

Linking LCA and SDG 5

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



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

5.1 Introduction

This fifth SDG focusses on gender equality and empowering women and girls. Gender equality is a fundamental human right (United Nations General Assembly, 1948). However, gender inequality persists everywhere, and women continue to be oppressed (UN, 2020). It comes in many forms and affects women in numerous ways.

When it comes to this topic, equality and empowerment are important terms. The Cambridge Dictionary defines empowerment and equality as the following:

- 1) Gender equality can be defined as: *the act of treating women and men equally*: with an important note: *Gender equality does not imply that women and men are the same, but that they have equal value and should be accorded equal treatment.*
- 2) The term empowerment is defined as *the process of gaining freedom and power to do what you want or to control what happens to you.*

Gender inequality, and the lack of empowerment has many impacts on the life of woman and girls. It comes in many forms and affects women in numerous ways. It can be linked to domestic violence, limited access to sufficient and healthy food compared to men, limited ability to breastfeed and take care of young infants, child marriages etc. These important consequences of gender based discrimination are described in the other SDGs. This SDG focussed on the existence of discrimination as such, and not the consequences for health, malnutrition, poverty.

There seems to be no relevant link between environmental impact category indicators and these targets, although violence and discrimination can increase if environmental conditions deteriorate (UN Women, 2020). There is a number of social topics that have a clear link with some of the targets of SDG 5, these topics are discussed in the next section.

5.2 Targets and indicators of SDG 5

This SDG refers to a specific type of discrimination: gender based discrimination. Most indicators refer to legal frameworks or data collected in national statistics, consequently the targets are especially relevant for governments.

Table 1. The targets and indicators defined for SDG 5

Target	Indicator
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	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

<p>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p>	<p>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</p> <p>5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</p>
<p>5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p>	<p>5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18</p> <p>5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age</p>
<p>5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate</p>	<p>5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location</p>
<p>5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</p>	<p>5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments</p> <p>5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>
<p>5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences</p>	<p>5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</p> <p>5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education</p>

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
	5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

5.3 Classifying the links between SDG targets and LCA impact categories

Two of the social topics refer specifically to the concept of creating the conditions to have equal rights and opportunities:

1. Workers, **discrimination**: while this topic covers all forms of discrimination, it still is very relevant for this SDG, as it also includes gender discrimination. The performance indicators used to assess discrimination explicitly refer to the efforts of companies to actively promote non-discriminatory behaviour.
2. Small-scale entrepreneurs, **women empowerment**. This topic refers directly to the empowerment of women.

In this case, both the topics are relevant to all targets of the SDG.

5.3.1 Overview of links

In Figure 1 the overview of the links between LCA impact categories and SDG 5 is shown.

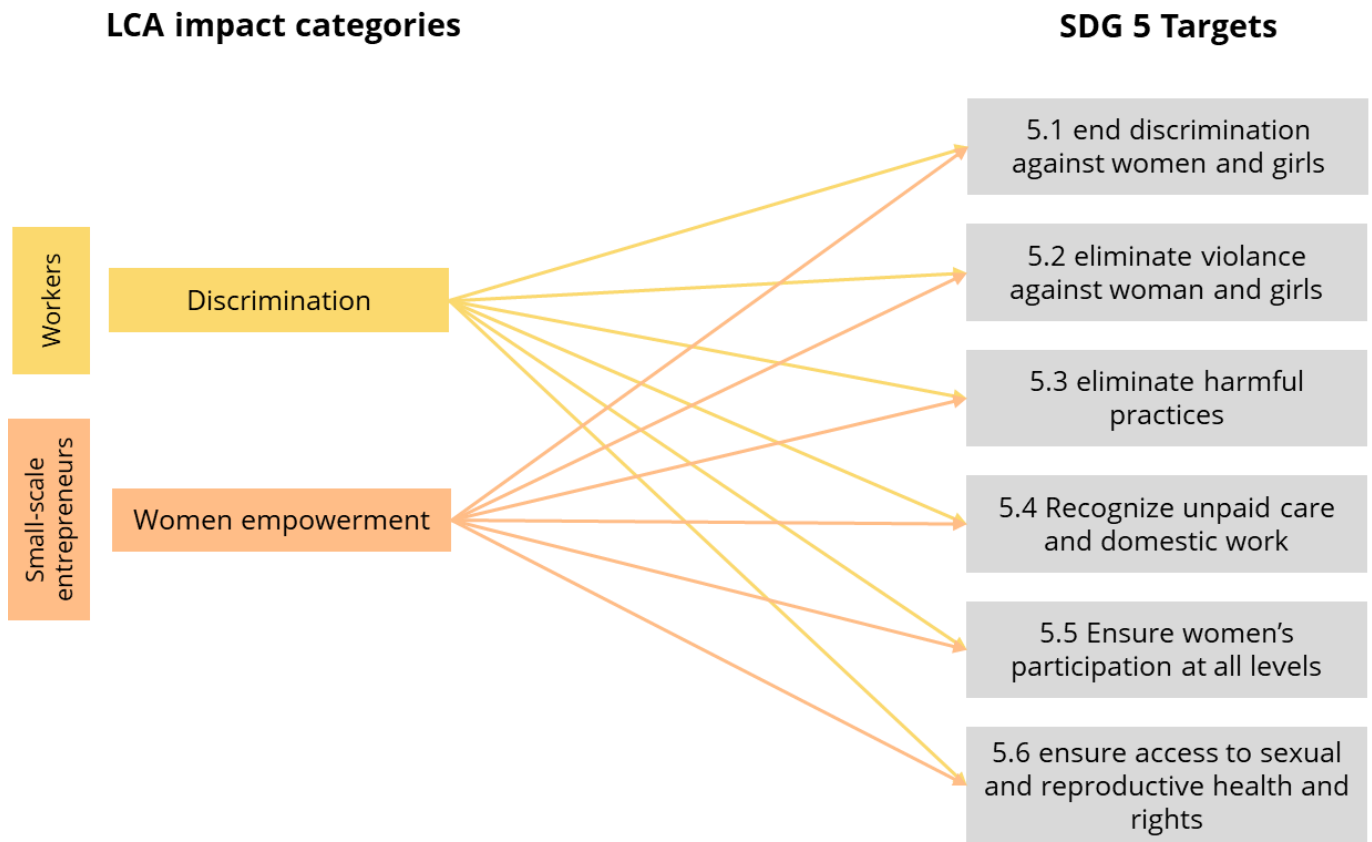


Figure 1 Overview of links between LCA impact categories and SDG targets for SDG 5

5.4 Characterizing the relation between LCA and SDG 5

In this section, the nature of the relation between the impact categories and the targets of SDG 5 are defined. This step determines the score needed to qualify as a contribution to a target, per target and impact category.

Table 2: Social topic linking to SDG 5

Stakeholder	Social topics	Rationale	Requirements to be counted as a contribution to SDG 5
Workers	Discrimination	All targets of SDG 5: the discrimination topic addresses the core of this SDG, and companies can have a significant influence by actively promoting non-discriminatory behaviour, also outside the workplace	+2 The company or facility has a PDCA process in place to pro-actively promote non-discrimination. The commitments, performance, progress and effectiveness of programmes are reported publicly. The top management of the company or facility have publicly recognised non-discrimination as a key priority.
			-1 Incidents of discrimination have been discovered within the company or facility, and a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion has been developed OR the company or facility has a non-discrimination policy but does not have a system in place to enforce the policy.
			-2 Incidents of discrimination have been discovered within the company or facility, but a corrective action plan with a clear timeline for completion has not been developed.
Small-scale entrepreneurs	Women empowerment	All targets of the SDG are linked to this topic. Women empowerment is a central topic in SDG 5.	+2 Evidence indicates that the thought practices are applied. The local situation is continuously monitored.
			+1 Most women believe that the offered activities are useful (correspond to their needs and interests).
			-2 The role of women in growing crops is not evaluated and recognised within the value chain, and no actions are undertaken to identify opportunities for gender-inclusive interventions. OR generic data sources indicate that female small-scale entrepreneurs' role is not recognised regionally.

5.5 Scoring matrix for SDG 5

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 5.

Table 3: Scoring matrix for determining whether the LCA results can indeed support SDG 5

SDG 5	Blocking		Contributing	
Target 5.1 End discrimination				
Discrimination	-2	-1		+2
Women empowerment	-2		+1	+2
Target 5.2 Eliminate violence				
Discrimination	-2	-1		+2
Women empowerment	-2		+1	+2
Target 5.3 Eliminate harmful practices				
Discrimination	-2	-1		+2
Women empowerment	-2		+1	+2
Target 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work				
Discrimination	-2	-1		+2
Women empowerment	-2		+1	+2
Target 5.5 Women's participation				
Discrimination	-2	-1		+2
Women empowerment	-2		+1	+2
Target 5.6 Access to health and reproductive rights				
Discrimination	-2	-1		+2
Women empowerment	-2		+1	+2

5.6 References

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