

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals
(Parliamentary Paper No. 63 of 2019)

Response by the Ministry of Economy

3 February, 2020

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Please explain to the Committee why the OAG conducted an audit on the National Development Plan (NDP) Report which was not launched by the Government in Parliament?

The OAG did not audit the National Development Plan (NDP). Rather the performance audit was carried out for the preparedness for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The fact that Supreme Audit Institutions have an important role in the implementation of the SDGs, the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) in its 2016 Congress confirmed the avid interest of SAs in carrying out audits and reviews with regard to the SDGs via the following four approaches:

- Assessing the preparedness of national governments to implement the SDGs,
- Undertaking performance audits in the context of the SDGs,
- Contributing to the implementation of SDG 16, which envisages effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and
- Possibilities for SAs to act as models of transparency and accountability in their own operations.

Since INCOSAI XXII, more than 100 member SAs have shown concrete interest in carrying out SDG-related audits. INTOSAI is therefore intensively concerning itself with the implementation of the SDGs from the viewpoint of auditors.

In doing so, it also takes into account the need for a comprehensive audit approach and the inclusion of external stakeholders in audits. This also includes providing a stimulus for the implementation of the SDGs through audits or the application of indicators. Coordinated audits are also valuable opportunities for the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience.

1.2 Please provide updates on those activities listed in page (1) that needs to be undertaken in preparing, implementing, monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of the SDGs?

Building public awareness – Fiji presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High Level Political Forum in 2019. The VNR presents Fiji's progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals, including sharing of experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The comprehensive document was compiled in consultation with key stakeholders and is available on the Ministry of

Economy's website for everyone's access. The document is the main avenue through which the public is enlightened on the 2030 agenda and the stance of the Fijian Government in achieving the SDGs;

Fostering inclusive stakeholder participation - It is a well-established principle that sustainable development cannot be achieved by governments alone - it requires the active participation of all people. To honour this, a SDG taskforce was appointed in 2015 to develop indicators for SDG implementation, and oversee and report on progress of implementation of the SDGs. The Taskforce comprises of representatives from government, the private sector, non-government organisations, and academia institutions. The SDGs Taskforce also served as an important validation platform for the draft VNR. Over 90 participants from Government, NGOs, CSOs, faith-based organisations and academia participated in the review and validation process providing overall guidance on the key messages captured in the draft report. The feedback from the SDGs Taskforce meeting was critical in finalizing the VNR;

Aligning national/ subnational plans and targets to SDGs - The sustainable development principles underpinning the SDGs have long been the underlying principles for Fiji's national development. In implementing the SDGs, Fiji has adopted a 'whole-of-Government' approach and has utilized national development planning as the primary instrument to drive forward SDGs implementation. In 2017, The Fijian Government launched its 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP) with the vision of transforming Fiji. Mainstreamed and integrated within the various thematic areas of the NDP are the 17 SDGs—15 SDGs explicitly integrated into the corresponding 29 strategic priorities of the NDP while SDG 10 (reduce inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (climate action) are treated as cross-cutting issues across the NDP. Consequently, the SDG implementation and its monitoring hinge on the NDP processes.

Assigning responsibilities and ensuring accountability - At the sector level, SDGs have already been integrated into sectoral strategic plans and policies in many sectors including but not limited to education, health and agriculture. Fiji also recognises that, while Government holds the important responsibility for achieving the SDGs, it is in everyone's interest and everyone's responsibility including private individuals, private enterprises, NGOs and CSOs to advance the sustainable development agenda. Working with these multiple stakeholders, the Fijian Government is helping advance socio-economic development and empowerment of all Fijian. Also, The SDGs have been integrated into the various socio economic development activities in the NDP and entities assigned for their implementation.

Establishing relevant programs - The Fijian Government has embarked on a wide array of social, economic and infrastructure development programmes to ensure economic and social prosperity for all Fijians, particularly those who are most vulnerable. The Government's focus on infrastructure development and modernisation plans not only improve connectivity between Fijian communities and with the rest of the world but address deeply rooted challenges of isolation from markets and services. Investment in roads, bridges and jetties also connect Fijians to new markets and new opportunities.

Allocating sufficient resources/ capacity – The SDGs are also considered in the annual national budget setting process where funding required to implement the GoF

policies for Ministries and Departments are identified and provided for through consultations and ultimately approved by Parliament. Funding for implementation is facilitated under Government's revenue and expenditure policies. To implement the sector policies and strategies in the NDP, funding is identified and provided for in the annual national budget process. Budget support is provided to Ministries yearly through the national budget system to support development in key sectors in line with the NDP which also contributes towards the achievement of the SDGs. Plans are underway to engage a Sustainable Development specialist whose role will be to coordinate and drive implementation of the SDGs.

Defining appropriate baselines and relevant targets/ indicator and developing robust systems to reliably measure, monitor and report on progress and achievements – these have been, where possible, established through the VNR processes in 2019. Data systems to report on the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs will be finessed further with the mid-term review of the NDP and the future VNRs.

2.0 OVERVIEW

2.1 Can you quantify the number of stakeholders involved?

There were 800 plus nation-wide consultations to inform the NDP and the integration of the SDGs into the national planning processes.

3.0 INTEGRATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA INTO THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

3.1 Theme 1: Integration of the SDGs onto national planning strategies, policies and process

a) Please explain to the Committee the key performance indicators from 2015 to 2021 tabulated on figure 3.2 page 8?

The table outlines the KPI's for the Water and Sanitation sector and its corresponding SDG. This is called mapping of the SDGs with the National Development Plan. These are targets that will be monitored by MoE with respect to water and sanitation sector - through the Mid-Term Review and other assessments.

b) How were the sustainable goals prioritized in the NDP selected?

NDP is the outcome of a nationwide consultation process that involved the private sector, civil society, community groups, government and the general public reflecting the aspirations of the Fijian people and their Government's commitment to build a more prosperous and inclusive Fiji. 15 SDGs are explicitly integrated into the corresponding 29 strategic priorities of the NDP while SDG 10 (reduce inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (climate action) are treated as cross-cutting issues across the NDP. Consequently, the SDG implementation and its monitoring hinge on the NDP processes including the overall monitoring and evaluation.

c) Explain the status of the key thematic areas under the three (3) pillars of environment, social and economic provided on page 10.

All three sustainable development pillars of the Green Growth Framework have been mainstreamed into the 5-Year and 20-Year National Plan. In particular, most of the Green Growth Framework KPIs have become sectorial KPIs in the NDP which is now undergoing a mid-term review led by the Ministry of Economy.

3.2 Theme 2: Alignment of budget, policies and programmes to the SDGs

a) Can the Ministry explain on whether the recommendation on page 12 has been implemented and complied with by the Ministries?

Yes, it is mandatory for Ministries/Departments to submit their Strategic Plans and Cost Operations Plans with their Budget submissions.

The Strategic Plan should detail how the agency will contribute to achieving the goals and priorities stated in the Fijian Government's National Development Plan and Fiji's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan outlines their strategic level priorities and key performance indicators for the next three to five years. On the other hand, cost plans are prepared yearly which details the major activities and budget requirements for the next financial year.

3.3 Theme 3: Policy Integration and Coordination

a) Has the Ministry of Economy implemented the recommendations listed in page 16?

Lead agencies should ensure that sector strategies, policies and plans are reviewed to harmonise it to the SDGs within the timelines indicated. Efforts should be made to revise enabling legislations (or put into place new legislation, if necessary) related policies and arrangements to increase the achievement of targets relating to SDGs in GoF NDP.

Through the national budget formulation process, all Government agencies are required to clearly inform how their project and programme requests for national budget funding is aligned to the SDGs, national policies and ultimately their institutional mandates. This encourages Government agencies to mainstream the SDGs into their Strategic Plans and Annual Corporate Plans.

Further to this, the recommendation by OAG rightfully states the need to set the legislative, policy and institutional foundations for national SDG implementation. In Fiji, the SDGs have a distinct hierarchy. We have no choice but to consider the state of the present and our future through the lens of SDG 13 – Climate Action. Any progress made across the remaining 15 goals, will be undermined if we are unable to effectively manage and reduce the impacts of climate change. As we all know and agree, climate inaction is a raging issue that stifles development progress, seeding inequality, and breeding insecurity.

In this regard, over the past 3 years the Ministry of Economy, has developed robust national documents such as the National Adaptation Plan, the Relocation and Displacement Guidelines, the NDC Implementation Roadmap and the Low Emissions Development Strategy (2018-2050) to help guide Government agencies develop sustainable and resilient programmes and projects while giving strategic indication to non-state actors about Fiji's sustainable development ambitions.

However, to truly operationalize these national documents, it is imperative that they are grounded in robust legislature that makes mandatory for all stakeholders, both state and non-state, to implement the SDGs as part of their core mandate.

In this regard, the Ministry of Economy is leading the development of the Climate Change Bill for which public consultations were completed on 31 December 2019 and the Bill is now undergoing amendments. The Bill aims to provide a comprehensive framework to guide national response to our commitment under SDG13 Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. By giving institutional mandate to respective Government agencies, setting out rules of procedures for national emissions trading and imposing green reporting requirements on the private sector amongst numerous other things, the Climate Change Bill is expected to have crosscutting cascading impacts on SDG 8 – Good Jobs and Economic Growth, SDG 9 – Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption, SDG 13 – Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 15: Life on Land.

We will also be developing a National Ocean Policy to strengthen national nexus between oceans and climate change while addressing SDG 14 – Life Below Water.

The Forestry Act is also being reviewed by the Ministry of Forestry.

b) What challenges does the Ministry face with respect to ensuring coherence among public policies, so that actions and specific objectives of the interventions undertaken by various entities are aligned?

Balancing Socio-economic Development with Environmental Conservation

The 17 SDGs are a set of complex development aspirations that demand absolute synergy between state and non-state agencies. Fiji is Small Island Developing State with ambitious development aspirations and finite resources. The need to sustain strong socio-economic development currently being enjoyed by the nation is important but it is equally crucial that we protect and preserve our pristine environment. This requires balancing development with conservation, prosperity and economic ambition.

It is challenging to ensure that Government agencies understand how to translate this balance into sustainable project and programme development. This requires technical expertise and training which, if mastered, ensures that Government agencies produce budget submissions that are truly aligned to the SDGs.

Adequate, Sustainable and Predictable Resource Mobilisation

Like all small island developing states, Fiji's fiscal space and limited market maturity does not allow the incremental cost of infusing sustainable development into conventional development. For example, the Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Fiji states that the nation requires approximately FJ \$9.3 billion over the next 10 years to fortify its development aspirations against the impacts of climate change. We require an additional FJ \$6 billion to transition our economy towards low carbon in line with Fiji's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. This requires substantial mobilization of public, private, bilateral and multilateral resources. Therefore, limited development and climate finance, technology and capacity building is a major challenge for ensuring coherence amongst public policies and their implementation.

3.4 Theme 4: Creating ownership and engaging stakeholders

a) Are there any timelines for SDGs and NDP to be translated into vernacular language?

At present there are no specific timelines for the translation of the SDGs and NDP into vernacular language.

b) How effective are the implementers in facilitating and coordinating with relevant stakeholder agencies?

All implementing agencies are responsible to coordinate with their sector specific stakeholders and they are effective in delivering services to the general populace.

c) What is the plan to include businesses in the implementation of SDGs?

The Fijian Government plans to use the National SDG Taskforce much more frequently to spur collaboration between state and non-state actors for SDG implementation. The Taskforce is mandated to guide Fiji's progress towards the SDGs and through it, the involvement of the private sector is extremely important to not only mobilise financial and technical resources but to also engage in innovative public-private-partnerships such as the Fiji Rural Electrification which is helping address SDG 7 – Renewable Energy.

Another great example of involving the private sector, including businesses, in sustainable development is the development of climate and disaster risk parametric insurance for low income households and small and medium enterprises in partnership with domestic private insurance sector. The likes of FijiCare and Tower Insurance are seeing business sense in addressing climate and disaster risks to ensure sustainable development progress and expand their business portfolio. Such collaboration is expected to greatly add towards SDG1 – No Poverty, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities and of course SDG 13 – Climate action.

d) Is there a plan to develop communication guidelines to assist the implementers in deciding the strategic priorities for public engagements and in addressing challenges for engagement with citizens?

Communication guidelines and materials will be developed once the mid-term review exercise has been completed.

e) What are other challenges have been identified?

- Reaching the unreached and addressing last mile challenges in a number of SDGs, such as in education, health, access to electricity and to improve the quality of these services is critical. Further challenges include dealing with emerging issues of non-communicable diseases and the issues associated with rapid urbanisation including climate change risks.
- Addressing data paucity and SDGs monitoring and evaluation will enable effective assessment of the progress made in the implementation including the identification of gaps and opportunities for improvement.

3.5 Theme 5: Inclusiveness and leaving no one behind

a) Can the Ministry enlighten the Committee on whether the 2019-2020 national budgets is gender based budgeting? If so, please explain. If not, why not?

The 2019-2020 national budget is not prepared or analysed from a gender perspective. However, a few capital development projects are gender based due to the gender impact analysis that was carried out for these projects.

In realising that gender based budgeting allows governments to recognise and address the needs of both men and women, the Fijian Government has already taken some steps to introduce gender budgeting in Fiji. The initiative began in 2017 when gender budgeting started through a bilateral cooperation with the Indonesian Government by establishing a training of trainers program on GRB to MWCPA. The program is currently underway looking at GRB legislation, policies and social obligations and one of the important measures taken is that Parliament has endorsed a standing order on gender scrutiny of legislation, that require a gender-based analysis to be used by parliamentary committees when scrutinizing legislation or undertaking their oversight functions.

Further progress has also been made through involvement of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to undertake a Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessment of gender responsive budgeting against the PEFA GRB Framework. The GRB will be piloted in two (2) Ministries namely Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MITT). The focus is to integrate gender perspectives into the governance process to overcome differences or gaps in access and participation of development for both women and men. This will also aim towards realising a more equitable budget by addressing issues of gender inequality.

In recognising the progress towards implementing GRB in Fiji, the Ministry of Economy (MoE) in conjunction with the MWCPA has incorporated GRB component into the existing Budget Submission Template which is expected to be introduced for the 2020-2021 FY Budget Process. In this regard, the MoE will also issue the Budget Strategy Circular incorporating the methodology for budget submissions in line with gender responsive budgeting principles and that require budget submissions. While it will be compulsory for the 2 pilot Ministries to fill in the GRB section of the budget template, this will not be the case for other Ministries and Departments, however they will be encouraged to fill this section if they wish to do so.

b) Specify what plans for all Fijians to have a safe and clean drinking water by 2031 and access to electricity by 2021?

On the safe and clean drinking water by 2031, Chapter 3.1.1 of NDP states the Programmes and Projects targeted to achieve this goal. The goals, policies and strategies for clean and safe water in adequate quantities is also articulated in this chapter. The Government will undertake major investments to cater for long-term water supply needs. Resources will be allocated for construction of new water treatment plants, reticulation systems and reservoirs to increase supply capacity. An aggressive leakage reduction programme to eliminate water loss will be pursued. The Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) is exploring options for other new dam sites such as at Waibogi in the upper reaches of Navua River and the upper Waimanu River as well as in the Western Division to meet the increasing demand in the Nadi-to-Lautoka corridor. Options for enhanced rainwater harvesting and storage, industrial recycling, storm water management, aquifer management and the use of renewable energy technologies for desalination plants in remote locations will be explored on a continuing basis and implemented where feasible.

Similarly Chapter 3.1.2 of NDP articulates the goals and strategies for access to electricity by 2021 for every Fijian household. With substantial investments in electrification initiatives over the years, almost 90 percent of the population now has proper access to electricity. Lack of access in the unserved rural and maritime areas will be addressed over the next 5 years. To achieve the remaining 10 percent electrification by 2021, grid extension programmes will be accelerated in Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Ovalau and Taveuni. Government will continue with the policy to fully fund rural electrification projects. Further investments in renewable energy will be undertaken to ensure that over 80 percent of all electricity is generated from renewable sources by 2021. Concessional financing and grants for these projects will continue to be accessed under climate finance funds.

c) What is the strategy on inclusiveness in economic participation and contribution to the economy?

Chapter 1,1 of NDP, highlights the overalls strategies and initiatives for 'Inclusive Socio-economic Development'. Inclusive participation is essential to further improve the living standards of all Fijians. Sustained economic expansion

supported by private sector investment and trade and the enhanced provision of social services and public goods will be paramount. A wide range of sector policies and programmes have been identified with detailed plans for implementation to achieve these goals and targets. Successful implementation of the overall strategy will support the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

d) What is the Fiji's current population to date?

As per the 2017 Census Report: 884,887.

4.0 OBJECTIVE 2 – RESOURCES AND CAPACITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

4.1 Theme 1: Identification of needs and of the required resources and capacities for implementing the SDGS

a) Please advise whether the budget allocation from each Ministry provided in table 4.1 is sufficient to complete those SDGs related programmes.

Government budget is prepared on a yearly basis and funding is allocated in line with the NDP targets. Government is committed by ensuring that sufficient funding is provided for the achievement of the relevant SDG targets and funding for these targets are phased out over a period of time.

b) Similarly for those new and ongoing initiatives, is there a completion date for these infrastructural projects or will it be an ongoing exercise? Please provide a brief on this.

Yes there are completion dates for infrastructure projects. This is for specific projects. But programmes like maintenance, road renewals are ongoing projects.

c) Is there a planned estimated cost for implementing the first 5 years of the NDP? If yes, how is the cost divided or distributed? (i.e basis of apportionment of costs)

Yes there is, this is articulated in the financing plan for NDP. Costs are derived from Masterplans and Strategic Plans of each sector. For the first 5 years, the cost of implementing the NDP is around \$6-\$7 million while the full \$20 year plan will cost over \$50 billion. The financing decisions will be altered depending on fiscal and economic developments.

d) How effective / efficient is the funding release system to ensure that projects identified are implemented within the targeted timelines?

Funds are released based on project/programme performance on the ground in an efficient way.

e) What challenges are there (in terms of resourcing and capacities) in implementing the 2030 Agenda and how does the Ministry plan to address the challenges?

Challenges:

1. Financial resources
2. Technology
3. Human resources

Plans to Address the above:

1. Secure innovative sources of finance – for infrastructure projects etc from the Green Climate Fund
2. Map out technology needs and explore innovative approaches for technology transfer including investment by Government.
3. Invest in HR and personnel to drive innovation and productivity.

4.2 Theme 2: Mobilizing Partnerships

a) Please advise who is or will be responsible for monitoring and administering the partnerships between Global Organizations and local target groups.

- Global Partnership is an essential component in enabling Fiji to fully realise the 2030 SDG Agenda. Partnership means collaboration with the private sector, non-government organisations and other development organisations to ensure that Fiji's future progress remains wide reaching and inclusive.
- Partnerships with Global Organisations entail a wide range of national objectives such as health, education, poverty alleviation, sanitation management, renewable energy, women empowerment and many other national priorities.
- Engagements, monitoring and administration of partnerships with global organisations is well maintained on a project by project basis by each responsible line Ministry. It is the responsibility of the line Ministry signing on the respective MoAs and MoUs to ensure that projects are completed as defined in the underlying Grant Agreements.
- Further, Official Development Assistance (Cash Grants) to be received from the various Donor Agencies are incorporated into the National Budget. Once funds are received and prior to the release of funds, the Ministry of Economy will verify and ensure that there is maximum compliance to the relevant grant agreements, policies and financial regulations. Also going forward this practice is continued as a form of monitoring and compliance check.

b) How many of those targeted groups have assisted Communities at the “grass root level” so far?

Through global partnership, there are numerous projects/initiatives which have directly assisted various vulnerable communities:

- Through partnerships with NGOs and the private sector, a number of rural villages now have access to piped water and proper sanitation management. The Rotary

Pacific Water for Life Foundation has supported a number of rural communities through the construction of solar groundwater supply systems including installation of solar pump, water storage tanks, distribution channels and the construction of gender segregated sanitation facilities.

- The Fiji Access to Justice Project which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP Fiji office is another example of how donor agencies are acknowledging the importance of the LAC to empower vulnerable groups by ensuring their access to justice. The project supports access to justice for impoverished and vulnerable groups by empowering people to access legal rights and services through the relevant key justice institutions, in conjunction with strengthening those key justice institutions to improve service delivery. Some of the initiatives under the project include piloting online case management and e-filing systems.
- The Fijian Government is also working with the private sector, development partners, philanthropic organisations and NGOs to deliver affordable, clean and reliable energy to more than 300 rural communities living without electricity throughout Fiji. This is being done through the newly established Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF).
- Fiji focuses on supporting inclusive economic growth to reduce poverty through targeted investments in private sector development and human development. Working in partnership with the Fijian Government, Australia's assistance provides support to Fiji's most vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities. Australia's major investments in education, effective governance, private sector development, and health and gender equality contribute towards achieving objectives in Fiji's National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

c) Please elaborate on the Green Bond Project implemented so far and advise on the role of Fiji Development Bank with other international organizations.

The Fijian Government issued its first ever sovereign green bond in 2017 for a sum of FJ \$100 million dollars. By doing so, it became the first developing country and the first small island developing state to issue a sovereign green bond. The Bond was issued in four tranches at a coupon rate of 4% for a 5-year bond and 6.3% for 13-year bond.

There were seven projects financed using Green Bond proceeds that were selected after a robust technical selection process conducted by the Green Bond Steering Committee (Reserve Bank of Fiji, Ministry of Economy, Solicitor General's Office and the international Finance Corporation) in accordance with the Fiji Green Bond Framework and the Green Bond Prospectus.

Under Section 4 of the Green Bond Framework, the Fijian government is required to publish an annual newsletter until the end of the bond tenor period to inform investors about how the bond proceeds have been used and the socio-impact created. In this regard, the seven projects selected for the Fiji Sovereign Green Bond are elaborated on in detail in the 2018 Fiji Sovereign Green Bond Impact Report that

is publicly available on the Ministry of Economy and the Reserve Bank of Fiji websites. We will provide the weblink to the committee secretariat should it be needed. The 2019 Impact Report has been prepared and awaiting management approval before it is published online.

Regarding the Fiji Development Bank (FDB), this question is unclear as FDB was not involved in the issuance of the Fiji Sovereign Green Bond. However, in the context of the Bank's role in climate change, in 2017, FDB became the first ever National Accredited Entity of its kind in the region to gain accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. This has enabled the Bank to access up to US \$10 million in funding per project from the Green Climate Fund for climate centric projects.

Fiji Development Bank

Currently, the Bank is on the verge of submitting a Funding Proposal to the Green Climate Fund for an innovative Agro-Photovoltaic Project that is expected to have a total cost of US \$16 million project. The project will essentially entail climate resilient farming of cash crops on 6 hectares of land in Bureta, Ovalau and will place solar panels on top of the entire six hectares of farm land to produce renewable electricity that will feed into the Energy Fiji Limited power grid in Ovalau that is currently completely electrified using diesel generators. The project is expected to yield 101,417 kilograms of crops per year and generate 50% of Ovalau's power demand (4 to 5 megawatt) reduce approximately 67,935 tonnes of carbon dioxide over its 20 year lifespan. The agriculture revenue will go back to the farming consortium on Ovalau while the solar plant will be operated by a private company through a Power Purchase Agreement with Energy Fiji Limited. As of 2014, there were 9,100 people living in Ovalau.

Moreover, the Bank is also focused on developing green projects in the field of Electric Bus Transport, Climate Resilient Housing, Renewable Energy, Water Security and Reforestation.

d) Please explain on the use and utilization of the Green Climate Fund Bond especially in addressing the mitigation and preparation of infrastructure to be climate change resilient.

It is not called the Green Climate Fund Bond. The official name for Fiji's green bond issuance is the 2018 Fiji Sovereign Green Bond.

As mentioned, the Fiji Sovereign Green Bond was issued in four tranches between November 2017 and July 2018. By July 2018, all FJ \$100 million were utilized to fund the seven selected projects. 90.6% of proceeds were used for adaptation-centric projects and 9.4% were used on mitigation-centric projects - a true reflection of our national priorities. The beauty of this issuance was that it helped encourage unprecedented private-sector climate finance, expedited climate action at the

national and subnational levels and ensured fiscal stability without compromising a debt to GDP targets.

Regarding mitigation, three of the seven projects were mitigation centric that included the installation of 2,635 new Solar Home Systems in rural areas across the country that not have electricity. This is expected to reduce 1,038 tonnes of CO₂ annually if diesel generators were used as alternative. The systems will produce more than 1.39 million kilo watts of solar energy per annum benefitting more than 13,175 rural people. The other projects were the REDD+ programme that saw the planting of 2,001 native tree species which has the potential to reduce 1,919 tonnes of CO₂ per annum once grown enough. The final mitigation project funded was the Stage 2 Construction of the Naboro Landfill that is expected to ensure 500,000 tonnes of potential waste is properly disposed benefitting more than 300,000 people in the Nausori, Suva and Lami areas.

Rebuilding damaged infrastructure better and stronger after adverse climatic conditions is a priority area for the green bond issuance. In this regard, majority of the funds were used to rebuild more than 176 bridges, 1,177 roads, 1 jetty, 3 kilometres of coastal protection and 1,200 kilometres of road drainage. All these infrastructure were damaged by tropical depressions, cyclones and floods.

e) Will the utilization of this Bond be in compliance with the Financial Management Act 2004?

Yes, the utilization of the Fiji Sovereign Green Bond proceeds was in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 as all seven projects were part of the 2017-2018 National Budget that used normal Government procurement methods. This was reaffirmed by the independent audit done by KPMG, the results of which is published as part of the 2018 Fiji Sovereign Green Bond Impact Report.

4.3 Theme 3: Managing Risk

a) What is current progress on the total value of Overseas Development Assistance to Fiji in terms of the respective multilateral development partners?

- Multilateral development partners continue to support various development priorities for the Fijian Government. In the 2018-2019 financial year a total of \$2.151M cash grant assistance has been received from Multilateral partners such as UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank and WHO for projects such as Fiji Ridge to Reef, Cross-Cutting Capacity Building Development Projects, REDD+ plus, water sanitation and hygiene and Child protection.
- Further, funding is also provided on an ad-hoc basis, usually for unbudgeted projects. In the financial year 2018/2019 total ad-hoc cash assistance received from multilateral partners for the various projects had a total value of \$5.473M.
- Multilateral partners such as UNICEF and GGGI have also provided aid-in kind assistance in various aspects such as assistance for child protection programmes, water and sanitation programmes, health nutrition and HIV and aids programme and

technical advice, capacity and renewable energy and climate resilience projects. Total aid-in kind assistance for the year 2018/2019 from multilateral partners had a total value of \$1.511M.

b) Has the review of the National Disaster Risk Management Act been finalized? If not, why not?

The review is still in process. The NDMO should be presenting a revised draft in March or thereabout.

c) What other policies and legislations which are in the process of review in order to be in line with the achievements of the SDGs? Please provide list.

Forestry Act.

A comprehensive list is being sought from the Solicitor General's office.

5.0 MONITORING, FOLLOW-UP, REVIEW AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

5.1 Please provide an update whether quarterly reports has been submitted by the relevant Ministries to MoE on the implementation of the NDP at the operational and national levels

Ministries do not submit quarterly report on NDP however they submit quarterly reports on their Budget which is aligned to the NDP.

On 20/01/20, MoE had issued a Circular to all Ministries/ Department to report on their progress of the 5 – Year National Development Plan.

The objectives of the mid-term review are to:

(i) assess progress made in implementing policies contained in the NDP, identify implementation constraints, and modify policy objectives and Key Performance Indicators where necessary to achieve government's objectives; and

(ii) assess progress made in the implementation of policies announced through the annual budgets, identify constraints encountered and recommend measures to address them.

5.2 Theme 1: Responsibilities, Mechanisms and processes for monitoring, follow up, review and reporting

a) What actions have been taken by the Ministry of Economy not submitted their reports on time?

This yet to be decided.

b) Audit issues highlighted in the Auditor General's report by the Public Accounts Committee, how has the Ministry of Economy addressed this in their monitoring and evaluation processes?

The Ministry of Economy has always welcomed the external provided by the OAG and the positive discussions at the PAC. This has assisted in improving financial processes and monitoring and evaluation to ensure state finances are used in an efficient and effective way.

c) With stringent process requirements for accessing the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the recurring issues of monitoring, planning, budgeting, programming highlighted in the Auditor General's Report, how will the Ministry of Economy ensure that GoF access this Fund?

Before answering this question, allow me to give you a brief introduction of the Green Climate Fund and the technical jargons associated with it. These jargons will be part of our response to this question.

The GCF is one of the largest multilateral sources of climate finance in the world with a total funding capacity of over US \$10.3 billion. It helps developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in line with national priorities. Countries that are party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have National Designated Authorities ('NDA') who are the main focal point to the GCF. Countries can access GCF funding through Direct Access Entities ('DAE') that are accredited to the GCF after being nominated by the NDA.

Accreditation of the Fiji Development Bank

As mentioned earlier, with the accreditation of the Fiji Development Bank as the National Accredited Entity to the GCF, the Bank has direct access to funding of up to US \$10 million dollars per project. The Bank has already established a dedicated GCF Unit that is looking towards greening the Bank's portfolio and fully embracing its role as the National Accredited Entity. The Bank is already working on 6 projects as part of its project pipeline. The most advanced of which is a US\$16 million agro-photovoltaic project mentioned above.

Country Programme – Assistance from the Green Climate Fund

To enhance national coordination and access to the Green Climate Fund, the Fijian Government has partnered with the World Resources Institute to develop a Climate Finance Country Programme and to assess climate finance opportunities and

allocations amongst priority development and climate actions needs identified in the National Development Plan, Low Emissions Development Strategy, National Adaptation Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution Roadmap.

The Country Programme will give strategic direction to project developers and development partners about key focus areas in which Fiji will be accessing the Green Climate Fund. These focus areas are being identified through a Climate Finance Gap Assessment conducted by the World Resources Institute which is currently being finalised. The Gap Assessment will be made available to key stakeholders for validation throughout February 2020 and work on the Country Programme will begin from March 2020.

Readiness Programme

Fiji secured a “Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme” (Readiness Programme) Funding support project worth USD 1 million from the Green Climate Fund (**GCF**) in October this year. Readiness funding helps the NDA and the DAE to be successful and more impactful in their engagement with the GCF. It builds country ownership and clarity regarding climate priorities that require financial support beyond national budgetary allocations. Ultimately, Readiness funding aims to assist countries to access GCF finance and to maximise the benefits from the implementation of priority climate actions.

Fiji’s Readiness funding will assist the Ministry of Economy, in its capacity as the NDA, to establish national coordination mechanisms to govern and manage climate finance through set guidelines and operating procedures. The funding is expected to also assist in institutional and capacity building for Fiji Development Bank (**FDB**) in its role as the DAE. A detailed gap assessment will also be funded through the Readiness programme to prepare Ministry of Economy to become the second DAE similar to the FDB. This is envisaged to enable greater access to GCF.

Ministry of Economy Accreditation

Allow me to focus on Ministry of Economy pursuing accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. The FDB has an access capacity of US \$10 million per project from the GCF with strict conditions on environmental and social safeguards given its relatively smaller financial portfolio. Through the Readiness Programme, the MoE accreditation will target a medium to large scale funding capacity of more than US \$50 million per project with more relaxed conditions. The focus will be on large scale projects that are beyond the niche of FDB with a particular focus on adaptation centric projects for which business cases are difficult to develop.

d) What challenges are being faced by the Ministry in effectively carrying out its role of Monitoring, follow up, review and reporting on progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

A strengthening of the enabling environment for implementing SDGs, and enhancing the dialogue among and collaboration with domestic, regional, and international stakeholders in implementing SDGs is critical. This is particularly

important for mobilising finance for achieving the SDGs and addressing capacity issues. It is equally important to maintain and accelerate economic growth that is sustainable, inclusive, and which generates jobs and contributes to building economic resilience.

5.3 Theme 2: Performance Indicators and Data

a) What are the national performance indicators established and how are they linked to the strategic planning, budgeting, policy analysis, programme evaluation and decision making?

KPIs have been identified in specific chapters of NDP for each sector. Ministries need to use KPIs when they develop their Ministry/ or Sector Strategic Plans.

b) Is there sufficient availability of reliable and relevant data to support policy performance reports?

The VNR exercise undertaken in 2019 revealed serious data gaps for:

SDG 11 – sustainable cities and communities
SDG 12 – sustainable consumption and production
SDG 13 – climate action
SDG 14 – life below water

Project level data is available with the Ministry of Economy and will inform the mid-term review of the NDP.

c) Explain how the Ministry of Economy will implement the recommendation provided by the Auditor General on page 33 of the audit report.

The Ministry of Economy is the central government agency and is responsible for national development planning and the sustainable development agenda. We recognize that the sustainable development agenda is an integrated one and there will indeed be more than one agency responsible to deliver on a particular SDG target. The NDP processes allows for policy coherence and thereby implementation.

d) Can the Ministry of Economy inform the Committee the progress of collection of data for SDGs indicators from the responsible agencies and whether this has been strictly complied?

In mid- 2018 Fiji started a comprehensive data collection process through the support of United Nations Development Programme to establish the SDG baseline status in Fiji and a SDGs M&E system, and enable SDGs M&E. The SDGs global indicator framework was the basis of this work which was prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.

The framework includes 232 SDGs global indicators, and the SDGs Pacific Indicator framework developed by the Pacific SDGs Taskforce as part of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development that includes 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators.

The work of baseline data collection involved baseline data collection and baseline data assessment through desktop review of both qualitative and quantitative secondary data available within Government agencies, non-Government organizations (NGOs), and academia, and consultation with government agencies and NGOs

The PAC is invited to take note of the VNR available on the Ministry of Economy website.

5.4 Theme 3: Communications to Stakeholders

a) Please advise whether the ToR for the SDG Task Force has been reviewed?

The TOR is a living document and is reviewed from time to time to articulate the inputs required from the task force members. In 2018 – 2019 the TOR required the task force to consider the draft VNR and validate the findings.

b) Please provide a brief on the outcomes of the HLPF Meeting held in July 2019 on Fiji's National Voluntary Report on the implementations of the SDGS.

The High-level Political Forum, United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.

In 2019, 47 countries (7 for the second time) have volunteered to present their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF.

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will be held from **Tuesday, 9 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019**; including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from **Tuesday, 16 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019**.

The theme was "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*".

The set of goals that were reviewed in depth include the following:

- **Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries

- **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Successful presentation of our VNR in collaboration with the Fiji Disabled Society representative. Recognition of the mainstreaming of the SDGs into the 3 arms of the state: the Parliament, the Judiciary and the Executive including the innovation in policy and financing for addressing socio-economic development issues.

Fiji also learned from the experiences of other countries that presented their VNR at the UN.

c) Please advise whether MoE has implemented all recommendations provided in First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development 2018 report.

Recommendation 1

- The Fijian Civil Service has implemented an Open Merit Recruitment and Selection process for staff recruitment and selection which appoints people purely on their ability to do the job, assessed against objective selection criteria which does not discriminate against or give preference to any group or individual.
- The Fiji National Disability Policy 2008-2018 provides a framework for developing a more inclusive society, creating greater awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and removing potential barriers that may hinder the full socio-economic participation of people with disabilities.
- The Fiji National Gender Policy 2014 is evidence of Fiji's commitment to promoting gender equality in Fiji.
- Reforms to the taxation system, including a reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) from 15% to 9% and an increase in the income tax threshold from FJ\$16,000 to FJ\$30,000 have reduced overall costs to disadvantaged Fijians, while significantly increasing the take-home pay for low-income earners.
- The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP), administered by the UN Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Development Programme through bilateral partner funding, has helped more than two million low-income Pacific Islanders gain access to formal financial services and financial education.
- In 2018, the Fijian Government introduced Parenthood Assistance Payments whereby mothers from families with a household income below \$30,000 are granted FJ \$1,000 up the birth of a child, whether it be the first, second, third or even tenth. Furthermore, the Government also increased paid maternity leave from 84 working days to 98 working days, adding another two weeks for mothers to take off from work in the preparation for the birth and the care of their child.
- Since 2015, the Fijian Government in partnership and support from various stakeholders including civil society, women's rights movement and faith-based organisations, has enacted, reviewed and introduced several key pieces of legislation, policies and strategic initiatives.

Recommendation 2

- Some progress has been made over the years to increase the finances available for health. Government financing remains the dominant source of funds accounting for approximately 64% of total Current Health Expenditure (CHE) in 2016. Large public investment in health means that out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure for health remains relatively low at 21% of total CHE compared to 15% in 2015. Thus, to better track catastrophic health expenditure, the MoHMS in collaboration with the National Statistics Office and the World Health Organisation, will look into strategies to reduce the burden of out-of-pocket spending for households.
- There is greater accessibility of services for the poor, which is a priority in terms of service delivery. This issue has been further strengthened through a decentralization of services for general outpatients to the health centres in the subdivisions, which has brought services closer to peri-urban and rural populated areas thus improving accessibility.
- In January 2019, the Fijian Government formalised a public private partnership agreement in its quest to increase private sector participation in improving the efficiency and level of health services made available in Fiji. Aspen Medical from Australia was the winning bidder under this new arrangement and will fully take over operations at the Lautoka and Ba hospitals by early 2020. The project will not only significantly improve access to specialist services available in the country but also reduce the cost of overseas patient referrals due to services such as clinical services, admitted acute care, non-admitted care, and emergency care.

Recommendation 3

- In response to the national need to build a resilient Fiji, the Fijian Government has recently prepared a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Through the NAP, Fiji has identified 160 adaptation measures to be prioritised over the five-year period of the NAP. The actions identified not only have benefits for climate resilience, but also offer additional benefits in terms of development outcomes—for example, developing climate-resilient jetties and landings on outer islands where needed as well as supporting road infrastructure.
- The Fijian Government spending on investments to strengthen resilience has significantly increased, from 3.74 per cent of the total budget in 2013 to 9.85 per cent in the 2016-2017 fiscal years (CVA, 2017). This has been invested in the rehabilitating flood-retention dams, constructing protection barriers against coastal erosion, conducting environment impact assessments to mitigate flood risks, strengthening the early warning system and installing water-level and rainfall telemetry instruments in all hydrological stations to effectively monitor the river levels. Amid these different approaches, communities have also had to be relocated due to rising sea levels, with the first-ever relocation of an entire village occurring in 2014. To ensure that relocation efforts are well guided, Fiji devised a Planned Relocation Guideline in 2018, and Displacement Guidelines in 2019. This will enable the Fijian Government to effectively respond to climate-induced relocation and displacement.
- Fiji has also partnered with the Asian Development Bank and the Green Climate Fund to fund an Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management Investment

Program benefiting more than 300,000 Fijians living in the Greater Suva Area. The project is expected to be completed in July 2025 with a total investment of US \$405 million. This project exemplifies the urgent need to boost the resilience of our water supply and wastewater infrastructure to withstand severe weather events. This is the largest climate investment project in Fiji and sets a promising tone for more blended-funding initiatives in the future.

- The Fijian Government has also established a Ministry of Waterways and Environment to address the growing threat that flooding poses to Fijian communities, a threat that is projected to worsen due to the effects of climate change. The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance of drainage systems and management of waterways in Fiji, including creeks, tributaries and rivers. In its work to improve storm-water management, mitigate flooding and improve irrigation, the Ministry will also incorporate aspects of hydrological forecasting, drainage surveillance and realignment, waterway dredging and river-embankment management.
- Fiji has completed a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutions Review (CPEIR) 2015, to examine how public and private expenditures related to climate change and disaster risk management are integrated into national budgetary processes and how this process can be improved to attract more climate finance from both domestic and international sources.
- Fiji is also seeking to increase climate financing from both domestic and international sources. Domestically, Fiji has increased the rate of its Environment & Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) from 6 per cent to 10 per cent to mobilise more finance for climate change-related projects.

Recommendation 4

- Attractive tax incentives have been provided in the 2019-2020 Budget to promote proper solid waste management. For example, companies that engage in waste recycling in Naboro are eligible for a tax holiday of five years, seven years or 10 years, depending on the level of capital investment. In addition, all raw materials, plant, machinery and equipment (including spare parts) required to establish the business will be exempt from import duty.
- High-density plastic bags (less than 50 microns thick) will be banned from 1 January 2020 onwards, while the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) on low-density plastic bags will be increased from 20 cents to 50 cents per bag — an intentionally progressive and staggered approach that is meant to change behaviour in a sustainable way. Furthermore, duty on paper/ bamboo straws, paper containers, cups and plates, and biodegradable kitchenware and tableware will be reduced to 0%.
- Illegal dumping and burning of waste have historically posed a problem in Fiji. Recent amendments to the Litter Decree 2010 have helped deter littering through the imposition of on-the-spot fines. The Fijian Government is actively working with development partners to strengthen the management of solid waste is to promote greater recycling efforts, particularly through the planned introduction of a container deposit scheme, which will help reduce the volume of recyclables that enter the landfill. These solutions are being forged despite Fiji lacking the economies of scale that enable efficient waste management in larger countries.

Recommendation 5

On vessel day scheme, Ministry of Fisheries to provide.

Recommendation 6

- In 2017, the volume of foreign private flows amounted to 11.3% of GDP, dropping from 16.5% of GDP in 2010. This is mainly due to the decline in foreign investment in recent years, while the volume of remittance has been increasing. This flow represents the biggest opportunity for Fiji to increase its finance available for development from external sources. Fiji has already put in place tax incentives, established economic zones, and simplified business registration processes to encourage FDI and will be reviewing the foreign investment legislation to address barriers and encourage FDI. With initiatives in place to promote remittances, further work on policy and financial products space is required including the need to develop programs to utilise Fiji diaspora's human capital and business networks developed while working overseas.

d) What plans are there to inform Parliament on the progress of the implementation of the SDGS?

Through the engagement of Parliamentarians in the VNR processes. Fiji will present its next VNR in 2021.

An abstract graphic featuring three interlocking wheels or circles. Each wheel is composed of numerous segments in various colors: yellow, orange, red, blue, green, and pink. The segments are separated by dark blue lines, creating a complex, geometric pattern. The wheels are arranged in a way that they appear to be rotating or interlocking. The background is a solid dark blue.

2018 PACIFIC SDGS PROGRESS WHEELS



INTRODUCTION

The Pacific SDGs Progress Wheels provide a snap-shot of country and region progress and the current state of available data for each of the SDGs targets and indicators selected to be most important to the Pacific region – the Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators (PSDI)

They are designed to help Leaders and Pacific policy-makers by identifying the state of progress in a clear and succinct format.

The Pacific SDGs Progress Wheels are a companion resource to the first Pacific Sustainable Development Report, and are intended to also support countries' own reporting and data analysis.

Like the regional report, the progress wheels demonstrate that Pacific countries have made a strong start to their sustainable development journey, but many challenges remain.

Perhaps the strongest message they relay is related to data. Comprehensive SDGs planning, implementation and reporting

relies on data sets that are so far unavailable, lacking agreed methodology, or insufficient. This is a global challenge, but particularly impactful in the Pacific. It is hoped the progress wheels will shine a light on the extent of this challenge in our region, and strengthen collective resolve including resource commitment to improve data collection, analysis and reporting in the Pacific.

Participating partners plan to update the progress wheels annually, and will continue to develop and refine the concept to accommodate more data and information as SDG implementation accelerates in the Pacific region.

The Pacific SDG Progress Wheels are a joint initiative between the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific SDG Partnership at UNDP.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





METHODOLOGY

Targets were converted to progress levels, as per the five-point scale shown on to the right, using the baseline indicator data available in PICTs.

Where a target has already been achieved, a country was given a full colour bar. Where no progress is evident in the data an empty bar is shown. This is to be distinguished from where there is no, or insufficient, data to comment on progress, where a dotted grey outline bar is used.

A number of approaches were required to account for the varied nature of the targets:

- some targets explicitly refer to an endpoint value, and the percentage excess from that value forms the progress score. For example, 3.1 calls for a maternal mortality rate of less than 70 deaths per 100,000 by 2030.
- a number of targets call for ‘universal access’ to a particular service by 2030. In these cases, the shortfall from 100% access was calculated. This may be linear or non-linear, acknowledging that the effort to improve from 90% to full access may require more investment than the effort to improve from 60% to 80% for example.
- some targets are phrased in general terms without a specific end-point, and a subjective assessment of progress was made. In these cases, the spread of values across the region was considered, with reference to regional or global guidelines where possible.

This methodology will be refined as more country data becomes available, both in the Pacific region, and globally, allowing a better assessment of theoretical maximums for achievement in such targets.

- other targets refer to the existence and/or implementation of a particular policy. These were treated as a dichotomous variable, with “yes” being converted to full achievement and “no” as no progress. In future revisions, credit for countries known to be drafting relevant policies could be incorporated.

The targets have been assessed separately in this first version of progress wheels, using different measurement scales. Comparisons across different targets should be done with the knowledge that the scales are not directly comparable.

The regional progress wheel (page 7) shows the median score of the individual PICT progress scores, excluding Australia and New Zealand. Each country is treated equally, with no weighting applied for population size. The intent is to illustrate an average progress against the target in the Pacific at this point in the 2030 Agenda.

KEY

	BAR TYPE	VALUE
	Grey Bar	Tier 3 ¹ indicator. No established methodology
	Dashed Bar	None, or insufficient country data
	No colour bar	No achievement against the goal
	20% of colour bar shaded	Minimal achievement
	40% of colour bar shaded	Some achievement
	60% of colour bar shaded	Average Progress
	80% of colour bar shaded	Good Progress
	Full colour bar	Goal is fully achieved
¹ Tier 3, as defined by the UN: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.		





LIST OF TARGETS

1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
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
2.3	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
2.4	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
2.5	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 access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
3.4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
3.7	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
3.8	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
3.a	Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
3.c	Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
4.1	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
4.2	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
4.3	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
4.6	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
4.a	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
4.c	By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States
5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.6	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences





LIST OF TARGETS

6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
8.a	Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
9.a	Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
9.c	Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020
10.1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
10.4	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
10.b	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
10.c	By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
12.b	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
13.b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities





LIST OF TARGETS

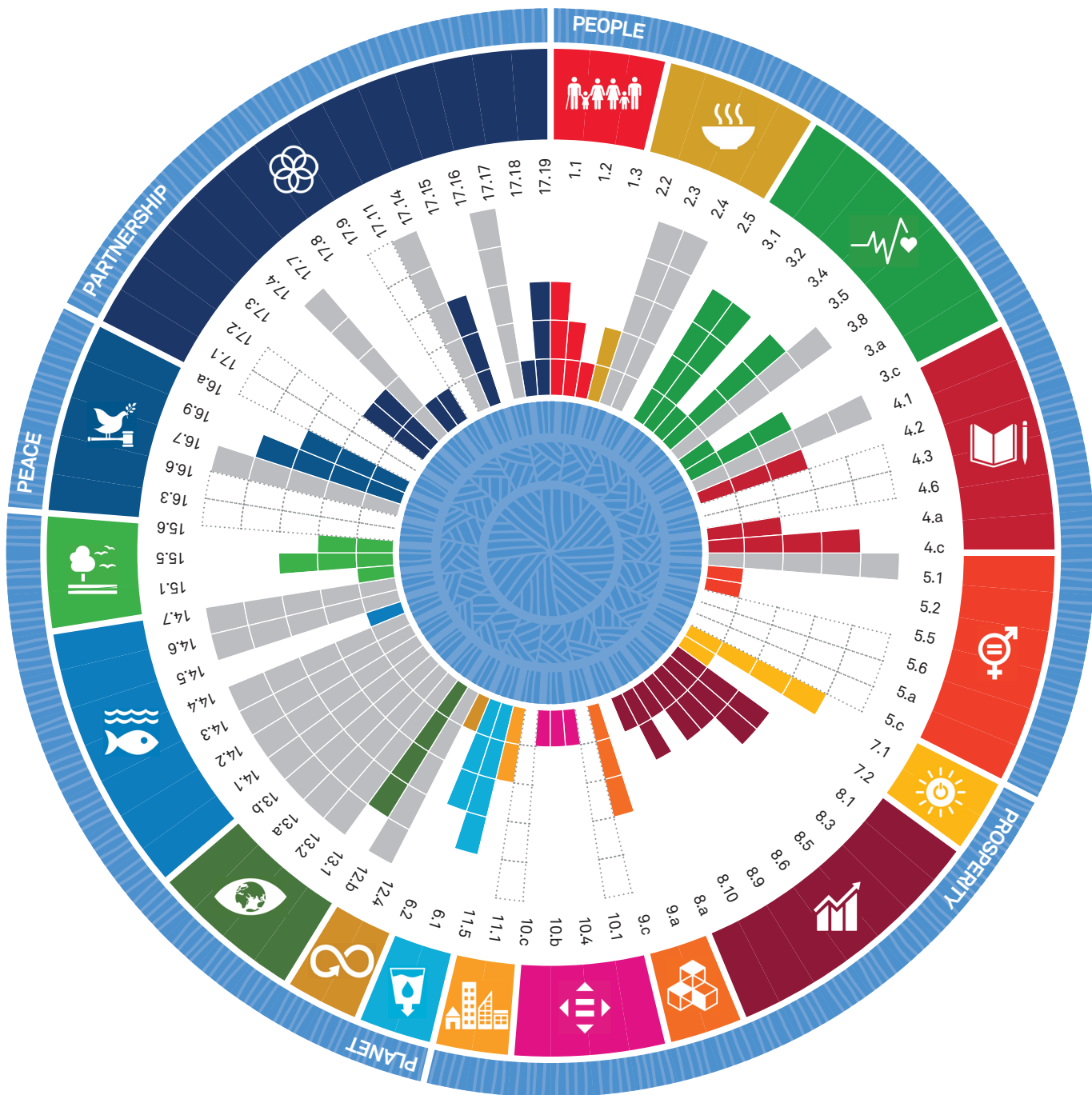
14.1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
14.4	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
14.5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
14.6	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
14.7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.6	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
17.1	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
17.2	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
17.3	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.4	Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
17.7	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
17.8	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology
17.9	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
17.11	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
17.15	Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development
17.17	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
17.18	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
17.19	By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries





PACIFIC REGIONAL PROGRESS

EXCLUDING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

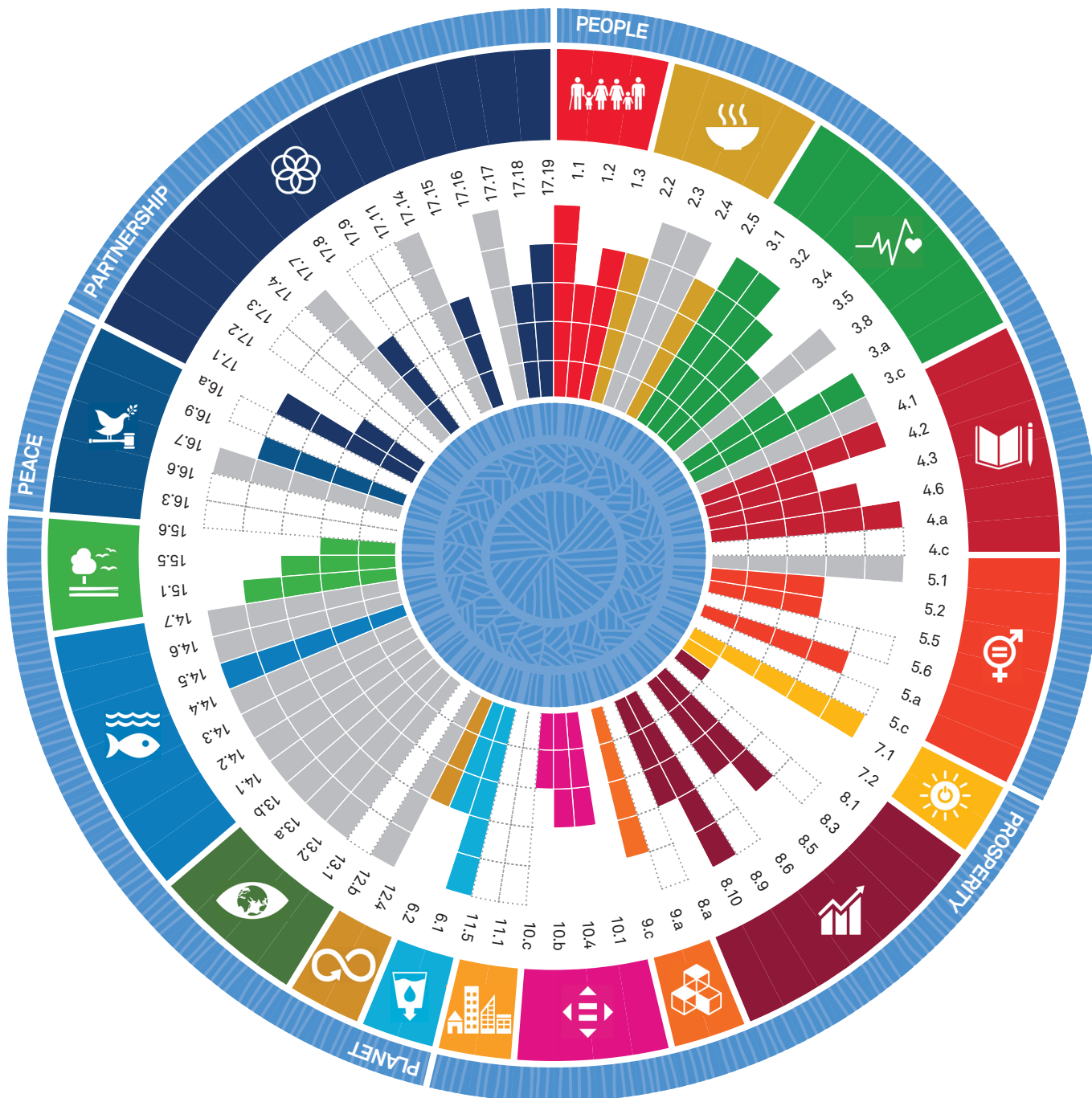


- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



	BAR TYPE	VALUE
	Grey Bar	Tier 3 indicator. No established methodology
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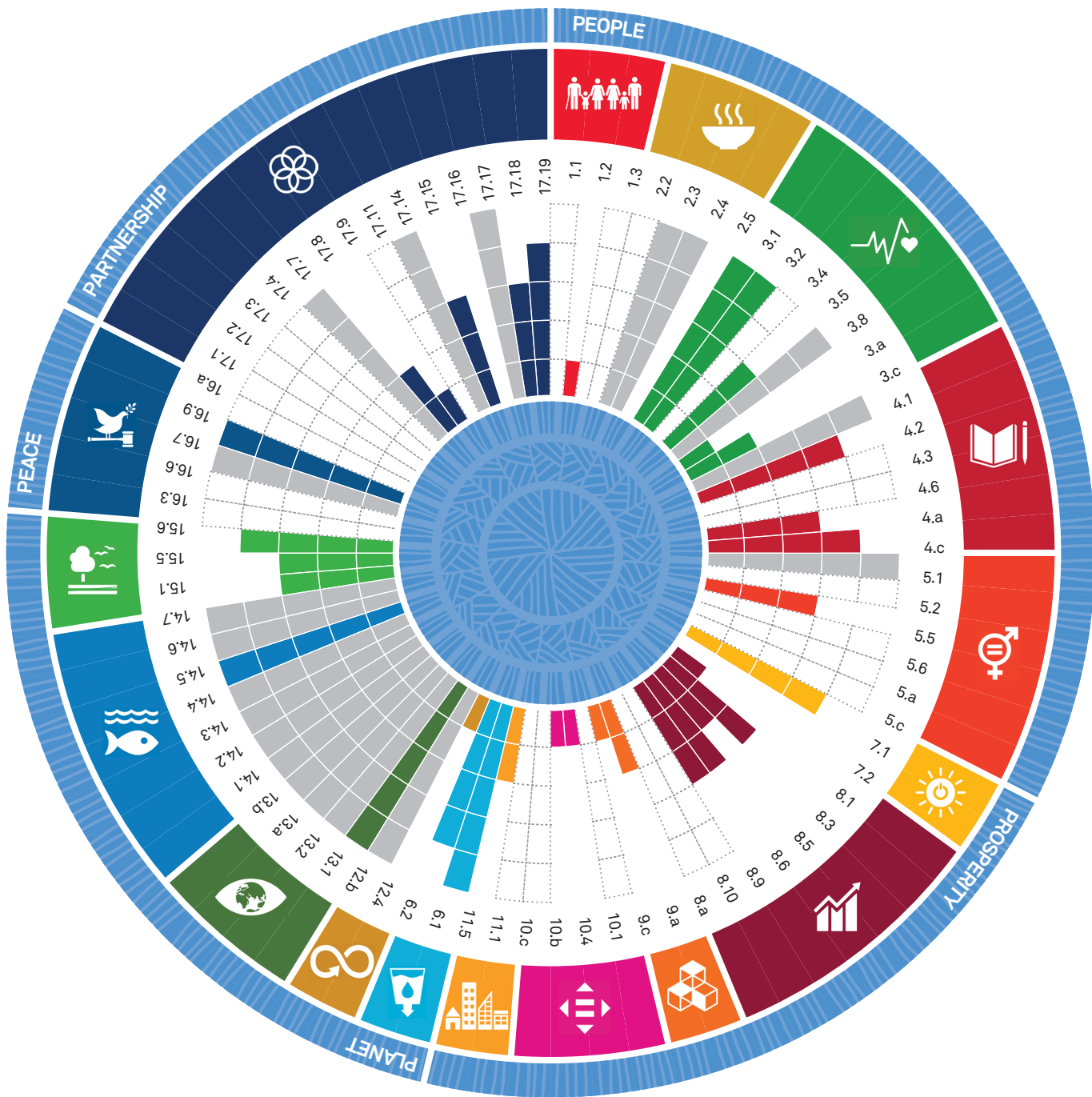
AUSTRALIA



- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
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COOK ISLANDS

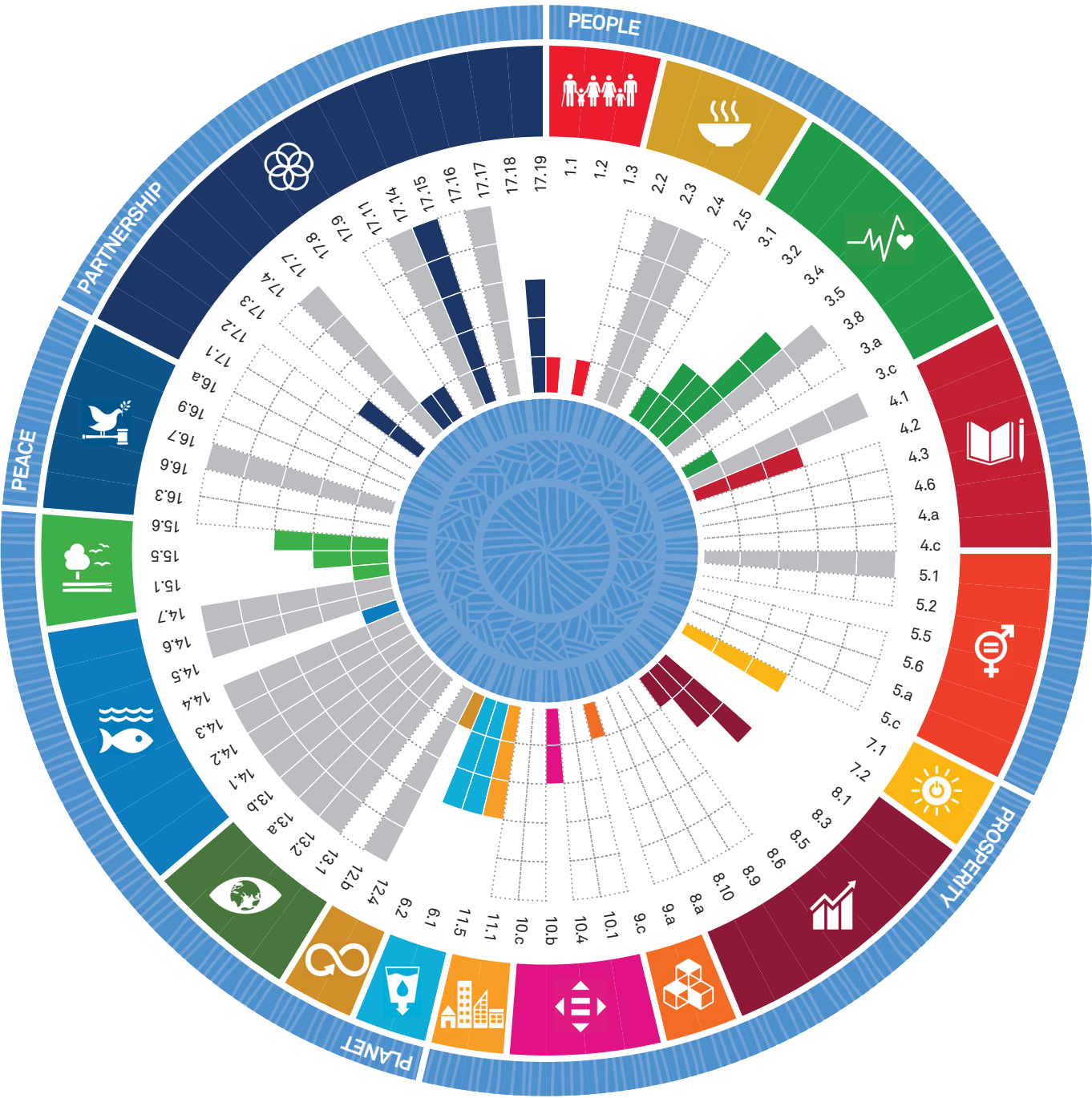


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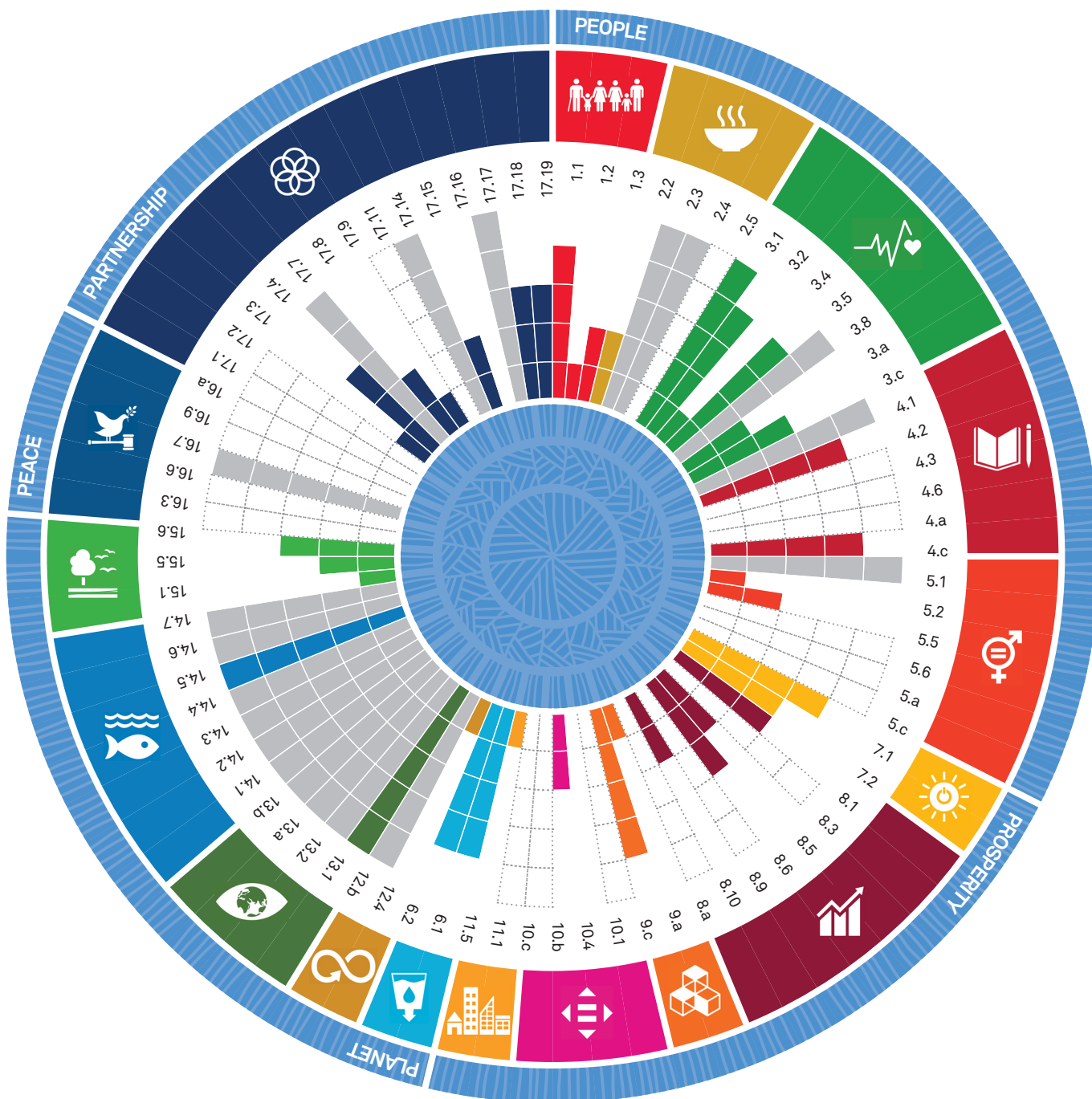
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



- 1 NO POVERTY**
- 2 ZERO HUNGER**
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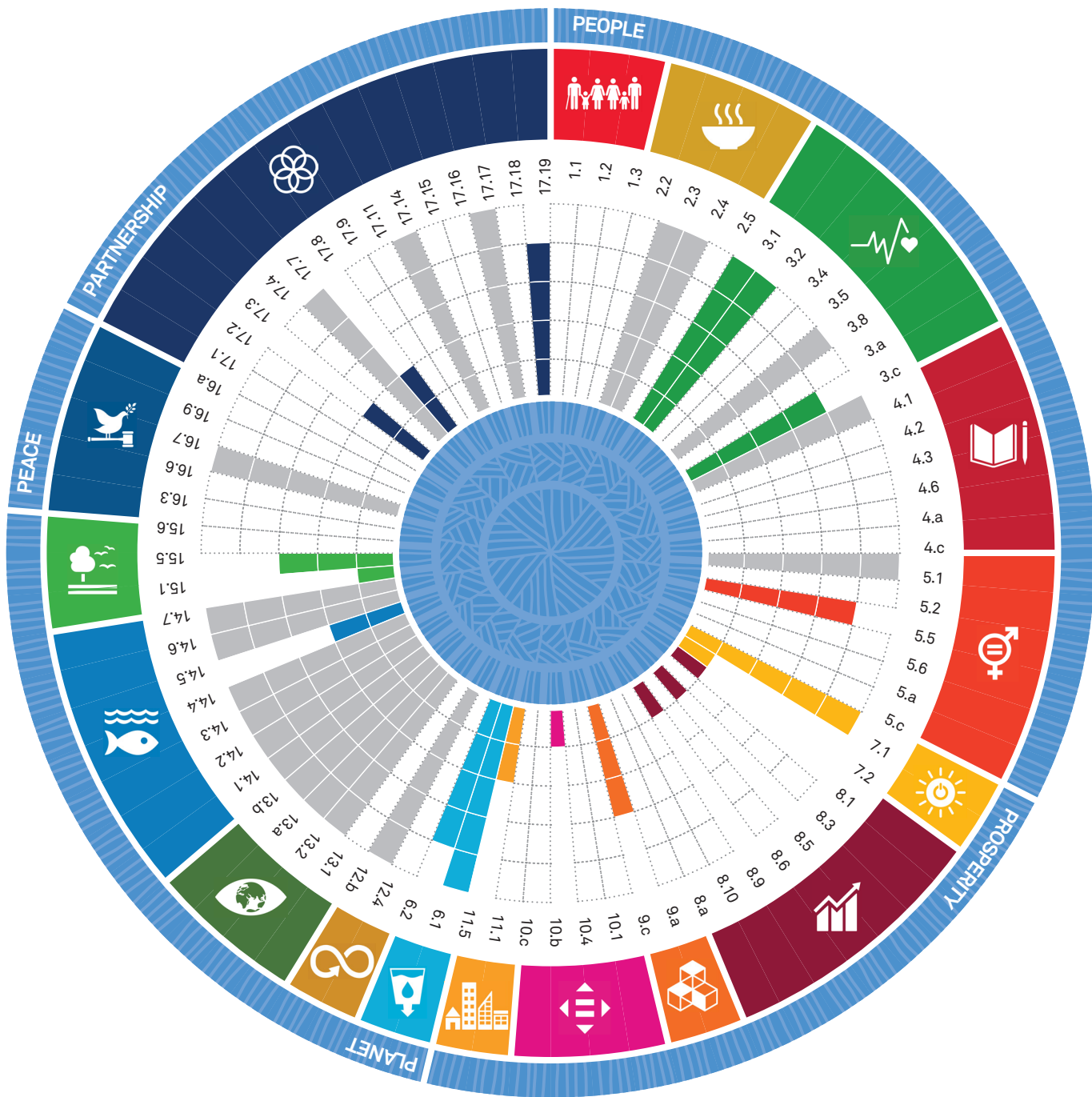


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FRENCH POLYNESIA

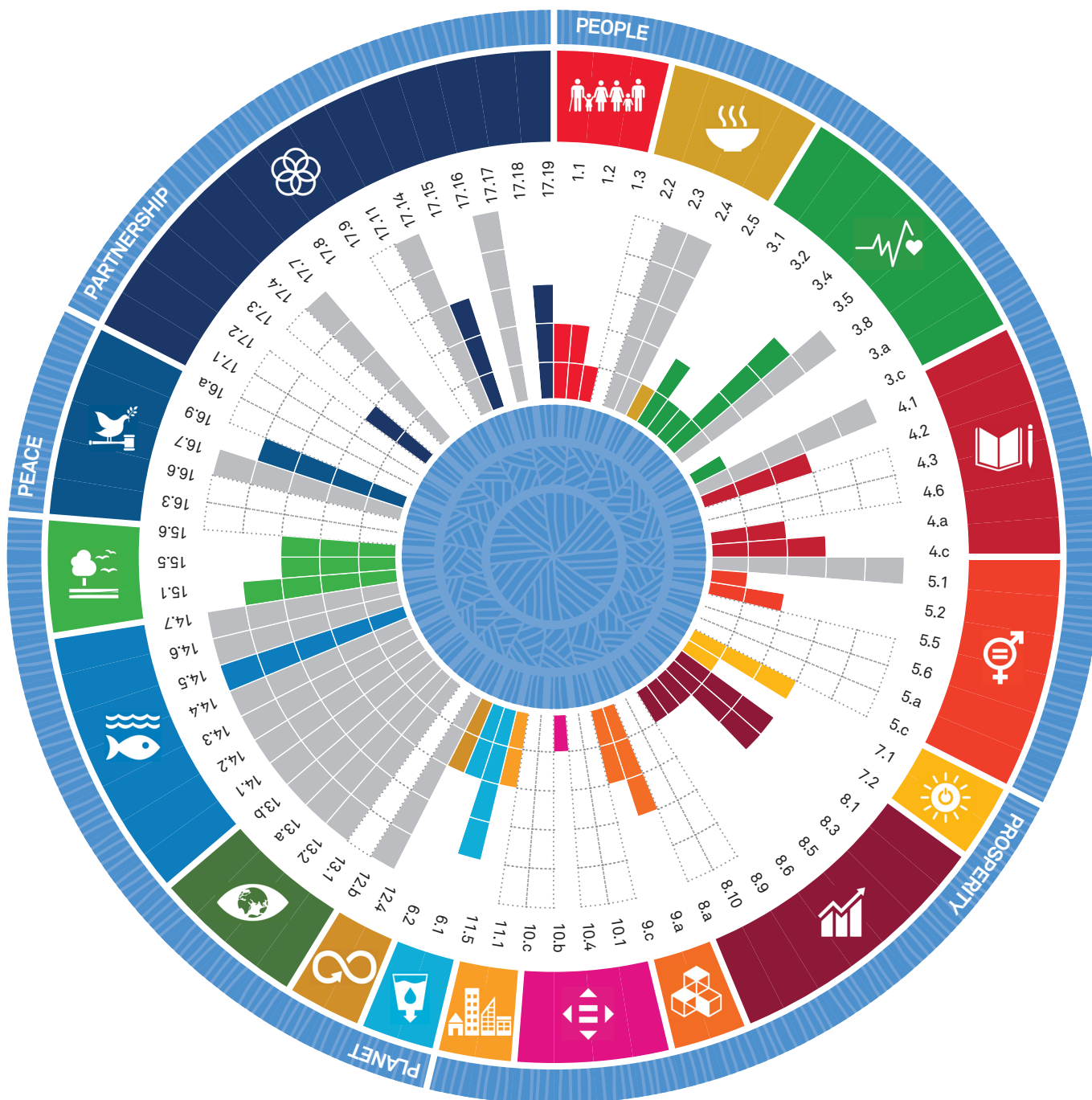


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KIRIBATI

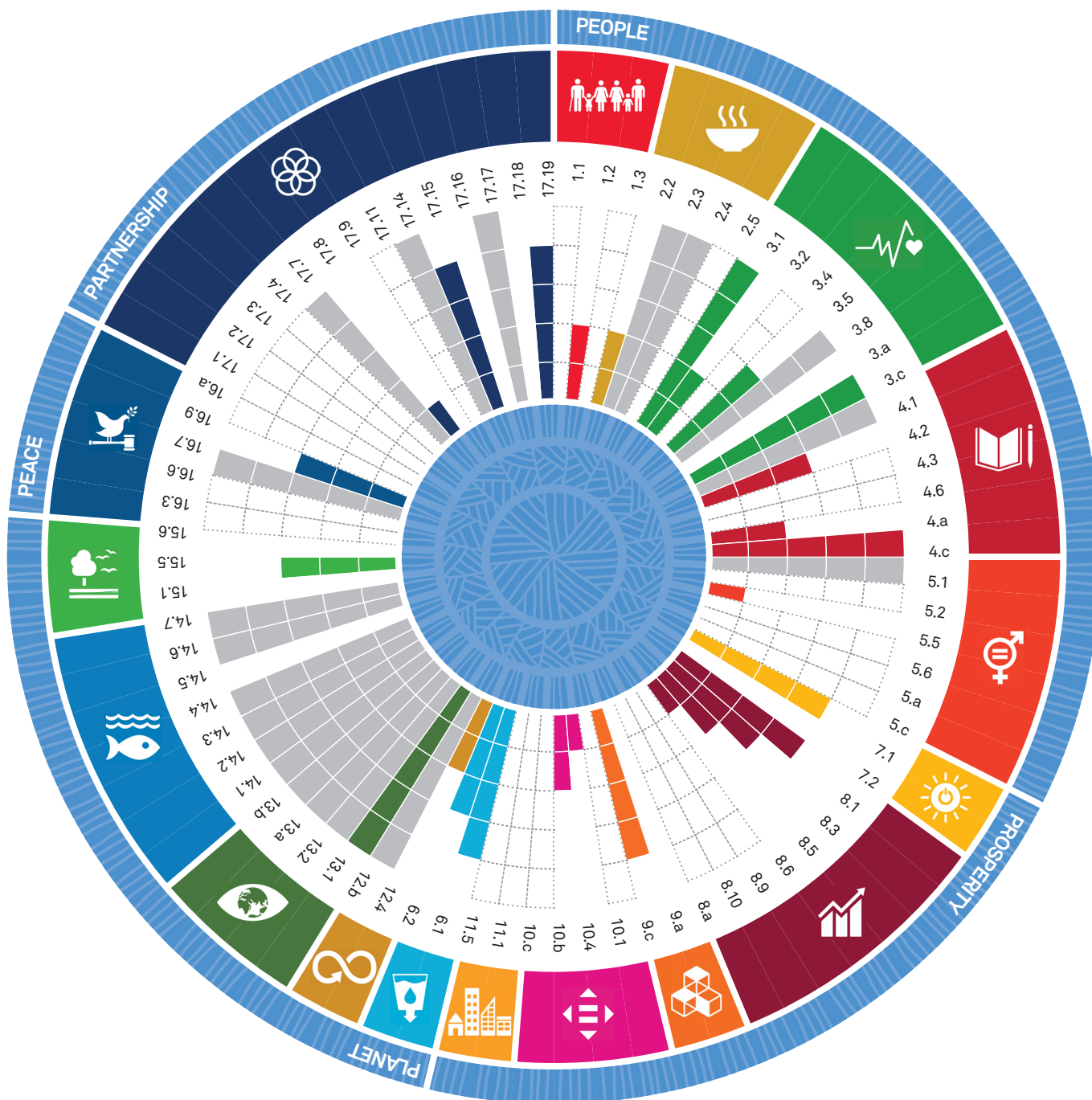


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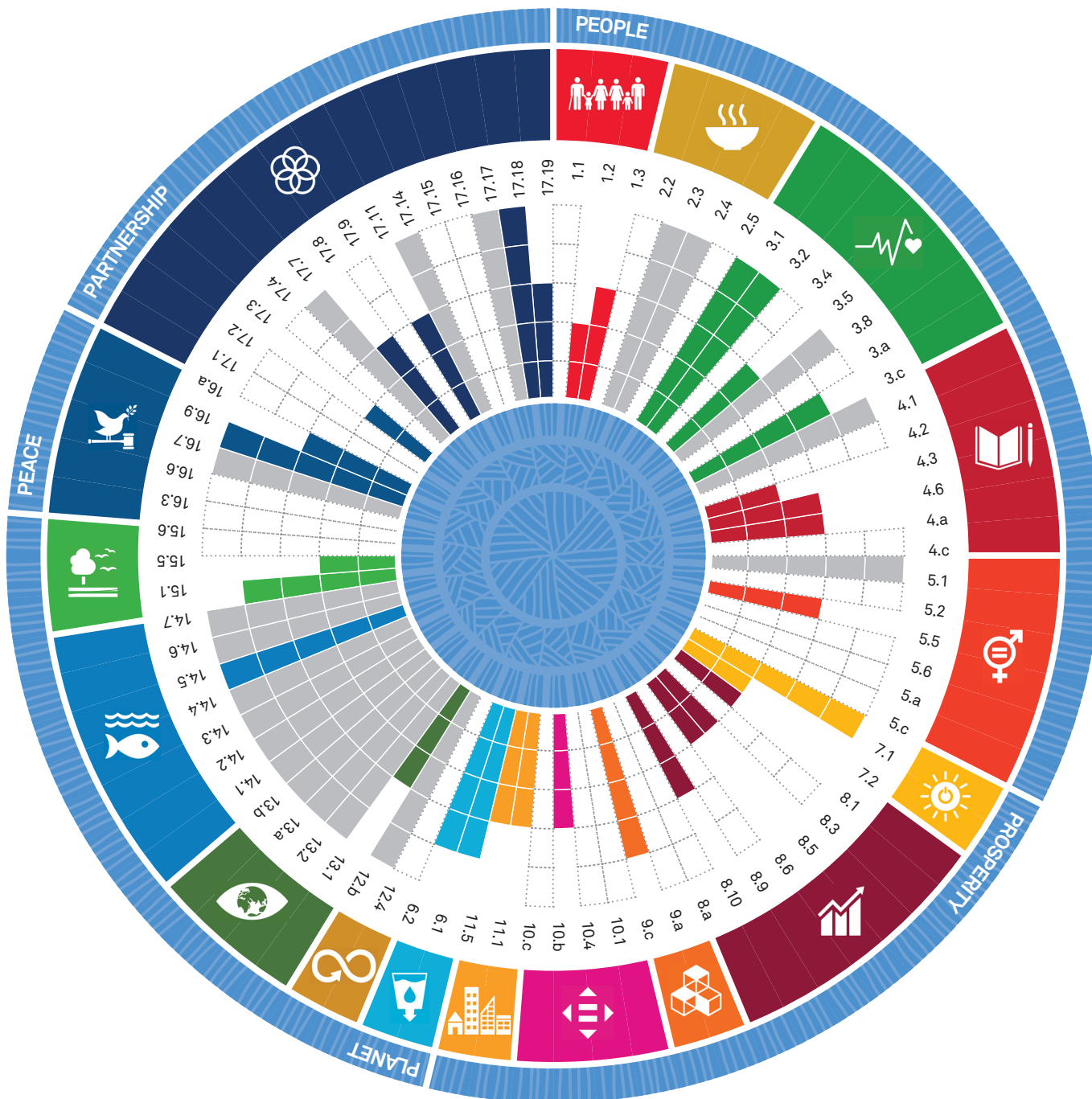


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NEW CALEDONIA



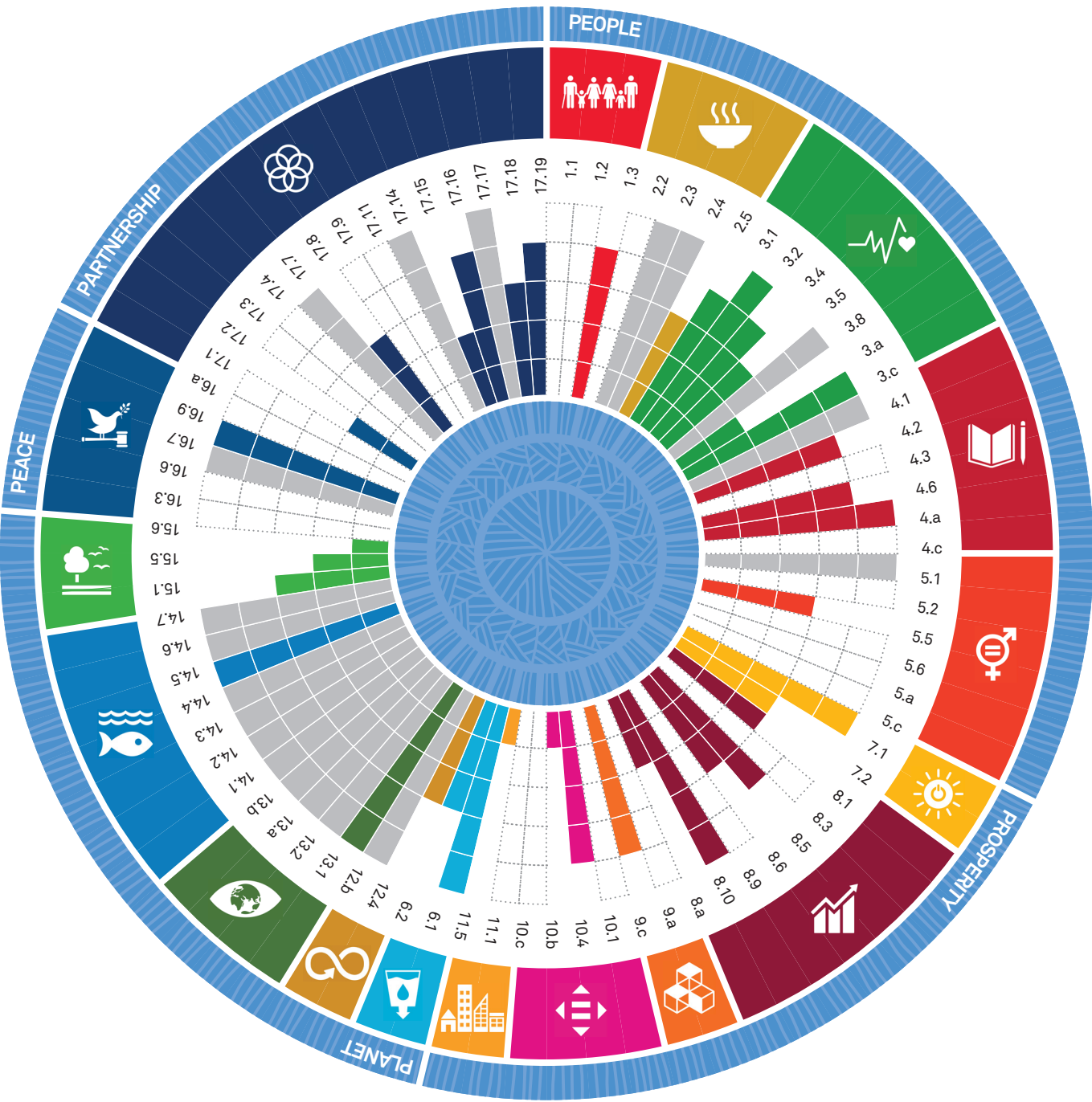
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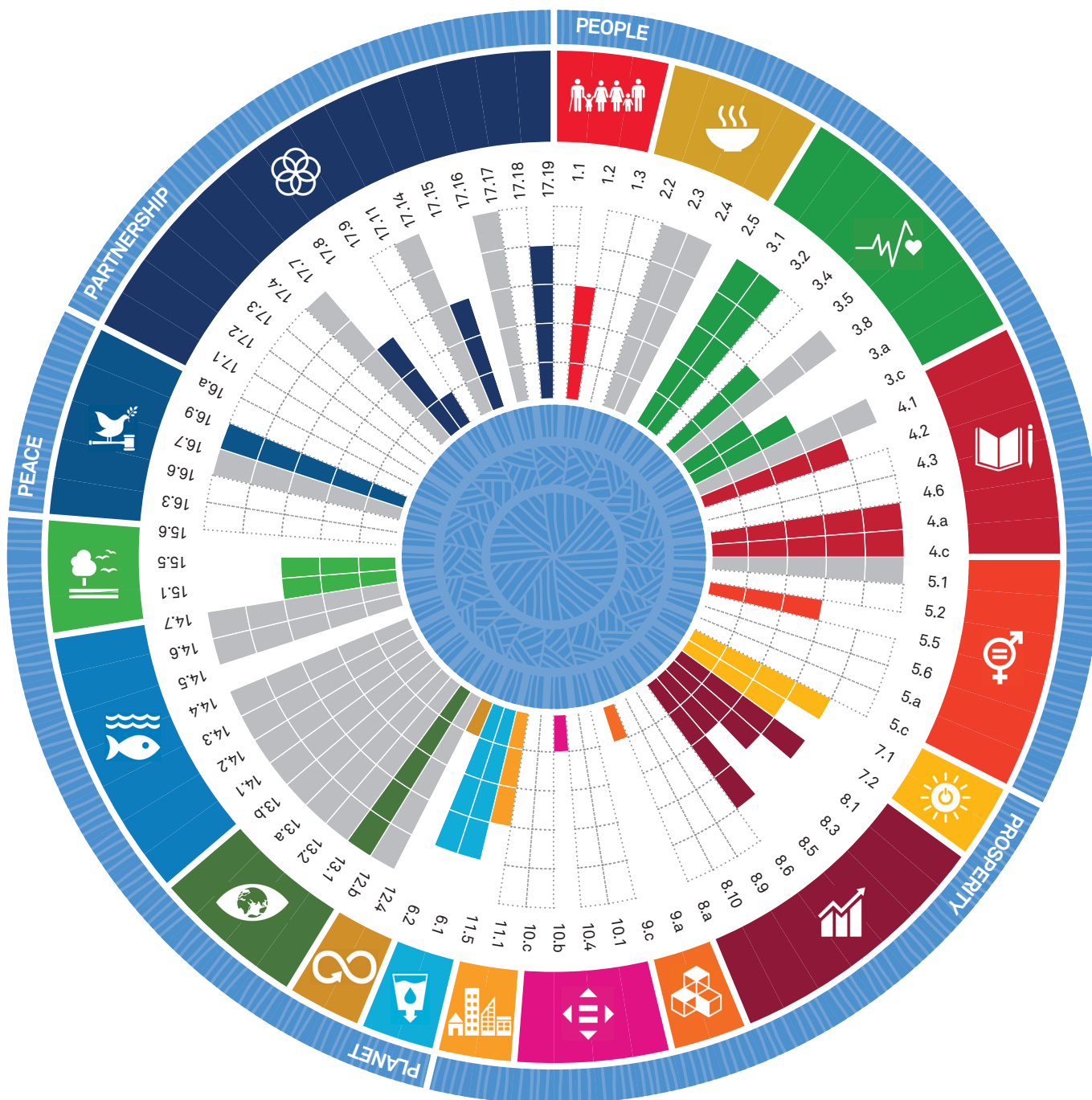
NEW ZEALAND



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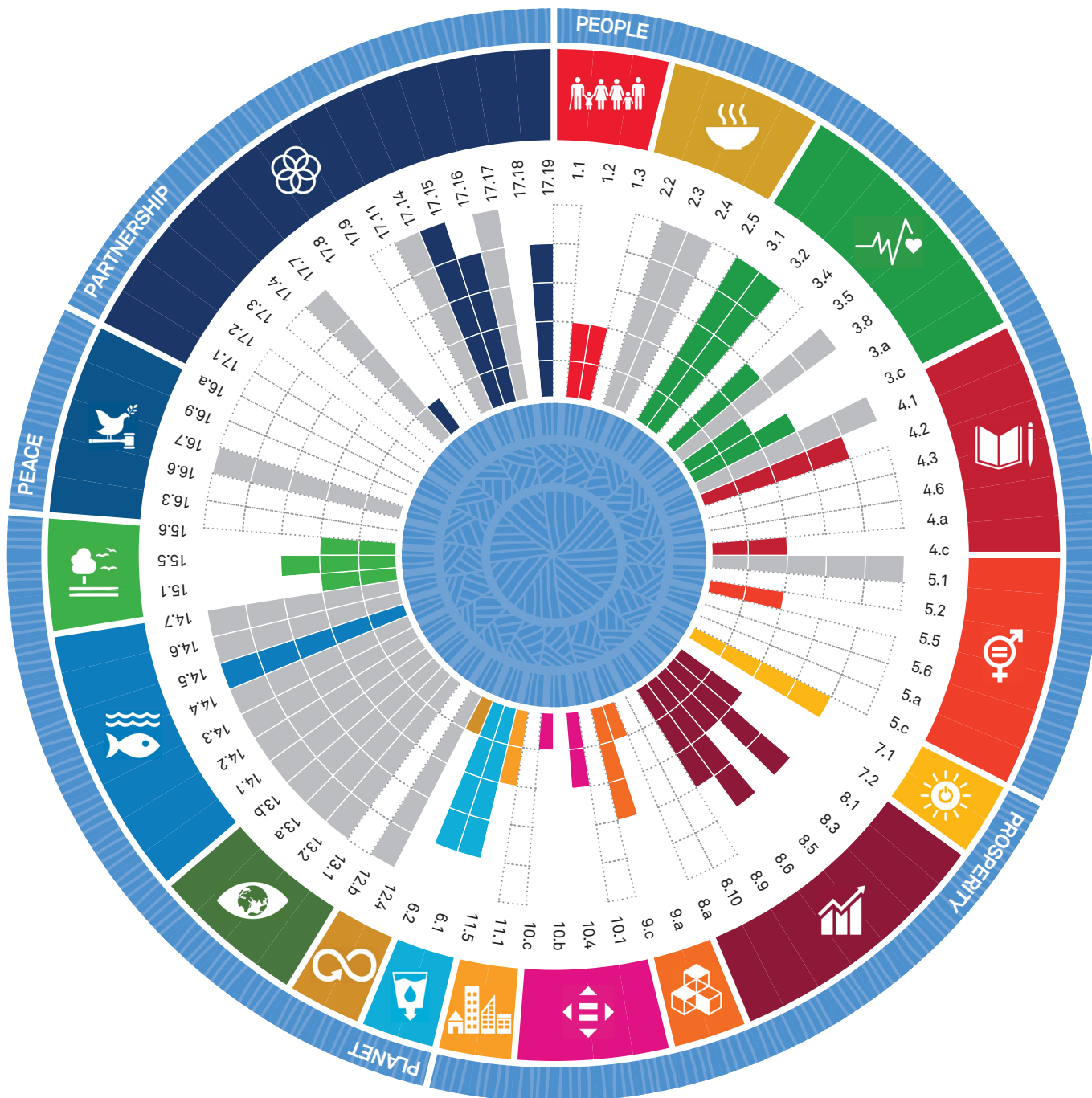
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PALAU

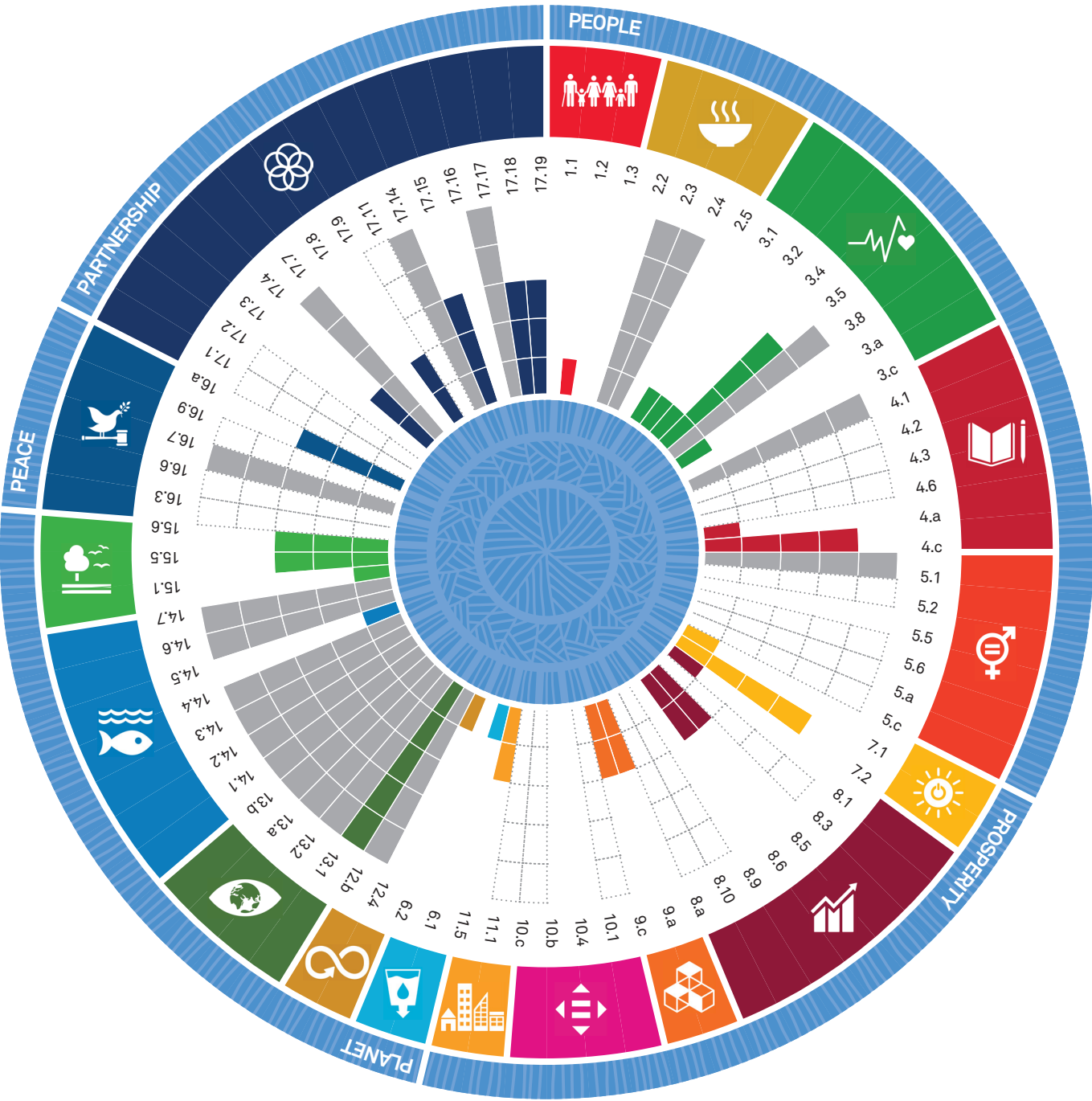


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PAPUA NEW GUINEA



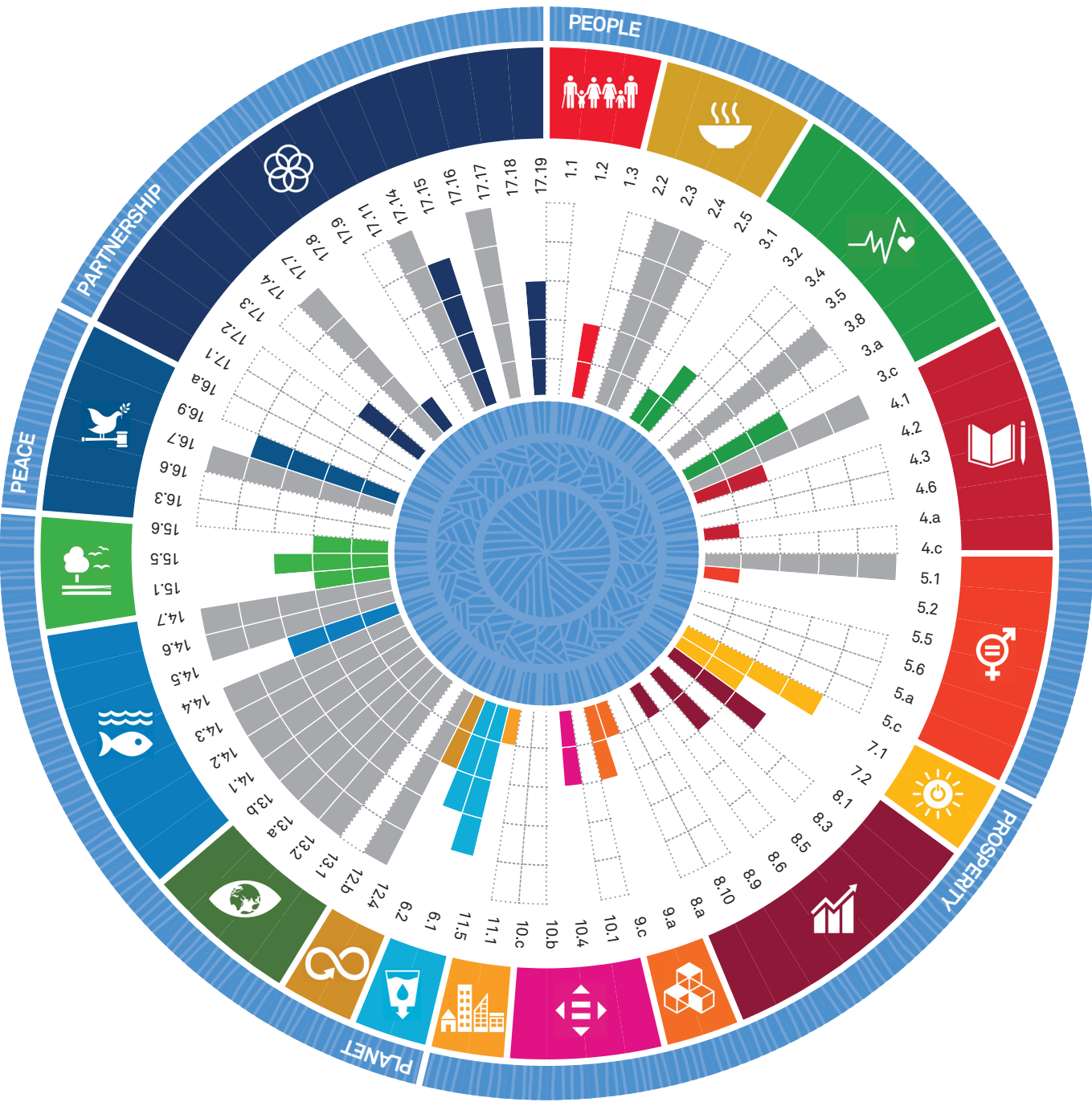
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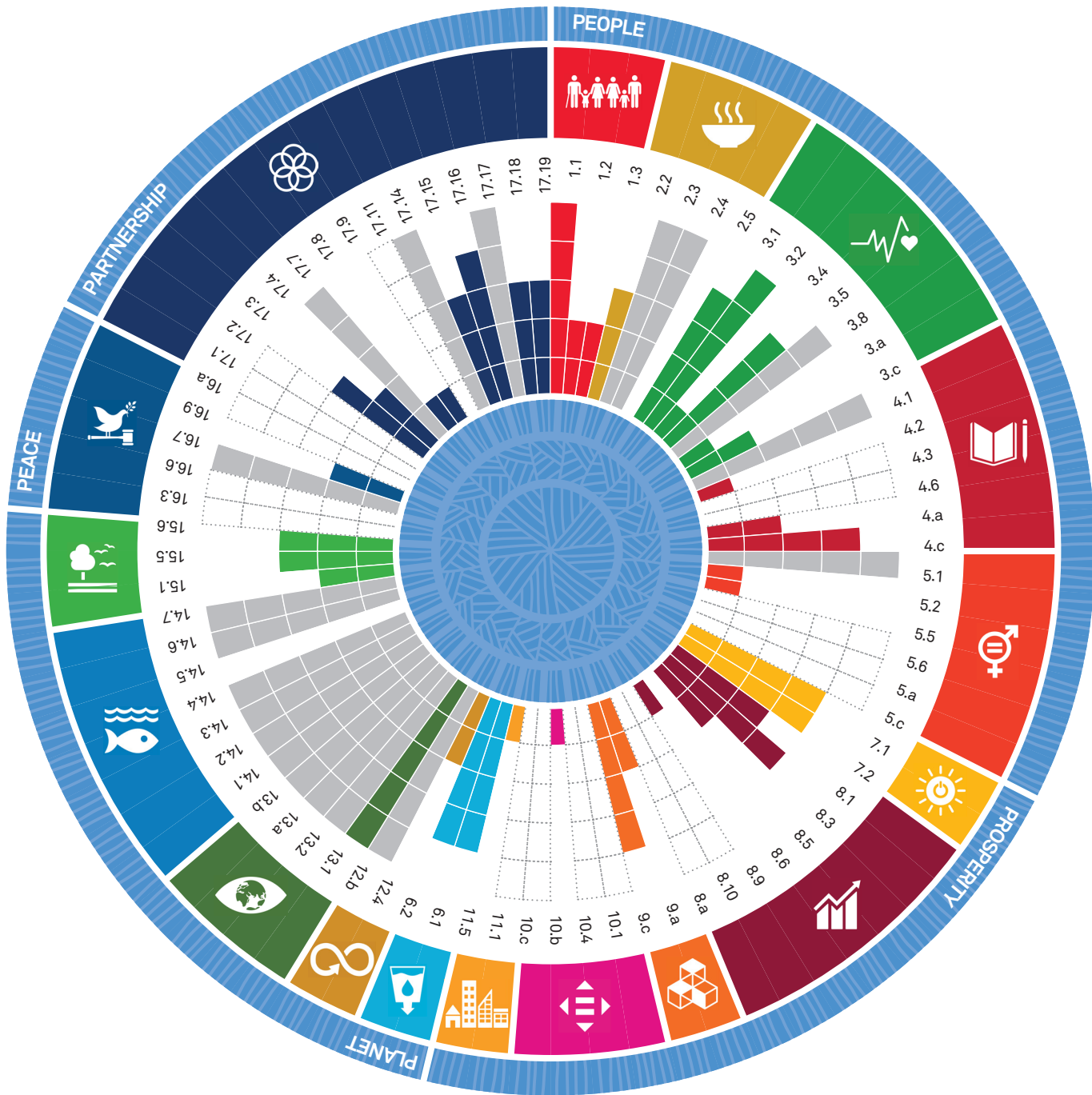
REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS



- 1 NO POVERTY
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SAMOA

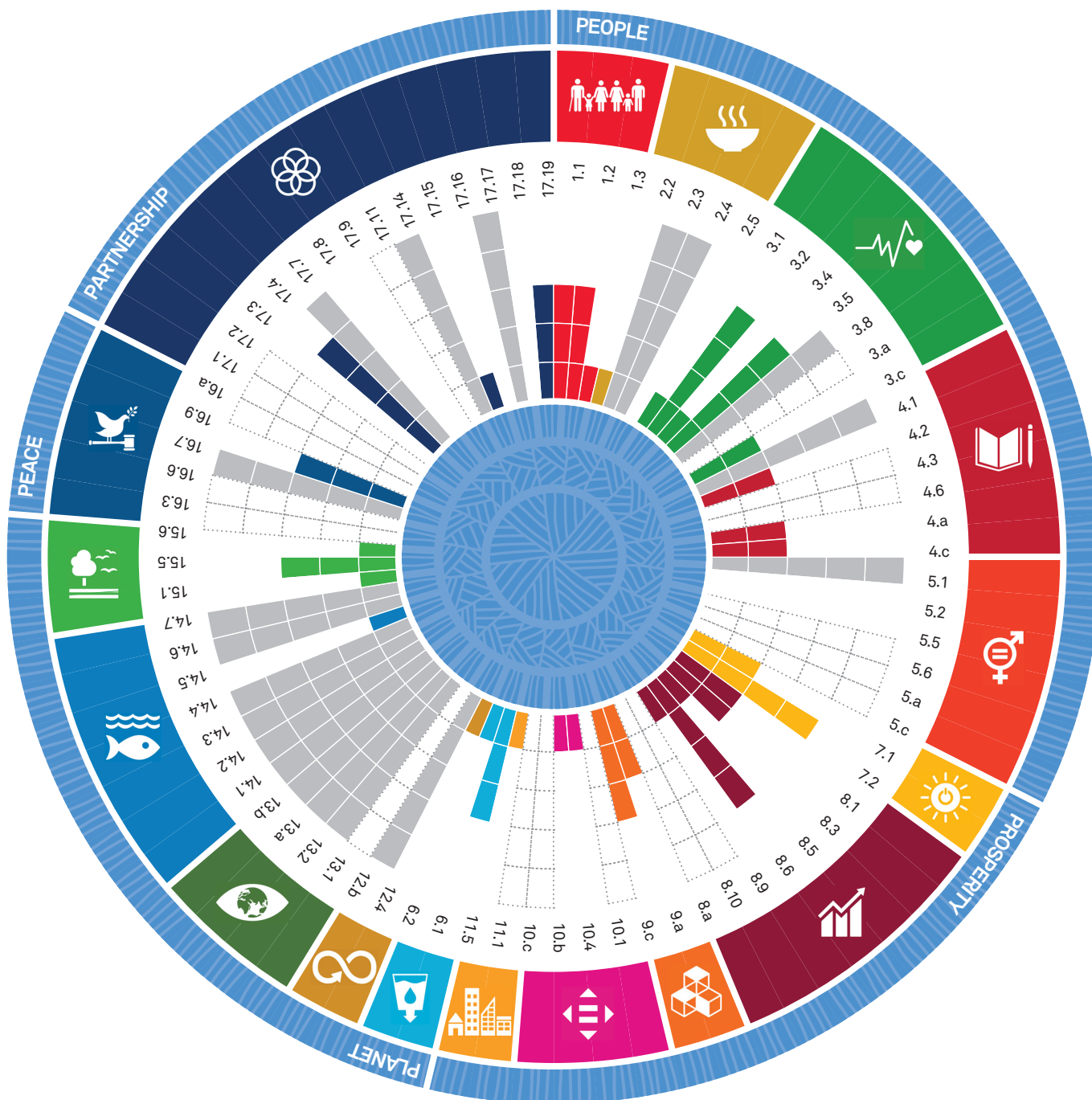


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SOLOMON ISLANDS

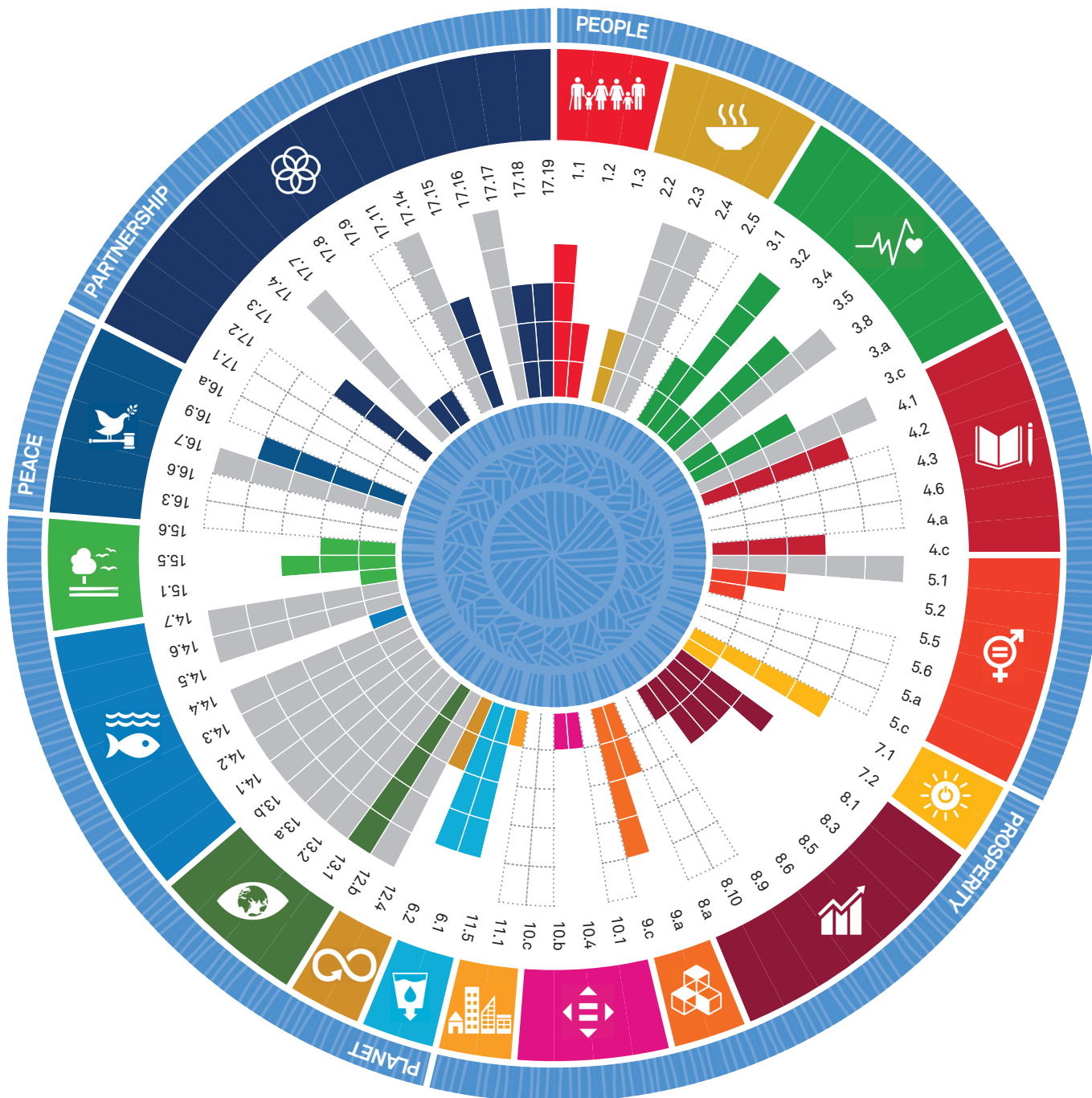


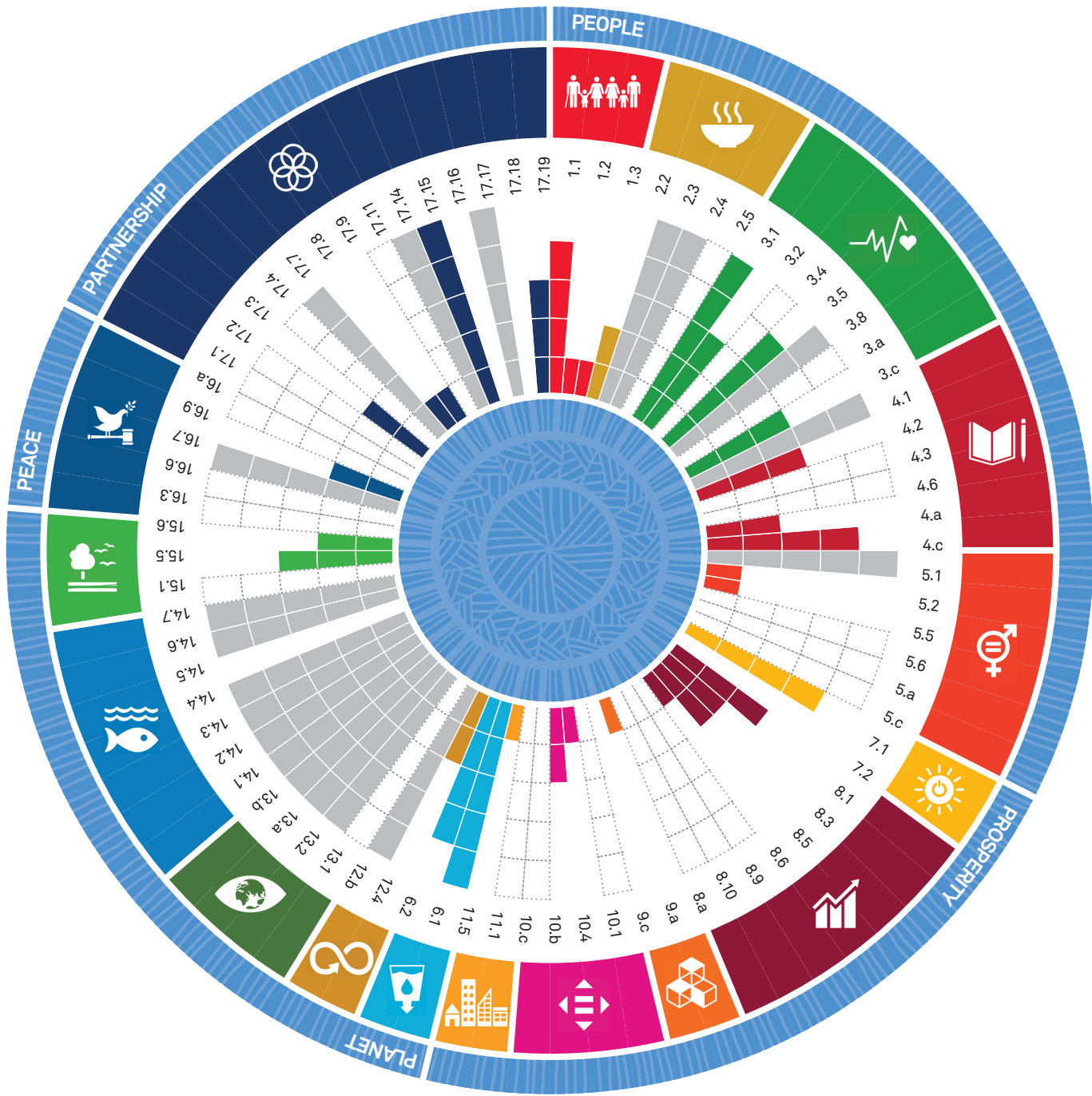
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TONGA

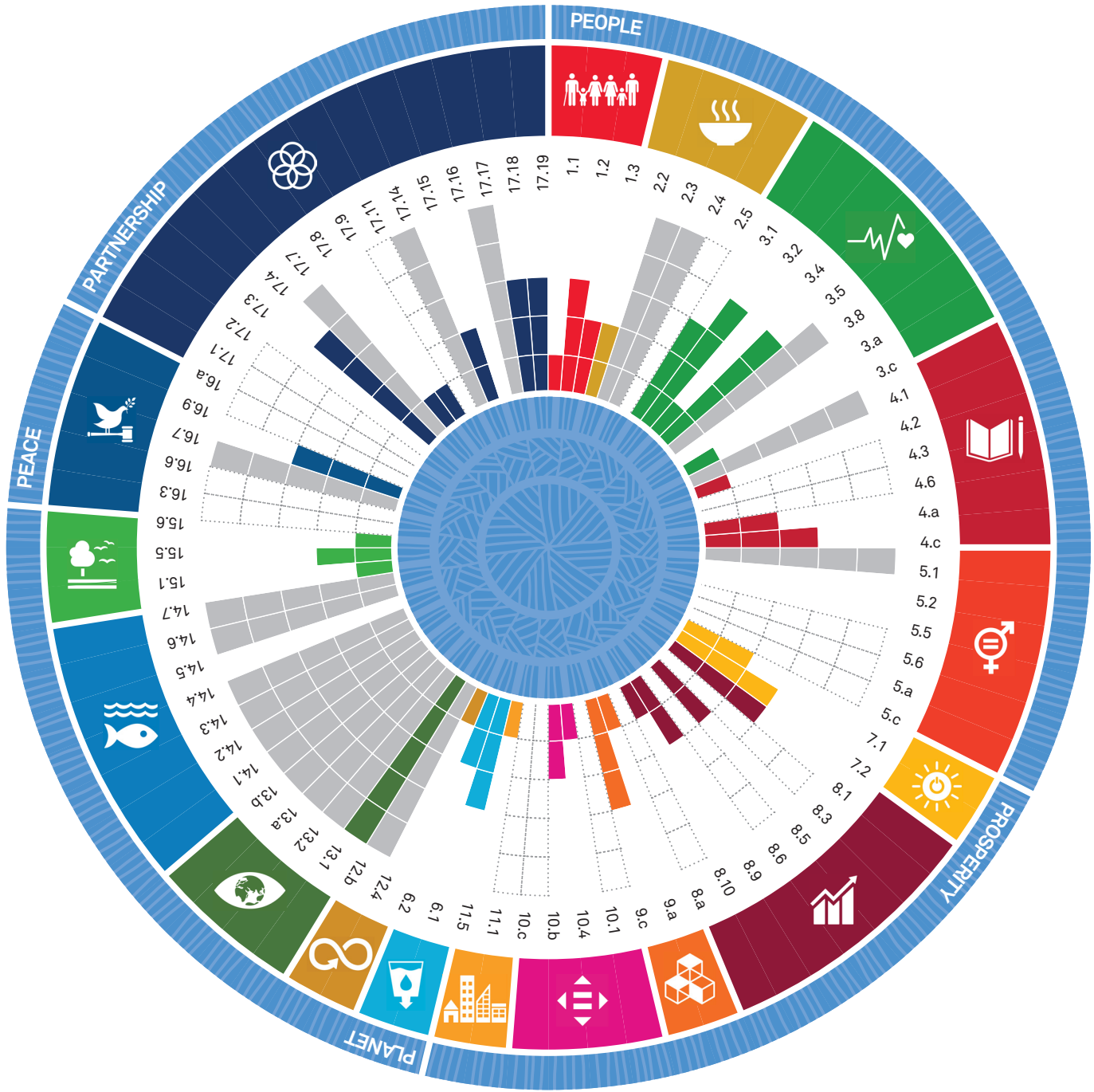




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VANUATU



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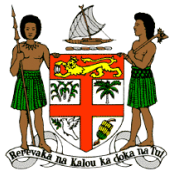




CONTACT

For any queries or requests regarding the progress wheels, please contact the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

✉ info@forumsec.org



Parliament of Fiji
P.O. Box 2353
Government Buildings

PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS



Tel: 679 3305 811
Fax: 679 3305 325
www.parliament.gov.fj

File Ref No: Parl 6/15-7/14

11 February 2020

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Economy
Ro Lalabalavu House
370 Victoria Parade
Suva.

Dear Madam PS,

RE: Request for Supplementary Response – Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Fiji

The Public Accounts Committee ('PAC') of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji wishes to extend its appreciation to the Officials from the Ministry who had appeared before the Committee on Monday 3 February 2020 to provide evidence on the **Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Goals** that was tabled in Parliament on Monday 13 May 2019.

Following the committee inquiry, the Committee resolved that a supplementary written response to be provided by Ministry of Economy in relation to the following issues that was raised:–

1. **2017 Census Report.** *The 2017 census report stated that Fiji's current population to date stands at 884,887. Can the Ministry of Economy provide the percentage of Fijian population that falls below the poverty line and the percentage of the households that are headed by Women as most of those families that fall under the poverty line are headed by women.*
2. **Water Treatment Plant Project in Viria, Naitasiri currently under construction** – *Can the Ministry of Economy provide a list of areas that will be supplied with water from this new water treatment source stationed in Viria and whether these areas including Lomaivuna, Nabaitavo and Vunidawa and other areas in Naitasiri.*
3. **SDGs related Legislations/policies** – *The Ministry of Economy to provide the list of SDGs related legislations and policies that are currently under review by the Solicitor General's Office to be furnish to the Committee.*

We look forward to receiving the above responses by Friday 21 February, 2020 before COB please as the Committee wishes to table the above report in the March Parliament Siting.

For any further clarification, please contact our Committee Secretariat, Mr. Savenaca Koro, on Tel: 9907356 (m) or email: savenaca.koro@govnet.gov.fj

Yours Sincerely,

Hon. Alvick Maharaj
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

P.O.Box 2212, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji; Tele: (679) 330 7011, Fax: (679) 330 8654
Website: www.economy.gov.fj, Email: Economyinformation@economy.gov.fj
Ro Lalabalavu House, 370. Victoria Parade, Suva

22 June 2020

File Ref: 110/18/3-048

By Email: savenaca.koro@govnet.gov.fj

Honourable Alvick Maharaj
The Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of Fiji
Government Buildings
Suva

Dear Chair

Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Fiji – Supplementary Responses

We refer to your letter dated 11 February 2020 in relation to the **Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Fiji on Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and provide supplementary responses on the issues raised as follows:

1. 2017 Census Report

The percentage of Fijian population below the poverty line data could not be derived from the 2017 Census Report, as the Household Income Expenditure (HIES) was not part of the questionnaire and focus was on the source of income only. As per the 2017 Census Report, the percentage of households (HH) that are headed by female is 18% in comparison to those HHs headed by male with 82%. The data based on the 2013-2014 (HIES), states that out of the total HHs living below the poverty line only 15% of the HH were headed by females and 85% headed by male.

2013-2014 Household Income and Expenditure Survey Poverty Statistics		
	2008-2009	2013-2014
Percentage of population in poverty	31%	28%
Percentage of Households in poverty	26%	22%
Percentage of Households in poverty headed by females		15%
Number of Households	175,246	184,235
Number Households in poverty	45,564	40,532
Number of Households in poverty headed by females		6,080
Average Household size		4.60

2. Water Treatment Plant Project in Viria, Naitasiri currently under construction

The new Rewa Water Supply Scheme (RWSS) provides an opportunity to supply water to Nabaitavo and Lomaivuna. Vunidawa, including the Government Station and two neighboring villages (Nakorovatu and Naqara) plus settlements and dairy farms are already serviced from the Vunidawa Water Supply Scheme. To deliver reticulated water to these villages along the Sawani-Serea Road from Nawaqabena to Naluwa, an extension main is proposed to be connected to either the DN900 (pipeline) rising main or from Waitolu Reservoir. The DN900 main can only be utilised after Sino Hydros' 7 year Operating License expires. Water Authority Fiji (WAF) is currently in the initial planning and concept design stage for the extension, working closely with Hunter Water Corporation who is currently contracted and working on the Servicing Strategy for the RWSS that will identify additional works required to ensure that the water is able to be distributed within the existing and future network economically and efficiently.

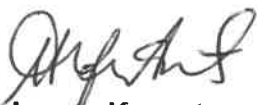
3. SDGs related Legislation/Policies

The conceptual framework for the SDGs is rather policy oriented. The core national document in which the SDGs have been mainstreamed into is the 5 Year and 20 Year National Development Plan (NDP). The integration of SDGs into the NDP has provided a guiding platform for the realisation and implementation for the goals. It also noted that governing Acts and legislations have either directly or indirectly taken into consideration the fundamental aspects of the SDGs.

For any further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry of Economy.

Thank you

Yours sincerely



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Permanent Secretary for Economy