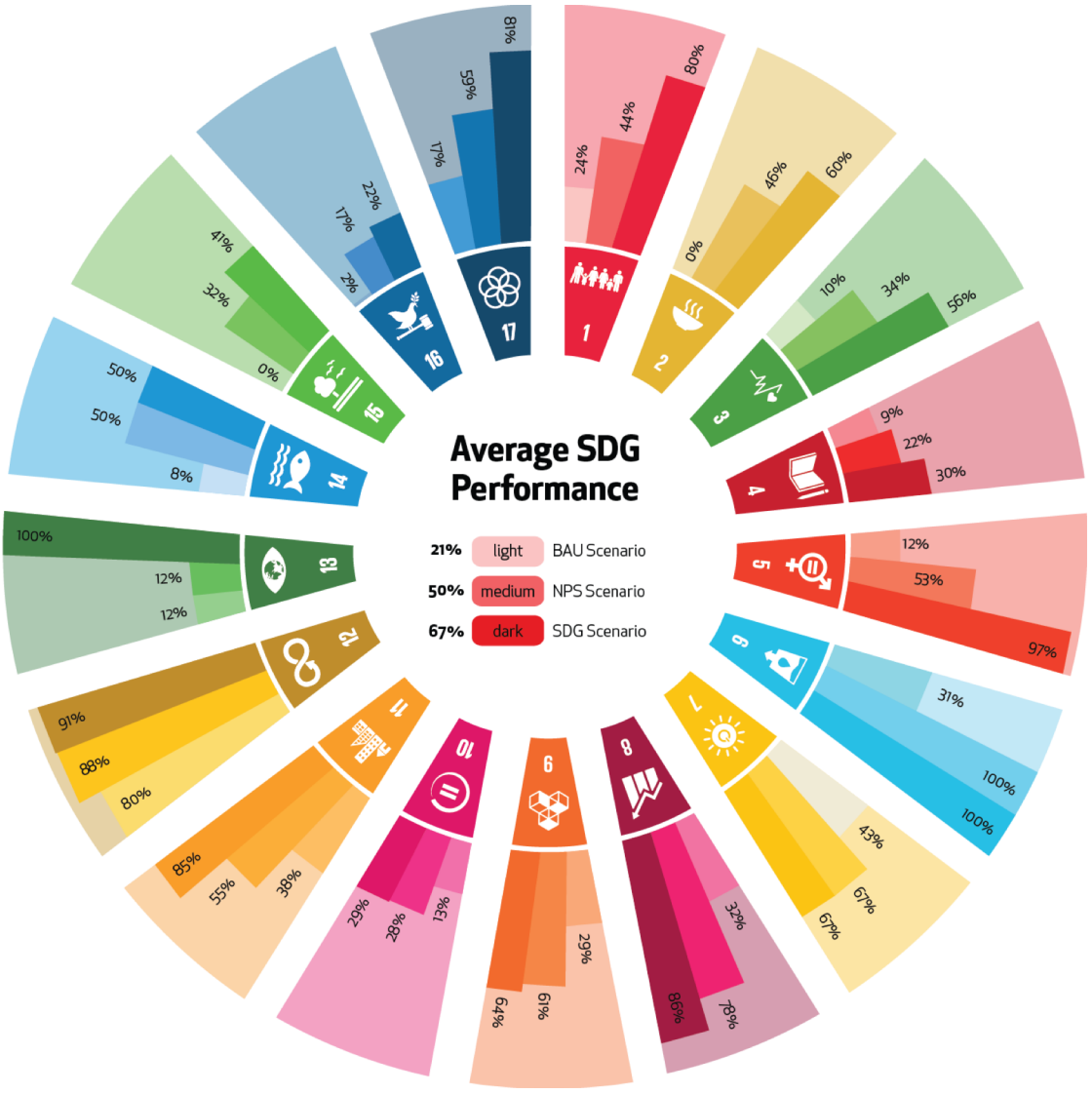
COTE D'IVOIRE 2016 iSDG REPORT

MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE

iSDG Report Series, September 2016

SDG Wheel: Progress on the Goals in a Snapshot



The SDG wheel portrays the progress on the 17 SDGs by 2030 in three scenarios: the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario (i.e. no policy changes); National Prospective Study (NPS) scenario, reflecting the policies included in the NPS "Cote d'Ivoire 2040"; and SDG scenario, based on the NPS scenario, but including a series of additional interventions for critical aspects that are not sufficiently covered in the NPS. The average SDG performance in the three scenarios is 21% (BAU), 50% (NPS), and 67% (SDG). Despite major progress in the SDG scenario, further efforts are to be envisioned to accelerate development, especially on Goal 4, Goal 10, Goal 14, and Goal 15.

Background

In order to address the challenge of aligning national strategies with Agenda 2030 in the Ivory Coast, the Millennium Institute (MI) has developed the Threshold21-iSDG[1] model in collaboration with the Ivory Coast National Government.[2] Based on currently available data, our model includes 78 SDG indicators covering all 17 Goals. For each indicator we introduce a target value for 2030. We calculate performance as the percentage attainment of these targets. We use the model to assess the impact of the National Prospective Study 'Côte d'Ivoire 2040' (NPS) on attainment of the 17 SDGs, and to identify strategic adjustments to improve performance.[3]

We present and compare the results for the 17 SDGs under three different scenarios. In the business as usual ('BAU') scenario we assume that current policies are continued into the future; while in the 'NPS' scenario we assume full implementation of the policies proposed in the NPS. We design a third scenario, the 'SDG' scenario, based on the NPS scenario but including additional policies for critical SDG components that are not explicitly covered in the NPS. Simulating the model allows us to assess the level of achievement of the SDGs in the three scenarios, and to identify the individual contributions of each policy as well as synergies emerging from policy interactions, facilitating the efficient allocation of resources towards achieving the SDGs.

Key Findings

Our simulations show that in Ivory Coast the continuation of current policies (business-as-usual scenario) leads to average achievement of the SDGs of about 21 per cent. The level of achievement can be improved to about 50 per cent when simulating the implementation of the policies included in the National Prospective Study. With the further strategic adjustments proposed in the SDG scenario, we achieve a level of SDG attainment of about 67 per cent. To achieve such results, a major mobilization of resources is needed, including additional spending of around 15 per cent of GDP (versus 4.5 per cent in the NPS scenario), an increase in government revenues (by about 12 per cent of GDP instead of 4 per cent), and strengthening of distribution and gender policies. In addition, an increase in the government effectiveness index of the order of 60 per cent from the 2015 level (instead of 50 per cent in the NPS scenario) and a rapid implementation process (as in the NPS scenario) are required. Such levels of effort are in line with Martin and Walker (2015). Even under the optimistic and ambitious assumptions of the SDG scenario, for four SDGs (Goals 4, 10, 15 and 16) little improvement is observed, calling for the need to identify and assess further policy options for those Goals.

We have identified that interventions directed to improve governance, health, education, gender issues, and climate change adaptation have substantial impacts across Goals. We have also identified positive and negative synergies emerging from the joint implementation of all the policies included in the SDG scenario. Especially for Goals 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 14 and 15, the simulation results indicate positive synergies, resulting from improved enabling conditions and reinforcing mechanisms caused by policies in other areas. For Goals 6, 9 and 17, we identified negative synergies, mostly due to the fact that several individual policies would achieve over 100 per cent of such Goals, so that the additional improvement brought about by the other policies is not visible in the comprehensive SDG scenario but appears as negative synergy. In summary, the overall contribution of synergies to the observed results is markedly positive, highlighting the importance of integrated planning and implementation of interventions directed to achieve the SDGs.

Recommendations

Identify policies that have positive impacts on several goals

Our analysis indicates that a set of policy interventions targeting a specific Goal can have substantial positive impacts on the achievement of other Goals. Such interventions include the improvement of governance, income distribution, gender and climate change adaptation policies, as well as additional expenditure for education, training in sustainable agriculture, health and family planning.

Invest in sustainable agriculture

Even though the objective in the Ivory Coast is to move from a predominantly agricultural economy to a newly industrialized country, our analysis shows that it is more effective for increased growth to increase public expenditure for training in sustainable agriculture than for industrialization, as proposed in the NPS. Growth in

sustainable agriculture also improves incomes of the rural poor and food security (SDGs 1 and 2).

Ensure that the total population benefits from economic growth

"No one left behind" is a core principle of Agenda 2030. Strengthening distribution policies by increasing subsidies and transfers, targeting these to poor families, and reducing tax pressure for the lowest income classes while increasing it for higher income classes, are important factors for better performance of the SDGs, in particular for Goals 1-3.

Integrate climate change into the planning

While the NPS does not make any specific assumptions of climate change, we include climate effects in the current analysis demonstrating the importance of additional expenditure for adaptation policies.

Invest in water, sanitation and waste management

Simulations show that achieving the ambitious goals of providing access to clean water and sanitation for all, and ensuring waste management is possible if additional public expenditure is invested into the necessary sectors.

Foster energy efficiency, large-scale and small-scale renewable energy capacity

Our analysis shows that the increase of small-scale renewable energy capacity facilitates access to affordable clean energy for all, while the increase of energy efficiency and large-scale renewable energy capacity is especially effective in reducing GHG emissions.

Combine forest and agriculture policies

The simulations reveal the importance of combining reforestation and forest protection policies with improvements in agricultural efficiency and stricter enforcement of land-use laws for substantial reversal of the trend in biodiversity loss.

Ensure better protection of marine resources

In addition to expenditure for marine protected areas, supporting the development of sustainable aquaculture and introducing sustainable exploitation schemes for maritime fish resources are necessary to halt the decrease of fish stocks, which play an important role in food security in Ivory Coast.

Envision further interventions to promote sustainable development in the long run

Our simulations reveal that improvements in certain goals, such as the increase in GDP growth (Goal 8), income (Goal 1) and road infrastructure (Goal 9) have negative impacts on other Goals (e.g. Goals 12, 3, 7 and 11). Additional measures are necessary to reduce such negative impacts, e.g. promoting material consumption efficiency and recycling, supporting railways and sustainable mobility concepts, as well as prevention and raising awareness of specific diseases.

Increase government revenues

Our results emphasize the importance of large up-front investments to initiate a rapid development process in line with the findings of Martin and Walker (2015). In our SDG scenario, we assume a large increase of effective tax and financing, but the impact of mobilizing resources from other sources (such as ODA) should be analyzed.

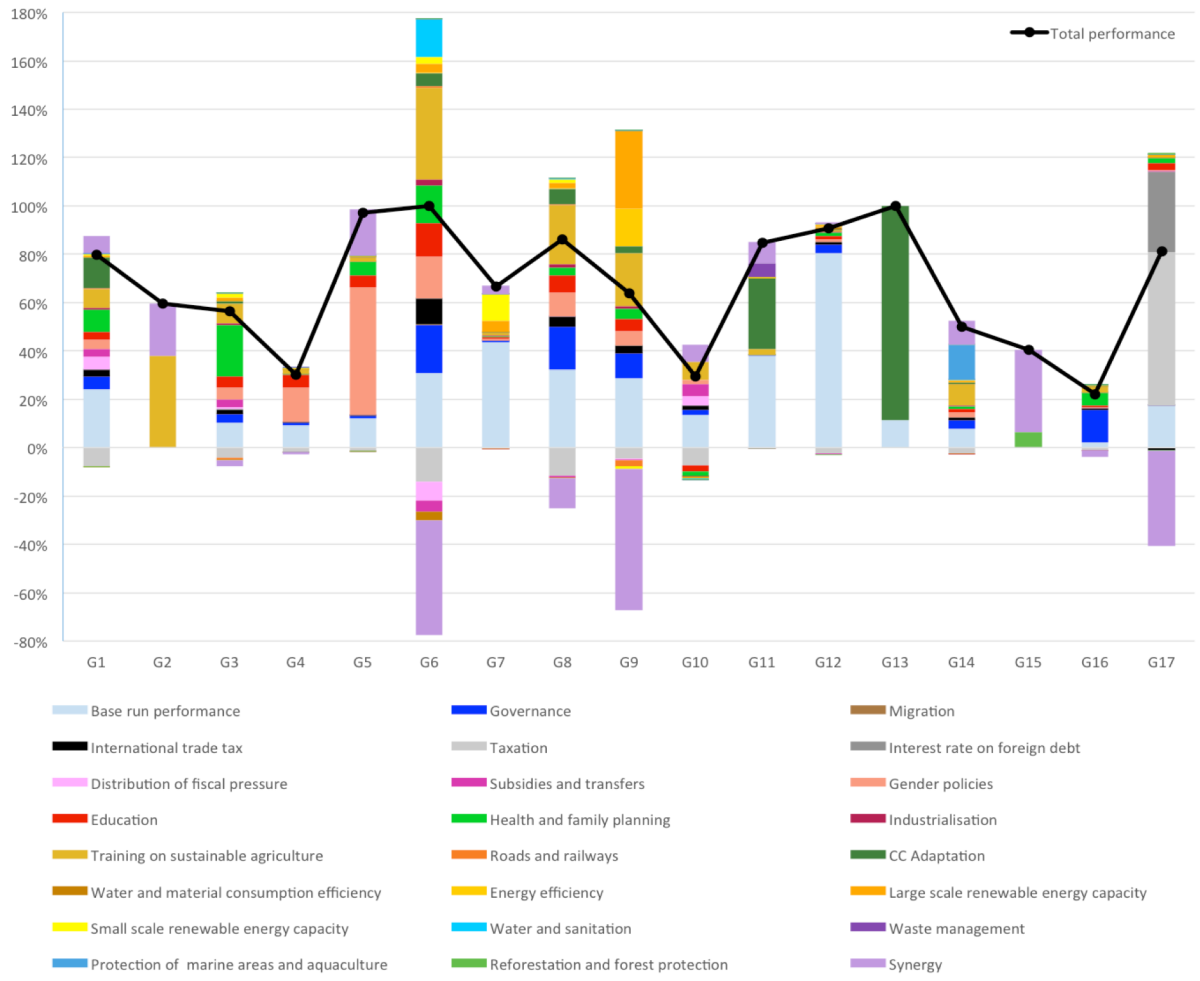
Phase out additional expenditure once endogenous development mechanisms are initiated

The simulation results highlight the importance of phasing out additional investments once the process is on a self-sustaining path to avoid substantial, sustained increase in debt.

Perform integrated analysis

The SDGs are interconnected within a complex dynamic system. Integrated analysis, coupled with computer simulation, helps to assess the policy implications of the interconnections among the goals and to establish policy coherence towards achieving the SDGs

Policy Impact and Synergy Assessment Graph



The policy impact and synergy assessment graph shows the contribution of each policy in the SDG scenario to the performance of the 17 SDGs. The light blue color indicates the performance in the BAU scenario, i.e. in case no policy change is introduced. Interventions directed to improve governance, health, education, gender issues, and climate change adaptation have substantial impacts across Goals. Positive synergies among the implemented policies appear for the majority of Goals, while large negative synergies emerge in a few cases (Goals 6, 8, 9, and 17) primarily due to overachievement, indicating possible sources of saving in resources.

Notes

[1] For the description and official documentation of the iSDG model visit www.isdgs.org.

[2] The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any agency of the Cote d'Ivoire government.

[3] This report is based on Pedercini, M., Zuellich, G. and Arquitt, P. 2016, *Towards achieving the SDGs in Ivory Coast – An Integrated Assessment,* forthcoming. Available upon request at info@millennium-institute.org.

About the Millennium Institute

Millennium Institute (MI) develops customized interactive simulation models for policy testing, and works with government officials and other national stakeholders to analyze and understand the interconnectedness between the dimensions of sustainable development. MI's models have been used by officials in 36 countries around the world. For more information, visit www.millennium-institute.org or contact: info@millennium-institute.org