Session 1.1: Bringing the SDGs to life:
Practical Lessons from the field

"Fast checking the progress in the evaluation of SDGs –implications in energy sector evaluation"

What about the SDGs?

Challenges: philosophical-conceptual, approach-methodological

Current Scores: achievements of SDGs, country examples, evaluation of SDGs, VNRs, emerging issues

Implications: energy evaluation, other fields

Romeo Santos
Professor, College of Architecture
University of the Philippines
President, APEA
E-mail: rombsantos3@gmail.com

Results of Independent REVIEW of the SDG framework

- focus on Inequality, Unsustainable Consumption Patterns, Weak Institutional Capacity, and Environmental Degradation *(neglected by MDGs)*

- **need for an OVERALL Narrative, how the Goals lead to broader Outcomes - --- OVERARCHING GOAL**

- need to identify the wide range of social groups as agents of change alongside governments

- need to specify KEY complementarities & trade offs

General Criticism

"too many GOALs"

"too many INDICATORs"

Therefore,
"not operational"

Sasaki R,, IDCJ. 6th ODA Evaluation Workshop, Bangkok, 2018

Sources: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/summit/

ICSU, ISSC (2015): Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective. Paris: International Council for Science (ICSU)

“What role does evaluation have in the achievement of SDGs?

AGENDA	PERIOD	GOALS	TARGETS	INDICATORS
MDGs	2000 - 2015	8	18 (21)	48 (60)
SDGs	2015 - 2030	17	169	229*

The SDGs

Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote	2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at

UN SDG Framework

OBSERVATION

- -Complex
- -States need to strategize
- -Looks like not a work of evaluators: Indicator without Outcomes, some Indicators without targets

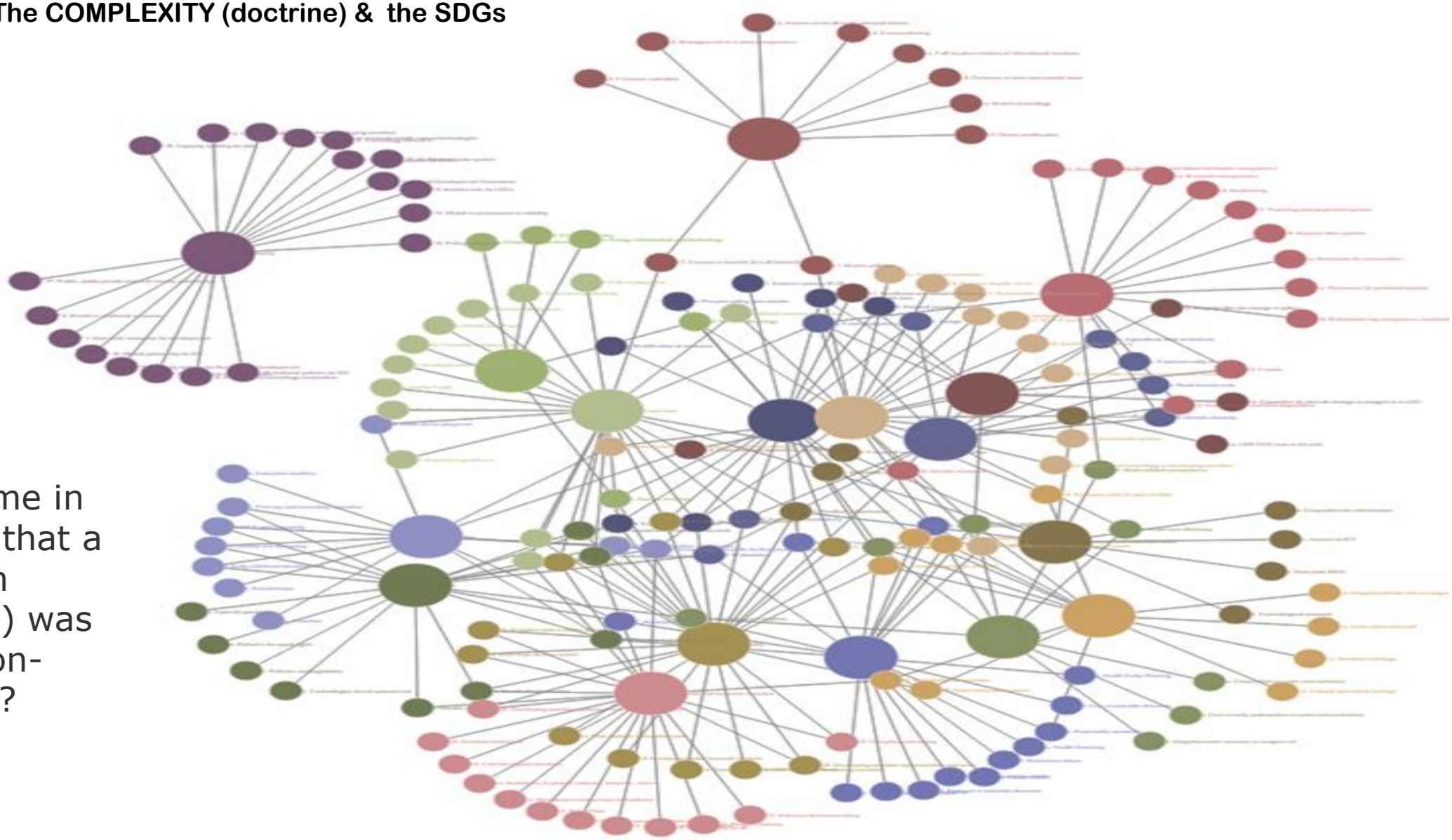
Illustration why Goal articulation is not good basis for determining Indicators for evaluation

Goal #	Goal articulation	Indicator		Outcome articulation	Indicator
14	Life below water	Fish, squid, whale		Improved conservation of aquatic resources Improved use of aquatic resources	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
15	Life on land	Man, tree, tiger		Improved protection of terrestrial resources Improved use of terrestrial resources	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area Proportion of traded wildlife that is poached or illicitly trafficked

NOTE:
Goal 14. LIFE BELOW WATER
[Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development]

Goal 15. LIFE ON LAND
[Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss]

The COMPLEXITY (doctrine) & the SDGs



Is there a time in development that a program (intervention) was simple, non-complex?

Systems Thinking/ Integration - holistic approaches to integrating various components of coupled human and natural systems (for example, social-ecological systems and human-environment systems) across all dimensions.

http://wpmu.mah.se/nmict162group7/files/2016/10/sdgs-580x483.jpg

Phenomenon

Relationship

Data

∞

2
Philosophical Assumptions

A. Ontological

(what nature of social phenomenon)

(Ontological 1)
- External to people involved
- use of 'bridge' to get knowledge: concepts & measurement
- ~positivism & critical rationalism
- quantitative

(Ontological 2)
- reality consists of layers or domains
- surface or empirical layer can be observed
- w/ underlying layer producing regularity, patterns observed on 'surface'
- research produces evidence that will be exposed to 'surface'
- scientific realism
- quantitative & qualitative

(Ontological 3)
- as social construction
- social reality is symbolic world of meanings & interpretations
- knowledge achieved by social actors' account of their reality
- interpretivism / social constructionism
- qualitative

B. Epistemological

(how social phenomenon can be known)

Rationalism (a priori)

or

Empiricism (a posteriori)

...

Research Traditions on Data & Social Phenomenon

How do we model a socio-economic phenomenon?

(Adpted from Blaikie, N. 2003.)

TALKING about MODEL

KNOWLEDGE MODELING:

- a theory explains; a model illustrates

– getting a ‘chunk’ of the phenomenon* and ‘modeling’ it

* [phenomenon (natural/man made), complex instance, critical need, problem of society, intellectual puzzle]

aid to better understanding; the simpler the better

ToC Model is a ‘knowledge model’

Travails of the (tortured) Data

Collection | Storage-Retrieval | Analysis-Synthesis | Reporting | Use

[Paradigm war, Quanti - Quali war, Approach-Method dilemma, Linear models vs. Complexity/Systems Thinking, etc.]

..here is where Evidence gets into form

..still opaque

..here is where issues abound

encode, collate, sort, classify, tabulate

desk research, survey, interview, mapping, test, video, photo, experiment, inventory

transform [digital, analog]

data base folder, file system

[textual, images, audio, mind maps, videos]

search engine, down load, report generation

compute, estimate, assess, relate, correlate, find patterns, induct, deduct, abduct, compare, triangulate, validate, corroborate

establish context, present findings, recomm, lessons

language, style, format, person, tone

clarify, explain, inform policy, make decision, solve problem, communicate, teach-influence, entertain

brief, journal paper (working, discu, white, blu) media release

The soundness by which we model a phenomenon has big bearing in the way we understand that phenomenon.

- has something to do with the philosophy of how we interpret the socio-economic phenomenon.

- is there something like a foolproof model [or method] that can help us understand with indisputable precision how change happens?

The answer is a clear: ‘NONE’.

- IS there a better alternative??? [WHY bother?]

Is there another way to account for emergent behavior?

The SDG Challenge!

- What's CAS/Complexity Science's take in the evaluation of SDGs?

What's linear models' [RF, ToC model, etc.] take?

Up to this moment – there exists no tested, single approach or methodology that has been put forward from any source to soundly evaluate the SDGs!

What's the score in SDGs?

1 NO POVERTY

More women than men live in poverty, especially during their peak childbearing years.

Women and girls around the world are

4%

MORE LIKELY

than men and boys to live in extreme poverty, and the risk rises to

25%

for women aged 25 to 34.

2 ZERO HUNGER

Unequal power relations in households render women more vulnerable to food insecurity.

Globally, women had a

10%

HIGHER RISK

of experiencing food insecurity than men in 2018.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Access to skilled birth attendance is strongly associated with wealth and urban residence.

In 2017, nearly

300,000

WOMEN DIED

from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth.

In least developed countries, only

61%

OF BIRTHS were attended by skilled health personnel in 2018.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

An estimated

15 million

GIRLS and

10 million

BOYS

of primary-school age are out of school.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

18%

OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months.

In the 30 countries where female genital mutilation (FGM) is concentrated,

1 in 3

GIRLS

aged 15 to 19 had been subjected to this harmful practice in 2017.

Women spend

3x

as many hours as men each day in unpaid care and domestic work.

Based on 2018 data from 69 countries, only

19%

OF COUNTRIES

have a comprehensive system to track budget allocations for gender equality.

Women comprised

39%

OF THE WORKFORCE in 2018, but held only

27%

OF MANAGERIAL POSITIONS.

Worldwide, only

1 in 4

parliamentary seats are held by women.

According to data from 51 countries, only

57%

OF WOMEN aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union make their own decisions about sexual relations and the use of contraceptives and reproductive health services.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

In collecting drinking water, women and girls carry the heaviest burden.

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in

80%

OF HOUSEHOLDS

without access to water on premises, according to data from 61 developing countries.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

In 2017, an estimated

3 billion

PEOPLE

worldwide lacked clean cooking fuels and technologies.

Girls in households that use solid fuels for cooking spend

18 hours

A WEEK

gathering fuel, compared to 5 hours a week in households using clean fuels, according to data from 13 sub-Saharan African countries.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Wide gender gaps persist in labour force participation.

The labour force participation rate of women aged 25 to 54 is

55%

versus 94% for men in the same age group.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Globally, less than

1 in 3

OF ALL RESEARCH POSITIONS are held by women.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Women are made vulnerable by discriminatory migration policies.

An assessment of migration policies related to family reunification from 45 countries shows that

71%

impose some **RESTRICTIONS ON SPOUSES AND PARTNERS JOINING MIGRANTS IN THE HOST COUNTRY.**

In other cases, women's migration status is tied to a resident or citizen spouse, preventing them from living autonomous lives and heightening already unequal power relations and possible exposure to violence.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Women are overrepresented in slums in

70%

OF COUNTRIES where data are available.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION · 13 CLIMATE ACTION · 14 LIFE BELOW WATER · 15 LIFE ON LAND

Globally,

38.7%

OF EMPLOYED WOMEN are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but

ONLY 13.8%

OF LANDHOLDERS are women.

The **LACK OF SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA** in the environment domain affects the development and implementation of effective policies and programmes to address the gender-environment nexus.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Trafficking, which tends to increase in crises, including conflict and post-conflict situations, puts women's and girls' rights in severe jeopardy.

3 in 4

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS are women and girls.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Achieving the SDGs for women and girls requires an enabling environment and a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation.

Of the

$117 billion

in ODA commitments received by developing countries, only

38%

targeted gender equality and women's equality as either a significant (secondary) or principal (primary) objective.

PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2019 Statistics Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs unstats.un.org

VNRs –Voluntary National Reviews

Observations: - merely report factual findings, shallow in evaluation

evaluation = factual findings + value judgment

"VNR Reporting needs evaluation". Briefing, IIED, London, Jan Issue, 2018

Sasaki R,, IDCJ. 6th ODA Evaluation Workshop, Bangkok, 2018

Country Examples:

Country	Integration of SDGs into National Plan, M&E & progress status
Indonesia	current Long Term Development (RPJMN) integrated in 2030 Agenda; has developed 87 of the 234 Indicators; 234 proxy Indicators
Philippines	developed -circulated the National Evaluation Policy in 2015. PDP 2017-2022 ensured integration of SDGs into national plan. 156 Indicators adopted. 103 –Global, 28- Supplementary, 25-Proxy
Thailand	119 Indicators (14 for review;103 for checking, 5 –relevant)
Vietnam	17 Goals nationalized into 115 VSDGs; formulating Roadmap & Indicator System
Nepal	developed a 5-year Integrated National Evaluation Action Plan 2016-2020;
Finland	Finland's Development Policy anchored on 4 priorities: rights of women & girls; reinforcing development of countries' economies; 'democratic & well-functioning societies; food security, access to water & energy, sustainable use of natural resources; Use of 39 national sustainable development indicators. Illustration -17 UN Indicators & data availability (slide 11)

Sasaki R,, IDCJ. 6th ODA Evaluation Workshop, Bangkok, 2018

Suwankitti W., Director, NESDB . 6th ODA Evaluation Workshop Bangkok, 2018.

DATA AVAILABILITY FOR UN INDICATORS – FINLAND

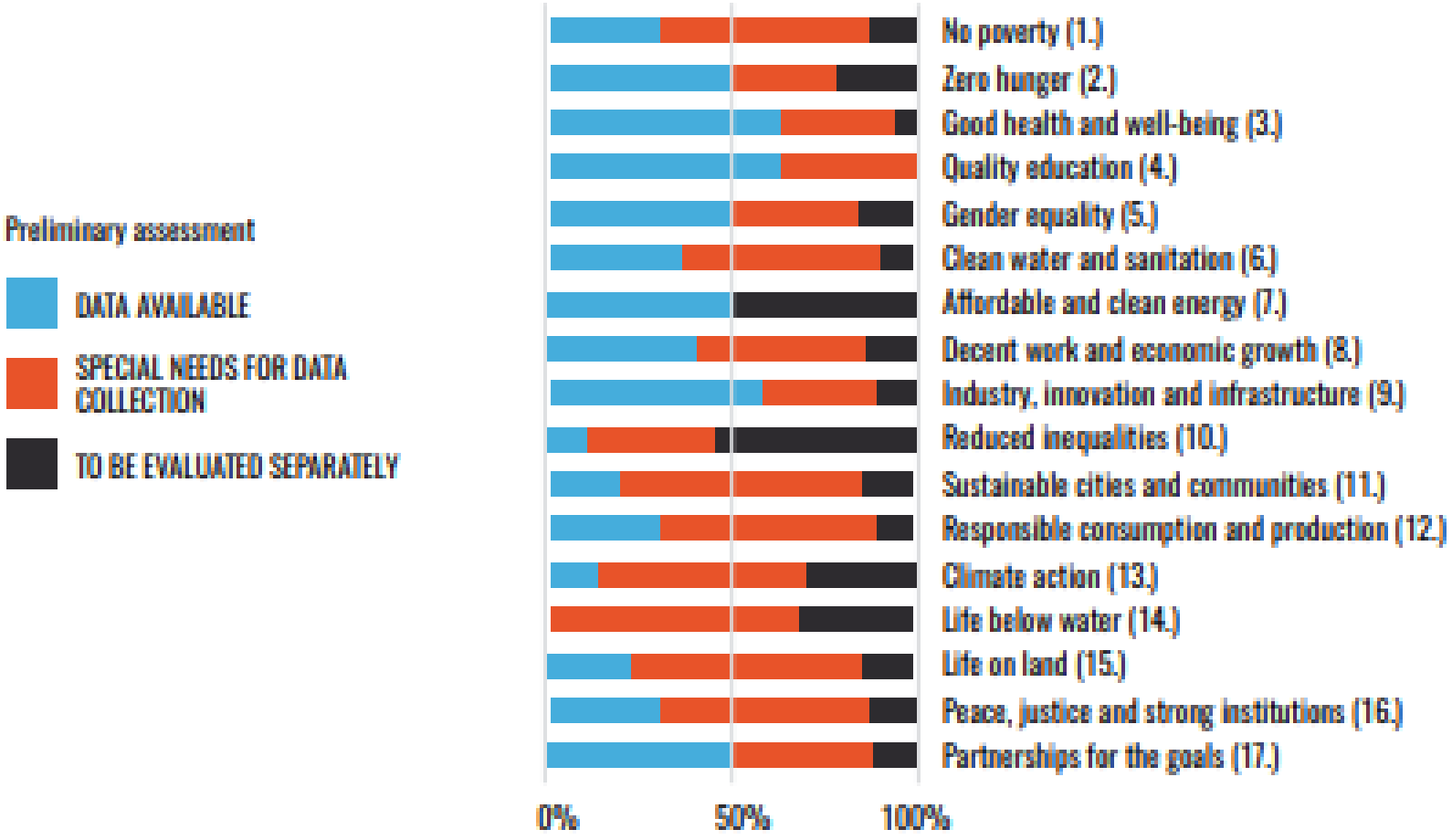


Figure 6: Availability /measurability of SDG indicators in Finland

http://sdgtoolkit.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINLAND-Voluntary-National-Review-2016.pdf

IMPLICATIONS:

Energy - seen as an "intermediate good," or as an enabler of development

existing body of evidence of what works in Energy sector remains limited

difficult to evaluate using randomized technique
- grid electricity infrastructure is networked & interdependent

majority of studies so far focused on rural electrification and improved cook stoves, while most investments – in power generation and transmission.

Energy savings; Financial savings; Market transformation;
CO2 emission reduction; Greenhouse gas reduction

… and SO WHAT?

Raitzer, Bondal & Sibal. 2019. Impact Evaluation of Energy Interventions, ADB