



**Fostering effective multi-stakeholder
partnerships and engagement to advance
the Sustainable Development Goals**



**United
Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Sustainable Development

Introduction

The importance of participation by all actors is a central tenet of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the preamble which calls for “a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.”

SDG 17 recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, particularly developing countries.

In his report “Our Common Agenda” prepared in response to the declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Secretary-General has presented an agenda of action that is designed to accelerate the implementation of existing global agreements, including the SDGs. The report calls for a renewal of the social contract between governments and their people and within societies, so as to rebuild trust and embrace a comprehensive vision of human rights.

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is supporting national governments and United Nations Resident Coordinators to build meaningful and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Areas of support

Capacity development

DSDG is offering training support and advisory services to governments and UN Resident Coordinators to:

- Foster effective partnerships across sectors and meaningful engagement of stakeholders in SDG implementation
- Promote an enabling environment that is supportive of collaboration, and enhance engagement and relationships among stakeholders and sectors, in particular for those left farthest behind
- Strengthen the multi-stakeholder dimension of national development planning and SDG mainstreaming
- Develop forward-looking strategies to support and facilitate stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of the United Nations Cooperation Frameworks, national SDG strategies and VNR processes
- Support development of partnership platforms as mechanisms to convene stakeholders around key development and to catalyze new partnerships for the SDGs
- Showcase and strengthen existing partnerships



Areas of support

Analytical

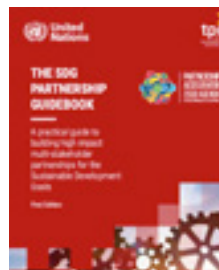
DSDG is offering analytical support for the preparation of national assessments that seek to identify:

- Existing key partnerships in countries
- Good practices in stakeholder's mobilization
- Thematic areas with strong potential for new partnerships
- Potential stakeholders and development actors, including the resources they could contribute
- Existing mechanisms for engaging stakeholders and sectors to drive SDG implementation



Areas of support

Tools & Guidance



The SDG Partnership Guidebook

A practical guide to building high impact multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals



What is a Good Practice?

A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda (UN DESA & UNDP)



Partnership Platforms

Guide for governments and the UN system to systematically drive partnerships for the SDGs through national-level multi-stakeholder partnership platforms



Stakeholder Engagement and the 2030 Agenda

Practical guide for government officials and stakeholders to enhance participation in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda (UN DESA & UNITAR)



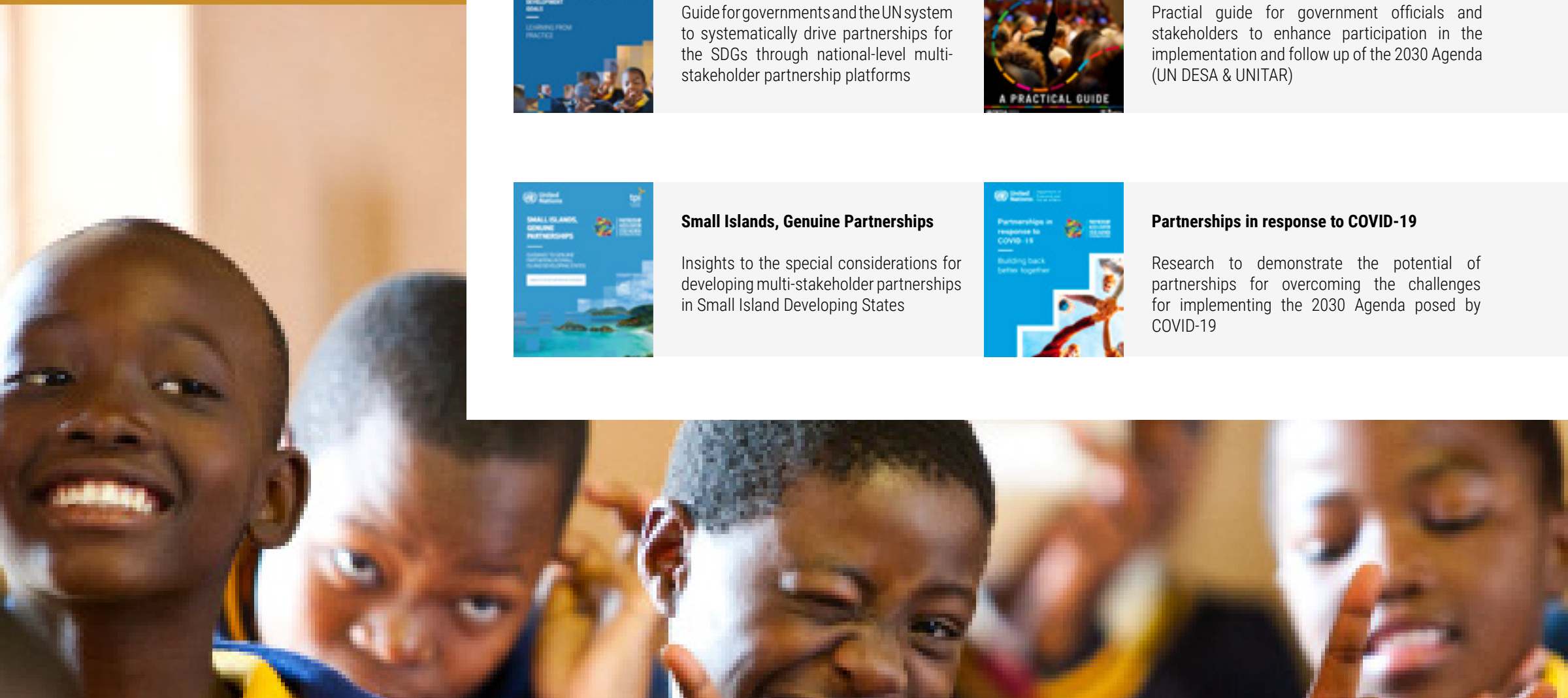
Small Islands, Genuine Partnerships

Insights to the special considerations for developing multi-stakeholder partnerships in Small Island Developing States



Partnerships in response to COVID-19

Research to demonstrate the potential of partnerships for overcoming the challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda posed by COVID-19



Examples of collaboration



Mexico

The Mexico Partnership Forum, Marzo, Mérida, Yucatán, 17-18 March 2022, served as a platform to strengthen engagement and relationships across all relevant stakeholders and sectors and promote a transformational whole-of-society approach to partnerships for advancing the SDGs in Mexico.

The Forum was organized by the UN in Mexico and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development, with the support of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator and the UN Office for Sustainable Development.

The Forum was attended by more than 230 people, 20 federal, state, and municipal-level government agencies, and international and national private sector, civil society, academic, and professional organizations.



It resulted in the Declaration for Building transformative partnerships for sustainable development.

A key objective of the Forum was the launch of a **Platform of Partnerships and Innovation for Territorial Sustainable Development**, as a framework for multi-stakeholder and multi-sector partnerships to generate actions and achieve a path towards sustainable development aimed at reducing inequalities.

Bahamas

Held from 6-8 September 2022 in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, the Bahamas National Partnership Training was organized in collaboration with UN Resident Coordinator's Office of Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, The Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

The training was attended by 31 national stakeholders, chosen by the RCO, and 14 of the Caribbean Partnership Accelerators.

The training was targeted at both new partnership practitioners and those with some partnering experience. The partnering activities focused on local examples and national priorities identified by the Resident Coordinators Office in Bahamas. Themes included sea level rise, biodiversity, coastal planning and waste management.

By participating in the training workshop, participants gained a shared understanding of existing partnership tools and frameworks as well as experience in designing and troubleshooting partnerships and making them relevant to the local context. The workshop also sought to foster a national network of partnering champions.

Examples of collaboration



Sri Lanka

DSDG has supported the UN in Sri Lanka to strengthen stakeholder engagement and advance effective partnerships. In 2021, by developing reports on:

1. Strengthening the multi-stakeholder dimension of national development planning and SDG mainstreaming;
2. Assessing the partnership landscape in Sri Lanka

The report *Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholder Dimension of National Development Planning and SDG Mainstreaming* presents findings from a study conducted to assess the level of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Sri Lanka, with a view to identifying opportunities

to strengthen stakeholder engagement.

The *Sri Lanka Partnership Landscape Assessment* provides an overview of development actors engaged in partnerships within Sri Lanka's socio-economic landscape, existing partnerships and mechanisms for engaging stakeholders and sectors, and identifies thematic areas with strong potential for new partnerships.

Madagascar

DSDG has supported the UN Resident Coordinator in Madagascar to strengthen stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the SDGs at the national level.

The report *Strengthening the multi-stakeholder dimension in the development, planning and integration of Sustainable Development Goals in Madagascar* prepared with support from DSDG provides a roadmap for the United Nations System in Madagascar to establish and maintain strong links with stakeholders in order to strengthen the multi-stakeholder dimension in development planning and the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and the framework of Cooperation between the United Nations System-Madagascar.

Examples of collaboration



Caribbean Partnership Accelerators

The purpose of the Caribbean Partnership Accelerators project is to support the building of effective partnerships to drive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean.

The efforts are supported by the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, the Government of Italy, the Caribbean Public Health Agency and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

In 2022, DSDG conducted a number of training sessions related to partnering for sustainable development, including a Training of Trainers session, in order to cascade knowledge to the local and national level.

Held from 8-9 September 2022, New Providence Nassau, The Bahamas, the Training of Trainers (ToT) was the culmination of the Caribbean Partnership Accelerator training programme by the Partnership Accelerator. The workshop provided the trainers with hands-on training experience to instill participants with the necessary skills to share partnership knowledge in their own networks and constituencies.

The training included:

- Group analysis of the approaches and processes used during the national training course
- Overview of challenges in learning and teaching
- Designing and leading short sessions

designed around specific topics

The activities of the training workshop sought to give the trainers the skills needed to share their knowledge about building new and strengthening existing multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.

Through the process, the trainers created a community of peer support and a regional network of partnering champions.

It is expected that the Caribbean Partnership Accelerators will organize tailored trainings on partnerships effectiveness to their constituents, to be carried out individually or with the support/coaching from the group and/or the Partnership Accelerator.

The Caribbean Partnership Accelerators are also well placed to support future national partnership trainings in the region organized by the Partnership Accelerator. Additional national partnership trainings are subject to request from member States or UN Resident Coordinators and availability of funds.

Examples of collaboration

Strengthening the multi-stakeholder dimension of national development planning and SDG mainstreaming

The 2030 Agenda calls for the meaningful and active participation of people and stakeholders at all stages, from SDG integration into national strategies, to implementation, and national monitoring and review.

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) have a key role to play in supporting Member States in implementing the commitment of inclusive and transparent participation of all stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda and in facilitating inclusive, safe and enabling environments where stakeholders can contribute.

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides substantive support and capacity-building on stakeholder engagement for the 2030 Agenda.

With support from a grant provided by the European Commission, DSDG has partnered with the United Nations Development Cooperation Office (UN DCO) and with a selected number of UN Resident Coordinator Offices in their efforts to strengthen the multi-stakeholder dimension of national development planning and SDG mainstreaming.

Reports were developed to take stock of the current landscape of stakeholder participation in SDG implementation in each country and to provide forward-looking proposals that are used in development and implementation of the United Nations Cooperation Frameworks, national SDG strategies and Voluntary National Review processes, depending on the country needs.



<https://sdgs.un.org/stakeholders/strengthening-multi-stakeholder-dimension-national-development-planning-and-sdg>

Examples of collaboration

National Partnership Landscape Assessments

The **national partnership landscape assessments** aims to deliver:

- Overview of development actors engaged in partnerships
- Mapping of existing key partnerships and actions for SDGs that are taking place
- Identification of existing mechanisms for engaging stakeholders and sectors towards the SDGs
- Thematic areas and issues where there are strong potential for new partnerships across sectors

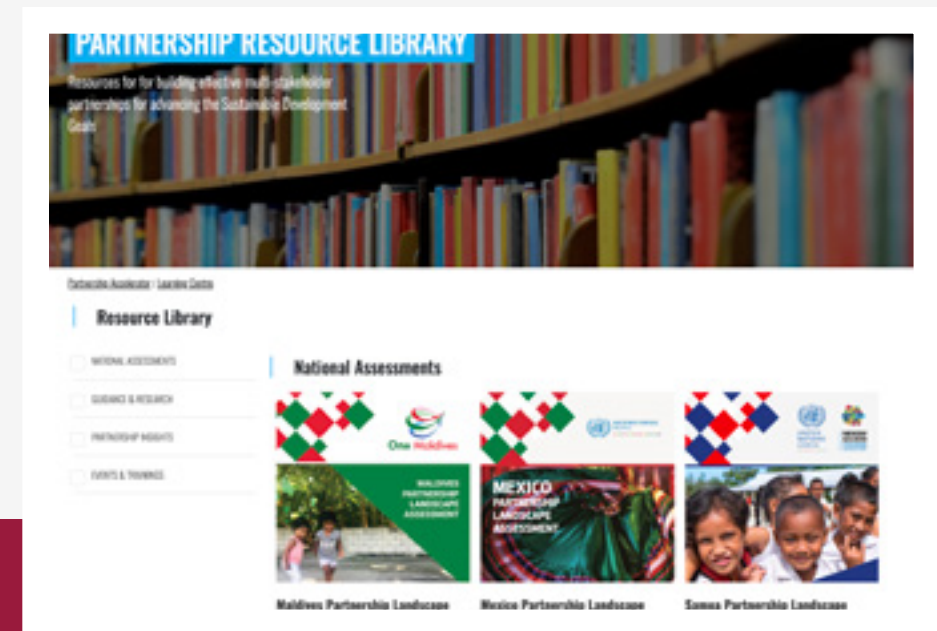


Online Learning & Resources



Partnership Learning Centre

Learning modules and guided tours on various aspects of building and managing effective multi-stakeholder partnerships.



Partnership Resource Library

National assessments, guidance, research, partnership insights and trainings.

<https://partnershipaccelerator.netlify.app>



Massive Open Online Course - Strengthening stakeholder engagement for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda

Developed by UN DESA/DSDG and UNITAR, this Massive Open Online Course provides key information and tools on how to strengthen the engagement of stakeholders from different sectors and levels in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://sdgs.un.org/events/massive-open-online-course-mooc-strengthening-stakeholder-engagement-implementation-and>

Online Learning & Resources



The Partnership Platform

The Partnership Platform is United Nations' global registry of voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships made in support of sustainable development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The platform brings together different registries launched in support of various UN conferences and processes dealing with sustainable development over the years, including the UN Ocean Conference, the Small Island Developing States, and the Rio+20 Conference, among others. The platform also provides access to thematic action networks that are maintained by UN entities.

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships>



SDGs Good Practices

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, many governments, UN entities, international and regional organizations and stakeholders have gained in-depth knowledge and expertise and taken innovative steps towards implementing this ambitious global framework. Bringing this global expertise to scale will be critical to support recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate progress towards the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs.

Two open calls have been conducted, compiling almost 1,000 good practices, success stories and lessons learned from governments, UN entities and other stakeholders.

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/good-practices-second-call>

Ireland

The Government of Ireland has supported the development partnership landscape assessments in Maldives and Samoa, a training course on partnership effectiveness for SDG 14, and training material focusing on the specific context of partnering in Small Island Developing States.

Italy

The Government of Italy has supported a project to support the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the preparatory process related to the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review in 2019.

Italy has also supported the Caribbean Partnership Accelerators project.

European Commission

The European Commission has supported the project "SD2015: Delivering on the promise of the SDGs" which seeks to strengthen and support 'Major Groups and other Stakeholders' engagement in the 2030 Agenda implementation and follow-up.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) provides both human and financial resources that support national governments and UN Resident Coordinators to build meaningful and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Financial contributions have in large come from UN DESA's regular programme for technical cooperation.

United Nations Office for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, a part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN DESA, has provided human resources and financial contributions to the initial phase of 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator project through funding from the Republic of Korea.

The Office is also funding a number of activities at the country level.