

SDG Advisor: An Innovative Approach to Accelerate the SDG Implementations

ICT4SIDS Partnership, Website: www.ict4sids.com

Overview

The overall objective of the SDG Advisor is to accelerate the adoption of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Samoa Pathway Document through ICT at local, regional and national levels. Specifically, the SDG Advisor concentrates on SDG17 (Implementation) by answering the following questions:

- What is the status of my country as calculated by the SDG indicator (below, ok, above)
- What type of services could improve the needed status
- What are the costs versus benefits of launching a service and how exactly can a service be launched quickly and inexpensively

The SDG Advisor, shown in Figure1, is a working prototype that attempts to answer these questions by systematically walking the users through a three step process displayed in Figure1. These three steps are described in more detail below.



Figure1: Conceptual Overview of the SDG Advisor

STEP1: Select a Country and Initiate the Process

The user selects a country/region and the SDG Advisor fetches all open information about the location from sources such as the World Bank, UN Department of Statistics, World Economic Forum, and others.

STEP2: Select an SDG for Status and Service Recommendations

The user selects an SDG and the SDG Advisor shows how well the country/region is doing based on SDG indicators. Figure2 displays a screenshot of the SDG Advisor that shows the following:

- The user selected SDG3 (Health) for Jamaica as a country.
- The Advisor shows status of Jamaica based on UN-specified SDG Indicators for Healthcare such as number of physicians and hospitals per 1000 people.
- The status is indicated as red, yellow and green to show if the status is below, OK, or above the desired levels. As shown in Figure2, Jamaica needs to improve its status in terms of number of physicians and hospitals per 1000 people while life expectancy at birth for male as well as female is quite good.
- The Advisor also recommends a number of ICT-based services that could improve the status. This recommender feature is based on our knowledgebase of business patterns and heavily

utilizes analysis performed by well known studies such as the ITU-CISCO, Columbia-Ericsson, and others. We are constantly updating our database.

- The user can select any of the displayed services and perform basic cost-benefit analysis to make an initial judgement if the service is worth pursuing. Ideally, the users should select the services that are low cost but high benefit and impact.
- If the user believes that the service is worth pursuing, then the user presses the Explore button that is processed in Step3.

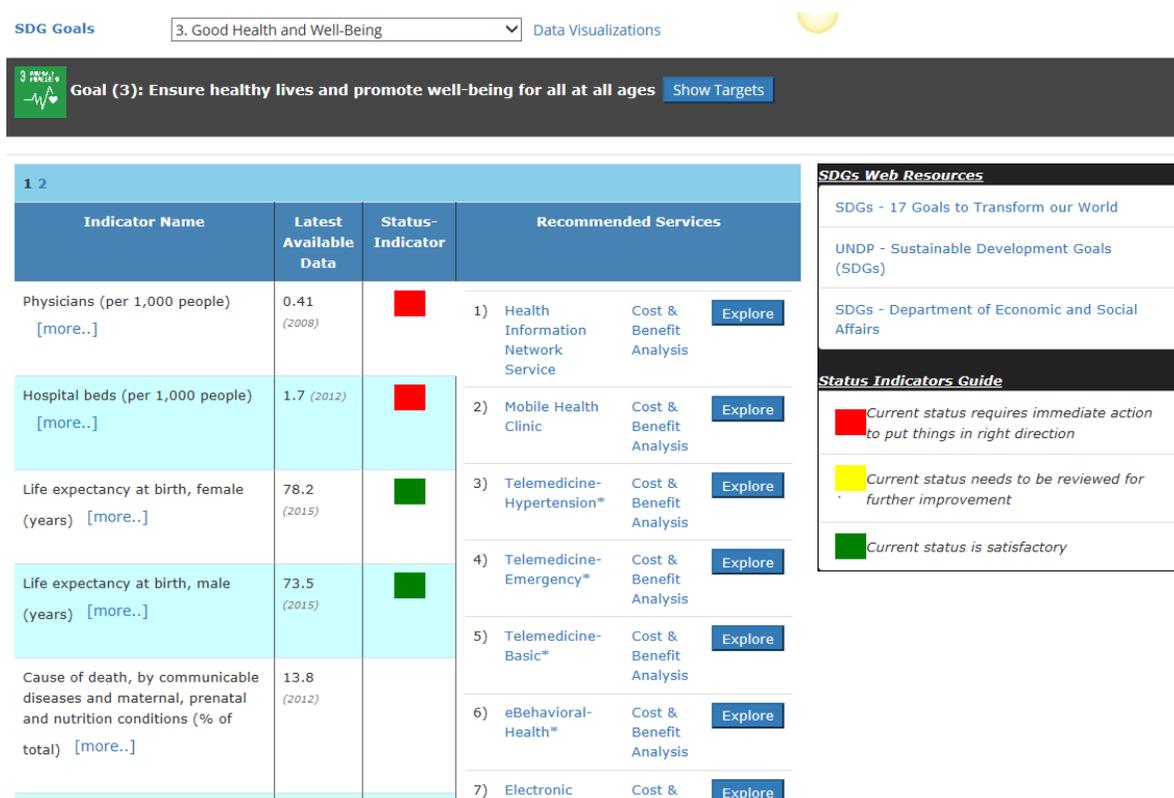


Figure2: Screenshot of the Results Produced by Step2 of the SDG Advisor

STEP 3: Exploration and Launching/Implementing Needed Services

The SDG Advisor goes beyond recommendations and helps implementation of the needed ICT-based services through the SPACE computer aided planner. The launched services are Samoa Pathway compliant ICT Hubs that directly support SDGs in Health, Education, Public Safety and Public Welfare services through ICT. The SPACE ePlanner conducts a feasibility study and generates the following outputs in an interview that lasts about 20 minutes:

- An Executive summaries that shows the main results of the feasibility study
- Strategic Planning Report to show the overall vision and architecture with business/technical justification
- Requirements documents for system development and a Business Plan for obtaining funding
- Standardized RFPs (Requests for Proposals) that can be used to attract vendors for bidding
- Project management, policies and procedures, disaster recovery and needed governance guidelines

A very important feature of SPACE is that it automatically generates a sample portal that can be quickly converted to an actual working system. All these outputs and the working portal can be used to initiate a Free Pilot Project with ICT4SIDS Partnership or any other organization to implement the needed services quickly. For more information about the Free Pilot Projects, please visit www.ict4sids.com.

Concluding Comments. The SDG Toolkit is potentially a very valuable set of tools for rapid acceleration of SDGs and Samoa Pathway implementations. This innovative approach produces implementable results in about an hour that typically take 2-3 months.

For More Information, Please Contact Dr A. Umar, umar@amjadumar.com