



Covid-19 edition

**Advance notice**

Improving the impact of  
sustainability development projects

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*SDGToolkit will provide a global support for project design,  
implementation, M&E and portfolio management*

*The George Boole Foundation Limited*



2021



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## Sequence of procedures



SDGToolkit.com is a public services division of  
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## Introduction

1. This document is an advance notice of a new global cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) implementation, SDGToolkit.com, developed to improve the impact of projects designed to address Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Potential beneficiaries of this service include regional and national agencies for agricultural research and extension, international development organizations, donors, programme, project and portfolio managers, consultants and economic development practitioners, policy planners and coordinators working across all economic sectors.
3. This document describes the potential benefits of the SDGToolkit under the current circumstances facing the world economy in addressing the challenges of Sustainable Development Goals.

## Agenda 2030

4. In 2015, the United Nations launched Agenda 2030 to establish an international collaboration to meet 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to improve human wellbeing subject to over 230 indicators.
5. In 2019, the Sustainable Development Report on Agenda 2030 progress noted that three critical SDGs were not progressing, especially in low income countries. Economic growth is associated with declining production and consumption sustainability (SDG 12), continuing negative climatic impacts (SDG 13) and rising inequalities (SDG 10), especially with regard to income disparity.
6. Since production and consumption encompass all supply chains and sources of employment across all economic activities, this evolving state of affairs is a matter for grave concern.
7. Amongst international economic development efforts, agriculture and rural development are vital activities employing over 65% of the population in low income countries.
8. However, agricultural projects, over the last 50 years, have recorded a failure rate in excess of 35% leading to wasted financial resources and lower than expected availability of food, fibre and feedstocks.
9. Government strategists need an evidence-base consisting of national level indicators related to critical factors affecting human wellbeing and sustainability. However, the 2019 Sustainable Development Report records that, to date, over 65% of the national indicators concerning climate action, and sustainable production activities have not yet been specified.
10. Since the initiation of Agenda 2030, many governments in low income countries have therefore faced difficulties not only as a result of lack of appropriate data series but also in receiving expert orientation on the establishment of strategic priorities for project teams. This has contributed to the very low or no economic development impacts and marginal environmental and climatic sustainability achievements in the global Agenda 2030 project portfolio.

## Covid-19

11. Covid-19 has played havoc with people's health, leading to the likelihood of the number of people infected worldwide approaching 150 million people and deaths approaching 3 million people within a relatively short time.

12. Besides the terrible impact on individuals and families this disease has disrupted the economies of all countries as a result of its impact on supply, demand and the ability of people to engage in most economic activities while observing essential health safety requirements

13. As a result of the economic impacts of Covid-19 on the ability of people to work and on supplies and demand for the foreseeable future, the availability of financial resources for economic development projects on the part of national governments, international, national and private donors, have declined.

14. As a result governments, international agencies and donors will have reduced financial resources available to support international development and aid. Recently, for example, the government of the United Kingdom reduced its international development budget by 30%.

15. Vaccination developments have been successful, where applied, but the global distribution is ending up being highly distorted and biased towards the needs of higher income country constituencies.

16. SEEL has projected that worldwide vaccination coverage will take up to 5 years to complete because of logistics factors facing some remote rural communities.

17. As a result Covid-19 inter-personal contact precautions will continue in most populations up until 2026.

## The need to raise project impacts

18. Project failures are largely linked to inappropriate project designs characterised by over- or under-optimistic objectives as a result of inadequate analysis leading to unattainable results or low impact

19. Future efforts in addressing sustainable objectives need to be able to achieve increased financial and sustainable impacts by making a more efficient and effective application of a reduced project financial resource base.

20. This requires a lower costs associated with technical services and consultancy while at the same time an improvement in the quality of decision analysis applied to the identification of feasible projects addressing critical gaps and needs.

21. The effort to improve the quality of entry and implementation performance of projects into national development portfolios needs to achieve this in a cost-effective manner to improve the budgetary performance of governments, international donors and national economic participants of all types.

## The role of SDGToolkit

22. SDGToolkit is a cloud-based Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that places essential analytical tools<sup>1</sup> (ATs) into the hands of policy makers and project teams to generate evidence-based projections on strategic constraints and to identify priorities for action.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently there are over 60 analytical tools and many more under development.

23. This system was developed on the basis of a systems engineering group applying a decade of analysis, research and application design with the objective of improving the standards of project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and portfolio management. This work has been undertaken by a systems team of experienced domain and information technology specialists with experience in project cycle management.

24. SDGToolkit will provide technical assistance support observing the Covid-19 health risks associated with inter-personal proximity. However, while essential for disease avoidance, the remote delivery of technical support is significantly lower cost than the conventional international technical support approaches.

25. Unlike most project cycle information management systems, SDGToolkit places emphasis on ensuring good project design by applying due diligence design procedures. These guides users through a process ensuring that all essential factors are taken into account to identify the most cost-effective and feasible project designs with the highest likely impacts.

26. Most existing project cycle management systems rely on users to input pre-conceived project designs but provide no design guidance. These systems act more as activity schedule management systems.

27. SDGToolkit supports project design teams through ATs that generate comparative data and projections in narrative, tabular and graphic formats to be used as evidence for selected design options.

28. In an effort to minimize the cost of entry and operation there is no need for any additional software. All that is needed is a browser and all analytical tools required are included as part of the service as onboard utilities.

29. SDGToolkit can contribute to a major advance in the professional capabilities of policy makers and project design personnel in the identification of improved national strategies and successful actions.

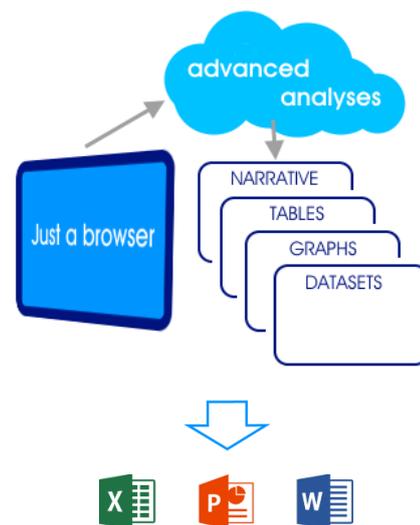
30. Beside the importance of training in the use of advanced analytical procedures, there is a need for a close collaboration with extension services to externalise and disseminate the knowledge of successful implementations for use by others.

31. SDGToolkit raises the standards of strategic analysis, policy and project design quality to secure an improved development impact while reducing the costs of technical support required to achieve this.

32. The SDGToolkit is a service that can support the management efforts of all who seek practical solutions to the sustainable development challenge facing the world. Potential beneficiaries of this service include:



**No Software**  
*Just a browser*



- regional and national agencies for agricultural research and extension
- international development organizations
- donors, programme, project and portfolio managers
- consultants and economic development practitioners,
- policy planners and coordinators working across all economic sectors.
- national executing agencies
- rural cooperatives, agricultural community mutual organizations
- non-government organizations

and any other groups wishing to develop feasible and sustainable evidence-based project proposals.

## Stakeholder involvement

33. Stakeholders including the direct intended beneficiaries of projects are essential contributors to the design procedural information. This is because of their intimate knowledge of local conditions and current production methods and valuable group knowledge of what is known to work and what is known to have failed, and for what reasons.

34. SDGToolkit supports full cycle involvement of stakeholders in the system's operations. The direct stakeholder involvement and contributions are a central element in the basic design of SDGToolkit as an essential element in obtaining:

- good project designs
- effective implementation oversight
- involvement in monitoring and evaluation

## The service structure

35. The SDGToolkit provides an Intergrated Design Systems (IDE) including all of the necessary procedures for project management divided into four phases covering the whole project cycle. These are;

- **Global Constraints Analysis** providing an assessment of the national sustainable actions priorities
- **Due Diligence Design Procedure** for the identification of the feasible project design options
- **Designer** for the input of the best feasible solution as the logical project option
- **Real Time Monitoring & Evaluation** providing support for an effective management of project implementation

36 Each of these phase functions will be described in forthcoming white papers together with information on the ATs supporting each phase.

## Launch schedule

37. The launch schedule for SDGToolkit will start end-April 2021 and further details will be posted on relevant media as well as new websites currently in preparation.

38. For updates on the status of SDGToolkit and to receive future white papers please send requests to:

[pre-launch outreach at: outreach@sdgtoolkit.com](mailto:outreach@sdgtoolkit.com)

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