

BD support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Aligning activities for societal and environmental impact

The global effort to achieve the bold targets set out by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require a high level of engagement from the business sector, working in collaboration with governments, international agencies, nongovernment organizations and civil society. There is incentive for businesses to engage in these activities, as noted in the January 2017 report *Better Business, Better World*,¹ which estimated that achievement of the SDGs could open up US\$12 trillion in market opportunities² by 2030. This provides a compelling argument for businesses to incorporate the SDGs into core growth strategies, value chain operations and policy positions.

In 2016, BD began evaluating how we can further mobilize and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through our product and service offerings, as well as collaborative efforts across sectors. We mapped our long-term strategy, current business activities and 2020 Sustainability Goal framework against the 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets. Our analysis reviewed the type of impact BD has on the targets (*direct / indirect*), the location of impacts within the value chain (*degree of control*) and relevant environmental, social and governance factors (*BD-defined sustainability priorities*).

As a healthcare company, BD aligns most prominently around SDG 3: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. BD has many activities to support SDG 3 targets, including technologies integral to the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases; a pipeline of products to help reduce maternal mortality and end preventable newborn deaths; long-standing work to protect the safety of health workers through

products and partnerships; business units focused on addressing non-communicable diseases, specifically diabetes and cervical cancer; and partnerships to strengthen the capacity of health systems in developing economies.

While the activities of BD are clearly centered around SDG 3, our 2020 goals reflect the interdependencies that exist among the SDGs and are also well-aligned with SDG 5 (*gender equality*), SDG 8 (*decent work and economic growth*) and SDG 9 (*industry, innovation and infrastructure*). Furthermore, our environmental goals support multiple SDGs and are inherently tied back to healthy lives and well-being for all.

One such example of the interdependent nature of the SDGs is our support of Together for Girls (TfG), which brings together United Nations agencies, governments and the private sector in a shared commitment to end violence against children, with a particular focus on sexual violence and girls.

The Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS), led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the TfG partnership, have found that an estimated one in four girls and one in seven boys experience some form of sexual violence and, depending on the country, between one in three to one in five females who had sex before 18 report that their first sexual intercourse was forced. About one third of the girls in Sub-Saharan Africa who have experienced physically forced or coerced sex also report a resulting pregnancy, which also affects their ability to go to school and their prospects of earning an income. In addition, girls are about three times more likely to



Sustainable Development Goals



BD 2020 goal	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Innovation															
Innovate key healthcare processes	•														
Enable disease management	•	•	•					•	•				•	•	•
Enable transition from research into clinical practice	•														
Provide solutions that improve safety	•														
Access															
Innovate to address mortality and morbidity	•	•	•												
Collaborate on health system strengthening	•	•	•	•				•	•			•			•
Further expand BD in emerging countries	•							•	•						
Efficiency															
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	•					•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Minimize environmental footprint in manufacturing	•				•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Drive supplier responsibility evaluation	•		•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eliminate priority materials of concern	•			•	•	•				•	•		•	•	
Improve life cycle impacts of products	•			•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•
Empowerment															
Increase diversity of workforce		•	•					•		•					•
Achieve best-in-class associate safety			•					•		•					
Partner with nonprofits to address unmet needs	•		•	•			•	•			•	•			•
Drive social impact and associate engagement															•

Visual representation of the BD SDG analysis. Full text version is available in the BD 2016 Sustainability Report at bd.com/sustainability.

be HIV positive as an adult if they experience sexual violence in childhood. Together for Girls works to coordinate evidence-based policy and program actions through local engagements with multiple government ministries and civil society. Interventions that reduce the incidence of sexual violence against girls and help girls heal from violence may also lead to improvements in education rates.

Women with more years of education have fewer and healthier children and the curb in population growth that could result would be significant in reducing global carbon emissions³; this demonstrates that activity to support the targets of one SDG can also impact other SDGs. BD has been a partner to TFG from its founding in 2009. Most recently, BD provided a three-year grant to TFG in 2014 to support staff and day-to-day management costs for the partnership’s secretariat.

The BD 2020 Sustainability Goals provide one pathway for contributing to the SDGs through our focus on innovative products, promoting access to health, driving environmental efficiency and the empowerment of our associates. We also remain focused on our approach to creating shared value—achieving beneficial commercial outcomes by addressing unmet societal needs—as a lens to consider new ways of contributing to the SDGs that may not already be identified.

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1 Business & Sustainable Development Commission. *Better Business, Better World*. Accessed September 12, 2017, at <http://report.businesscommission.org/report>

2 These achievements were calculated across four systems: 1) food and agriculture, 2) cities, 3) energy and materials, and 4) health and well-being.

3 Hawken P, ed. *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*. New York: Penguin Books; 2017.

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