Creating a Local Sustainable Future using Global Goals

An introduction to the UN Sustainable Development Goals,
their connection to local environmental sustainability,
and their potential to help us collaborate on diverse issues.

Limerick PPN and Environmental Pillar
Sustainable Development Goals workshop
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Introduction

Welcome to this overview of our Sustainable Development Goals webinar series. This series aimed to impart an understanding of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and how to use them in local work. We looked at what sustainable development means, and how local projects can work towards achieving it.

Below you will find links to the presentation slides and videos, a run through of the exercises that took place, and input from participants on the evenings.

Our thanks to all at Limerick PPN, and to all of our attendees for contributing to the workshops and conversations.

Workshop 1

An introduction to the SDGs and how to use them

Presentations Overview
  ● Introduction from Catherine Dalton, Limerick PPN Secretariat member   ● Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals: What are they and why use them   Presentation by Davie Phillip   ● SDGs and the Environment, SDGs in Action   Presentation by Catherine O'Toole   Watch the presentation   Get the slides for Davie's presentation and Catherine's presentation
Group work   **Exploring the Goals and their overlap**
  Aim of the exercise: To demonstrate the overlap between local issues and Global Goals. To allow participants to begin to think about the Goals in relation to their own local issues.   Method: Taking some of the groups present in the workshop, we opened the discussion of what Goals their work aligns with. These were mapped onto the whiteboard. (Fig 1)   Each group considered their area of work and chose which goals match their own aims.

Fig 1: Mapping the SDGs to each group

Outcome:

Within each group we saw which SDGs their work is already aligned with. It is important to remember that your group is already working to achieve the goals, and this exercise shows which of those goals your work is already working towards.

With the four groups together, as seen on the whiteboard above, we can then see the Goals that are common between each group. This is the beginning of seeing the overlap between groups, and the common ground that they share.

We also asked each group to consider how their work was linked to environmental concerns. As we saw in the presentations, sustainable development is rooted in environmental sustainability. Living within the limits of our biosphere is a vital part of sustainable development. Therefore it is important to consider where your work overlaps with environmental concerns, and what opportunities exist for increasing your ability to protect and nurture the environment around you.

Do It Yourself

Alternative version

This alternative version of the exercise maps the SDGs to your groups aims, issues and individual concerns. Instead of naming groups on the post its, brainstorm your group's aims, or your individual concerns and issues of interests.

Part one: Collating issues of local concern onto the post its.

Question 1: *"Think of local issues and concerns from your area, or personal concerns that are important to you."*

Write these issues out, one per post it.

Part two: Matching the issues to the SDGs

Question 2: *"Let's look at these issues one at a time. Which SDGs are relevant to each one?"*

Once these are on the board, continue the exercise as above, copying over the SDG icons that are relevant to each issue. This exercise will facilitate your group in framing your work with the SDGs.

Resources used

Miro, an online collaborative whiteboard.

This is a free to use programme. We used the SDG icons available in the Communications Pack to populate the whiteboard.

SDGs: A Closer Look

Presentations Overview
 ● Recap of the previous session ● Introduction to the SDG Targets Watch the presentation Get the slides View the Targets worksheet on Google Sheets. How to download the worksheet: If you have a gmail account you can download it as an excel file, or copy the file to your own Google Drive from here. Alternatively, you can download the worksheet directly via the link on our PPN Resources page. Scroll down to the workshop '*An Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals*', where you will find the download link under '*Workshop 2: SDGs - A Closer Look*'.
Group work **Leave No One Behind**
 We discussed what audiences we usually work with, who was missing from the conversation, and shared our own knowledge and experience in creating inclusive projects within our communities. We used the Miro board once again to map this work.

Part 1: Creating a list of alternative communities and interest groups

Aim: To create a list of possible groups/individuals/communities who are not represented in our usual conversations.

Method: We asked volunteers to name the audiences that their group already interacted with and mapped them onto the target map, as shown below in Fig 2. We then asked what groups, demographics or audiences that their group did not interact with and mapped them also.

We organised the audiences based on the SDG wedding cake diagram as seen in the presentations, with each audience going into the heading that most related to them; environment, society or economy.
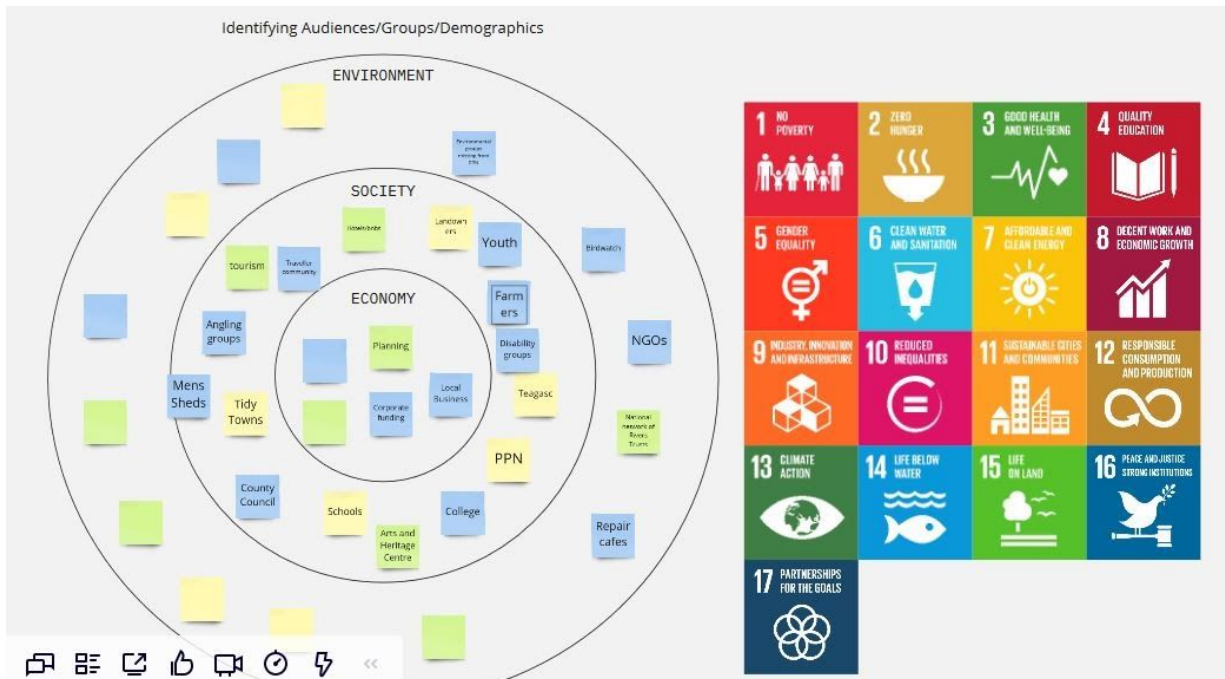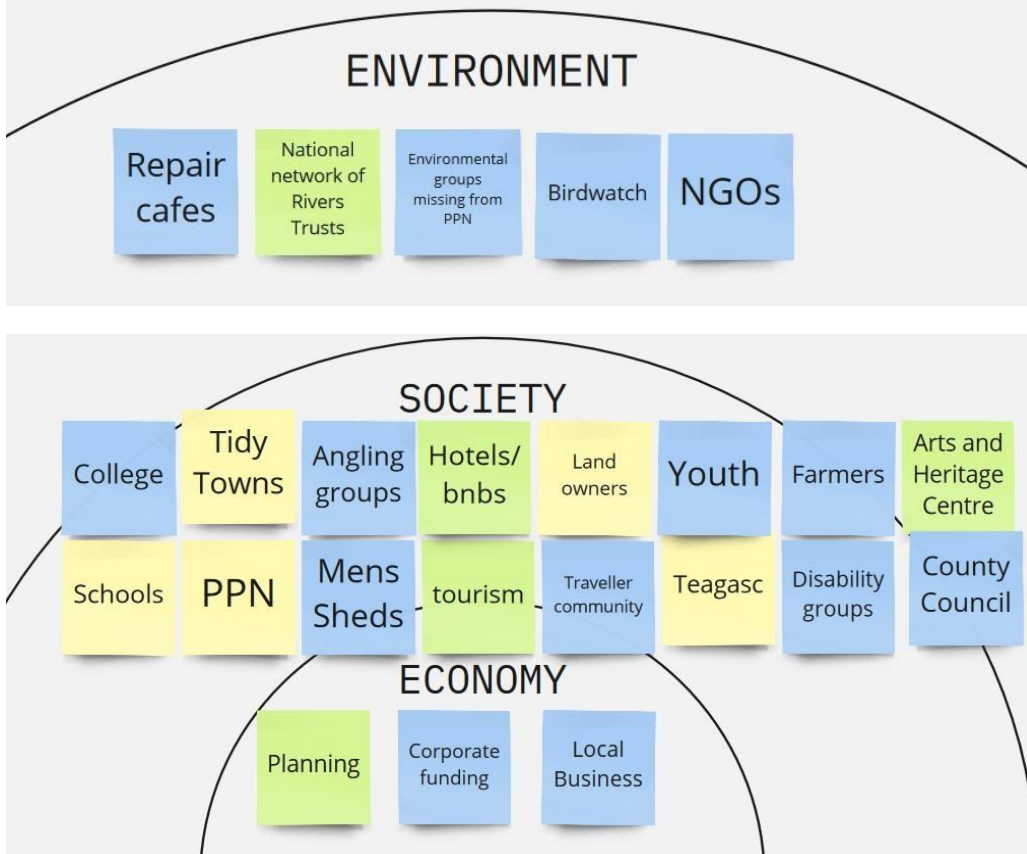

Fig 2: Identifying audiences/groups/demographics

Fig 3 and 4: Close up view of audiences identified

Outcome: A broad list of those who are absent from participants' usual conversations. This list can act as a prompt for identifying possible audiences to reach out to and include in future work.

Part 2: Identifying SDGs that engage with these audiences

Aim: To explore each audience's relationship to the Goals. This is an exercise in thinking of what issues relate to different audiences, and which SDGs cover these issues.

Method: As an example, we chose four of the audiences identified and together matched aligning SDGs to these groups.

Outcome: Fig 5.

Fig 5: Matching SDGs to each audience

Part 3: Creating a collaborative project to include new audiences

Aim: To demonstrate the method for creating a project or event that collaborates across diverse issues.

Method: We discussed the interaction of each audience with the chosen goals. We discussed using the SDGs as a common language to highlight common goals between two groups. For instance, taking two groups (land owners and local businesses), we can see a variety of common goals that would be of interest for both audiences.

We then discussed the ability to create a collaborative event that hinged on this SDG, and using the chosen SDG as an accessible and positive way to introduce people to other issues. For example, using Goal 3 Health and Wellbeing, to pitch an event that is welcoming to both audiences. Through an event relating to the local river, they could be connected with the river and its importance for positive and relative aspects of life such as mental health and local economy, and introduced to the challenges that the health of the river is facing.

Outcomes: We saw how we could use the Goals to frame events in a positive, accessible and inclusive way.

Do It Yourself

This exercise can be replicated in your own group. It could be used to expand the conversation to those who may not be in your usual circles.

If you were to work further on this using the targets, you could pinpoint even closer relationships between two groups.

The PPN could facilitate collaborative events in this way. Use your PPN to its full potential.

Questions

Are the SDGs organised in order of priority?

No, they are numbered, but more so for ease of referring to them. Each one is an important element of sustainable development, and they are so interlinked with each other that there is no order of importance placed upon them.

Are there countries of a similar scale that are a shining light from which we can take example?

Not necessarily, as all countries are achieving different Goals at different rates. The Goals are an exercise in communication. Some countries are very good at communicating using the Goals, so could be seen as shining lights. However, examples of good practice in achieving the Goals should be searched for within the work being done in communities. The Goals are just the packaging.

If you are interested in looking at how countries have been ranked in achieving the Goals, that information has been collated. Each country is encouraged to write a Voluntary National Review every four years which indicates how well they are progressing to achieving the goals. Ireland's latest can be found here. There is an index that has been created from publicly

available information that complements these, and ranks countries as to how well they are doing within each SDG. These are useful resources as it is important to be able to measure our progress. It gives us a comparison of how well countries are doing globally, but it does not give us information on the real meat of the work happening on the ground, which is where examples of good practice would best be drawn from.

<u>What hashtags could be used for promoting SDG events?</u>

#SDGs
#SDGsIRL
#globalgoals
#SDG1 through #SDG17
#sustainability
#SustainableDevelopmentGoals

Reflections

- Within the mapping exercise we generally left out Goal 17, Partnership for the Goals. This is however a really valuable goal, and could be used as an effective theme for events. Goal 17 represents dialogue and collaboration between all people.

- It was interesting to hear the different views and input from people with different knowledge and experience. While mapping SDGs to different audiences, even the simple action of naming a Goal that aligns with a specific audience sparked thoughts of the issues that a specific group contends with. This effectively gave a very brief insight into a different viewpoint.

- In conversation about involving young people: Youth have different priorities than older people. Taking them out of the classroom is a good way to get young people involved.

- There was a paradox pointed out between the words 'sustainable' and 'development'. There is skepticism as the model of development we've been using has been the cause of a lot of the challenges we now face. Perhaps the model of development is not correct, which should be reflected in discussions and actions. Even the word

'sustainable' has been co-opted. Regenerative thinking was mentioned as a further step to sustainability.