

Fig. S1. Temporal coverage of SDG indicator data. Availability ranges from 1983-2017, but predominantly between 2000-2015, which was used as the temporal scope of the present study. For indicator descriptions see Table S1.

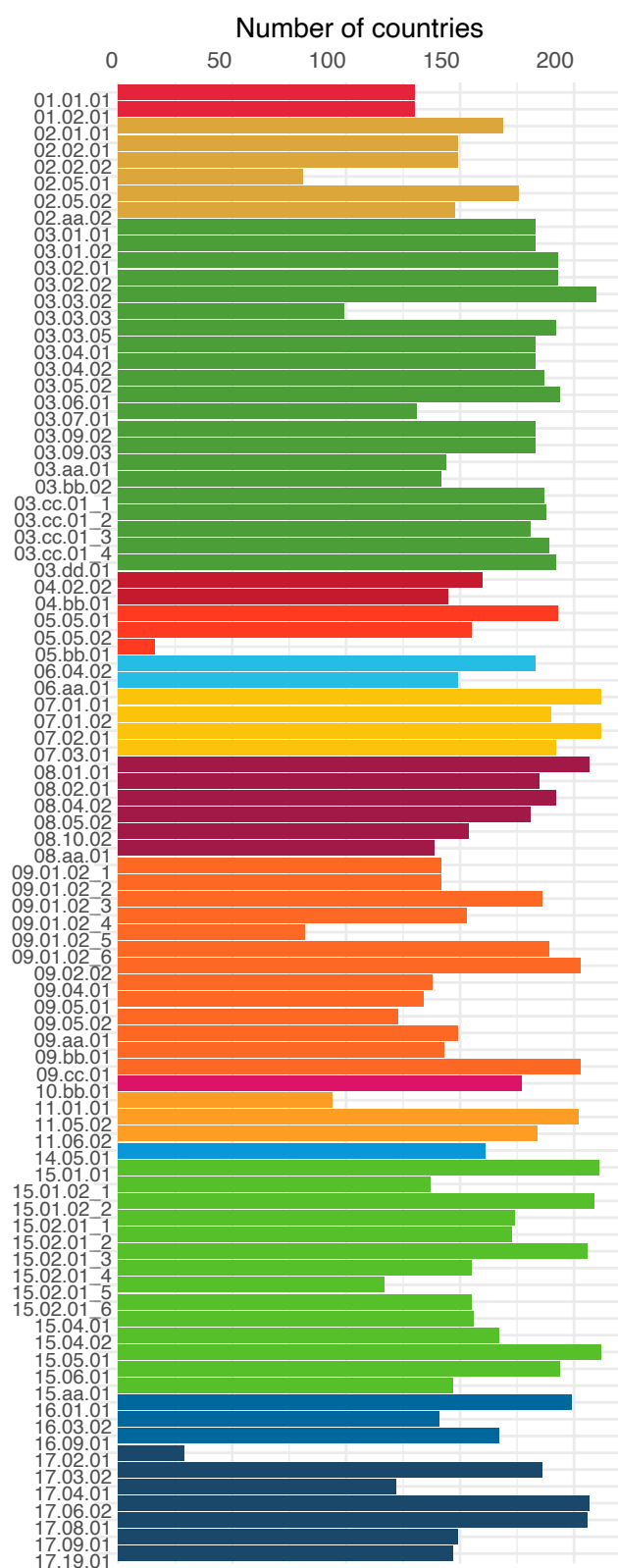


Fig. S2. Number of countries available by SDG indicator. In the analyses, countries and indicators were filtered to generate a complete data set of countries and indicators. For indicator descriptions see Table S.



Fig. S3. SDG indicator availability for high- and low-income countries. Countries and indicators were filtered to generate a complete data set of countries and indicators for subsequent analyses.



Fig. S4. SDG indicator availability for middle-income countries. Countries and indicators were filtered to generate a complete data set of countries and indicators for subsequent analyses.

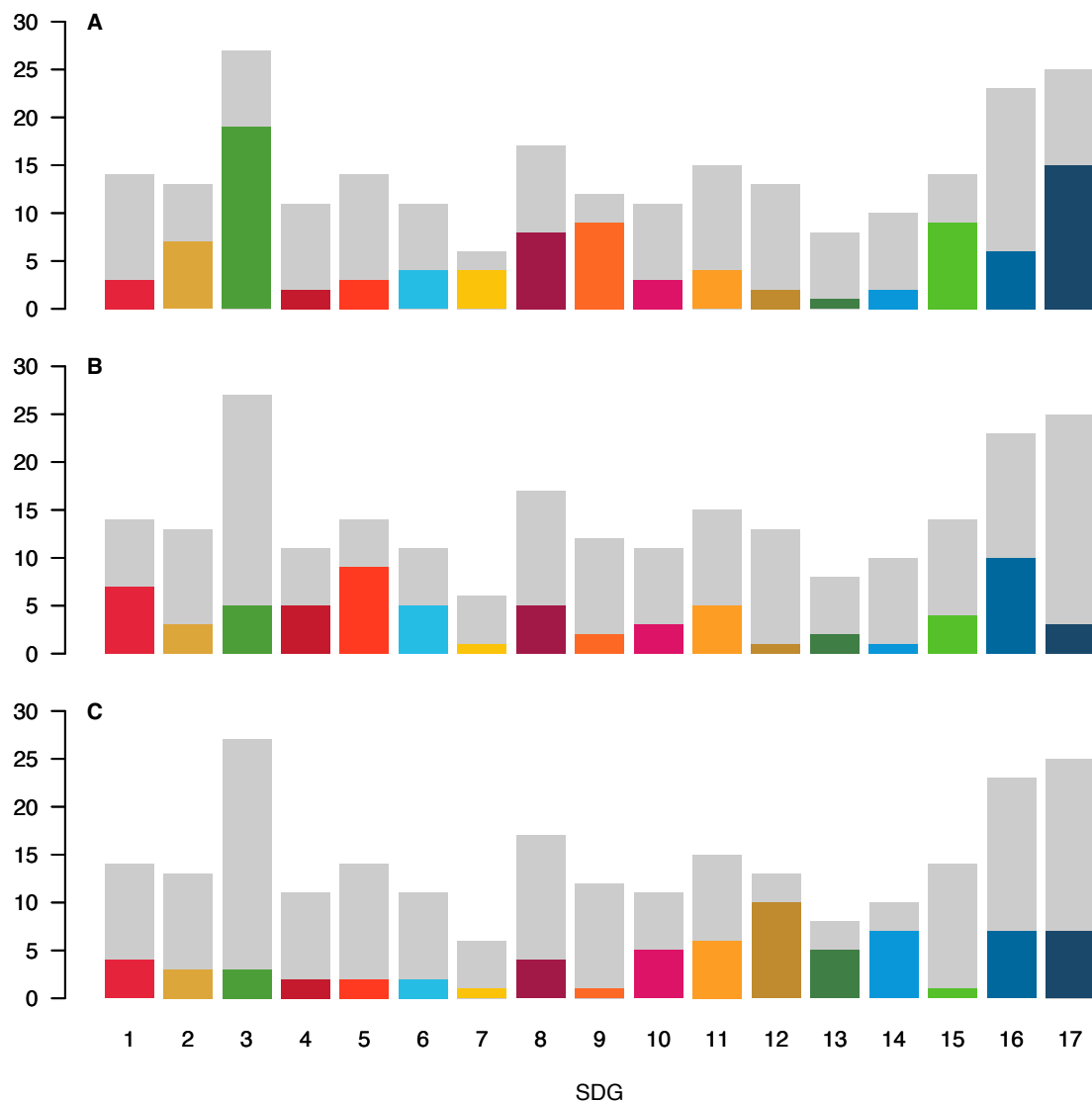


Fig. S5. Number of SDG indicators available by tier (UN Economic and Social Council 2017). Bars coloured by SDG; grey bars indicate total number of indicators per goal, irrespective of tier. Indicators in tier 1 are conceptually clear, internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries (A). Indicators in tier 2 are conceptually clear, internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries (B). For indicators in tier 3, internationally established methodology and/or standards are not yet available, but methodology and/or standards are being (or will be) developed or tested (C). Only indicators in tier 1 were used in this study.

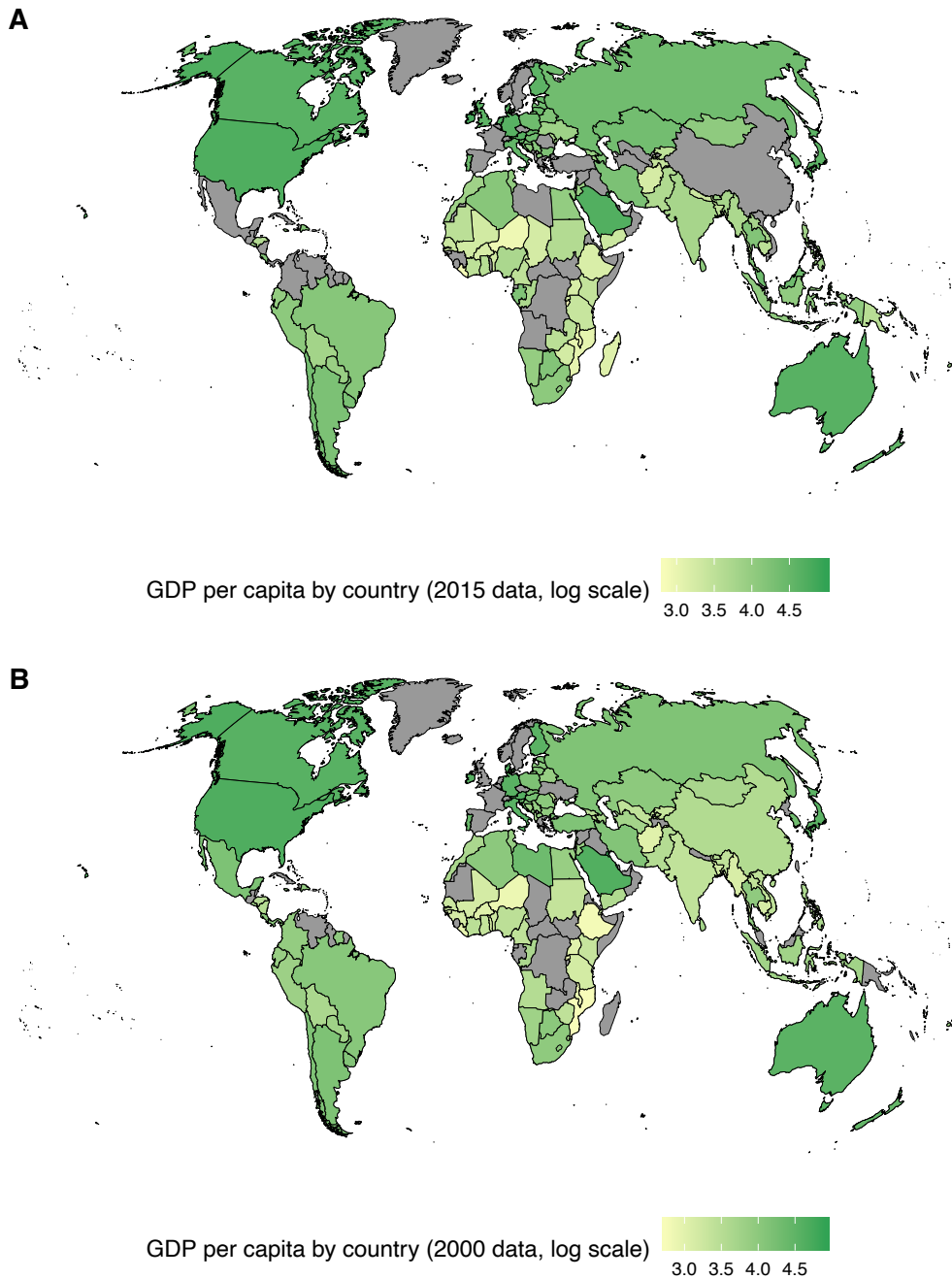


Fig. S6. Countries included in analyses. Countries with data on SDG status ($n = 123$) (A), and on SDG progress ($n = 127$; 2000-2015) (B). Countries coloured by income values used in respective analyses (GDP per capita PPP, constant 2011 international \$). Countries in grey are missing data on some SDG indicators and thus not included in analyses.

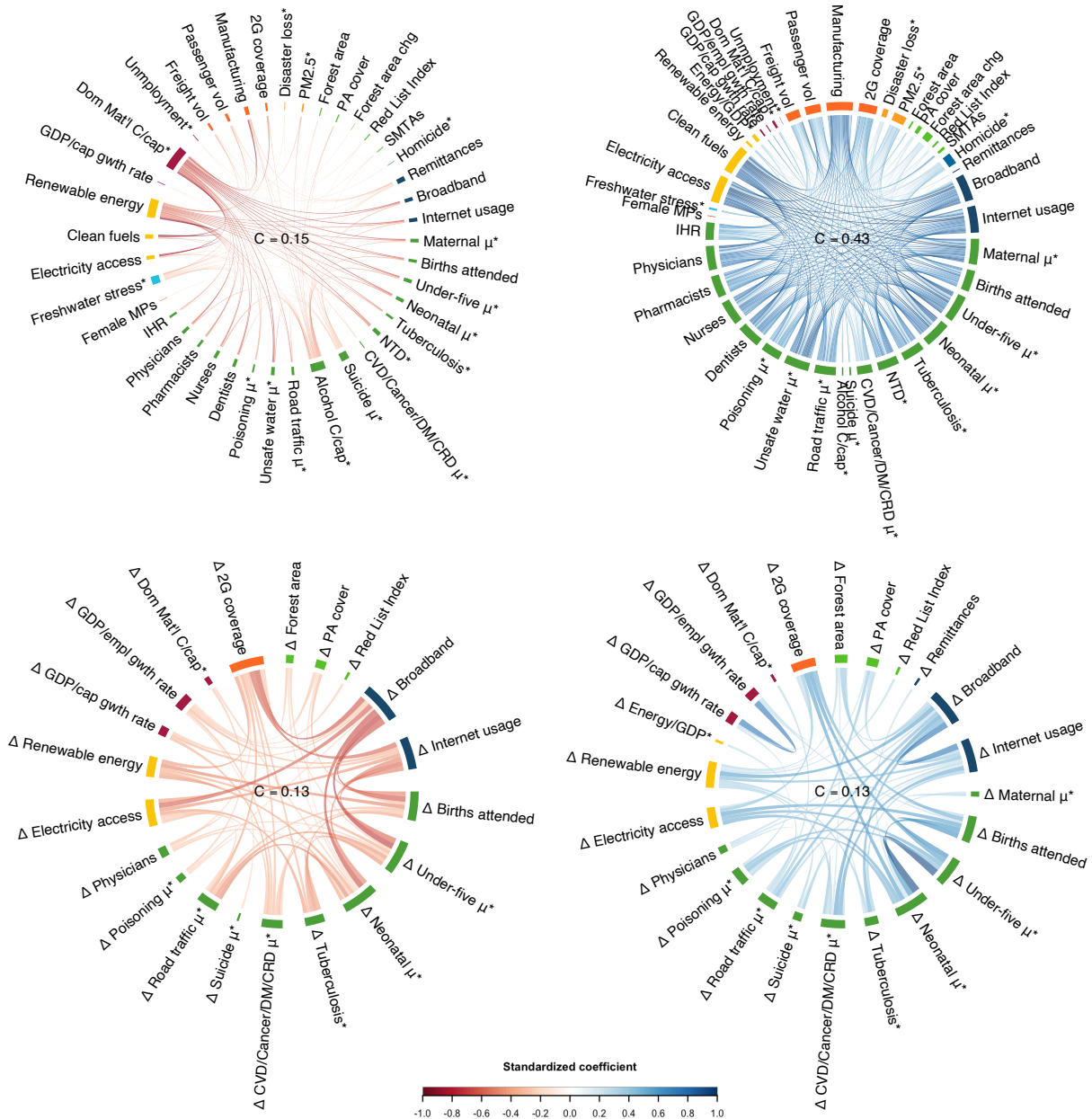


Fig. S7. Connectivity of SDG *status* (top; A, B) and *trends* (bottom; C, D) derived from regression models *before controlling for GDP per capita*. Connections show significant negative (A, C) and positive (B, D) relationships. Significance cutoff's are corrected for multiple comparisons following Benjamini & Hochberg (1995), resulting in $q^* = 0.029$ for *status* models (A, B); and $q^* = 0.013$ for *trend* models (C, D); equivalent to a false discovery rate $\alpha = 0.05$. *Status* models use most-recent reported SDG indicator levels on 42 SDG indicators across 123 countries, *trend* models use mean annual change values on 29 SDG indicators between 2000-2015 across 127 countries. Inside the diagrams, quantity C specifies network connectivity: the proportion of relationships significant at q^* . Link color and width are proportional to relationship strength. Indicator sector colors reflect overarching SDG; indicator sector width is proportional to total relationship strength for each indicator. Indicator names appended with an asterisk were inverted (i.e., multiplied with -1), so that greater SDG indicator values signify more desirable outcomes for all indicators.

Table S1. Descriptions of SDG indicators at tier 1

Indicator code	Series description	In status dataset	In progress dataset	Inverted
1.1.1	Proportion of population below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day			✓
1.2.1	Proportion of population below national poverty line			✓
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment			✓
2.2.1	Proportion of stunted children (height for age below minus two standard deviations from the median) under the age of 5 years			✓
2.2.2	Proportion of wasted children (weight for height below minus two standard deviations from the median) under the age of 5 years			✓
2.5.1	Number of accessions of plant genetic resources secured in conservation facilities under medium or long term conditions			
2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction			✓
2.a.2	Total official flows disbursements for agriculture, by recipient			
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	✓	✓	✓
3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	✓	✓	✓
3.3.3	Malaria incidence per 1,000 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	✓	✓	✓
3.5.2	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 married or in a union of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods			
3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene	✓		✓
3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings	✓	✓	✓
3.a.1	Prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older			✓
3.b.2	Total net official disbursements for medical research and basic health sectors, by recipient			
3.c.1	Health worker density of dentistry personnel per 1,000 population	✓		
3.c.1	Health worker density of nursing and midwifery personnel per 1,000 population	✓		
3.c.1	Health worker density of pharmaceutical personnel per 1,000 population	✓		

Table S1. Descriptions of SDG indicators at tier 1

Indicator code	Series description	In status dataset	In progress dataset	Inverted
3.c.1	Health worker density of physicians per 1,000 population	✓	✓	
3.d.1	International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacity index	✓		
4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)			
4.b.1	Total official flows for scholarships, by recipient			
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments	✓	✓	
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions			
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone			
6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	✓		✓
6.a.1	Total official flows for water supply and sanitation, by recipient			
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	✓	✓	
7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	✓		
7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	✓	✓	
7.3.1	Energy intensity level of primary energy	✓	✓	✓
8.1.1	Growth rate of real GDP per capita	✓	✓	
8.2.1	Growth rate of real GDP per employed person	✓	✓	
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption per capita	✓	✓	✓
8.5.2	Unemployment rate	✓		✓
8.10.2	Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
8.a.1	Total official flows disbursed for Aid for Trade, by recipient			
9.1.2	Freight volume (tonne kilometres), by air transport			
9.1.2	Freight volume (tonne kilometres), by rail transport			
9.1.2	Freight volume (tonne kilometres), by road transport	✓		
9.1.2	Passenger volume (passenger kilometres), by air transport			
9.1.2	Passenger volume (passenger kilometres), by rail transport			
9.1.2	Passenger volume (passenger kilometres), by road transport	✓		
9.2.1	Manufacturing value added per capita at constant 2010 United States dollars	✓	✓	
9.4.1	Emissions of carbon dioxide per unit of Manufacturing Value Added			
9.5.1	Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP			
9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants			
9.a.1	Total official flows for infrastructure, by recipient			
9.b.1	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added			

Table S1. Descriptions of SDG indicators at tier 1

Indicator code	Series description	In status dataset	In progress dataset	Inverted
9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by at least a 2G mobile network	✓	✓	
10.b.1	Total assistance for development, by recipient			
11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums			✓
11.5.2	Direct disaster economic loss, average annual loss in relation to global GDP	✓		✓
11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in cities (population weighted)	✓		✓
14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas			
15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	✓	✓	
15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas			
15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas	✓	✓	
15.2.1	Above-ground biomass in forest			
15.2.1	Above-ground biomass in forest per hectare			
15.2.1	Forest area net change rate	✓	✓	
15.2.1	Forest area within legally established protected areas			
15.2.1	Proportion of forest area with a long-term management plan			
15.2.1	Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas			
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	✓	✓	
15.6.1	Total reported number of Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs) transferring plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the country	✓	✓	
15.a.1	Total official development assistance for biodiversity, by recipient			
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	✓	✓	✓
16.3.2	Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population			✓
16.9.1	Proportion of births registered with a civil authority			
17.2.1	Net official development assistance (ODA) to LDCs as a percentage of OECD-DAC donors' GNI, by donor			
17.3.2	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	✓	✓	
17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services			
17.6.2	Fixed Internet broadband Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	✓	✓	
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) disbursed to developing countries			

Table S1. Descriptions of SDG indicators at tier 1

Indicator code	Series description	In status dataset	In progress dataset	Inverted
17.19.1	Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries			

Table S2. Proportion of significant links for SDG status indicators. Table shows the indicator-level proportion of significant links, at the Benjamini-Hochberg-corrected significance level for each model type. Blanks indicate no significant relationships. Indicators with asterisk (*) were inverted.

Indicator	Indicator name	SDG status			
		Simple regression		Accounting for GDP	
		Degree negative links	Degree positive links	Degree negative links	Degree positive links
3.1.1	Maternal mortality (rate)*	0.15	0.63		0.39
3.1.2	Births attended by health personnel (%)	0.10	0.61	0.10	0.27
3.2.1	Under-five mortality (rate)*	0.15	0.66	0.02	0.46
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality (rate)*	0.12	0.66	0.02	0.44
3.3.2	Tuberculosis (incidence)*	0.10	0.66		0.34
3.3.5	Neglected tropical diseases (# of ppl)*	0.17	0.59	0.17	0.24
3.4.1	CVD,Cancer,Diab.,CRD mort.(rate)*	0.05	0.66		0.10
3.4.2	Suicide mortality (rate)*	0.49	0.07	0.12	0.12
3.5.2	Alcohol consumption/capita (L/yr)*	0.63	0.05	0.29	0.07
3.6.1	Road traffic mortality (rate)*	0.12	0.63		0.27
3.9.2	Unsafe water, sanit., hyg. mort. (rate)*	0.12	0.61	0.02	0.37
3.9.3	Unintentional poisoning mort. (rate)*	0.07	0.63	0.02	0.17
3.c.1-1	Dentistry personnel (density)	0.12	0.61		0.29
3.c.1-2	Nursing & midwifery person'l (density)	0.12	0.68	0.02	0.27
3.c.1-3	Pharmaceutical personnel (density)	0.10	0.66		0.10
3.c.1-4	Physician (density)	0.12	0.68		0.29
3.d.1	International Health Regulations (index)	0.12	0.59	0.02	0.07
5.5.1	Women in Parliament (%)	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.02
6.4.2	Freshwater stress (% of avail. res.)*	0.46	0.07	0.10	0.07
7.1.1	Electricity access (%)	0.12	0.61	0.05	0.32
7.1.2	Clean fuels and technology (%)	0.12	0.63	0.10	0.22
7.2.1	Renewable energy (% of energy cons.)	0.56	0.10	0.17	0.12
7.3.1	Energy intensity of GDP*		0.22		0.07
8.1.1	GDP/capita growth rate (real GDP)	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.07
8.2.1	GDP/employed growth rate (real GDP)		0.02		0.02
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption/capita*	0.63	0.10	0.02	0.02
8.5.2	Unemployment (rate)*	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02
9.1.2-3	Freight volume (km)	0.12	0.54	0.05	0.07
9.1.2-6	Passenger volume (km)	0.15	0.59	0.02	0.10
9.2.2	Manufacturing (value added/capita)	0.15	0.68	0.02	0.15
9.c.1	2G mobile network coverage (%)	0.07	0.61		0.05
11.5.2	Disaster econ. loss (% of glob. GDP)*	0.05	0.34	0.02	0.10
11.6.2	Fine particulate matter (level)*	0.07	0.56	0.02	0.20
15.1.1	Forest area (% of land)	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
15.1.2-2	PA cover of imp. biodiv. sites (%)	0.05	0.27	0.10	0.05
15.2.1-3	Forest area net change (rate)	0.02	0.44		
15.5.1	Red List Index	0.07	0.12	0.05	0.05
15.6.1	Plant genetic res. transf. (# reported)	0.05	0.10	0.07	0.07

16.1.1	Homicide (incidence)*	0.02	0.54		0.15
17.3.2	Remittances (% of GDP)	0.32	0.05		0.34
17.6.2	Internet Broadband subscriptions (%)	0.15	0.68	0.02	0.49
17.8.1	Internet usage (%)	0.15	0.68	0.02	0.39

Table S3. Proportion of significant links for SDG progress indicators. Table shows the indicator-level proportion of significant links, at the Benjamini-Hochberg-corrected significance level for each model type. Blanks indicate no significant relationships. Indicators with asterisk (*) were inverted.

Indicator	Indicator name	SDG progress			
		Simple regression	Accounting for GDP		
		Degree negative links	Degree positive links	Degree negative links	Degree positive links
3.1.1	Maternal mortality (rate)*		0.07		0.04
3.1.2	Births attended by health personnel (%)	0.25	0.21	0.11	0.07
3.2.1	Under-five mortality (rate)*	0.29	0.18	0.04	0.07
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality (rate)*	0.36	0.25	0.07	0.07
3.3.2	Tuberculosis (incidence)*	0.18	0.14		
3.3.5	Neglected tropical diseases (# of ppl)*				
3.4.1	CVD,Cancer,Diab.,CRD mort.(rate)*	0.25	0.25	0.11	0.18
3.4.2	Suicide mortality (rate)*	0.04	0.11		0.11
3.5.2	Alcohol consumption/capita (L/yr)*				
3.6.1	Road traffic mortality (rate)*	0.21	0.21	0.04	0.11
3.9.2	Unsafe water, sanit., hyg. mort. (rate)*				
3.9.3	Unintentional poisoning mort. (rate)*	0.11	0.18	0.11	0.18
3.c.1-1	Dentistry personnel (density)				
3.c.1-2	Nursing & midwifery personnel (density)				
3.c.1-3	Pharmaceutical personnel (density)				
3.c.1-4	Physician (density)	0.14	0.11		
3.d.1	International Health Regulations (index)				
5.5.1	Women in Parliament (%)				
6.4.2	Freshwater stress (% of avail. res.)*				
7.1.1	Electricity access (%)	0.25	0.18	0.04	
7.1.2	Clean fuels and technology (%)				
7.2.1	Renewable energy (% of final energy cons.)	0.18	0.29	0.04	0.11
7.3.1	Energy intensity of GDP*		0.04		0.11
8.1.1	GDP/capita growth rate (real GDP)	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.04
8.2.1	GDP/employed growth rate (real GDP)	0.21	0.11	0.14	0.04
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption/capita*	0.07	0.04	0.14	0.04
8.5.2	Unemployment (rate)*				
9.1.2-3	Freight volume (km)				
9.1.2-6	Passenger volume (km)				
9.2.2	Manufacturing (value added/capita)				
9.c.1	2G mobile network coverage (%)	0.32	0.21		
11.5.2	Disaster econ. loss (% of glob. GDP)*				
11.6.2	Fine particulate matter (level)*				
15.1.1	Forest area (% of land)	0.11	0.14		0.07
15.1.2-2	PA cover of imp. biodiv. sites (%)	0.14	0.14	0.04	0.07
15.2.1-3	Forest area net change (rate)				
15.5.1	Red List Index	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
15.6.1	Plant genetic res. transf. (# reported)				
16.1.1	Homicide (incidence)*				
17.3.2	Remittances (% of GDP)		0.04		
17.6.2	Internet Broadband subscriptions (%)	0.29	0.29	0.11	0.25
17.8.1	Internet usage (%)	0.25	0.32	0.11	0.14