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for the Global Goals

CORE DOCUMENT

REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTION OF MONITORING INDICATORS IN THE SDG IMPACT TOOL

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VERSION **1.0**

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Digital SDG Impact Tool Manuals – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#)
- [SDG Impact Tool Manual – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#)
- [Principles & Requirements – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#)

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SUMMARY

GS4GG requires all projects to demonstrate their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the SDG Impact Tool. The SDG Impact Tool provides a pre-defined matrix of monitoring indicators aligned with the technologies being implemented.

This document establishes the requirements for project developers and Coordinating/Managing Entities (CMEs) in selecting appropriate monitoring indicators in the SDG Impact Tool that are directly relevant to the project context, ensuring accuracy, consistency, and credibility in impact assessment and reporting. These requirements shall be taken into consideration by the project developers and CMEs before the tool is submitted to VVB or Gold standard for review. Project Developers and/or CMEs shall refer to the SDG Impact Tool manuals to familiarise themselves

with the tool’s features and functionalities, thereby enabling them to submit requests efficiently:

1. [Digital SDG Impact Tool Manuals – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#)
2. [SDG Impact Tool Manual – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#) (MS Excel version)

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1 | SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

- 1.1.1 | These requirements apply to all GS4GG projects irrespective of project scale, technology type, or any other project-specific characteristics.
- 1.1.2 | These requirements define the minimum requirements for selecting monitoring indicators that are directly and materially linked to the project's core activities, outputs, and outcomes.
- 1.1.3 | The term "project" refers to standalone project activity, Programme of Activities (PoA) or included VPAs, unless stated otherwise.

2 | ENTRY INTO FORCE

- 2.1.1 | The requirements become applicable on their release date.

3 | GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1.1 | As per the [Principles & Requirements](#), each GS4GG project shall demonstrate their contribution to a minimum of 3 SDGs which shall mandatorily include SDG 13 – "Climate Action".
- 3.1.2 | Project developers shall select monitoring indicators exclusively from those provided within the SDG Impact Tool. The tool's content, including the list of indicators, shall not be modified or supplemented with additional indicators.
- 3.1.3 | Project developers may propose for inclusion of additional custom indicator(s) or modification of existing indicators by submitting a proposal to the secretariat. The project developer shall fill the [Template – Proposal for Monitoring Indicator\(s\) for inclusion in the SDG Impact Tool](#) and submit it to the secretariat at help@goldstandard.org. Such indicators shall be subject to review and approval by the Secretariat before inclusion in the SDG Impact Tool.
- 3.1.4 | All selected SDG indicators must be directly and materially linked to the project including its core activities, outputs, and outcomes.
- 3.1.5 | Each selected indicator must be supported by a clear, evidence-based causal pathway that demonstrates the link between project and the expected SDG outcome.

4 | REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTION OF MONITORING INDICATORS

4.1 | Principles for Indicator Selection

- 4.1.1 | Materiality: Indicators must be directly and materially linked to the project's core activities, outputs, and intended outcomes.
- 4.1.2 | Relevance: Chosen indicators must reflect the project's primary contribution to the SDGs, not peripheral or incidental impacts.
- 4.1.3 | Clarity: Indicators must be clearly defined, with unambiguous measurement units and methodologies.

- 4.1.4 | Comparability: Where possible, indicators should align with internationally recognised SDG metrics to allow benchmarking across projects.
- 4.1.5 | Feasibility: Indicators must be practical to monitor with available resources, data, and capacity.

4.2 | Selection of monitoring indicators

- 4.2.1 | Project Developers must only use the monitoring indicators available in the SDG Impact Tool, which are pre-mapped to the selected technology. Manual entry or override of these indicators is strictly prohibited.
- 4.2.2 | The project developers shall demonstrate that the monitoring indicators chosen from the list of available monitoring indicators in the SDG impact tool are a direct impact of their project technological intervention and not secondary or tertiary impact.
- 4.2.3 | The tool will show many monitoring indicators for the chosen technology. However, the project developer shall only choose the indicators which are relevant and have direct, material impact.
- 4.2.4 | Each monitoring indicator included in the monitoring plan shall be mutually exclusive and shall not result in double counting of impacts.
- 4.2.5 | The monitoring indicators selected shall be traceable, transparent, and verifiable.
- 4.2.6 | The selected indicators shall be assessed by the VVB during validation and design certification renewal for relevance, traceability, and alignment of the causal pathway.
- 4.2.7 | If the verifying VVB or GS reviewer during performance review identifies an erroneous SDG impact monitoring indicator selection, they shall request a design change.

5 | PROPOSING NEW INDICATORS OR MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING INDICATORS

5.1 | Considerations for new indicators or modifications to existing indicators proposed for inclusion in the tool

- 5.1.1 | The proposed indicator must capture impacts that are material and significant, not marginal or incidental.
- 5.1.2 | Indicators shall address gaps where existing SDG Impact Tool indicators do not adequately reflect the project's contribution.
- 5.1.3 | Each proposed indicator must be mapped to a specific SDG target and/or UN-defined indicator.
- 5.1.4 | The indicator must be clearly defined, with a precise description of what is being measured and must specify the unit.
- 5.1.5 | Proposal to include a new indicator must include a transparent methodology for data collection and calculation. Indicators must be measurable with reasonable effort using available tools, resources, and capacity.
- 5.1.6 | Where possible, indicators should allow for disaggregation (e.g., by gender, age, geography, income group).

6| POST-DESIGN CERTIFICATION CHANGES

6.1.1 | Should the project developer/CME wish to make amendments to the selected monitoring indicators or add other indicators to the monitoring plan, the steps in [Design Change Request Requirements and Procedures](#) shall be followed.

7| DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1.0	18.10.2025	Initial adoption