



Creating a Better World: Enabling Global Citizens for the Sustainable Development Goals

Guidelines for aligning
a Youth Programme with education
for the Sustainable Development Goals



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

YOUTH PROGRAMME



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YOUTH PROGRAMME
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This document is primarily for National Scout
Organizations (NSOs) and National Scout
Associations (NSAs). It provides guidance on
how to align the Youth Programme in Scouting
to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
To seek further support, please contact the
World Scout Bureau at worldbureau@scout.org.

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Guidelines for aligning a Youth Programme with
education for the Sustainable Development Goals

“Education for Sustainable Development is about empowering and motivating learners to become active sustainability citizens who are capable of critical thinking and able to participate in shaping a sustainable future.”

*Education for Sustainable Development Goals;
Learning Objectives (UNESCO, 2017)*



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Young people, Scouting, and the Sustainable Development Goals

End poverty, fight inequality, and stop climate change.

To create a better world, these are some of the main challenges we will have to take on. However, these can't be tackled alone. How can active global citizens from around the world come together to address these issues? Luckily, there is plan for this.

In 2015, all member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It sets 17 goals, known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the central plan to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. This agenda offers a universal framework that integrates sustainable development and global citizenship, emphasizing that everyone has a role to play for it to succeed.

These goals cannot be achieved without the contribution of young people. This is the largest generation of young people in history which means they need to be involved today as leaders, partners, and innovators in global agendas for sustainable development (UNFPA, 2014). The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs are a great learning opportunity for young people

to help them understand complex issues, and to find new ways of engaging with their communities.

Transformative education that equips new generations with the needed competencies to promote sustainable development is key to achieving these goals by 2030.

This is where Scouting comes in.

Since its beginnings, Scouting has been enabling young people from every corner of the globe to create positive change in their communities, acting on challenges and needs at all levels of society. It uses an action-oriented, self-educational approach to contribute to the empowerment and holistic development of young people as autonomous individuals and active global citizens.

The following document provides guidance to National Scout Organizations (NSOs) as to how best leverage the educational component of the SDGs through their national Youth Programme.

It is Scouting's mission to educate young people to help build a better world. A better world with better lives for all is one where the SDGs are achieved – and Scouts can offer a strong contribution to this agenda. These goals are powerful tools to help young people, as well as adults, organisations, countries and so many other actors, move in the same direction in making life on earth better for all.

SO LET'S GET STARTED.





The Purpose of this Document

What is the aim of this document?

These guidelines aim to support NSOs in aligning their Youth Programme with the SDGs.

After reading this document, NSOs should understand why Scouting should align their Youth Programme with the SDGs, know how to do so, and be inspired by a variety of examples and resources to start or continue this process locally.

Who is this document for?

This document is targeted at Youth Programme developers in NSOs.

It can also be used by many other members of Scouting, especially within the national leadership teams, for aligning the organisation with the SDGs, as well as Scout leaders for finding great educational resources.

What motivated the creation of these guidelines?

During the 41st World Scout Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, Resolution 2017-08 (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) requested the World Scout Bureau to actively integrate the SDGs across the organisation.

This was reinforced in the World Scout Youth Programme Policy that clearly states Scouting should prepare young people to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

These guidelines were, therefore, a response to the clear will of NSOs to play an active role in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in showcasing the contribution of Scouting to the agenda.



Aligning to the SDGs is an opportunity to:

- **Show Scouts how their actions impact a bigger cause outside of Scouting** in order to continue inspiring young people to create a better world
- **Offer new learning opportunities to young people** and equip them with the competencies they need to find lasting solutions to the issues that affect them the most
- **Reinforce the Youth Programme** by identifying and addressing areas of alignment
- **Ensure Scouting's continued relevance** by answering the current needs of young people
- **Help achieve Scouting's vision to be the leading non-formal educational youth movement** by being part of the global agenda for sustainable development
- **Promote Scouting to new audiences** by showcasing Scouting's impact on sustainable development for more than 110 years
- **Strengthen partnerships and improve fundraising** by being part of SDG 17 – partnerships for the SDGs, and collaborating with other actors who want to see the SDGs achieved
- **Become more sustainable as an institution** by aligning with the SDGs across the organisation's spheres of work

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "ALIGNING" WITH THE SDGS?

BY WORKING TOWARDS ITS PURPOSE OF CREATING ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENS, SCOUTING CONTRIBUTES TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS. THIS IS WHY "ALIGNING" IS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

HERE, "ALIGNING" MEANS LOOKING AT SCOUTING'S EDUCATIONAL PROPOSAL THROUGH THE LENS OF THE SDGS. THIS ALLOWS US TO AMPLIFY WHAT SCOUTING IS ALREADY CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2030 AGENDA, WHICH ALSO ENCOURAGES US TO GO FURTHER. WE CAN ALSO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN THE EDUCATIONAL PROPOSAL OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMME IN EMPOWERING SCOUTS AS ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENS.

¹ "Programme developer" is one of the roles and responsibilities in Scouting's Youth Programme according to the World Scout Youth Programme Policy. This can also include a Youth Programme committee or team (WOSM, 2017a).

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?



Sustainable development – development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

(World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)



In 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations launched an agenda entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The 2030 Agenda sets a series of ambitious goals – the SDGs – and targets for sustainable development to be achieved by 2030, for people, prosperity, planet, peace, and partnerships. This agenda replaced the eight Millennium Development Goals that ended in 2015 with a new universal plan of action composed of 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

Key concepts to understand the SDGs

- **Are the SDGs just for the United Nations? No! The 2030 Agenda is universal.** We all have a role to play to see these goals achieved, and that all will benefit from their achievement. It is for every country in the world, and all countries are responsible for its implementation, both domestically and globally. The principal actors of these goals are national governments, that might create national implementation plans based on their country's context.

But other actors have equally crucial roles to play in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, be it at local, national, or global level. This includes the private sector and public sector, as well as civil society. So, although these are indeed goals that are to be achieved globally, the agenda requires that every actor - local, national, or global - work together towards its achievement.
- **The SDGs are interconnected and indivisible, meaning that no one goal can be achieved without the others.** Just as the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental, and economic) are mutually reinforcing, progress is required across the entire Agenda for the goals to be achieved, and so it has to be seen as a whole, rather than addressing one goal at a time. The uniqueness of the SDGs is that they help us understand how issues are interlinked. Addressing only one goal at a time is unlikely to create the most sustainable solutions.
- **Leaving no one behind** is the cross-cutting principle of the agenda, meaning that the achievement of the SDGs requires that everyone is onboard, and that the SDGs cannot be achieved unless everyone can benefit from a sustainable development. This means that those left furthest behind have to be empowered first.
- The SDGs reframe the three dimensions of sustainable development – the social, economic and environmental – into five areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet: **people, prosperity, planet, peace, and partnerships.**
- **Education for the SDGs is crucial in helping to achieve this agenda** by developing in individuals the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to empower them to develop sustainable solutions to our current problems. This education must be learner-centred, action-oriented, and transformative (UNESCO, 2017). See the section on Education for the Sustainable Development Goals for more details.
- **Young people are critical agents of change in this agenda.** Almost one third of the SDG indicators reference young people explicitly or implicitly, with a focus on empowerment, participation and/or well-being (UNICEF, 2018). But more than just being affected by the issues in the goals, young people are also innovators, leaders, change-makers, advocates, and entrepreneurs who can find new ways of tackling today's issues.

What are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals?



Read more about the SDGs at globalgoals.org or by reading the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Scouting's Link to the SDGs

EDUCATION:

The Youth Programme enables young people to become active global citizens for the SDGs

Achieving the SDGs requires active global citizens who have the complex competencies needed to face the major challenges to come. To help develop these competencies, education is key. But more specifically, there is a need for an "action-oriented, transformative pedagogy, which supports self-directed learning" (UNESCO, 2017).

Scouting's action-oriented, self-educational approach is uniquely positioned to help young people develop into active citizens and contribute to sustainable development.

Over one third of the 169 SDG targets highlight the role of youth and the Scout Movement's focus on non-formal education as a pathway to help young people develop to their full potential links directly with SDG 4 on Quality Education.²

This approach to non-formal education is articulated in Scouting's Youth Programme. The Youth Programme is the means through which Scouting contributes to the empowerment of autonomous individuals and the holistic development of active global citizens for the community.

As highlighted in the World Scout Youth Programme Policy, the Youth Programme prepares young people to be active citizens locally and globally, responding to current economic, social and environment challenges, and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs (WOSM, 2017a).

²These links are highlighted in Scouting's policies and guiding documents, such as the WOSM Constitution, Essential Characteristics of Scouting, World Scout Youth Programme Policy, World Scout Youth Involvement Policy, Safe from Harm Policy and Adults in Scouting Policy.



The Scout Method

In many ways, by using the complementary educational elements of the Scout Method – the unique method through which Scouts experience the Youth Programme – young people can gain many of the competencies they need to contribute to sustainable development. If we look at the method through the lens of the SDGs:

See the [Essential Characteristics of Scouting \(WOSM, 1998\)](#) and the [World Scout Method Review \(WOSM, 2017b\)](#) for details on the method

- **The Scout Promise and Law** provide a ground of shared values for living together and encourages young people to voluntarily commit to promote peace, understanding and cooperation at the local, national, and international levels, as well as to participate in the development of society. They are an opportunity to commit to a “Duty to Others” which encourages Scouts to contribute to making the world around them a better place
- **Learning by doing** enables young people not only to understand an issue, but also to develop the competencies and the will to take action on it
- **The team system** develops cooperation and leadership in tackling large issues that cannot be tackled alone
- **Community involvement** fosters engagement with the challenges of the society we live in, participation on its betterment, and commitment to and appreciation of the people around us
- **Nature** is a setting to challenge ourselves and to connect with the planet
- **The SDGs** come with their own symbolic framework, which reinforces the value-based symbolism of Scouting
- **Adult support** provides the needed intergenerational dialogue and assists Scouts in understanding the complexity of the issues at hand
- **The personal progression** ensures that the role and contribution of each Scout develops from project to project to build the competencies for sustainable development, from the local to the global levels.

A GRASSROOTS APPROACH:

Tackling issues through a movement that is embedded in its community

As a movement, Scouting is a deeply embedded in the context of local communities and able to respond to the diverse needs and aspirations of young people. It is, therefore, a prime place to understand and tackle the issues that are brought forward in the SDGs.

If each NSO ensures that its Youth Programme is relevant, attractive, and inspiring for young people within their local context, then Scouts will naturally be involved in the issues that are most important for young people in their society.

REACHING OUT TO ALL:

Scouting is leaving no one behind

The Scout Movement is open to all. Diversity and inclusion in Scouting tackles the cross-cutting principle of the agenda of leaving no one behind. By reaching out to all in Scouting, we are empowering the ones left farthest behind so that all can benefit from sustainable development.

A SHARED MISSION: An agenda that helps Scouting achieve its Mission and Vision

The 17 SDGs and the Mission of Scouting are fully aligned to “help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.” Furthermore, Scouting’s Vision 2023 aims to develop the Scout Movement as “the leading educational youth movement” focused on “enabling 100 million young people by 2023 to be active citizens creating positive changes in their communities and in the world” (WOSM, 2017c; WOSM, 2018).

Growing to 100 million also means providing more young people with the opportunity to enjoy learning experiences in a community of values, to develop the needed competencies for sustainable development. Our work towards the SDGs corresponds directly to Scouting’s vision of the future and builds upon a legacy of more than 110 years of contribution to peace and development.



**SCOUTING
AIMS TO PREPARE
YOUNG PEOPLE
TO BE ACTIVE GLOBAL
CITIZEN THAT ARE
RESPONSIBLE,
COMMITTED,
AUTONOMOUS,
SUPPORTIVE,
AND CULTURALLY
SENSITIVE.**

Scouting's Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

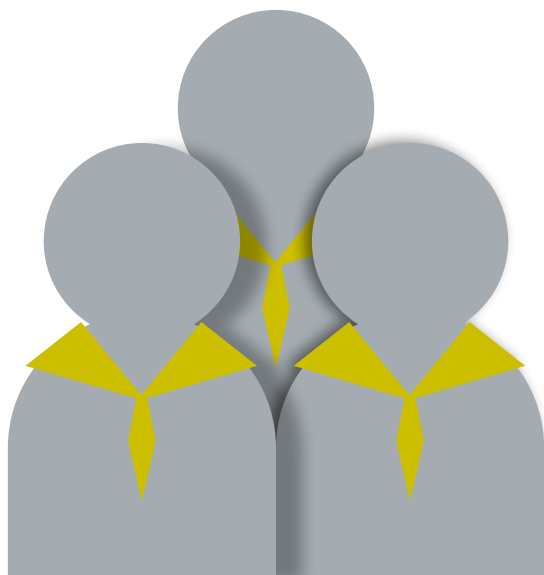
INSPIRE, ENABLE, DELIVER:

Our equation for creating active global citizens

Scouting's first and foremost contribution to the SDGs is through education for life.

SCOUTING **INSPIRES** YOUNG PEOPLE

- Scouting believes that each young person is a unique individual who has the potential to develop in all dimensions (physical, intellectual, character, emotional, social, spiritual) as active members of their communities (responsible, committed, autonomous, committed, culturally sensitive).
- Scouting wants to inspire young people to do so.



SCOUTING **ENABLES YOUNG PEOPLE** TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD

Scouting enables young people to reach their full potential and create a better world through the Youth Programme, Scouting's non-formal education approach.

The Youth Programme places the young person at the centre by giving them the responsibility for their own development.

The approach? It uses the **SCOUT METHOD**, a system of progressive self-education.

- **Scout Promise and Law:** a commitment to shared values
- **Learning by Doing:** action-oriented experiential learning
- **Personal Progression:** progressive learning journey adapted to each young person
- **Team System:** peer-to-peer collaboration and leadership
- **Adult Support:** a culture of partnership between young people and adults
- **Symbolic Framework:** a unique unifying structure to create a sense of connectedness and network
- **Nature:** an enabling environment for problem solving and self-reflection
- **Community Involvement:** active exploration and commitment to making communities a better place

All learning opportunities are experienced through the Scout method!

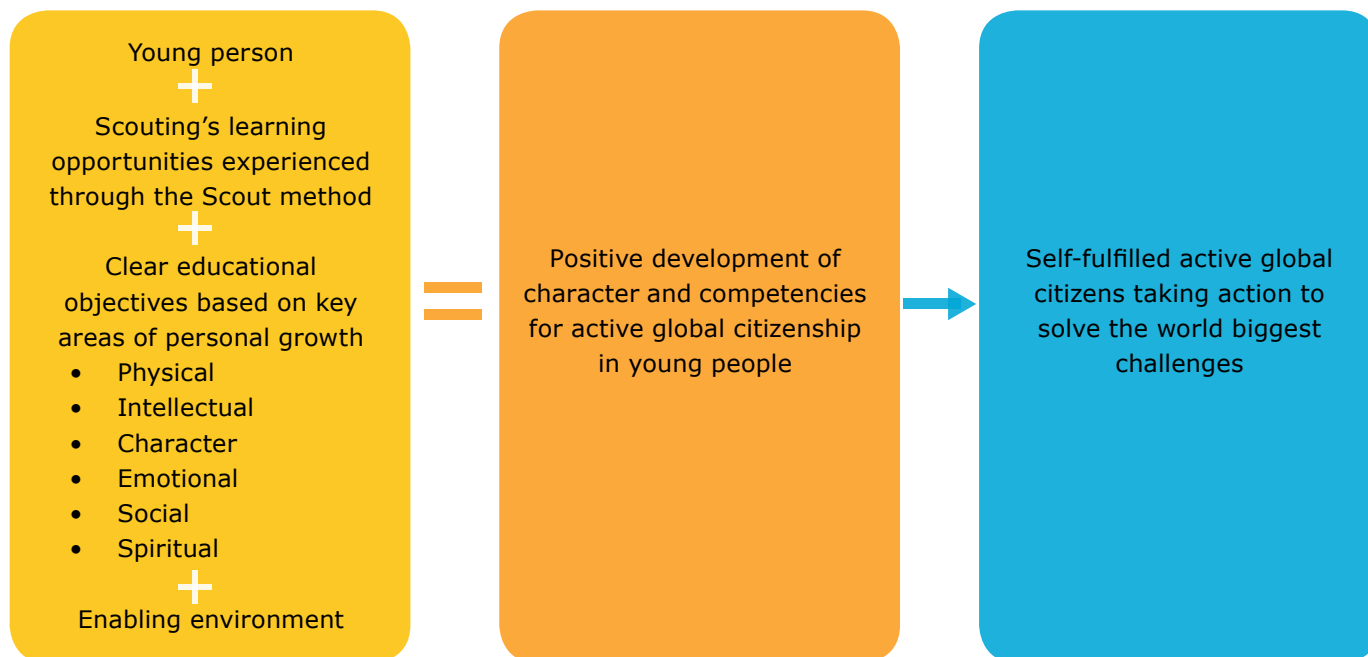
Facilitated by volunteers in a grassroots driven safe environment

The Youth Programme offers limitless learning opportunities to young people in the forms of activities, projects, events, youth leadership roles, etc.

The Youth Programme offers clear educational objectives by age group based on key areas of personal growth to develop competencies for active global citizenship.

SCOUTING DELIVERS SELF-FULFILLED ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENS

Scouting delivers empowered autonomous individuals and the holistic development of active global citizens.



Scouting delivers to society millions of individual-centred interventions on positive youth development.



These self-fulfilled active global citizens make the world a better place through their projects, actions, career paths, etc. that are aligned with scout values.



In the context of the alignment with the SDGs, we understand that the main contribution Scouting has on the SDGs is through the education of young people. These young people in turn contribute to the SDGs through their projects, actions, values, career paths – which happen in and outside of Scouting.

Any initiative under the Better World Framework or activity linked to the SDGs offered in Scouting are learning opportunities under the Youth Programme. This includes education for the SDGs.

SCOUTS FOR SDGs:

50 million Scouts making the world's largest youth contribution to the SDGs

With a long-term commitment to advance sustainable development, Scouting has the power to engage young people in an unprecedented effort to tackle some of the most pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges facing our planet.

Scouts for SDGs is the world's largest coordinated youth activation involving 50 million young people in two million local actions related to the 17 Goals and delivering an additional three billion hours of community service for the SDGs.

Scouting's grassroots contribution to the SDGs takes place everyday and, therefore, Scouts for SDGs is not a new World programme or award. Rather, it is a systematic effort to leverage the Youth Programme and the initiatives under the Better World Framework, including the Scout Movement's flagship Messengers of Peace initiative, to raise awareness and take action for the SDGs.

By aligning the Better World Framework initiatives with the 17 Goals as well as offering additional resources, Scouts for SDGs will promote, monitor, and evaluate the vast contribution to sustainable development happening through Scouting activities worldwide under our non-formal education approach.



SCOUTS *for* SDGs

These guidelines are part of a set of resources that exist in WOSM to help NSOs work with the SDGs. This also includes:

An “Intro to SDGs” training for Scouts

If you want to introduce the SDGs to Scouts, this is a great place to start. Use the activities to get the conversation rolling with Scouts about the SDGs to inspire them to dive deeper.

The SDG Hub: sdgs.scout.org

Want to be inspired to take action for the SDGs as a Scout? Discover the online Scouts for SDGs platform that highlights the great things that Scouts are doing or can do to contribute to the SDGs.

WOSM services: services.scout.org

The Service Model in WOSM is an online platform aimed at strengthening the capacity of NSOs to deliver better Scouting to more young people worldwide. It is composed of 12 services and each of these services provides a range of resources to NSOs: from policies, toolkits, and guidelines, to e-learning courses and in-person support (both online and through onsite visits), and events such as workshops and training.

Under the Youth Programme service, you can find resources and support for NSOs to adopt the framework and/or align a Youth Programme with the SDGs. This is also where you will find many other sources of inspiration for education for the SDGs!

The Scout Donation Platform: donate.scout.org

Are Scouts looking for funds for their projects? Scouts can use the Scout Donation Platform and crowdsource their funding to create an impact on the SDGs!

The Better World Framework:

Learning Opportunities for Active Citizenship

The Better World Framework is a set of coordinated programmes, campaigns, calls to action, and events designed to develop the competencies of young people to become global active citizens by taking action around issues related to sustainable development.

The framework helps NSOs align its educational objectives related to active global citizenship and its work on community development to global common goals. NSOs can use the Better World Framework as the means to align their own community development initiatives with specific SDGs and competencies for sustainable development. By aligning these initiatives under one umbrella, NSOs can implement and join a common monitoring and evaluation system to measure and report on the totality of Scouts' contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

The Better World Framework also aims to facilitate the incorporation of topics and development of new resources by WOSM (National, Regional, and World levels) and support partners to engage young people around key global issues. As experts in their field, partners are key allies in the framework.³

NSOs are encouraged to find partners that can help develop initiatives to tackle relevant local issues affecting young people and community. NSOs can use the framework to help describe the role that main actors - such as partners, adults, and community members - can play to inspire and support young people to contribute to the SDGs.

Any of the programmes, campaigns, calls to action and events incorporated under the Better World Framework are considered as learning opportunities within the Youth Programme. NSOs are encouraged to adopt any one of the following to support education for sustainable development in their Youth Programme:

³ The educational content of many programmes, campaigns and badges has been developed in collaboration with the contribution of experts from the pool of WOSM partners: The World Scout Environment Programme - developed with different partners but mainly UN Environment and WWF, Património Scout Badge - developed with UNESCO World Heritage, The Scouts Go Solar Programme - supported by Solafrica and Greenpeace, The Dialogue for Peace Programme - supported by KAICIID International Dialogue Centre, HeforShe - developed in collaboration with UN Women and supported by Alwaleed Philanthropies.



- **The Messengers of Peace** programme encourages Scouts to contribute in the building of a Culture of Peace through individual or community service actions. Scouts are invited to do an action in and with the community and share their story. When they share what they are doing as Scouts to create a culture of peace, they join a global network of Scouts also creating positive change.
- **The Scouts of the World Award** is a World programme that challenges young people aged 15 to 26 years old, Scouts and non-Scouts, to think about the global issues they value and act upon them in their local community. It is composed of a 21-hour discovery phase, and an 80-hour voluntary service.
- **The Patrimonto Scout badge (World Scouting – UNESCO World Heritage Recognition Programme)** challenges young people aged 15 to 26 years old, Scouts and non-Scouts, to carry out their Scout of the World Award Discovery and voluntary service at a UNESCO World Heritage site. This programme aims to raise awareness and mobilise young people to participate and help in World Heritage preservation and promotion.
- **The World Scout Environment Programme** is a World programme that encourages young people to connect with nature, to think about how you interact with the environment, and to take action to protect it. Scouts start by exploring themes related to the environment through built-in activities, and then take action to protect it in their communities!
- **The Scouts Go Solar programme** is a set of activities to help create awareness, increase knowledge, and develop the skills of Scouts with regard to solar energy. By taking part in these activities at a Scout centre, young people can earn the Solar Scout badge.
- **The Dialogue for Peace programme** encourages Scouts to learn about dialogue and peacebuilding and acquire competencies related to these topics. Scouts can then apply what they learned in their personal life or develop a dialogue-related project to better create a culture of peace.
- **The HeForShe Action Kit** is designed to help Scouts across the world become advocates for gender equality and commit to HeForShe by 2020. The Action Kit was developed in collaboration with UN Women to encourage Scouts across the world to think about gender issues and understand when and how they can act on this.

Any national, Regional and World initiative that targets education for sustainable development and taking action that contributes to the development of their community is welcomed into the Better World Framework. NSOs can request support to incorporate these best practices under the BWF umbrella. These will progressively add inspiration opportunities to the framework.

Education for the Sustainable Development Goals

Scouting's purpose is educational and can, therefore, play a key role in educating for the SDGs, as recognised in Goal 4, target 4.7:

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all Scouts [learners] acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

But what is education for the SDGs? How should we ensure that Scouts acquire the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development? This section attempts to answer these questions based on the document by UNESCO that is entitled "Education for Sustainable Development Goals; Learning Objectives" (2017).



“We cannot solve problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

Key resource

In 2017, UNESCO developed a resource entitled “Education for Sustainable Development Goals; Learning Objectives” as part of its Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. It sets up the agenda for education for the SDGs by looking at what knowledge and skills young people need in order to successfully promote sustainable development.

For Youth Programme developers, this is a key resource to help align your Youth Programme or to develop new resources on the SDGs. It offers an exhaustive list of competencies, learning objectives, suggested topics, and learning methods that can be used in education for the SDGs.

With the help of this resource, we are not reinventing the educational proposal of Scouting, but strengthening it by taking into consideration key competencies for sustainability and incorporating it into our programming.

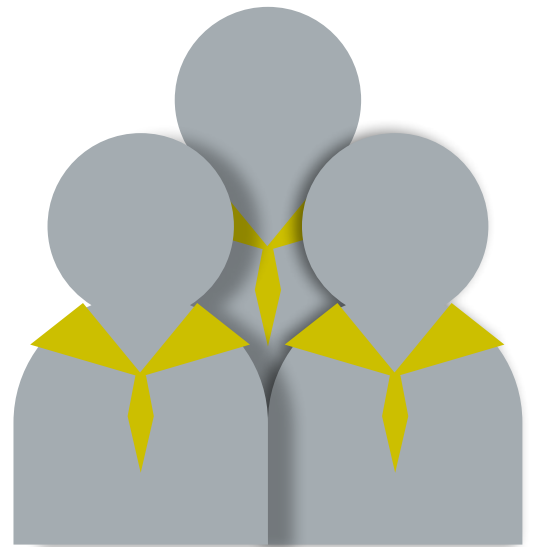


Scouting's Active Global Citizen with Key Competencies for the SDGs

Education for the SDGs describes a set of key competencies that are identified as important to engage constructively and responsibly in today's societies as well as to see "the big picture" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴. An active global citizen is described in Scouting as being responsible, committed, autonomous, supportive, and culturally sensitive.

Developing programmes and opportunities that develop these cross-cutting competencies in young people is essential in any education on the SDGs since they enable and empower them to act in their communities.

A Scout for SDGs is...



⁴ Competencies refer to the ability to use knowledge (information, understanding, skills, values and attitudes) in specific contexts and to meet demands (UNESCO, 2017).

... an active global citizen:

responsible

committed

autonomous

supportive

culturally sensitive

... with sustainability competencies:

- Can solve complex problems
- Can develop and implement strategic and innovative actions
- Collaborates with others
- Is self-aware
- Thinks in systems to see the big picture of a problem
- Anticipates the effects and what can happen in the future
- Shows critical thinking
- Understands and reflects on their underlying values and norms

(Find the full description of these competencies in the World Scout Youth Programme Policy and UNESCO's "Education for Sustainable Development Goals; Learning Objectives" document)

Learning Objectives and Approaches for the **SDGs**

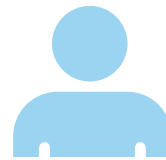
In order to develop the key competencies mentioned above, Scouting can offer educational experiences with clear learning objectives linked to the SDGs.

UNESCO has defined a set of learning objectives for each of the 17 SDGs under three key areas:

- the cognitive domain, i.e. what learners need to know
- the socio-emotional domain, i.e. the social skills that enable learners to collaborate, negotiate, communicate, and self-reflect
- the behavioural domain, i.e. how learners act with the knowledge they gained

The illustration below gives an example of some learning objectives suggested in the document.

What you know (cognitive)



- Understands the issue and its causes and impacts
- Understands the strategies to deal with the issue

What you feel (socio-emotional)



- Wants to raise awareness and empower others to act on the issue
- Shows empathy and solidarity with those affected by the issue
- Reflects on their role and experience in relation to the issue

What you do (behavioural)



- Can plan and implement an action that contributes to the solution of the issue
- Can support a cause and influence decision-making to help solve the issue

Remember! The SDGs are all interlinked and interconnected, so are their learning objectives.

A source of inspiration, not a replacement

The SDGs learning objectives developed by the UNESCO touch on every one of the Goals. And a good deal of these objectives are already part of the actions of many NSOs. The SDGs are a ground, not a ceiling, of what Scouting could do to promote active global citizenship: which means that this framework is an example from which Scout associations and groups can be inspired and take ideas, to then adapt it to their local reality. You will note here that the education is framed in the same dynamics that Scouting already offers, but simply under the umbrella of the SDGs.

Each SDG has a set of suggestions and examples of topics and learning approaches that can be used to enable learners to attain these three spheres of learning objectives.

1 NO POVERTY



Example:

- To learn about poverty, explore the theme of work conditions related to poverty, such as child labour, and have Scouts run a fair trade products campaign.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



- To learn about gender equality, you can explore the theme of gender discrimination and invite speakers who have experienced violence based on gender identity or sexual orientation to talk at a Scout meeting.

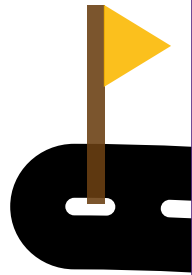


Aligning with the SDGs

Scouting contributes to the SDGs through achieving its purpose: the education of young people in achieving their full potential. This is done through the Youth Programme and its holistic approach that takes into consideration all the dimensions of the human personality.

This means that all that we do in Scouting helps young people to grow in six different areas of personal growth: spiritual, physical, intellectual, character, emotional, and social development. It is through strengthening the Youth Programme that NSOs can empower young people and adults to contribute to the SDGs.

In order to align a Youth Programme to the SDGs, NSOs can follow these suggested steps:



Youth Programme



1st step:

Identify areas for alignment in your national Youth Programme

- Identify and empathise with local issues
- Select priority areas and identify needed educational objectives or programmes
- Nominate someone who will take charge and seek resources and support

2nd step:

Plan and develop what is needed in your national Youth Programme

- Get creative and choose what your approach will be. Pilot and review it according to feedback.
- Plan your monitoring and evaluation scheme before you start to collect data

Adults in Scouting

A Youth Programme that is well aligned with the SDGs can only be delivered if the main facilitators of the programme, the adult volunteers, are well prepared and supported to do so. Therefore, aligning with the SDGs also involves building their capacity and empowering them to deliver this education. This also involves including them in the development of any new tool so that they take ownership for this process.



3rd step:

Implement and monitor your plan

- Launch, promote it and make it accessible with suitable resources
- Build the capacity of those who implement it

Evaluate and share your story

- Monitor your success and review or scale it
- Share your best practices

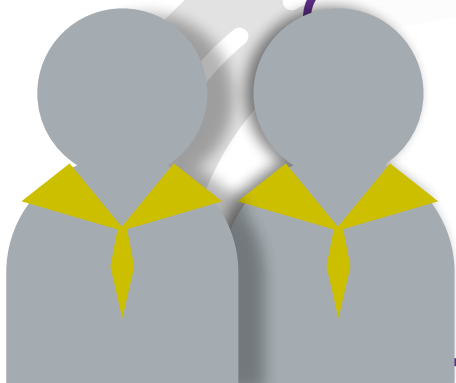
Mainstreaming the SDGs

Education for the SDGs is not just about integrating it into the Youth Programme.

It also means thinking about how they can be reflected across your NSO. This is where “mainstreaming the SDGs” comes in. Mainstreaming means aligning an organisation’s policies and structures with a specific theme.

Therefore, mainstreaming the SDGs in Scouting means taking into consideration the SDGs in all aspects of the organisation. In this way, the organisation becomes a role model for the education that it is giving to young people. Possible key areas:

**Communications,
Partnerships,
Governance,
Operations,
Diversity and
inclusion**



All Scouts acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to promote sustainable development.

A participatory approach

To build a common idea around the SDGs, many voices need to take part in the conversation. You can use a participatory approach to do so. In a participatory approach, the process of creating a common vision and the opportunity for capacity building of those involved are as important as the results.





Who can we involve in this participatory conversation?

- Young people, Scouts and non-Scouts, as key agents of the programme
- Youth Programme team, as developers of the programme
- Scout leaders, as the facilitators of the programme
- National leadership, to mainstream the SDGs across the organisation
- Adults in Scouting team, as supporters of the programme
- Communications team, as agents to help share your story
- Partners, to support your education for SDGs
- And any other relevant actors

The following sections will help break down into practical steps the process of aligning your NSO with the SDGs, with the help of guiding questions and examples.

1st step:

Identify Areas for Alignment in Your National Youth Programme

A self-assessment is a great first step to align a Youth Programme with the SDGs.

First, assessing a Youth Programme allows you to reflect on the different components of the current educational proposal and identify what aspects in relation to the SDGs are missing or could be improved.

Second, since each country has their own realities concerning sustainable development, the SDGs allow us to identify and empathise with local issues, including the ones concerning young people, and to select priority areas that should be targeted.

IT'S TIME TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING.



Note: NSOs don't necessarily have to work with all the SDGs at once. We more often make a bigger impact if we target our efforts to the most relevant needs of young people in our national context.

What will our conversation be about?

SDGs in our country:

- What are the key challenges faced by young people in our country? Could we address them via some of the SDGs? What are the root causes and effects of these issues?
- What is an active global citizen in our local context?
- What do the SDGs mean in our national context? Does our government have an implementation plan for the SDGs that we could contribute to?
- Where are we now, and where do we want to be by 2030?

The main resource is the **Renewed Approach to Programme (RAP) toolkit** that offers a systematic approach to adapt your Youth Programme to the current needs of young people.

SDGs in our Youth Programme:

- Why is sustainable development important for Scouts and for the future of my NSO?
- What programmes does our NSO currently have around community involvement, sustainable development, the environment, peacebuilding, etc.?
- How does our Youth Programme help Scouts to understand the links between issues (the balance between social, environmental, and economic dimensions), and the connection between local and global issues?
- How does our Youth Programme help Scouts identify solutions that create lasting change to problems?
- How does our Youth Programme support Scouts with creating partnerships (Goal 17)?
- When thinking of leaving no one behind, how inclusive is our Youth Programme? Who does it (not) attract, include, or engage?
- Conduct a SWOT analysis (identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) of the Youth Programme. How can we tackle the weaknesses and embrace the opportunities around the SDGs?

With this first step taken, nominate someone who will take charge of the next steps in the alignment process and allocate resources to their work. If needed.



Does your NSO need support in aligning its Youth Programme with the SDGs or adopting a learning opportunity under the Better World Framework? The World Scout Bureau can support you through the **WOSM Services**. Submit a service request through your international commissioner at services.scout.org.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Other Scout tools for strengthening the Youth Programme (available on services.scout.org)

- World Scout Youth Programme Policy: explains the Youth Programme life cycle
- World Scout Youth Involvement Policy: shows how to promote youth involvement in community service
- Peace and Human Rights Education in Scouting: offers a human rights self-assessment tool from pages 50 to 55
- GSAT self-assessment tool: offers practical steps for self-assessment on a subject



2nd step:

Developing Your Youth Programme

Once the assessment is done, you should have in hand a good map of where your programme stands, what are its gaps in terms of answering the needs of young people today in relations to the SDGs, and what opportunities you could embrace. You are now ready for the planning and development of the alignment to SDGs.

This can mean simply tracing the links between the current elements of the Youth Programme and the elements of education for the SDGs that are covered through it. This could also mean aligning your progression scheme to the SDGs throughout age branches, by reframing the learning objectives with the ones proposed in education for the SDGs. Or you could add something new to your Youth Programme through a new programme, badge, mobile application, or innovative learning opportunity.

One is not exclusive of the others. NSOs are encouraged to think outside the box. Any path that empowers Scouts to be young leaders for the SDGs works!

IT'S TIME TO GET CREATIVE.

Inspiring possibilities

- **Focus on answering specific needs of young people in your national context:** According to the results of your assessment, you might realise that the most pressing need in your NSO is to respond to youth unemployment. Another NSO could realise that it needs to work on project management as a skill for young people to implement projects on the SDGs.

The most pressing needs of young people are often the most important thing to work on for the SDGs. Think about the ways you can do so, whether it be through trainings, new badges, modules, learning opportunities, etc.

- **Explore the Learning opportunities of the Better World Framework :** Use one or some of the initiatives that are part of the Better World Framework such as Messengers of Peace, the Scouts of the World Award, or the World Scout Environment Programme to allow Scouts to learn about and act on the SDGs.
- **Include the SDGs in your events:** Hold an SDG workshop in an event or showcase the goals in a designated tent that everyone will see at your next jamboree.

- **Try an innovative approach:**
Do you have an innovative idea on how to teach the SDGs? Then try it out! This a great chance to explore new methods of education, such as simulations, e-learning, mobile applications, virtual reality games, and much more.
- **Embrace existing materials:**
There are many great resources on the SDGs - created by Scouts or external organisations that are available for anyone to use. If it already exists and matches your needs, embrace it! Offer it as part of your programme. Explore some of these in the section Sources of inspiration.
- **Emphasize youth involvement:**
Youth Involvement in community service is a core component of Scouting. This path allows young people to discover the SDGs in a broader way, but pushes Scouts to think outside the box when it comes to community service, such as volunteering in other NGOs, running advocacy campaigns in their community, and much more.
- **Engage with partners:**
An organisation that specialises in one or more of the SDGs in your country could be a valuable partner to tackle one or many components of education for the SDGs in your NSO. Work with them and use their expertise. They might even offer events or trainings that Scouts could participate in.
- **Create a sustainable learning environment:** Aligning with the SDGs isn't just about how the programme is developed, but also about how it is implemented. This means that in aligning the Youth Programme with the SDGs, leaders must also be trained and empowered to offer a learning environment that is sustainable as well. Some examples of this sustainable environment could be to ensure a gender balanced leadership team, to make a Scout camp zero waste, have leaders trained in dialogue, etc.

At this stage, you are ideating solutions to the identified needs and piloting your ideas. This is also the stage in which you plan how you will monitor your programme in order to collect the data necessary for proper evaluation, review across its implementation, as well as measure its impact.

3rd step:

Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Share Your Story

Your aligned programme is ready and set to go. Time to start the implementation phase!

IT'S TIME TO DO, KNOW, AND SHARE.

Implementing change

However good this change may be, it will not be effective unless it is accepted and implemented on the local level. This means effectively managing the change it creates. This includes ensuring participation from all levels in the development and implementation, building the capacity of adult volunteers to offer the programme, ensuring resources are available to support the implementation, communicating and promoting the change effectively across the organisation, etc.

Don't be afraid to start small with pilot groups, but start in a determined way and carry it out until the end of its evaluation (WOSM European Region, 2002).

Building the capacity of adults in Scouting

As main facilitators of the programme, adult volunteers need to feel empowered to deliver this aligned Youth Programme. To do so, they must feel that they are well trained and have the proper resources for the implementation.

To mainstream the SDGs across adults in Scouting, you can:

- Include the link between Scouting and the SDGs in the introduction modules of your training curriculum
- Add an SDG module in your Adults in Scouting training curriculum
- Promote the creation of leader teams that are balanced in terms of diversity
- Hold a dialogue training for leaders to become dialogue facilitators with young people

Monitoring and evaluation

When implementing the aligned programme, measuring and collecting data is key to ensuring that we know what we are doing for the SDGs. If we don't measure what we do towards the SDGs, how will we know to what extent we have contributed to their achievement? How will we know if we must review our course of action, or scale it? Monitoring and evaluation is not something that comes as an afterthought but is a core part in planning and implementation.

In this case, this means measuring the success of our programme on enabling young people to be active global citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, or in other words, on making them leaders for the SDGs. You can refer back to the concept of Inspire, Enable and Deliver for guidance.

Guiding questions:

- What do Scouts know/do in relation to the SDGs **before** the aligned programme? What do Scouts know/do **after** the programme? What are they doing **one year** after the programme?
- How many Scouts have developed the skills needed to promote sustainable development? (which is linked back to the competencies and learning objectives in education for the SDGs)
- How many more projects have Scouts done as a result of this alignment?

How can we measure these things?

- Surveys and questionnaires to evaluate knowledge and behaviours
- Training leaders to measure the impact of the programme on young people
- Interviews with key people or groups who can give their insight on the programme
- Finding an external partner to conduct an evaluation for you
- Encouraging Scouts to share their stories on online platforms, such as scout.org, to be able to collect local best practices
- And many more options, according to your needs and resources

As in any programme implementation, you are looking as well at factors such as the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of the course of action you chose in order to feed back into the review cycle.

Guiding questions:

- Did the implementation work effectively? How many people are using the aligned or new programme?
- How relevant was our course of action in terms of answering the needs of young people in our national context?
- How efficient was our course of action in terms of consuming time, human and financial resources (a cost-benefit analysis)?

And what do we do with our collected data and evaluation results?

You review the programme to make it better, or you realise it's great and scale it to all Scouts. Maybe even to non-Scouts!

But it doesn't need to stop there. With this information, you can also help inform institutions outside of Scouting, at local, national or even world level, about how young people are contributing to the SDGs. A great communications and advocacy tool for Scouting!

Scout tools

- [Measuring Scouting's Impact on the Development of Young People](#)
- [Planning for 2023 and beyond: A strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation toolkit for NSOs](#)





Sharing success

Time to share your story to inspire others! Collecting information through monitoring and evaluation means that you can share the concrete data and journey of your NSO with the SDGs and - most importantly - the enormous contributions that young people have been making in their communities. This is a great tool for securing new partners and funding to continue scaling your work, as well as for inspiring other NSOs to do the same.

Share Scouting's impact with external audiences. Be it through national events on education for sustainable development, or media opportunities (newspapers, television, or social media), you can showcase Scouting's contribution to the SDGs.

You should also share with internal audiences, NSOs, World Scouting's results and data, as well as resources such as guidelines, project plans, and lessons learnt through platforms such as [scout.org](https://www.scout.org) or educational events.

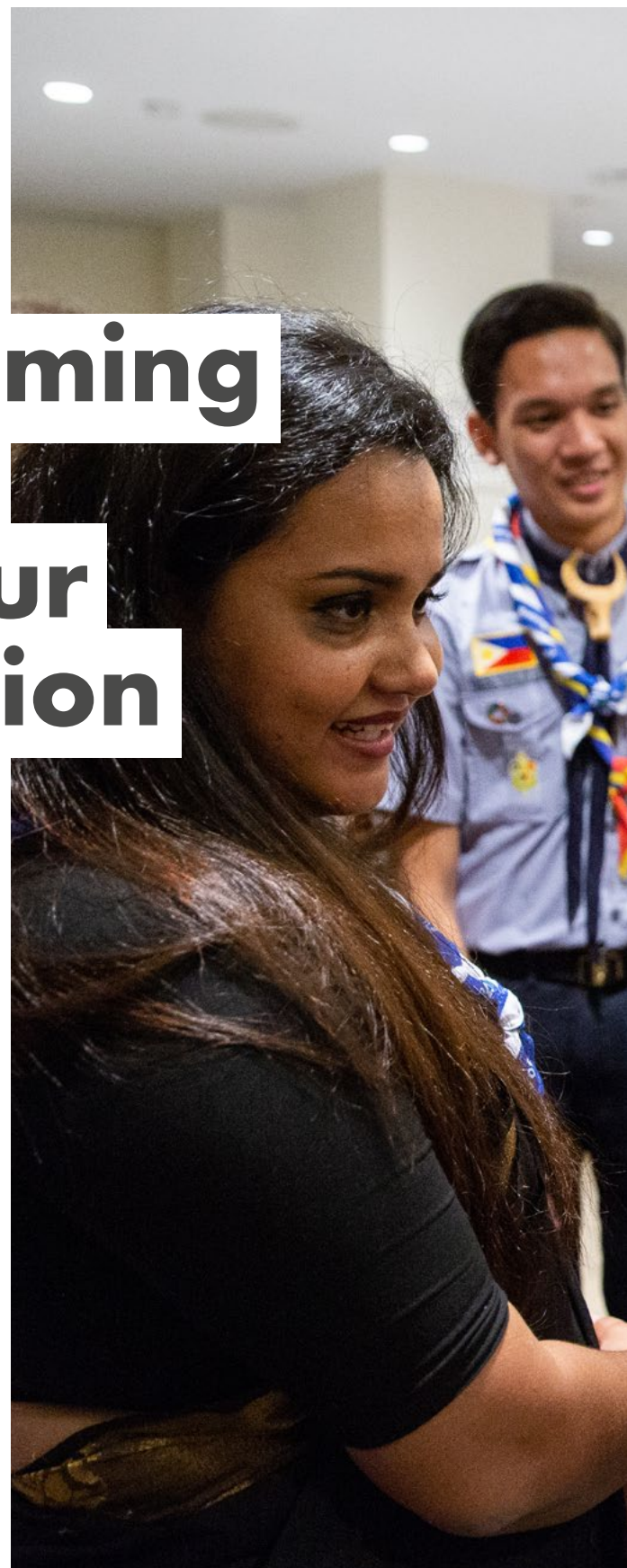
Scout tools

- WOSM Communications and Partnerships tools, such how to write and share a good story, compiled on the [WOSM Service platform](#)

Mainstreaming the **SDGs** Across Your Organisation

The 2030 Agenda requires transformative change. If we are educating young people about the SDGs, what are we doing to transform our organisation and be a role model in this field?

Youth Programme is only one of the many ways in which the SDGs can be incorporated into Scouting. To truly achieve our educational objectives, Scouting needs to align the learning environment it offers to the SDGs. This means rethinking the all areas of work of the organisation and creating a plan to make it more sustainable so that it can become a role model for the young people it is educating.





**IT'S TIME
TO
THINK
BIG.**

Communications:

strengthen the profile of Scouting as the leading youth organisation for the SDGs by growing your messaging around this theme

- Link your communications about community service projects to what SDGs they relate to
- Showcase Scouting's commitment to leaving no one behind in your media relations by ensuring your organisation's communications reflect diversity and inclusion (photos, videos, language, etc).
- Hold a 17-week communications campaign that presents an SDG per week to Scouts
- Start a "Scouts for the SDGs" newsletter every month
- Create a page on your website on how Scouts in your country can contribute to the SDGs
- Contribute to the public awareness of the SDGs by targeting non-Scouts in your communications

For any of these areas, you can use the WOSM Service platform to request for support.

Partnerships:

work with others to enhance your educational proposal

- Link your project proposals to their contribution to the SDGs when looking for new funding opportunities
- Partner with an environmental organisation to develop a biodiversity action kit for leaders
- Participate as an organisation in national events that focus on the SDGs and take the lead in the national discourse around education for global citizenship and sustainable development
- Share best practices on sustainability in your organisation and with other NSOs
- Partner with public institutions and decision-makers to participate in the national SDG implementation plan, and support them with knowledge, perspectives, and data on young people
- Hold your country's institutions accountable on their commitments to the SDGs



Governance and policy:

institutionalise the SDGs

- Include the SDGs in your strategic plan by creating tangible actions and outcomes for the improvement of sustainability in your NSO
- Develop and implement an environmental policy
- Mainstream gender throughout your organisation's governance and management
- Map who you are leaving behind in Scouting and create a plan to reach out to all
- Ensure enhanced representation in decision-making of traditionally underrepresented voices in your national context
- Include a chapter on your NSO's contribution to sustainability in your next annual report
- Have a discussion in your board about how and when sustainability should be prioritised, if in conflict with another issue (how to manage trade-offs)
- Enroll your organisation's national executive team in a training on sustainable development
- Assign a "SDG watchdog" in your national executive team to keep an eye on whether decisions are in line with sustainable development
- Ensure that your organisation's fund investments or placements are ethical and in line with the SDGs

Operations:

rethink your learning environment

- Support your Scout centres in becoming Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature, the Environment and Sustainability (SCENES)
- Make your NSO's Scouting events zero waste
- Get your uniforms produced by a fair trade company
- Ask yourself: who gets left behind in our facilities? Make them accessible and inclusive!

To tackle sustainability in these areas, you will need a plan. The process of transforming the organisation with the SDGs can be the same as used for your Youth Programme:

- 1. Assess your needs**
- 2. Plan what is needed**
- 3. Develop your actions, monitoring, and evaluation plans**
- 4. Test, review, and implement**
- 5. Monitor and evaluate the change, and improve or scale it**
- 6. Share your best practices with others**

Sources of inspiration

To inspire your work, take a look at some examples of what NSOs are currently doing on the SDGs.

Some highlights in Scouting

Creating a Better World

Spejderne

17 activities for 17 goals

Scouts Scotland

Rozhl'adňa

Slovenský skauting

These programmes offers activities and challenges on each SDG. These can easily adapted for every age section!

SDG hubs, events, and workshops in Belgium

Les Scouts de Belgique

1. The SDGs were at the forefront during their annual general assembly, Scoutopia 2017. Six hundred and seventy Scout leaders took part in activities and workshops to discover the goals and to develop actions to contribute to them.
2. They created an SDG hub on their website. For each goal, they compiled dozens of resources related to that theme for each one of their age sections.
3. They developed a guide for a two-hour workshop on the SDGs for Adults in Scouting.

Better World Singapore

The Singapore Scout Association

Scouts in Singapore created a website dedicated to the Better World Framework that explains what the SDGs are and what they mean in the local context. Scouts completing a programme which is part of the framework also get to know about the Global Goals!

Linking programmes, projects, and partnerships to the SDGs in France, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, and South Africa

Scouts in these countries have begun to link what Scouting in their country does for the SDGs - be it through their partnerships, programmes, or projects - and institutionalising this link. In this way, Scouts can better understand what they are currently doing to help achieve the SDGs and can better communicate their contribution to external audiences.

Bringing education for the SDGs to all

Scouts et Guides de France

In 2017, Scouts in France embarked on a three-year project to offer education for the SDGs to more than 80,000 young people per year. To do so, they are including education for the SDGs across their programme and scaling their offer to more and more Scouts and non-Scouts.

Make sure as well to search for resources on the SDGs beyond Scouting that have been created in your country for support and ideas that are more tailored to your local reality.

Some highlights outside of Scouting

Global Goals Portal

United Nations, available in over five languages

The Global Goals portal is a one-stop shop for all resources related to the SDGs. It summarises all the goals in a user-friendly way, shares inspiring stories from across the globe, and encourages users to take action by taking part in the multiple campaigns for the goals.

World's Largest Lesson

United Nations, available in over 15 languages

World's Largest Lesson introduces the SDGs to children and young people everywhere and unites them in action. The animated videos here are a great introduction to the SDGs, and you can find other fun resources and teaching kits across the platform.

TheGoals.org

International Foundation for the Young Masters Programme (ISYMP)

This is an online platform connecting young people all over the world to tackle the SDGs in a fun, interactive way. It is available on any internet-enabled device. That's why the World Organisation of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) uses it as one of its tools for education for the SDGs!

Youth 4 Global Goals

AIIESEC

Youth 4 Global Goals is an initiative to educate young people about the SDGs and provide them with practical volunteering opportunities as well as forums to contribute to their achievement.

Education for Sustainable Development Goals Learning Objectives

UNESCO

In these guidelines, you will find detailed learning objectives, approaches, and issues on each of the 17 SDGs. It can be used in the development of any new resource on education for the SDGs.

The SDGs in Action App

GSMA and Project Everyone

This app allows users of every age to follow the news, learn more, and post projects about the SDGs.

United Nations Virtual Reality

United Nations

Virtual reality (VR) can now be experienced through a smartphone and a cardboard headset. It offers a way to place yourself in someone else's shoes and empathise with their experience. Listen to one or

DISCOVER MANY MORE GREAT PRACTICES ON SERVICES.SCOUT.ORG

There also exists across NSOs, many more resources on specific issues that are part of the SDGs such as gender equality, environmental protection, diversity and inclusion, etc. Find some of these in the resource hub on scout.org or on the WOSM Services Platform at services.scout.org under the Youth Programme tab.

Conclusion

The world has a lot to do if it hopes to achieve the 17 goals for sustainable development by 2030. These goals are not a small feat and everyone's contribution is needed, especially young people's. The SDGs have become the organising principle around which Scouting will align, as an agenda for the better world it wants to create.

Scouting has a great opportunity to play a key role here. By achieving Scouting's purpose of educating young people to be empowered self-fulfilled active global citizens with a Youth Programme that is aligned with the SDGs, we can enable young people to be the leaders for sustainable development that are necessary for today and tomorrow's world.

NSOs have many options open to them as to how they will align their Youth Programme and organisation with the SDGs. Whatever action you take, the goal is to enable young people to gain the knowledge and skills they need to promote sustainable development and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by tackling the most pressing issues in their national context.

An NSO, by assessing its potential areas for alignment, planning, developing, and implementing what is need, continuously monitoring and evaluating its results, and measuring its impact, will find the system that is right for them.

Never forget:

The most important action you can take in your NSOs is to enable and support Scouts to tackle the issues that are most important in their local reality.

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#Scouts4SDGs



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Creating a Better World



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