



SDG 4 Tutorial – Part 4: Understanding How to Drive the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Education) in Your Community, City, Country

To recap, Part 1 was "A Distilled View"; Part 2 was "Understanding Your Country's Commitment and How to Become Involved"; Part 3 was "Country Initiatives that have been registered with the UN, Who's Partnering with Whom and How we can increase the effectiveness of Initiatives"

Part 4 - " Financing SDG 4: What Price Education?"

Shakespeare would have said. "Ah, there's the rub". In the United States we simply say, "that's where the rubber meets the road". Regardless of how you say it in your country, the question remains, "how is the implementation of SDGs going to be funded"?

Curiously enough, while the UN has been calling upon the world to think about the SDGs since 2013 and the implementation of the SDGs having been priced in the trillions of dollars (US), conversations are still ongoing about how the SDGs will be financed.

So, if you're anything like me, you're inconsolably worried because we have less than 5,000 days left to make the goals a reality for 7 billion people.

But, I can be an alarmist and the truth of the matter is that while everything is still up in the air, much is already being done - successfully.

The Ideal Financing Scenario & An Early Show of Faith

The UN has always maintained that the financing of the world's largest human development program would take innovation in financing mechanisms, some amount of risk and courage and partnerships between governments, corporations, foundations, multi-lateral banks and NGOs (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

It's a complicated scenario because there are so many players and apparently so many ways in which to innovate and partner.

Let's list what I have been able to glean so far, as best as we can, in our limited tutorial space here:

1) SDG Fund:

- The SDG Fund was established in 2014 by the UN, with an initial contribution from the government of Spain to support sustainable development activities through multidimensional joint programs. the IMF and the World Bank are also committed to the SDGs.
- SDG Fund joint programs are already in 22 countries, improving the lives of more than 3.5 million people.

- Joint programs bring together an average of three UN agencies. This strengthens the UN's ability to deliver as one entity.
- UN entities and hundreds of national counterparts are involved in making the SDG Fund joint activities a reality. Agencies involved are UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WHO, WFP, ITC IFAD, ILO, UNFPA.
- Approximately 70% of joint program participants are women and girls.
- To better align public-private partnerships for sustainable development, the SDG Fund has established a private sector advisory group, formed by business leaders of major companies from industries worldwide.

2) Financial Services Sector Funding:

Private sector banks and financial institutions are independently or in collaboration with development banks, creating financial products and services that are helping implement the SDGs, particularly SDG 4.

Here's a list of the financial institutions that are already leading the way: Inter- American Development Bank, Multi-lateral Development Bank, Credit Suisse, Yes Bank, Barclays, Standard Chartered, CitiBank, HSBC, Caixa Geral de Depositos, BancoEstado, DGB Financial Group, Piraeus Bank, Western Union, Mastercard, Daiwa,

If you would like more information on the programs that these institutions support, please let us know.

3) Philanthropy and the SDGs

Total Foundation Funding for SDGs by 2015 totaled \$ 140,853,928,210. Thirty - seven percent of which (\$52, 346,547,662) went towards SDG 4 - Education. Although the top 25 foundations are American, this fund has partners from around the world. Programs are ongoing and new programs are added everyday

Some Room for Concern

1) Other Private Sector Investments:

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), over \$1.7 trillion moved across the globe as foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2015.

- Developed economies received the most inflows (\$ 962 billion)
- Developing economies (\$764 billion) and
- Transition economies (\$ 35 billion)

Why, is this important to think about? It's important because:

- The countries (transition and least developed economies) that need foreign investment the most received dramatically low direct investments.
- Foreign investments have a domestic multiplier effect: investments result in jobs and higher household incomes and taxes on these investments support the proliferation of public goods like healthcare and education.
- Our concern is that in developing and least developed countries, the SDGs have to compete for investments funds with projects that do not contribute to sustainable development and may even be responsible for degrading the land, air, environment and life sustainability

- It shows a trend - A survey showed that one year after the adoption of the SDGs, more than half of the world's businesses were ignoring the call to become engaged in the implementation of these goals.
- Of the key role the private sector must play if the goals are to become a reality.

The United Nations Compact for partnerships has developed a Post- 2015 Architecture to engage businesses. The Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture illustrates the main building blocks necessary to enhance corporate sustainability as an effective contribution to sustainable development, creating value for both business and society.

If you would like to know more about this, please let us know.

2) Country Governments

National governments need to do 5 things - each requiring thought, persistence and follow through:

- Pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors
- Fully engage the whole government beyond foreign affairs, development ministries and aid agencies
- Develop the capacity to to manage policy tensions, trade-offs and synergies between sectoral policies.
- Involve key stakeholders
- Strengthen capacities to monitor SDGs and report on them

Whew!

So, as you can imagine, country governments are anywhere on the spectrum of creating an enabling environment for the accomplishment of SDGs -from just beginning to address these requirements to having made some progress to having made good progress.

3) Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a term coined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to measure aid. The DAC first used the term in 1969. It is a widely used indicator of international aid flows. It includes some loans.

What we need to know is:

- ODA is a unique public financial resource that can be utilized to overcome poverty, marginalization and inequality and can be grounded in the values of equity, solidarity and human rights. But aid reform is an essential precondition if it to maximize its contributions to the SDGs.
- The role of ODA in the implementation of SDGs is being assessed and analyzed and is a subject that requires its own tutorial.
- That as the social, economic and political conditions in developed countries continue to change dramatically, developed donor countries will tend towards the reduction of ODA, which will inevitably impact the SDGs

How GWI NFAs and Members can be Involved

To many of us, global and national financial transactions seem overwhelming and beyond our understanding and women particularly have tried to stay out of these discussions.

However, to do so at this time in the world's history would be a mistake. There are a number of actions that you can take that will increase the probability that funds allocated towards the implementation of SDGs will be put to their best use.

Here are some relatively simple actions you can take in your respective countries:

1) Find out more about the joint programs funded by the SDG - F in your country. UN Country Co-Ordinators are responsible for recommending national and local programs for funding. Once you've understood the lay of the land in terms of what is being funded, you can recommend deserving programs that you may know of.

Alternatively, you can offer to help the country Co-Ordinators to identify programs. Remember that your understanding of your country, culture and needs is far superior to that of someone who does not know your country

2) Review the list of financial institutions above - all of them are multi-nationals and probably have offices in your country. Make an appointment to speak to someone about the institution's involvement in the SDGs. Which programs are they supporting? Ask how you or a citizen group can become involved in an advisory position.

3) If you are looking for funding for a program that you would like to initiate or funding for a program that you think deserves funding, foundations are your best bet. *If you need a list of foundations that are involved in funding SDGs, let us know.*

If you think that navigating the foundations is difficult, we can help you. We can also help you format your information to meet the foundation's guidelines. To do your homework, [click here](#)

4) It would be wonderful, if you could start "study and discussion" groups on these two topics: a) Is my country government creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the SDGs and b) Understanding ODA in my country and assessing how it can be used optimally in SDGs.

True that these discussion groups are not for the faint of heart but they are just the sort of thing that educated women like us must tackle. The goal of these discussions is to create a report that can be shared on many national and international platforms.

Again, we will help you with these discussions- if you can put a group together in your country, we can help you facilitate the discussions.

Next time: Part 5 - Evaluation Mechanisms for SDGs and finally, Part 6 - Putting it all together.