

## ECON 351H: DATABASE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### **Report On Sustainable Development Goals**

In 2015 the UN General Assembly formally accepted a new set of 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ranging from ending world poverty to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls by 2030. These goals are to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight measurable goals that were signed in September 2000 and were due in 2015. Details on the new set of goals can be found at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> .

Developing countries, with the assistance from developed countries, have launched various projects and programs with the aim to achieve all of the 17 goals and 169 targets. In that light, you are required to analyze the progress made to date in *a country of your choice from the list of Least Developed Countries (LDC) as classified by the United Nations*. For that purpose, you are required to choose a specific target within goals 1 through 6. Your report has to meet the following requirements, organized in clearly marked *four* sections, i.e. use the appropriate sub-headings within the paper. The bullet points within the four sections are just to help you guide. You will write your paper in an essay format. I am NOT asking you to write a separate answer for each bullet point.

### **Title: Appropriate Title Based on the Goal You Choose**

#### **1. Introduction: 20%**

- a. **Introduce your paper:** Clearly explain what you are doing in the paper, including the topic and the country of your choice.
- b. **Introduce your topic:**
  - i. Choose one of the goals from 1 through 6 for detailed analysis.
- c. **Explain** why an improvement on the goal is important for poverty alleviation in your country. In your explanation, be sure to provide a background of the socioeconomic conditions in the country and explain the targets within that goal.
- d. **Restate:** restate the objective of your paper and how the rest of the paper is structured.
- e. Visit the link for further details:  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

#### **2. Background: 20%**

- a. Present a thorough explanation on the objectives behind the *sustainable development goals*. And, list each of these goals (no need to list the individual targets in this section).
- b. Make a case why the goal you chose is important among all these goals. Your background should focus on the country you have chosen and its socioeconomic conditions in reference to the goal you have chosen.

#### **3. Data Description: 20%**

You will be required to collect socio-economic data for the country of your choice and analyze the trend of an economic variable over time. See the World Development

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Indicators (WDI) database handout and the corresponding web and video resources at the end of this document.

- A. Data and Methodology: This is where you will need the WDI database. See the last page of this document for further details.
  - a. Choose one of the targets within the goal you have chosen.
  - b. Explain what variable you are using as an indicator for the target you have chosen?
  - c. The time period you are considering?
  - d. What is the source of the variable? Name of the database?
  - e. Descriptive statistics for each variable.
    - i. Number of observations
    - ii. Average value for the variable over time
  - f. Plot a graph for the variable with proper label
- B. Results:
  - a. Report the results from your tables/graphs (Put the actual graph and table in the appendix).
    - i. You should make your own graphs based on the data you collected.
  - b. Describe/Interpret your results
    - i. What is the importance of this result?

#### 4. **Conclusion and Discussion:** 20%

Answer the following: In which way has your country achieved the goal to date? In which way has it succeeded and failed. Make a statement if the country is on track to meet their goal by 2030. Which factors influenced/determined the success/failure in the country? Either, provide the supporting national policies for their success or make a recommendation for how the country should adopt new policies.

You should base your claims on the data you collected. Be sure to explain how your data compare with the existing literature. You should refer to *at least five scholarly literature* to make that comparison. If the data you collected do not agree with the existing literature, explain the reason for any discrepancy. Use the APA format for citation and make sure there is one-to-one match between the in-text citation and reference list.

#### 5. **Miscellaneous** (20%)

- a. Length, Organization, Formatting, References, Grammar, Clarity, and Completeness: Please make sure your research paper follows the above outline; clearly indicate sections 1 through 4 in your paper using the sub-headings or sub-titles. Include a cover page. Length of the report: 5-7 pages (excluding cover page and references). (Typed, double spaced, size 12 standard font: Times New Roman);
- b. Citations Format: At least 5 references required in APA format; at least three of them need to be journal articles.

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### World Development Indicators: Excellent source for statistics across time and countries

#### Accessing WDI Database

1. Go to the World Bank's Data Bank <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>
2. Scroll down the page and click on the link for "World Development Indicators" (you might find other databases listed useful as well), OR
3. You may access various databases by clicking "Databases" on the left panel.
4. Tutorial Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLYp2ld\\_NzI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLYp2ld_NzI&feature=youtu.be)
5. FAQ: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/faq/html/databank-faq.html>

#### Using WDI Online: Selecting Variables and Downloading the Data

1. Select Countries
  - a. Click the button next to the country (countries) in which you are interested
  - b. You can use the classifications in the box to the left to limit the list
  - c. When all the countries you are interested in are checked, click the "Series" bar
2. Select Data Series – Example: GDP Per Capita, health, education, population, trade, etc.
  - a. You can search for specific data series or browse by category
    - i. You can search for GDP Per capita and choose one of the measures
  - b. If you need to find other variables, repeat the same process
  - c. When you are done selecting series, click the "Time" bar
3. Select Time: mark the years for which you would like to retrieve data. Note that you can select all using the text in red at the top of the box
4. View the Results – click on the "Table"
  - ◆ The entry ".." indicates that the data is not available – what to do? Try different years, or different variables
  - ◆ You can export the report into excel or view the data as a chart – use the buttons at the top of the page
  - ◆ Your final document should look like the following. To do this:
    - a. Click on table options or the "LAYOUT" on the left panel -> orientation -> custom
    - b. Choose: Country= page; Series = column; Time = row
    - c. Click Apply changes and download your data in Excel format from top-right corner
  - ◆ Sample Table for Ecuador: This is just a sample. You need to find a table for your individual country, years, and the variable (target) you are using in your paper, and then plot an appropriate graph.

Country	Year	GDP Per Capita (Y)
Ecuador	1991	
Ecuador	1992	
Ecuador	1993	
Ecuador	...	
Ecuador	...	
Ecuador	...	
Ecuador	2017	
Ecuador	2018	
Ecuador	2019	