

SDG Lab Theory of Change

THE CHALLENGE

The 2030 Agenda calls for new ways of working to achieve the SDGs and uphold its principles:



Universal Action



Indivisible Goals



No One Left Behind

POINT OF ENTRY

Geneva's large concentration of actors working on the SDGs from many angles makes it an ideal place to develop ways to meet these principles.

WHAT WE DO



The SDG Lab is a Connector, Amplifier, Question Asker and Innovator in the Geneva Ecosystem, helping the community move *from...*



IMPACT

By doing this in Geneva, we bring benefits to the broader community and systems-level change:

We provide a **model** on how to advance the SDGs in integrated, collaborative and innovative ways.

We make the unique potential of Geneva's Ecosystem **accessible** to actors locally and in other cities, countries and communities.

Enacting the principles of the 2030 Agenda in the Geneva Ecosystem contributes to the global paradigm shift necessary for achieving the SDGs.

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The Challenge

The 2030 Agenda has reinvigorated the sustainable development community, but implementing it is a complex task. Rooted in fundamental principles that are necessary for its achievement, including universality, indivisibility, and leaving no one behind, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) make for a serious challenge.

“Business as Usual” cannot deliver the desired results of what is cast as a “transformative” agenda. Transformative approaches will have to be developed for every aspect of the implementation challenge.

Point of Entry

There are hundreds of organizations including the UN system, other International Organizations, NGOs, private sector entities and academic institutions in Geneva that are advancing work that contributes to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

To effectively mobilize the capacity, skills, experience, ideas and motivation of Geneva actors, it is crucial that we configure the collective knowledge in new ways to foster partnerships, share lessons-learned and support the creation of solutions to cross-cutting challenges and barriers to successful implementation of the SDGs.

What We Do

The SDG Lab opens new paths to 2030 through these four areas:



Connector

Creating new opportunities for diverse actors in and outside Geneva to meet and exchange information, experiences, and ideas for collaboration.



Question Asker

Thinking, acting and investing in an intersectoral way doesn't 'just happen'. The SDG Lab aims to ask questions that uncover new ways of thinking and new paths to action.



Amplifier

Creating unique forums for telling stories of success and failure so that the lessons can inform future policy and practice.



Innovator

Encouraging experimentation with new approaches, formats and processes, risk-taking and learning from failure.

Impact

The benefits of achieving this in Geneva and beyond can be shared broadly:

Providing a Model

The collaborative, integrated and innovative model of the SDG Lab can be replicated by countries and other actors to accelerate delivery of the SDGs. The tools, techniques and approaches used by the Lab can be applied in different contexts and settings to inspire ways of working that speak to the paradigms of the 2030 Agenda.

Making the Geneva Ecosystem Accessible

The presence of countries in Geneva allows the Ecosystem to be well-informed about the pressing issues and needs at the country-level, and develop areas of work that serve these in targeted ways.

The Ecosystem can become “known” for certain topics and areas that countries want to leverage and collaborate with players to develop specific partnerships.