

Tracking Sustainable Mobility

A New Way to Assess Transport Sector Performance to 2030 and Beyond

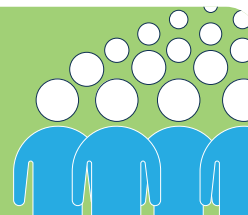
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In 2015, the world embraced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, and agreed on a framework of targets and indicators for tracking progress across multiple economic sectors.

Because of the cross-cutting nature of the transport sector, several transport-related targets and indicators are reflected in the SDGs. But in contrast to the health, education, water, and energy sectors, there is no single SDG dedicated exclusively to transport. The sector is also scant in direct targets, indicators, and direct data collection.

To address this, the **Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All)** initiative—a multi-stakeholder partnership acting collectively to help transform the transport sector—has developed a **Global Tracking Framework (GTF)** for transport, complementing the targets and indicators in the SDGs. This **Global Tracking Framework** is featured in the **Global Mobility Report** which provides the first-ever assessment of all modes of transport across the globe. The framework will provide crucial information and tools to inform transport policy and investment decisions, and provide a baseline for measuring progress toward sustainable mobility.

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The number of leading organizations and agencies who have come together to date to create the Global Tracking Framework for Transport

The Global Tracking Framework: A Tool to Measure Progress

Transport has a diverse set of stakeholders. It is a multi-faceted sector, and its role in the sustainable development agenda is that of an enabler: as a means to an end, offering access to services and opportunities. But it lacks an overall framework for measuring progress. The SuM4All initiative fills this void by bringing together 50 leading organizations and agencies to date to develop a system of tracking that will aid the transport sector as it works toward sustainable mobility.

The Global Tracking Framework (GTF) identifies both qualitative and quantitative targets for the four global goals—universal access, efficiency, safety, and green mobility. It also identifies indicators that allow countries to measure country-level progress toward those goals. It covers all modes of transport, including road, air, waterborne, and rail.

The targets and indicators in this framework are based on, and complement, the SDG indicators that were developed by the UN Statistical Commission's Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators.

The objectives of the Global Tracking Framework for transport are twofold:

- To monitor progress toward the four global goals. Global progress reflects the sum of efforts across all countries. Thus, the framework is based on country-level data and indicators.
- To support the tracking of the transport-related SDG targets by helping to further develop the existing SDG indicators (tier II and tier III in the SDG structure) that lack an established methodology or sufficient data coverage, and by proposing additional indicators—with methodology and data gathering—to help track these targets.

Targets. When possible, the GTF uses the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global agreements to identify a quantitative target for each goal. In other instances, the GTF proposes new targets.

Indicators. The GTF supports the targets for each goal with a handful of principal indicators. These indicators are overarching, and are based on outcomes. Whenever possible, the principal indicator corresponds to the relevant SDG indicator.

Each principal indicator is reinforced by several supporting indicators, which track sub-dimensions of the goal and indicate progress towards the targets. These supporting indicators can be outcome- as well as output-based. Supporting indicators are divided into existing, or commonly used, and desirable indicators. The desirable indicators will be developed over time.

An Example

SDG target 3.6 identifies a quantitative target for road safety: by 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. But it does not cover other modes of transport. The GTF adopts SDG target 3.6 for road safety, and complements it with a target for the other transport modes: to reduce by five percent, by 2020, the fatalities and injuries in each of the other modes of transport—waterborne, air, and rail.

The GTF adopts a similar approach for indicators. For example, as a proxy for SDG target 11.2, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators uses the “proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport...” (SDG indicator 11.2.1). The GTF includes this tier II SDG indicator, and aims to assist the custodian agency with data collection efforts. The GTF complements this indicator with “the percentage of jobs that are accessible within 60 minutes by public transport,” to track not only access to public transport but also access to opportunities through public transport.

Learning from the Energy Sector

A rigorous global tracking framework is essential for transparency and accountability. The energy sector included global tracking in its 2011 Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative. Its leaders considered the effective monitoring of progress essential to sustain political commitment to the global energy agenda over the next 15 years. The tracking framework became instrumental in mainstreaming energy into global discussions on sustainable development, and supplied the credibility and reliability required to attract private and development-finance partners.

The SuM4All initiative aims to develop a similar global tracking framework for the transport sector to achieve scale and focus.

The Way Forward

Over time, it is envisaged that this GTF will be used to track performance toward sustainable mobility. It could then be used by national and local governments to assess where they stand, and how far they are from achieving sustainable development. The usefulness of this instrument rests on the premise “what gets measured gets done.” It would thus provide an objective basis from which to lay out an action plan to achieve sustainability in transport, and sustainable mobility for all people.

Connections is a series of knowledge notes from the World Bank Group's Transport & Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Global Practice. Covering projects, experiences, and front-line developments, the series is produced by Nancy Vandycke and Shokraneh Minovi.

The notes are available at <http://www.worldbank.org/transport/connections>.

The **GLOBAL MOBILITY REPORT 2017** is available at <http://www.sum4all.org/publications/global-mobility-report-2017>