How to use the SDG 6 Data Portal Application Programming Interface (API) – API documentation

Table of contents
1. About the SDG 6 Data Portal API ............................................................................................................................................ 1
2. Data structure and metadata .................................................................................................................................................. 1
3. API export through portal user interface ........................................................................................................................... 2
4. API export through API Calls ............................................................................................................................................... 2
5. Sample valid request response .............................................................................................................................................. 3

1. About the SDG 6 Data Portal API
Through the API, you can export data on all indicators contained within the SDG 6 Data Portal. You can find information about the different indicators and their data series and sources here.

2. Data structure and metadata
The exported data have the following structure and metadata:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Columns</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), see <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/</a> for an overview of all of the SDGs and their numbering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target number, see <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/</a> for an overview of all of the SDG targets and their numbering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Indicator to review progress towards a specific SDG target at the global level, see <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/</a> for an overview of all global SDG indicators and their numbering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SeriesCode</td>
<td>Indicator code/series code, as per the global data source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SeriesDescription</td>
<td>Indicator name/series description, as per the global data source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GeoAreaCode</td>
<td>Geographical area code (e.g. country or area, region or other grouping)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GeoAreaName</td>
<td>Geographical area name (e.g. country or area, region or other grouping)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TimePeriod</td>
<td>Year of reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Data value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time_Detail</td>
<td>Details about the year of reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Global data source, e.g. for SDG data: custodian agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FootNote</td>
<td>Additional information about data (metadata)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>Type/nature of data, e.g. for SDG data: country data (C), country adjusted data (CA), estimated data (E), modeled data (M), non-relevant (N), data nature not available (NA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units</td>
<td>Unit of data value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Age]</td>
<td>Data disaggregation by age group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to use the SDG 6 Data Portal Application Programming Interface (API) – API documentation

| [Bounds] | - |
| [Freq] | Frequency of global reporting |
| [Level/Status] | Level or status associated with the specific data value, e.g. high/medium/low implementation |
| [Location] | Data disaggregation by location, e.g. urban/rural |
| [Reporting Type] | Type of reporting, e.g. for SDG data: global monitoring data (G) |
| [Sex] | Data disaggregation by sex, e.g. women/men |
| SDG 6 Data Portal level | Indicator/sub-indicator structure in the SDG 6 Data Portal |

3. API export through portal user interface
With the user interface on this [page](#), you can make a detailed selection of which data you wish to export (e.g. for specific indicators/sub-indicators, spatial scales and years) and on which format (JSON or XML). Based on your selection, a tailor-made URL will be created.

4. API export through API Calls
In addition to the user interface, users can also view and export the data through API calls, based on the below basic structure and examples. API keys and other authentication methods are not necessary to access the API. The API supports both “http” and “https” protocols. The API supports a URL based structure.

Besides making calls to the API using an application or custom program, the user can also put any of the example API URL endpoints given in the documentation, or make own custom calls, into a web browser and view the results. The JSON View Firefox plugin can be used to view results in JSON format directly in Firefox.

**View/export data for one or more indicators**
Description: The below structure/example enables the view/export of data on a specific indicator for all spatial scales and all years. Multiple indicators can be viewed/exported in the same time, and they should be separated by a comma (,).

The user specifies the desired indicator/indicators by using SDG indicator codes (e.g. 6.1.1 and 6.2.1).

Request parameter: {indicator_code}

Basic structure: [https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/{indicator_code}?_format=xml](https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/{indicator_code}?_format=xml)

Example single indicator (6.1.1): [https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml](https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml)

Example multiple indicators (6.1.1, 6.3.1 and 4.a.1): [https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1,6.3.1,4.a.1?_format=xml](https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1,6.3.1,4.a.1?_format=xml)

**Supported query strings**

**Country**
Description: The below structure/example enables the view/export of data for a specific country. Multiple countries can be viewed/exported in the same time, and they should be separated by a comma.

The user specifies the desired country/countries by using country ISO-alpha3 codes.

Request parameter: country
Example multiple countries (Canada and Albania):
https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=json&country=CAN,ALB

**Year and year range**
Description: Specify for which year/year range you want to export the data. A range is indicated using the colon (:) separator.

Request parameter: date

Example year range (from 2000 to 2001):
https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml&date=2000:2001

**Entire database**
Description: Export the entire content of the SDG 6 Data Portal (all indicators, all spatial scales, all years).

Example: https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/all?_format=json

**Output format**
Description: Specify a specific output format, either JSON or XML. This parameter is mandatory as per Drupal 8 RESTful Webservice Standards.

Request parameter: _format

Example XML: https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml
Example JSON: https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=json

**Number of results per page**
Description: Specify the number of results per page (default setting is 50).

Request parameter: per_page

Example (20 results per page): https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml&per_page=20

**Number of pages with results (pagination)**
Description: Specify the number of pages with results.

Request parameter: page

Example (2 pages with results): https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml&page=2

5. **Sample valid request response**
Description: User views/export data on indicator 6.1.1 and all its sub-indicators for Lebanon for year 2017.

Request: https://sdg6data.org/api/indicator/6.1.1?_format=xml&country=LBN&date=2017:2017

Response: See Figure 1 and Figure 2 below for response on XML format, and Figure 3 for response on JSON format.

Response explanation: The response shows in the first node of the tree of the current page (0), the total number of pages (1), the number of items per page (50), and the total number of returned items (36). Every one of the returned items shows the detailed data related to the indicator.
Figure 1: Sample valid request response on XML format, part 1
How to use the SDG 6 Data Portal Application Programming Interface (API) – API documentation

Figure 2 Sample valid request response on XML format, part 2

Figure 3 Sample valid request response on JSON format