governments. Social LCA has some indicators that are linked to social economic aspects such as remuneration and access to services and inputs.
- **Technology:** improved access to technology for developing countries can help countries in their development. Some topics of social LCA are related to this, such as access to services and inputs, access to tangible resources and inclusiveness.
- **Capacity-building:** this topic contains one target that is focused on development of national plans, which has little relation to the product level.
- **Trade:** focusses on increasing export from developing countries, which has a link with products if part of the supply chain is in developing countries.
- **Systemic issues**, which includes:
 - o Policy and institutional coherence
 - o Multi-stakeholder partnerships
 - o Data, monitoring and accountability
- These systemic issues are generally not relevant on product level, and hence not part of LCA. They may be included in very specific cases.

In general, it seems that there are some connections to social LCA, but not with environmental LCA. The links will be classified more specifically in section 17.3.

Table 1. The targets and indicators defined for SDG 17

Target	Indicator
Finance	
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes
17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries	17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP
17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress	17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services
17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries	17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries
Technology	
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including	17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation

through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed
17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed	17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet
Capacity-building	
17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries
Trade	
17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda	17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average
17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020	17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports
17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access	17.12.1 Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States
Systemic issues	

Policy and institutional coherence

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence	17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development
17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development	17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure

Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring
	17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
	17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development	17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

17.3 Classifying the links between SDG targets and LCA impact categories

17.3.1 Finance: Targets 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5

Target 17.1: “Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection”

Target 17.2: “Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.”

Target 17.3: “Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources”

Target 17.4: “Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress”

Target 17.5: “Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.”

Target 17.2, 17.4 and 17.5 are on country and policy level, and hence have no relation with LCA. There could be a link with access to services and inputs of small-scale entrepreneur, but that social topic is not the *driver* of impact on these targets, but improvement of the targets will contribute to improvement of that topic. However, within this method we are looking for the drivers, therefore access to services and inputs is not included in the links.

However, remuneration can be linked to target 17.3, which is related to finance:

- **Workers remuneration:** financial compensation for workers can contribute to the mobilization of financial resources in developing countries (target 17.3).

17.3.2 Technology: Targets 17.6, 17.7 and 17.8

Target 17.6: “Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.”

Target 17.7: “Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed”

Target 17.8: “Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology”

For specific products and cases there are links to be made with these targets:

- **Small-scale entrepreneurs, access to services and inputs:** this topic links with the access to science, technology and innovation that is described in target 17.6. There's also a link with the banking information technologies which are part of target 17.8. The same target also may relate to local communities, but the social topic 3.2 (access to tangible resources for local communities) deals with tangible resources such as water and land, and not with intangible resources such as science and technology.
- **Inclusiveness:** if environmentally sound technology products are specifically designed and marketed with the intention to be accessible for users of low income or from developing countries, it contributes to the development and diffusion of those technologies in these groups, which links to target 17.7. Banking, information and communication technologies that are developed with a similar intention are linked to target 17.8.
- **Employment & skill development:** if support and training programs for local communities or employers focus on environmentally sound technologies and are executed in developing countries, they link to target 17.7.

17.3.3 Capacity building: Target 17.9

Target 17.9: “Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation”

This target is focused on development countries and national plans, and has no direct link with LCA.

17.3.4 Trade: Targets 17.10, 17.11, and 17.12

Target 17.10: “Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda”

Target 17.11: “17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries’ share of global exports by 2020”

Target 17.12: Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including

by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access”

The following social topic links to these targets:

- **Small-scale entrepreneurs, fair trading relationships:** this social topic assesses the quality of trading relations for small-scale entrepreneurs. The position of the small-scale entrepreneurs in developing contributes to the increase of exports and hence this relates to target 17.11 and target 17.12.

17.3.5 Systemic issues: Targets 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.18.

Target 17.13: “Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence”

Target 17.14: “Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development”

Target 17.15: “Respect each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development”

Target 17.16: “Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries”

Target 17.17: “Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships”

Target 17.18: “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”

Target 17.19: “By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.”

Targets 17.13, 17.14, and 17.15 all relate to policy and institutional coherence, and have no direct link with LCA. Targets 17.17 and 17.19 are also difficult to link with LCA. For the other targets, there are some specific cases in which there is a link to social LCA:

- **Inclusiveness:** if products or business models of a product are specifically designed and marketed with the intention to be accessible for users of low income or from developing countries, or to stimulate sharing of knowledge and resources, it links to target 17.16. If products are very specifically focused on capacity-building related to data availability in developing countries, this links to target 17.18.

17.3.6 Overview of links

In Figure 17.1 the overview of the links between LCA impact categories and SDG 17 is shown.

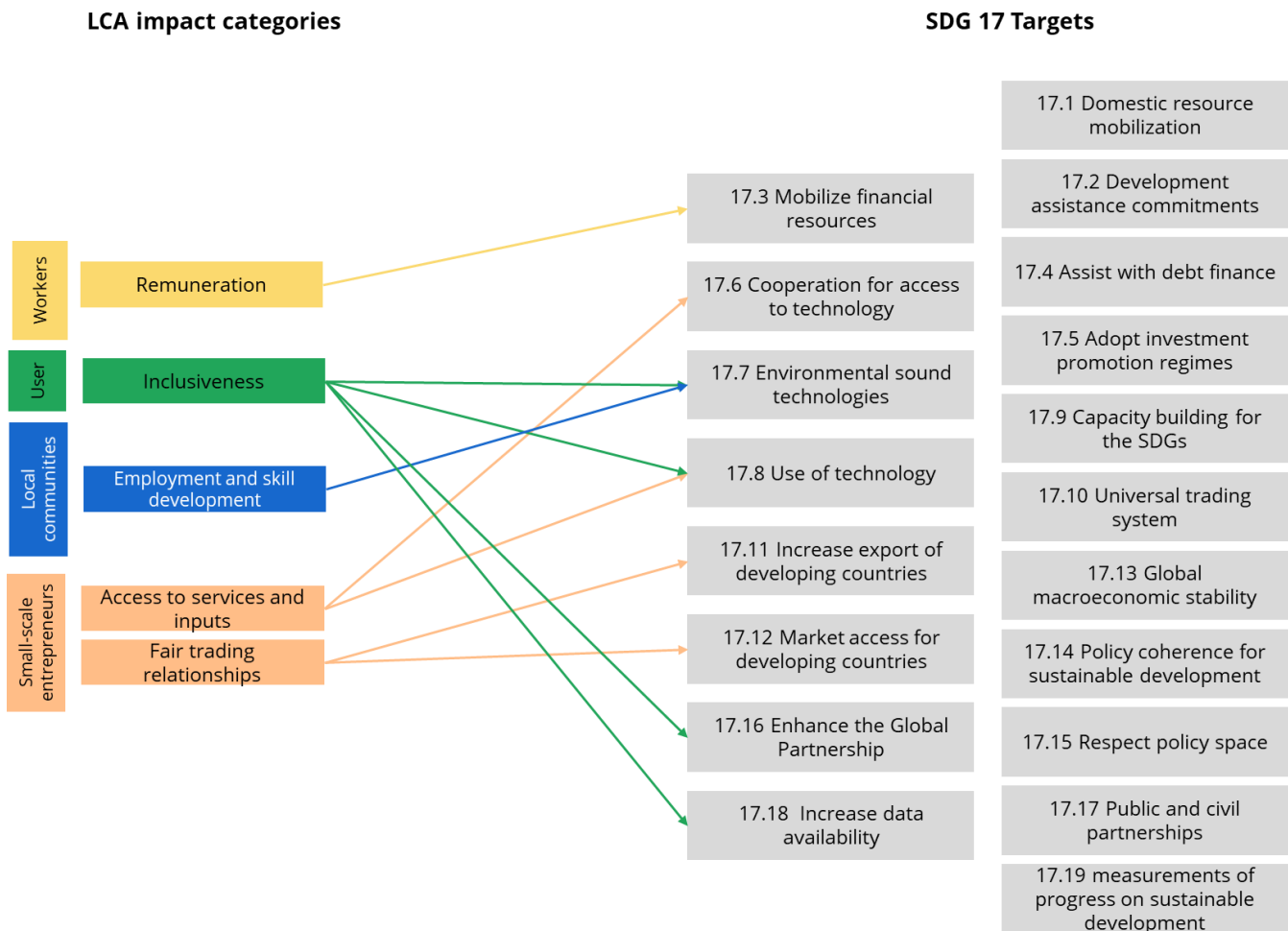


Figure 17.1 Overview of links between LCA impact categories and SDG targets for SDG 17. Note that only the left column of SDG targets have a link with the LCA impact categories.

17.4 Characterizing the relation between LCA and SDG 17

In this paragraph, the nature of the relation between the impact categories and the targets of SDG 17 are defined. This step determines the score needed to qualify as a contribution to a target, per target and impact category. Only social topics are linked to this goal.

17.4.1 Social LCA

Table 17.3: Social topic linking to SDG 17

Stakeholder	Social topics	Rationale	Requirements to be counted as a contribution to SDG 17	
Workers	Remuneration	Financial compensation for workers can contribute to the mobilization of financial resources in developing countries. A negative impact is not necessarily detrimental.	+2	All workers are paid a living wage and receive additional social benefits.
			+1	All workers are paid a living wage.
User	Inclusiveness	If products are intentionally focused on vulnerable groups (in developing countries) they can contribute to target 17.7, 17.8, 17.16 and 17.18. +2 and +1 scores have a positive contribution, the other scores are not detrimental.	+2	The solution offered by the company is designed and marketed with the clear objective to give the most vulnerable groups in a society access to essential products and services at considerably lower costs than traditional solutions.
			+1	The solution offered by the company is designed and marketed to give all users access to essential products and services, including some of the vulnerable groups in a society.
Local communities	Employment and skill development	If support and training programs for local communities or employers focus on environmentally sound technologies and are executed in developing countries, they link to	+2	The company or facility has committed to a long-term program to grow local employment. The company actively contributes to skill development in connection to its future need for staffing and the staffing of its subcontractors and smallholders.

	target 17.7. This connects to the +1 and +2 scores. If there is no skill development it does not block the positive contributions to SDG 17.	+1	The company or facility has committed to a long-term program to grow local employment. The company actively contributes to skill development in connection to its future need for staffing and the staffing of its subcontractors and smallholders.
Small-scale entrepreneurs	Access to services and inputs	+2	Evidence indicated that the offered services and inputs are used by the majority of small-scale entrepreneurs.
		-2	No actions have been taken to assess the local conditions and evaluate improvement opportunities
	Fair trading relationships	+2	Small-scale entrepreneurs can obtain premiums.
		+1	Actions are taken to encourage small-scale entrepreneurs to join collectives, cooperatives and associations/groups.
		-2	No assessment is conducted to understand small-scale entrepreneurs' perception and knowledge of price structure and quality standards.
	The position of the small-scale entrepreneurs in developing contributes to the increase of exports and hence this relates to target 17.11 and target 17.12. Already a 0 level can contribute, since this relates to >80% of entrepreneurs that has knowledge of e.g. price structures, which can already increase the access to the markets.		

17.5 Scoring matrix for SDG 17

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 17.

Table 17.4: Scoring matrix for determining whether the LCA results can indeed support SDG 17

SDG 17	Blocking	Contributing
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Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources

Remuneration			+1	+2
Target 17.6 Enhance cooperation				
Access to services and inputs*	-2			+2
Target 17.7 Promote environmentally sound technologies				
Inclusiveness*			+1	+2
Employment and skill development*			+1	+2
Target 17.8 Operationalize technology bank				
Inclusiveness			+1	+2
Access to services and inputs*	-2			+2
Target 17.11 Increase exports of developing countries				
Fair trading relationships	-2		+1	+2
Target 17.12 Realize market access				
Fair trading relationships	-2		+1	+2
Target 17.16 Global Partnership for Sustainable Development				
Inclusiveness*			+1	+2
Target 17.18 Capacity-building support				
Inclusiveness*			+1	+2

*link can be established under certain conditions (see section about the related target)

17.6 References

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), 2020. Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Via:
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/goal-17/>