

IOMC



INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD

CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:

ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

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In adopting the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders outlined a transformational course of action for the people, planet, and prosperity. Chemicals and waste¹ management are related to achieving every aspect of this Agenda.

Chemicals and waste management play an important and increasingly significant role in every economic and social sector. Sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle is essential to avoiding complex risks to human health and ecosystems, and substantial costs to national economies. Similarly, sound management of chemicals and waste is necessary to maximize the potential benefits of their contribution to human well-being.

Either as an input to or consequence of activities, sound management of chemicals and waste can provide practical solutions to achieve sustainable development. Chemicals and waste management are

reflected explicitly in a number of goals and targets, including those addressing health, water, cities and human settlements, and responsible consumption and production. Moreover, they relate implicitly to the goals on poverty, agriculture, oceans, decent work, climate change, and while less pronounced, their contribution is also important in areas such as education and gender equality.

Sound management of chemicals and waste underpins the effective implementation and achievement of the Goals at the country level. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste within national development plans is therefore vital. Failing such integration, the complex and interlinked range of hazards and risks of chemicals will continue to cause adverse impacts on the environment, human health, and economic development.

¹ considered as: hazardous waste in the lifecycle of chemicals

CHEMICALS AND WASTE FOR ALL SDGs:

SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE AS KEY FACTORS FOR ACHIEVING THE SDGs

Click on each of the SDGs to read more



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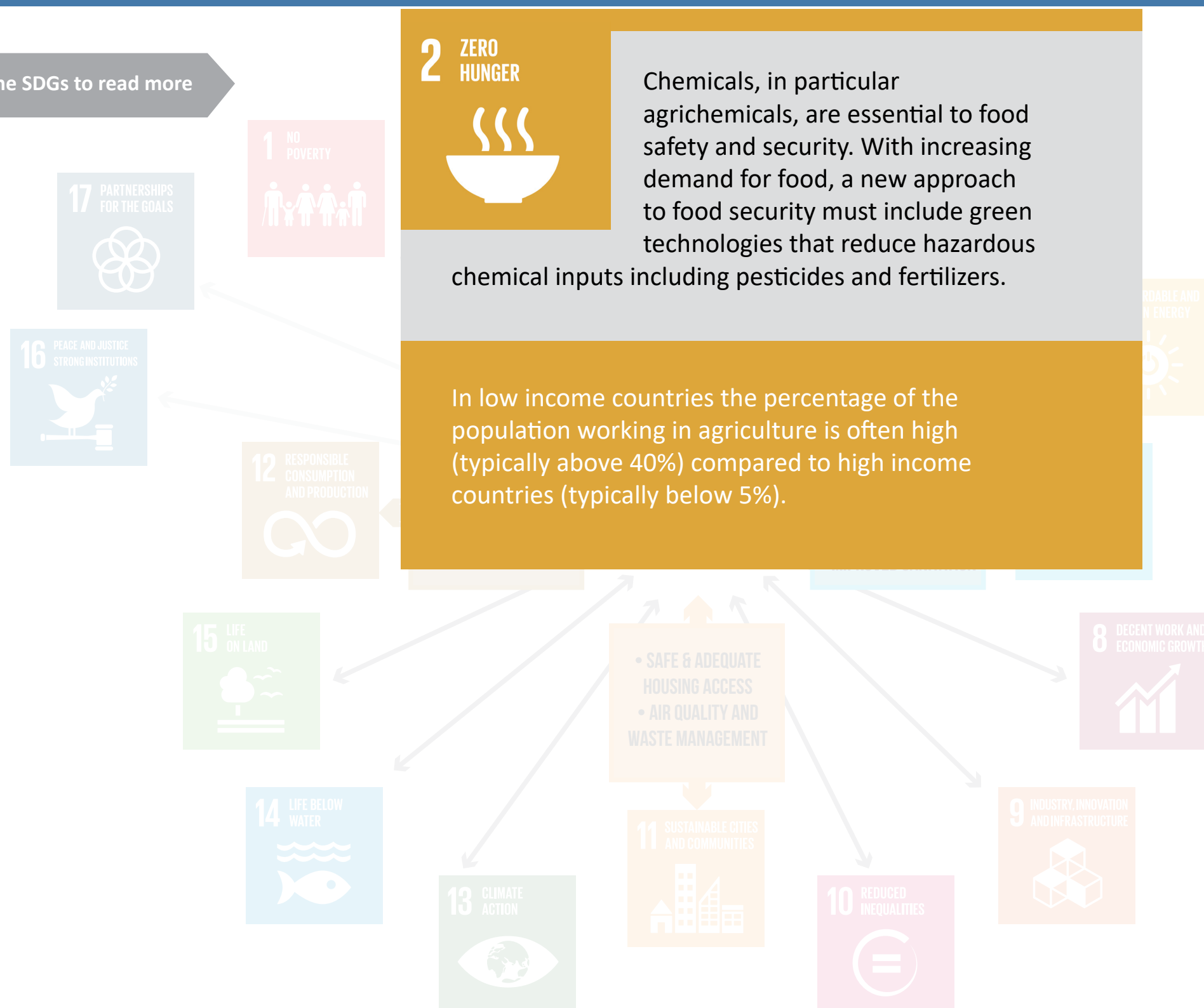
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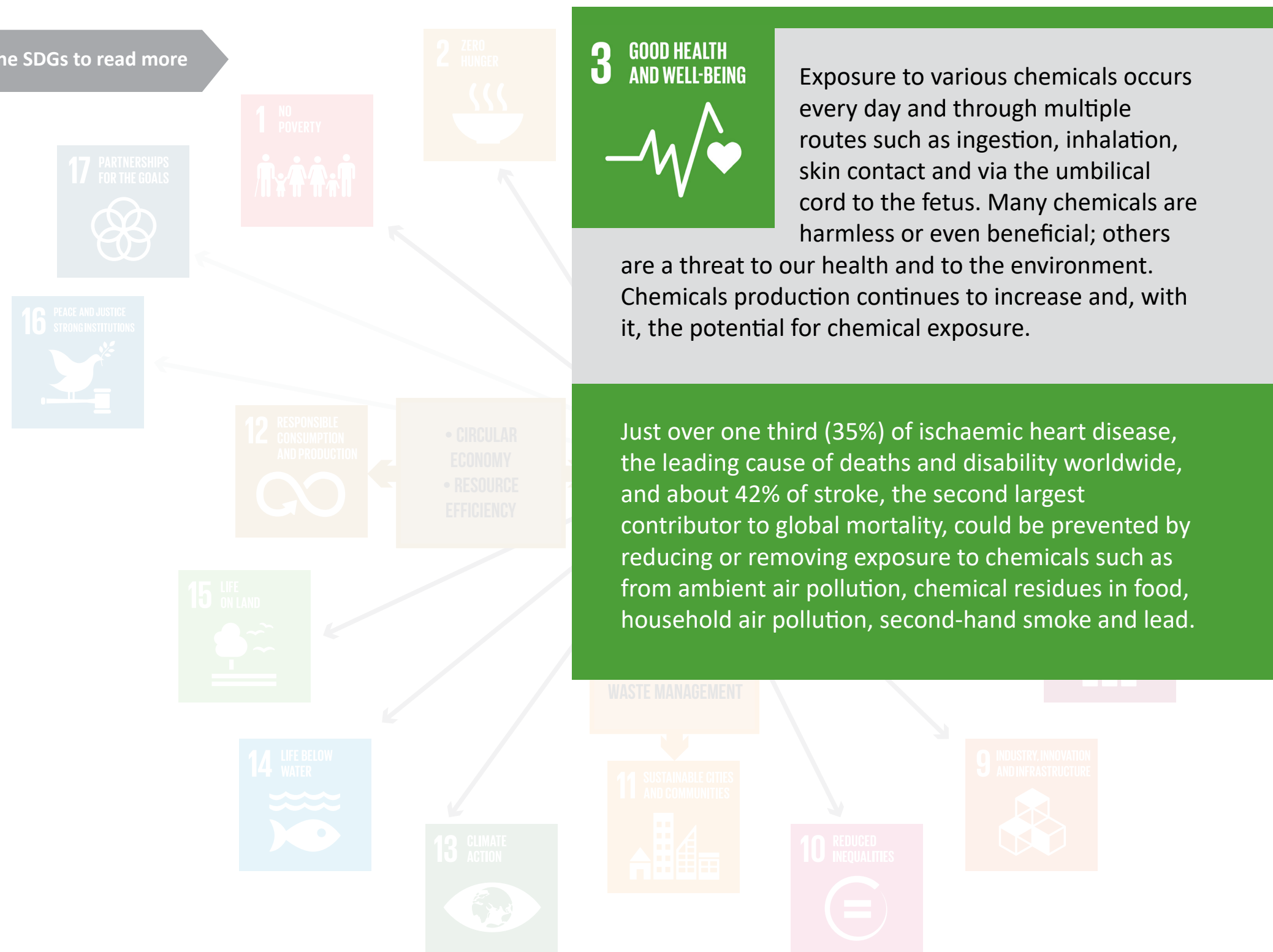
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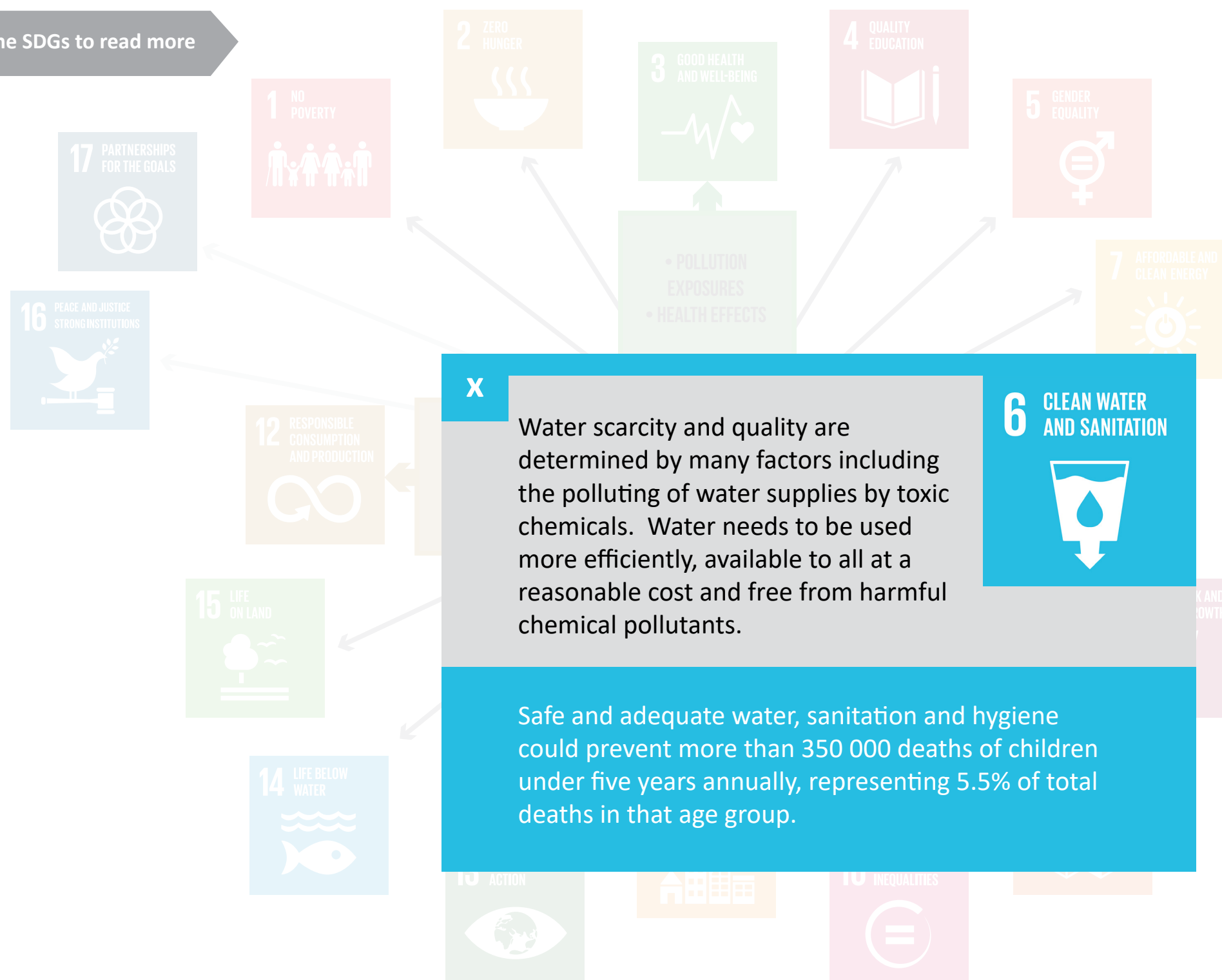
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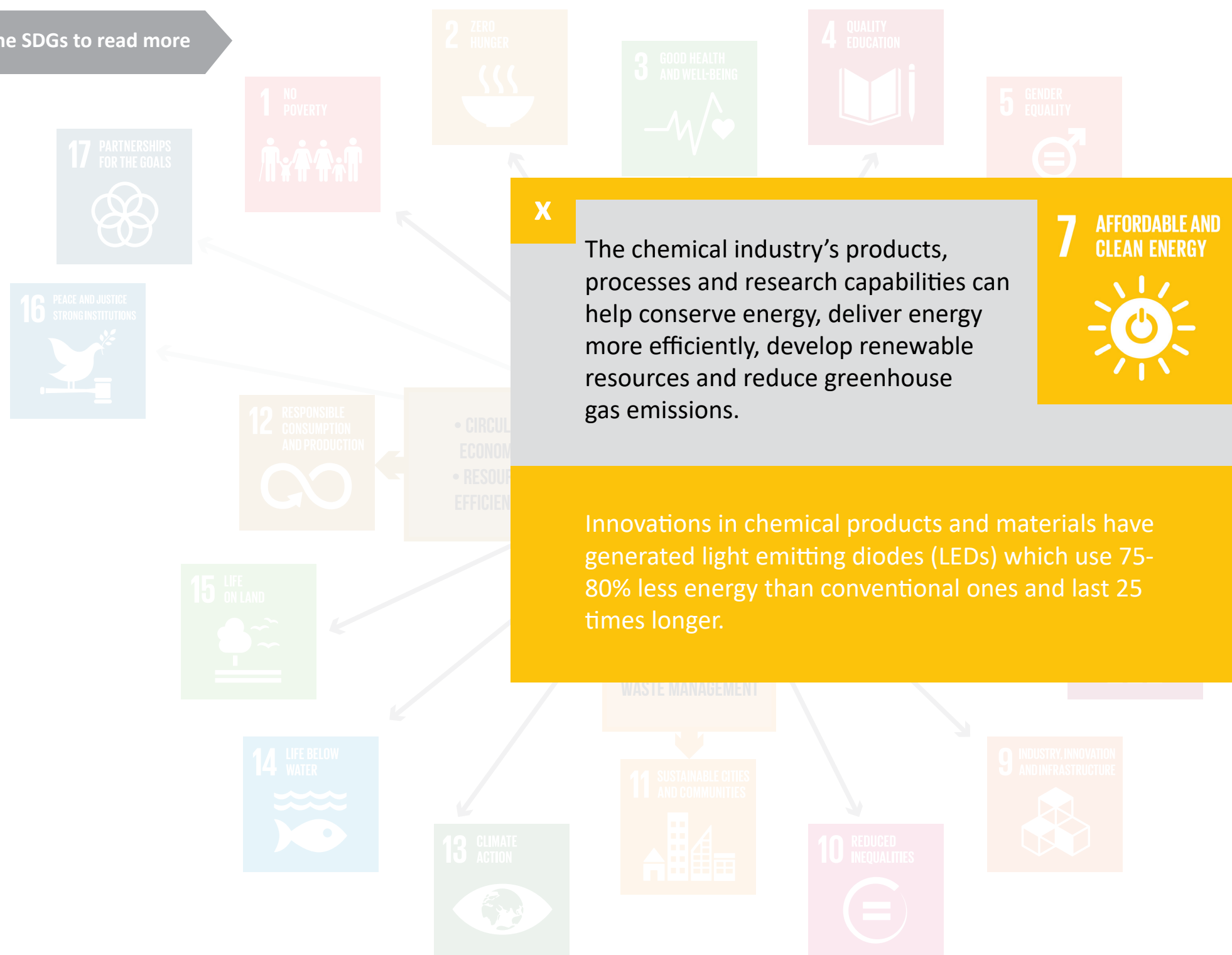
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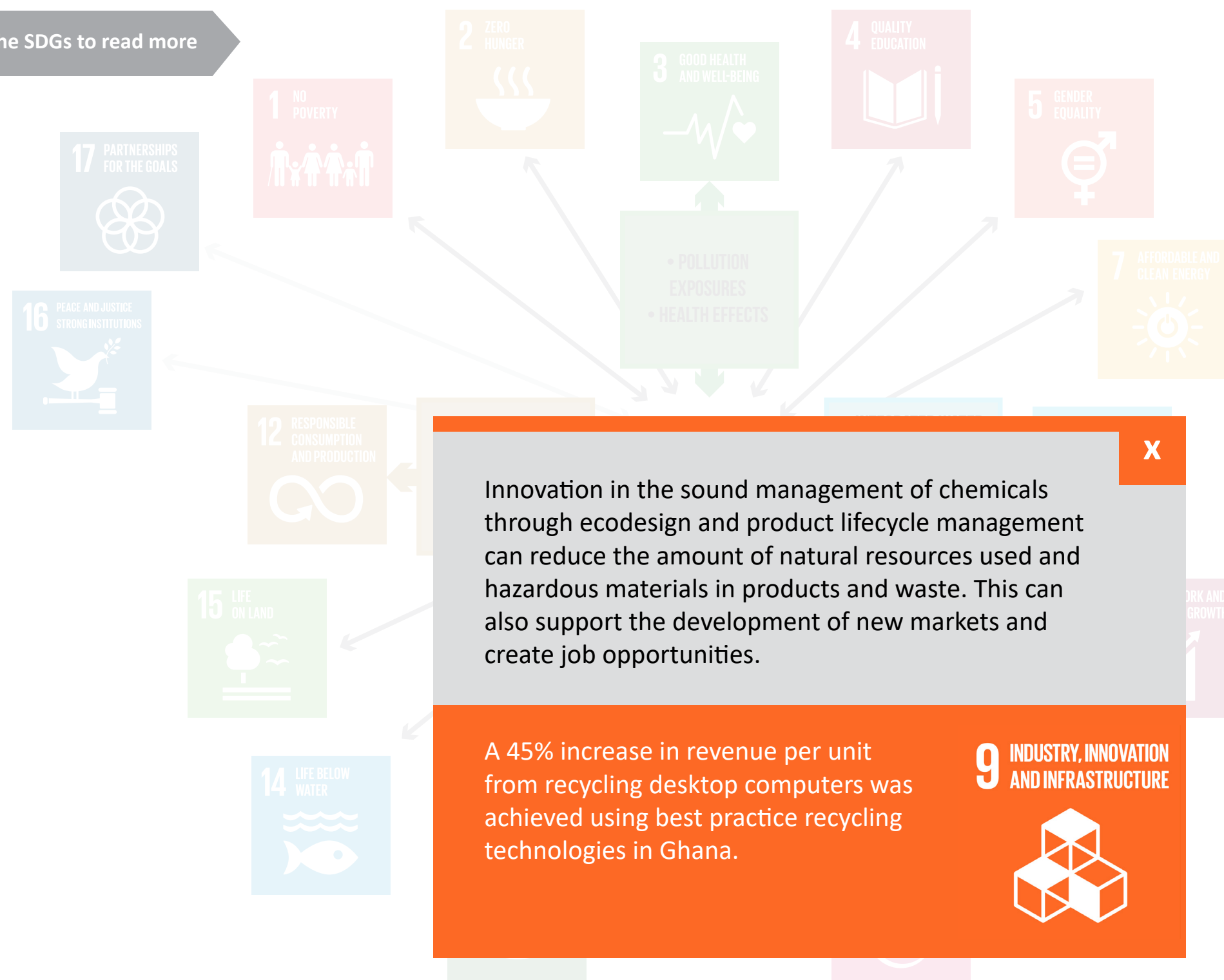
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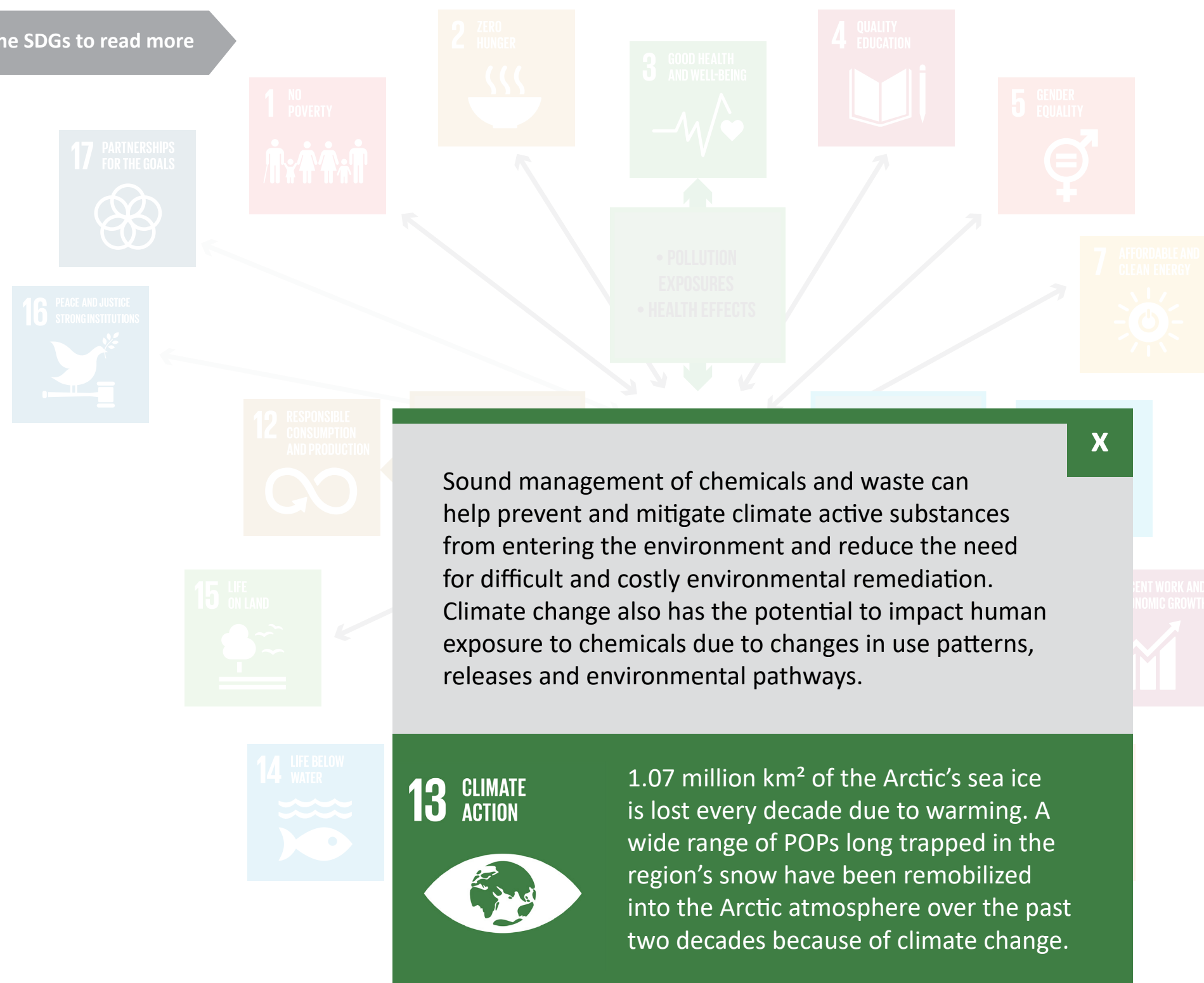
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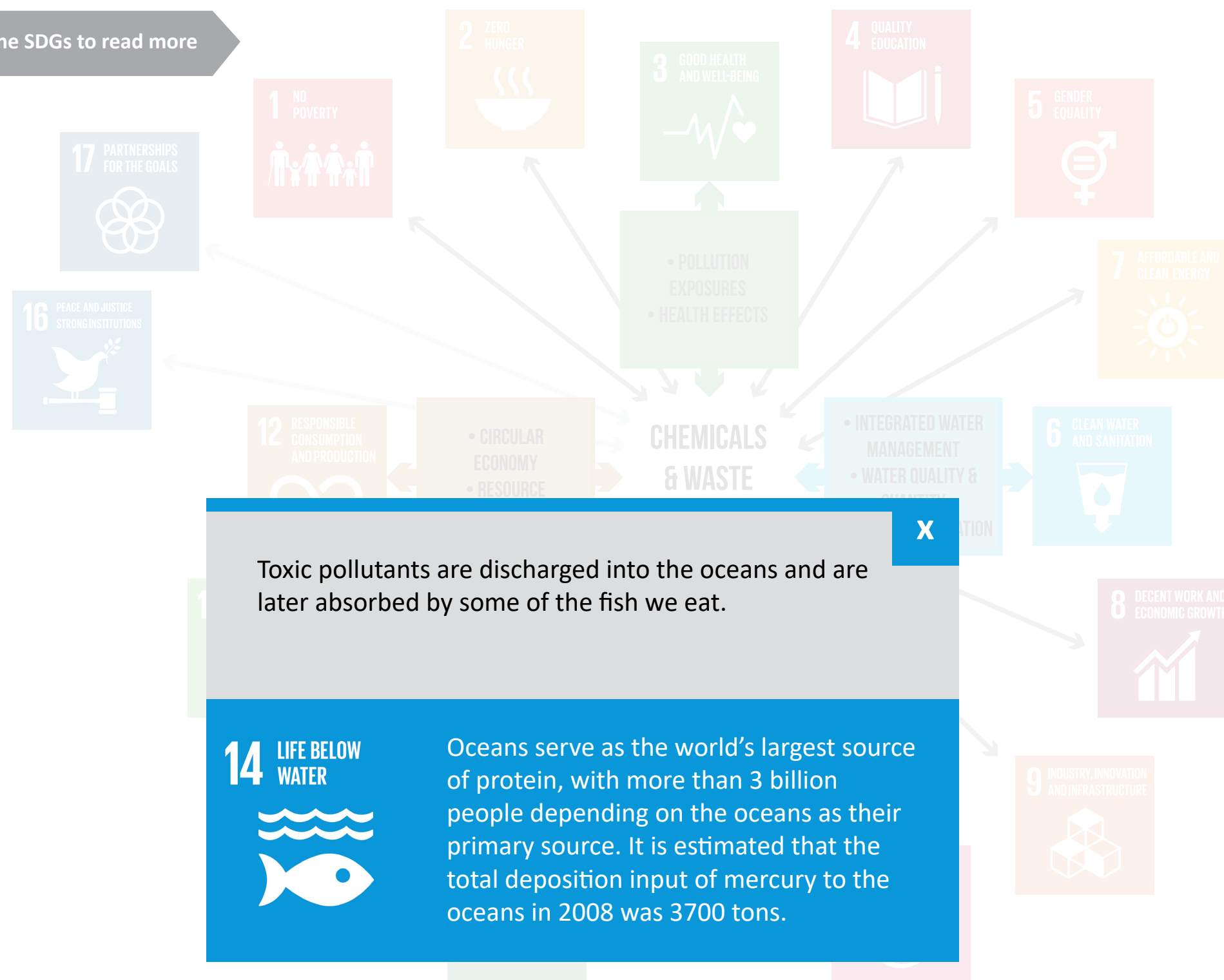
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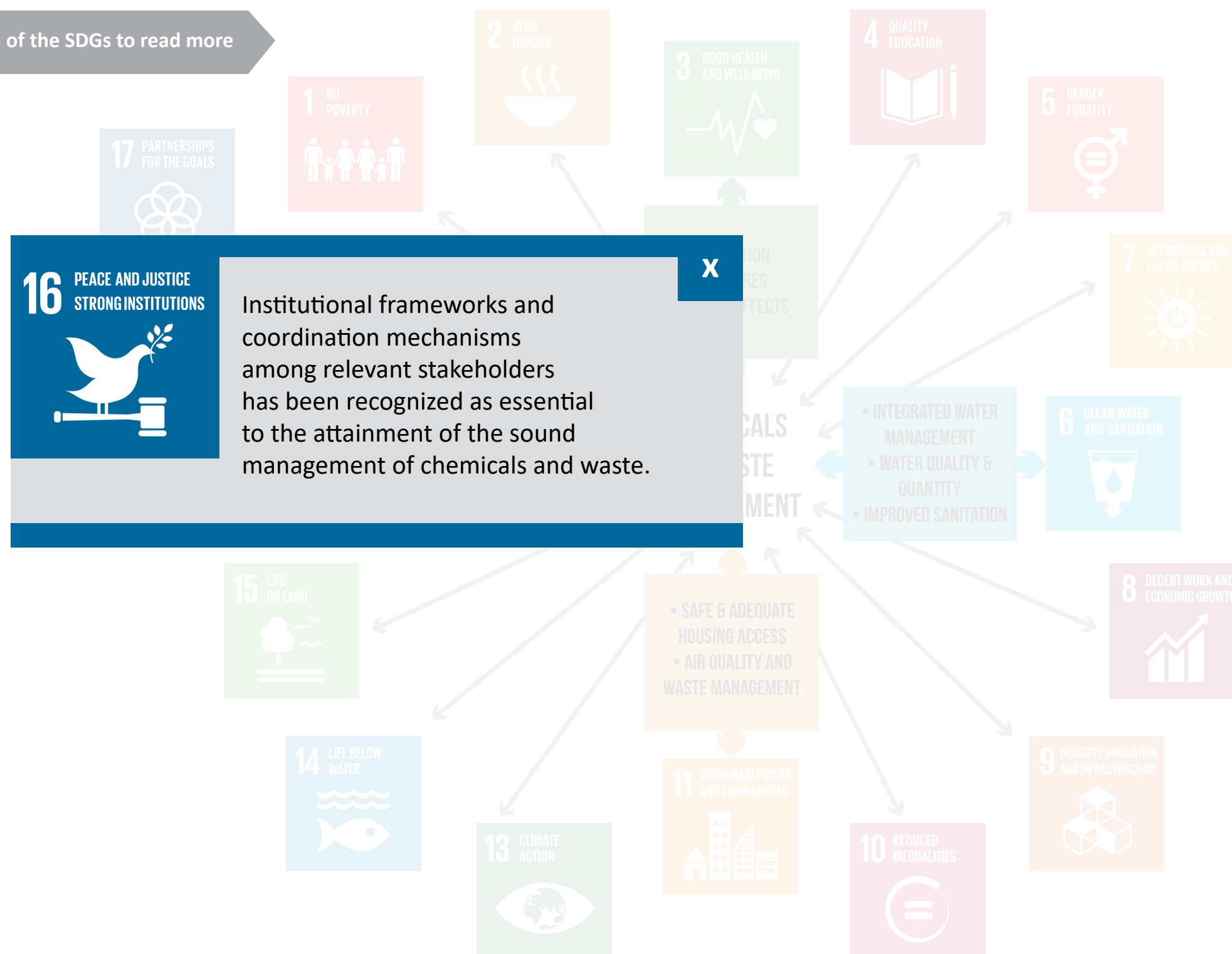
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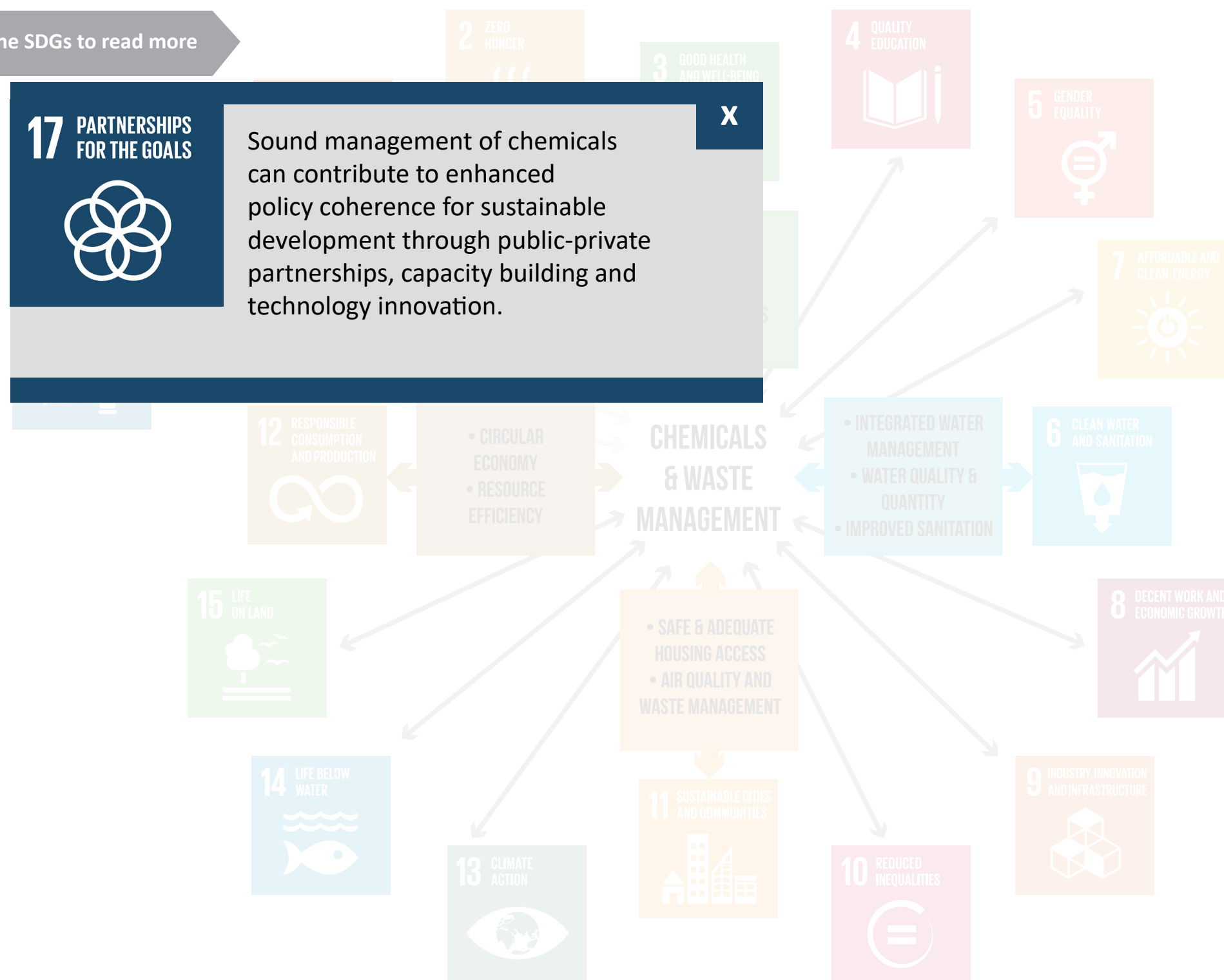
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CHALLENGES AND ENABLING FACTORS TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS & WASTE TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A fundamental challenge to be addressed is the prioritization of chemicals and waste management, which is often less prominent than headline issues, such as poverty eradication and climate change, but key to achieving progress towards the related SDGs.

The need for sound chemicals management is further stressed by the continued growth in production, trade and use of chemicals. This exerts an increasing burden, particularly on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which have less capacity to address these challenges.

Enabling factors include:

- Sound management of chemicals and waste that is vital to a circular economy where material is recycled in a safe way and does not lose its value.
- A comprehensive, multi-stakeholder and proactive approach to the management of chemicals and waste in which costly problems can be avoided from the start.

The *Global Chemicals Outlook* provides a set of general policy recommendations and more specific technical and managerial

ones. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) endorsed the *Overall Orientation and Guidance*, which identifies the necessary country level actions to achieve the SAICM 2020 goals.

Both make it clear that coordinated actions at national, regional, international, corporate and civil society levels are urgently needed and will require:

- Decoupling economic growth from negative (and growing) impacts, thus maximizing societal benefits.
- Increased political priority, commitment and resources for the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- Integrating the sound management of chemicals and waste into environmental, public health, labour, social and economic development programs.
- Adopting and implementing legal instruments that define the responsibilities of the public and private sector for chemicals and waste control and improve administrative coordination for compliance and enforcement.

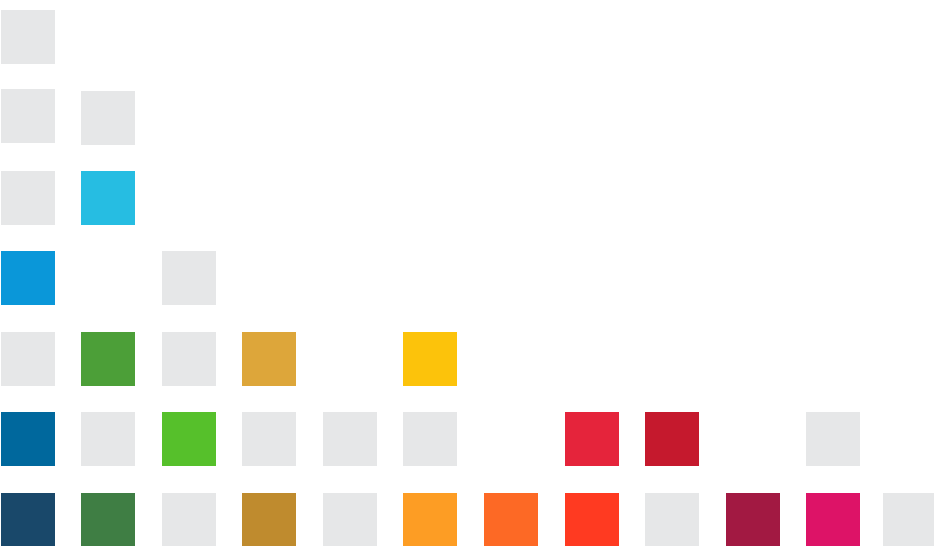
DELIVERING AS ONE - THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA

THE IOMC VISION STATEMENT

The *Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)* shapes a sustainable future through coordinated global action to achieve the sound lifecycle management of chemicals and waste for healthy lives and the environment.

As a result of its commitment to promote coordination of policies and activities, the IOMC participating organizations have assisted developing countries in building their capacity for mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The IOMC is dedicated to providing a comprehensive set of scientific and technical tools that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, and the opportunities it provides for green and decent jobs.



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